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Regina Office
P.O. Box 1787
#320 – 1801 Hamilton Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
CANADA S4P 3C6
PHONE: 306-787-9210
TOLL FREE: 1-877-313-7244
FAX: 306-787-6666



Saskatoon Office
#500 – 402 21ST Street East
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
CANADA S7K 0C3
PHONE: (306) 933-6551
FAX: (306) 933-6556

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Canadian Opportunities in Ukraine through the FARM Program

Some good news for the Ukrainian agriculture sector and Canadian organizations interested in participating in this sector's development – the Facility for Agricultural Reform and Modernization or FARM Program is now underway. A five-year program, FARM is providing valuable and much needed assistance to update practices and strengthen institutions and organizations belonging to Ukraine's agriculture sector. Also viewed as a strategic initiative, FARM will position Canada as a key player in the meaningful transition of Ukraine from a command-and-control to a market based economy while at the same time, opening up this market to Canadian agriculture supply and equipment exporters.

With major funding from Canada's International Development Agency (CIDA) in partnership with the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and the Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership, FARM will leverage the wealth and breadth of leading edge Canadian agricultural technology and expertise to a sector that, some say, is years behind the rest of the world. To achieve this, FARM focuses its efforts on three pillars - strengthening institutional capacity, agriculture extension network expansion and civil society development. FARM's major partners in Ukraine include the Ministry of Agrarian Policy, Ukraine Academy of Agrarian Sciences, and National Agricultural University of Ukraine, as well as the oblasts of Dnipropetrovsk, Rivne, Sumy, and Volyn.

FARM will work through two major components. The first, called the Proactive Mechanism, provides technical support to the four priority oblasts mentioned above as well as other oblasts through FARM's partnership with the Kyiv-based Training and Coordination Centre of Agricultural Advisory Services.

The second component, dubbed ReMech or the Responsive Mechanism, is a grant fund that is open to Canadian and Ukrainian organizations interested in becoming active participants in Ukraine's development. Organizations with innovative ideas for support to FARM's three pillars are encouraged to apply. They must do so, however, in partnership with a Ukrainian organization. The first step is to send FARM a brief two-page concept paper outlining the idea. Following an evaluation period, eligible partner organizations with project concepts that fit FARM's mandate will be invited to develop a proposal. Key success factors to obtaining ReMech funding will be innovative and appropriate ideas from capable organizations able to develop and deliver the project.

Interested parties seeking more information about FARM may visit the website at www.sasktrade.sk.ca/farm for specific project details. In addition to a more extensive project overview, organizations interested in applying to FARM's ReMech component will be able to download ReMech project criteria and a concept paper outline from this site.

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For further information, contact:
Guy Innes, Director, International Projects
Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership
Tel: 306-787-7928
Fax: 306-787-6666
E-mail: ginnes@sasktrade.sk.ca

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