

**Kmelnitska Oblast Public Organization Youth Centre “FORUM”**

**FARM Responsive Mechanism Project**

**Project: “Problems of reforming land legal relationship in Ukraine at the Present Stage ””**

**Project Partners:**

**Khmelnitsk oblast public organization “Youth Center “FORUM”**

Olga Hashina  
16, Lvivske highway, Apt.#45, Khmelnytsky,

**Wild Rose Agricultural Producers**

Rod Scarlet, Executive Director  
#102, 115 Portage Close,  
Sherwood Park, AB  
T8H 2R5

**Final Report Summary**

**August 2005 – March 2006**

## **Executive Summary**

---

The focus of the project *“Reforming land legal relationship in Ukraine at the present stage”* was to improve the social conditions and business opportunities for young people in rural areas. The purpose of this was to increase the appeal and promote the benefits of rural living and curb the increasing migration of this group to larger, more urban centres in Ukraine. The project was designed to reach this goal through the creation of new business opportunities for young rural people, develop their entrepreneurial and management skills, strengthen the status of young rural people and improve the living conditions in rural areas.

The project’s primary delivery mechanism was a series of training seminars, round tables and public hearings – primarily on legal and business management issues related to production and farming. In addition, the project trained ten legal and business management specialists, who currently provide consultations in their rayons and neighboring rayons on issues related to land regulations, business management and business planning. The project also created a database of agricultural producers in Khmelnytsk and neighboring oblasts, showcasing the products and prices of various suppliers within the region. Lastly, a brochure entitled *“The latest changes in agrarian legislation, their influence on the agricultural producer”* and a manual *“Recommendations on Business Planning and Farm Management”* was published under this grant. Information about project activities was disseminated through the FORUM website, bulletins and local media outlets.

## **Background and Rationale for the Project**

---

This project was designed to address the following challenges:

- Poor information systems around land titling, leasing and land pricing put new small farmers at a decided disadvantage to larger, more informed landholders. According to the State Committee of Land Resources as of March, 2004, approximately 4,074,140 land shares were transferred into private property, 60% of the total amount of available land shares. Despite the significant amount of information provided by the mass media and state organizations regarding new land reform laws and regulations, the results of the latest Gallup polls show a very low awareness by the rural population of their legal rights and responsibilities as landowners the population’ awareness in this sphere.
- Consolidation of large pieces of land (though lease agreements, etc.) into large restructured farms that require very few employees, sometimes only seasonally, has left young rural people dislocated. There is pressure to migrate to urban centres and look for alternate sources of income. This counteracts the development of a diverse and multi-layered rural population and a shrinking rural population leading to its degradation.

## **Achieved Project Goal and Objectives**

---

- Select rural youth are now better informed on:
  - a. Active legislative frameworks and existing land property rights.
  - b. How to obtain land titles, leasing land plots, and defending their land property rights.
  - c. Sources of credit and business planning
- Select youth-leaders in rural area are now capable of disseminating information about land property rights in the region.
- Five consulting centres continue to provide consultations on land issues, business planning, general and financial management.

## **Output Results**

---

- 266 young people from rural areas received training on: issues surrounding access to land resources; efficient mechanisms for utilizing property for the purpose of starting or developing one's own business; and farm management issues. Seminars were regarded as a success, and in all occasions organizers were approached with a request to conduct additional seminars and workshops on these topics.
- 500 young people from five rayons received information in the form of a brochure about the latest changes in agrarian legislature.
- A data base on producers and processors of agricultural products in the region was created facilitating establishment of marketing relations between producers, processors and customers.
- A FORUM Internet site was created in order to disseminate information about the organization and the project.
- Manual on business planning and farm management was published and disseminated providing project participants with information and practical recommendations on business development and farm management issues.
- New individual farms are in the process of being established in the region creating more jobs and leading to the improvement the infrastructure in the area. Since the projects inception, 15 new farms have been registered.
- Consulting centres created in each rayon are providing practical advice and consultations on farm management and legal issues;
- FORUM membership has increased by 112 people which contribute to its sustainability as a civil society organization in this region.

## **Canadian Partner Contribution**

---

During the reported period the project team maintained regular contacts with its Canadian partner, Rod Scarlett from Wild Rose Agricultural Producers and Canadian Young Farmers' Forum. On January 15-24, 2006 Rod Scarlett participated in the training seminar organized by FORUM in the city of Khmelnytsky. Rod Scarlett made presentations on "Strategies for Sustainability" (Introduction to Sustainability Plans; Innovation in Cost Recovery; Developing a Cost-recovery Action Plan; Preparing Grant Applications; Review/Critique of Extension Service Sustainability Plans).

FORUM understands the importance of maintaining partnership relations with Rod Scarlett. It was agreed that both project partners will continue to communicate via e-mail. FORUM has plans to submit a new concept paper to the FARM Program and invite Rod Scarlett as a Canadian partner.

## **Conclusion**

---

A key priority for this project was to develop opportunities and potential of rural youth in the region. As a result of the project activities about 15 new individual farms have been registered. As well, new farming enterprises have hired employees leading to an increase thereby improving conditions in some rural communities.

The project has identified that there is a real need amongst rural communities and especially rural youth for different types and forms of information. This need was identified during implementation of the project which attracted more participants than was originally planned for or could be accommodated. Practical legal and business management training were noted as the most beneficial for young, rural entrepreneurs.

The sustainability of this project is inevitable. The project results speak for themselves. FORUM membership has increased, attracting more membership fees and ensuring the sustainability of the organization. In addition, the consulting centres created by FORUM under this project continue to function and deliver services. Much of this is due to support from the local authorities that provide operational funding to these consulting centres as part of their overall policy to promote the development of rural areas.

FORUM is looking towards the future, to build upon the results achieved in this project and hopes to submit a new concept paper to FARM program and invite Rod Scarlett as a Canadian partner again.