

 МІНІСТЕРСТВО АГРАРНОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ ТА ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВА УКРАЇНИ	 Проект фінансується Європейським Союзом	 Проект впроваджується консорціумом на чолі з WYG International
<i>Implementation of Ukrainian's Commitments under WTO and ENP Frameworks in the Rural sector EuropeAid/126205/C/SER/UA</i>		

Overview of Latest Rural Developments 23 - 29 February 2012

▪ **WTO and Neighborhood Policy**

February 23, FAO Working Group on the role of women and families in rural development opened 15th session at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The event is dedicated to issues related to the assessment of socio-economic status of rural women and men in the Europe and Central Asia.

Director of research and education of agricultural production and rural development Department Irina Sinyavska, who represented the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine for this year's session of the FAO Working Group on the role of women and families in rural development, said that FAO pays great attention to gender equality in agriculture. The introduction of equal access of women to productive resources will lead to increased productivity of women in agriculture for at least 20% and it will save at least 150 million starving people. In 2012 FAO intends to adopt two important documents that will introduce gender standards for the evaluation of state agricultural policy.

Participation in the Working Group activities is particularly important for Ukraine in order to implement State programs of rural development. Unfortunately, we do not have enough statistical or analytical data to develop strategies to ensure gender equality in rural development. According to Mrs. Sinyavska, only 20% of women work in the agricultural business, there are only 9.5% of women managers in agriculture, very few women farmers etc.

State Program development depends on considering women's opinion, therefore it raises political question of admission of women to decision-making. In fact, gender equality in Ukraine is distorted. Men make decisions and women perform them, sometimes without the benefit for society. In order to equalize the gender situation state agencies have to expand the statistic database, highlight gender issues and prepare a gender analysis of government programs, including budget programs.

Press Service of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy, 23.02.2012

During TV show "The Week in Details" Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich said that Ukraine's course towards European integration is irreversible. "We have made some decisions and have prepared the Association Agreement on the FTA, which will undergo the process of ratification of the European Union", he said.

Presidential Press Service, 26.02.2012

During the roundtable "Ukraine-EU relations: the way ahead", held in Brussels on February 27, First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Valery Khoroshkovsky said that Ukraine's and his personal goal is to become members of the European family.

He stressed that Ukraine has a political will to build the future together with the EU. First Vice Prime Minister agreed that conclusion of Association Agreement with EU is an urgent need. "We have to find a solution, because our strategy is the same: we want to become a member of

the European family. This is the goal of the country and my personal goal”, he said and assured the participants that Ukraine will spare no effort to build effective relationships with the EU in 2012.

Roundtable "EU-Ukraine relations: the way ahead" was organized by the Center of European Policy in Brussels with the support of Petro Poroshenko Fund. Ukrainian participants in debate events were Secretary of the NSDC of Ukraine Andriy Klyuyev, Chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine Poroshenko and leader of the "National Movement of Ukraine" Tarasyuk. The EU side was represented by Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule, Foreign Minister of Sweden Carl Bildt and Foreign Minister of Lithuania Audronius Azhubalis.

Department of Information and Communication of the Secretariat of the CMU, 28.02.2012

▪ **Food Safety**

Parliament of Ukraine adopted, on second reading, the Bill № 8494 on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On the State Biosafety System for creating, testing, transportation and use of genetically modified organisms"(regarding the mechanism of control of products containing GMOs).

Under the law, business entities that put products containing GMOs or products derived from their use into circulation are obliged to make a written declaration. The declaration is supposed to contain specified information about the business entity, products containing GMOs or products derived from their use and index number of such products in the State Register of GMOs.

By law, the central executive authorities responsible for implementation of this law provide a network of testing laboratories for the relevant areas to determine the GMO content in products. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approves regulations on the network of testing laboratories to determine the GMO content in products.

APK-Form, 23.02.2012

Government Portal reports that according to Resolution № 125 of February 22 this year, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has created regional offices of the State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service. Regional agencies are created by converting the regional bodies of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine, and by merging state inspections of plant quarantine and state inspections of plant protection.

<http://economics.unian.net/>, 24.02.2012

According to the chief veterinary officers of MIA of Ukraine Oksyuta, departments of veterinary officers have made 406 inspections of business entities whose activities are related to the circulation of products of animal origin and documented 255 violations of Article 107 of Administrative Law.

Government agencies collected fines amounting to 34,7 thousand UAH in the state revenue, executed 188 inspection requirements and discontinued operations of 34 business entities, sent 24 matters to investigative units of the Interior and the Prosecution and withdrawn 33 795 kg of substandard animal products.

<http://www.vet.gov.ua/>, 27.02.2012

▪ **Market Infrastructure**

Parliament of Ukraine adopted the Law "On Amending Certain Laws of Ukraine on protection of domestic producers in response to discrimination and / or unfriendly actions of foreign countries,

customs unions or economic groups."

The legislative act changes the law "On Foreign Economic Activity" and "On Single Customs Tariff", which are aimed to improve mechanisms of implementation of the legitimate rights and interests of subjects of foreign trade in Ukraine in the sphere of international relations.

