



Reporting to the office of the Provincial Secretary, presently Hon. Ed Tchorzewski, the Advisory Council's role is to advise the government with respect to the establishment and review of existing and future policies, programmes and projects concerning Saskatchewan and Ukraine relations. The Advisory Council has been established for a three year term.

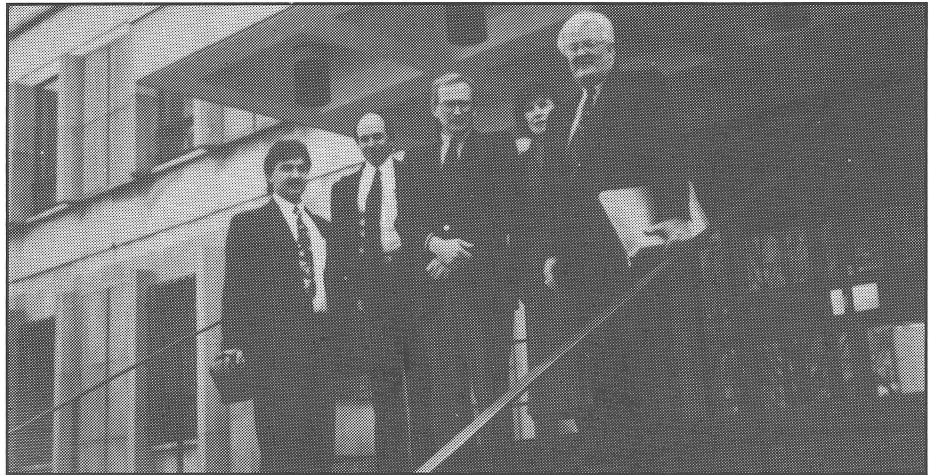
GRAIN ASSESSMENT MISSION TO UKRAINE

Report from the Canadian Grain Commission

In April 1993 an International Grain Consultation (IGC) team conducted an assessment mission in Ukraine. The goal was to determine the state of the grain industry, particularly in the area of quality control, and to evaluate the potential for involvement of IGC, the commercial service of the Canadian Grain Commission. Meetings were held between IGC and government officials, farmers and other members of the grain industry to discuss its structure and needs.

The Vice Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture agreed in principle that IGC can provide valuable services in grain quality control in Ukraine but were concerned over the issue of funding. The Deputy Chairman and the Manager of International Relations Department of the State Committee on Grain Products agreed that quality control is very important to the grain industry, but their principal concern was with obtaining equipment for laboratory analysis. Both groups believed that the State will continue to play an important role in the grain industry.

IGC dealt principally with the managers of four collective farms and an association of about one hundred private farmers to learn about the grain production and delivery system. The system in Ukraine is in the process of becoming more market driven and the farmers are unsure of how to produce and market a quality product under the new scheme. In the past, they have been more concerned with producing quantity than quality.



Members of the International Grain Consultation Team.

A typical elevator operator discussed the problems faced by the withdrawal of the State from the operations of country elevators. In the past, the State has ordered grain for all segments of the industry; now, only about 30% of production is State-ordered and the rest of the grain can be sold on the open market. The operator was unsure of how to price the grain and how to provide farmers with incentives to deliver a quality product. A bakery manager described the problems faced in trying to obtain flour of sufficiently high quality to produce good bread products.

IGC has concluded that the Ukrainian grain industry can benefit from its services in training and consultation on grain quality procedures and on how quality can enhance the end product and benefit both producers and consumers. Accordingly, it has prepared a proposal for a grain quality demonstration project and has submitted the proposal to a development bank for funding. Subsequent phases will be developed over time to build the concept of quality into all facets of the Ukrainian grain industry.

1993 CANADA-UKRAINE FARMER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

This year's Farmer Exchange started in late September. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Saskatchewan Provincial Council, which took over this project from

Grant MacEwan Community College in Edmonton, is co-operating with a group of private farmers in Ukraine, the Canada Exchange Program Veterans Club (CEPVC), to bring a number of Ukrainian private farmers to Canada.

In previous years, the program saw farmers from Ukraine billeted with host Canadian farmers for up to six months. The trainees lived with their host families while engaging in a training program. The training for 1993 has been arranged by Judie Dyck from Agmar Consulting.

Ukraine needs young people who will become private farmers. At the same time, host farmers are able to learn more about life in Ukraine and gain the satisfaction that they are helping to build a new country.

MLA's Myron Kowalsky (Prince Albert-Carlton) and Walter Jess (Redberry) have been very helpful in arranging for billets for the trainees.

Farmers who are willing to take in a farmer from Ukraine and contribute room and board, are asked to contact the UCC-SPC. Please provide the following information about yourselves: name, address, age, type of operation, previous participation in the programme, knowledge of Ukrainian.