



UKRAINIAN OFFICIALS OBSERVE FARMING IN SASKATCHEWAN

During June of this year, high ranking officials from the Ukrainian Ministry of Agriculture and Food were in Saskatchewan studying Canadian farming techniques and agriculture administration. The Deputy Minister, Vyacheslav Hrevtsov, and the Director of Livestock and Food Processing, Anatoli Baluta, were hosted by Agriculture Canada, and their stay was coordinated by Gerald Luciuk. While spending most of their time in Regina, the Ukrainian officials were able to visit rural districts and the University of Saskatchewan. The executive director of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Saskatchewan Provincial Council, and Judie Dyck of Agmar Consulting had the opportunity to meet with the visitors to discuss the upcoming 1993 Canada - Ukraine Farmers' Exchange Programme. Messrs. Hrevtsov and Baluta returned to Ukraine impressed with agriculture in Saskatchewan and encouraged about the possibilities for closer cooperation between Saskatchewan and Ukraine.

Modernizing Polish television news, formulating guidelines to help abandoned children in Ukraine, and using biogas for energy production in an Armenian village - these are a few of the multivarious projects supported by the Canadian Bureau for International Education's (CBIE) Human Resource Development Program (HRDP) for countries of the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe.

The 18-month program is funded by the Bureau of Assistance for Central and Eastern Europe of External Affairs and International Trade Canada (EAITC). The largest of the four programs comprising the Partners in Progress Initiative (Partners in Progress is itself the Bureau of Assistance's largest project, with a \$3.7 million allocation. HRDP aims to select up to 100 Canadian cooperants over its lifespan. To date, 58 have been approved, and 35 are in the field. This represents remarkable progress given that the program only got underway last winter.

The HRDP projects, while disparate, feature a few common elements. Each involves a partner organization in the region; the Canadian cooperant or, in the case of a team, at least one team member is fluent in the language of the country (unless the organization has competency in English or French); and each plans to transfer a skill or knowledge which will propel the partner organization and the country towards a market-based economy within a democratic political system. An expected spinoff is ongoing relationships between Canadian organizations and their partners in the region.

Over 900 inquiries have come in from interested Canadians and landed immigrants (who are also eligible), and 200 prospective applicants have visited CBIE offices for information. The interest level is surprising since the program does not actually pay cooperants, and requires them to contribute at least two months to on-site activities. In some cases teams are formed to ensure sufficient time in the field by one or more cooperants. The program covers airfare, equipment and materials, and some field costs. A chunk of the local expenses specifically food and accommodation, are paid by the partner organization. It is worth noting that many of the cooperants undertook exploratory visits at their own expense prior to submitting proposals.

Some exceptional projects, and exceptional people, have been selected. The following snapshots fail to do justice to their significance to the countries involved and to their potential success in engendering positive change in both attitudes and work methods. ■

SOCIAL ISSUES & ASSISTANCE

KALEIDOSCOPE OF HRDP PROJECTS FUNDED BY CBIE

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