LIGA Business Inform, 23.02.2012

Association "Ukrainian Agribusiness Club" (UABC) informs that in the last 10 years, the production of tomatoes in industrial greenhouses had positive dynamics of growth: in 2000 Ukraine produced about 100 thousand tons of greenhouse tomatoes, and in 2010 - over 175 thousand tons. But in 2011 production decreased to 171 thousand tons and in 2012 it could shrink to 150 thousand tons. "It seems that this year the domestic tomatoes at an attractive price will be difficult to find because the imported tomatoes are cheaper. The main problem is the reducing of the greenhouse tomatoes area because of increase in gas prices, which is a major expenditure in the production of greenhouse vegetables", produce market expert from UABC Ihor Strelyuk sais.

According to Strelyuk, today cucumber is the main greenhouse vegetable, which accounts for 70% of the covered ground area. The share of tomatoes is about 30%, while 4 years ago the ratio was 60% to 40%. Each year, Ukraine imports over 55 thousand tons of greenhouse tomatoes, which is almost half of the products sold in retail. According to UABC, total sales volume in organized retail in 2011 was about 125 thousand tons of tomatoes a year.

www.rbc.ua, 24.02.2012

February 27, head of Russian Federal Consumer Rights Protection and Human Health Control Service (RFCRPHHCS), chief state sanitary doctor Gennady Onishchenko informed that RFCRPHHCS expanded the list of Ukrainian companies, prohibited to supply Russian market with cheese, to seven companies. He said that since Monday RFCRPHHCS will block up the access for another four Ukrainian cheese producers: Bashtansky and Lozovsky cheese plants, "Belle Shostka Ukraine" and Khmelnytsky

butter and cheese base. "Production samples, selected in Moscow, Krasnodar, Kaliningrad and Ryazan regions, did not meet the current Russian legislation, therefore 30.6 tons of Ukrainian cheese are withdrawn from Russian market", Onishchenko said.

Earlier Mr. Onishchenko said that more than 120 tons of Ukrainian cheese are stopped at the border and not allowed into the territory of Russia. Also last week, he informed "Interfax" that RFCRPHHCS is not satisfied with the quality of documents that came from Ukrainian cheese producers, and that the volume of the documents was significant, but they did not meet national and international standards.

Interfax, 27.02.2012

Head of Livestock Department of Ministry of Agriculture and Food Andriy Hetya informed that in 2011, imports of meat to Ukraine decreased by 32.5%, from 378 to 246 thousand tons.

LIGA Business Inform, 28.02.2012

UNIAN reported in the press service of the State Agency of Land Resources of Ukraine that in Ukraine, normative monetary evaluation of land was held in 27,737 settlements in the area of 7.2 million ha, accounting for 93.1% of the total settlements quantity and 95.4% of the total area. Last year normative monetary evaluation of land was held in 2277 settlements of Ukraine.

<http://economics.unian.net/>, 28.02.2012

▪ Rural Development

President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich told journalists Yevhen Kiselyov, Savik Shuster and Andriy Kulikov about the new law on the land market, which now is being modified and will include the effective use of agricultural lands.

“We need this law to predict the effectiveness of use of agricultural lands”, Yanukovych said, adding that the draft law already includes a number of amendments. He noted that in such socially relevant topics as land reform public opinion should be taken into account. “I am strongly opposed to making such strategic decisions without taking people’s opinions into account”, he said.

APK-Inform, 23.02.2012

During a meeting with village, settlement and city mayors of Kivertsi, Lutsk, Lokachin and Shatsky districts Head of Volyn Regional State Administration Borys Klimchuk reported that in 2012 Volyn authorities plan to send about 20 million UAH from different financial sources to support self-employment of rural population. “Over 2 years Volyn authorities have made first attempts to activate people in rural areas by implementing various agriculture support programs, focused on commodity output. We are supposed to provide full life conditions for a person regardless of his residence. Previously, the state geared toward the social security, now the tendency of state is to give people a chance to earn money by themselves, especially the ones who work in rural areas”, the head of the region said. He also explained that 15 - 20% of public support for the regions will be spent on those programs that have proven themselves.

Government Portal, 23.02.2012

During his working visit to Chernihiv region Minister of Agriculture and Food Mykola Prysiazhniuk reported that in 2012 most of the state budget funds allocated for the agricultural sector will be focused on the development of livestock, including dairy.

Today, funding is primarily directed at the development of the individual farms and collective farms. “We will motivate and fund family farms that hold 3 or more cows with 10 thousand UAH per milking cow. Also we will compensate the value of milking equipment, and coolers for families that hold more than 5 cows”, Mr. Prysiazhniuk said.

Agricultural Ministry in conjunction with agricultural enterprises began developing the project for milking plants and purchasing cooperatives that will regulate the purchase prices. Mykola Prysiazhnyuk considers that efficiency of provided subsidies lies in their appropriate use.

Press Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 24.02.2012