

**National Association of Agricultural Advisory Services of Ukraine, National Agrarian University and Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Science**

**FARM Responsive Mechanism Project**

**Project: “Creation of the system of information provision of agricultural advisory services of Ukraine through joint use of web sites ‘www.dorada.org.ua’ and ‘www.agroua.net’ and web site of Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences”**

**Final Report Summary**

**September 01, 2005 – February 28, 2006**

## **Executive Summary**

This project was aimed at advancing the activities of agricultural advisory services through the improvement information provision and the joint use of existing websites [www.dorada.org.ua](http://www.dorada.org.ua) (National Association of Agricultural Advisory Services of Ukraine) and [www.agroua.net](http://www.agroua.net) (National Agricultural University). It also sought to create a website for the Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Sciences. As a result of these activities agricultural advisors increased the efficiency of their work in the provision of services to clients.

The project was successful and led to improvements in the existing websites of the National Association of Agriculture Advisory Services, the National Agricultural University along with the creation of a website for the Ukraine Academy of Agrarian Sciences. Moreover, greater links established between the three websites will provide more opportunity for cross-site information sharing and access. With these upgrades and linkages, all three websites will continue to provide valuable and much-needed information and technical support to Ukraine's agriculture extension services, producers, government agencies, other NGOs and the general public.

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

The National Association of Agricultural Advisory Services of Ukraine's website "DORADA" [www.dorada.org.ua](http://www.dorada.org.ua) was developed in 2003 under a TACIS Project which supported methodological improvements of agricultural advisory services in Ukraine. The website created, serves as valuable tool in providing important information about agricultural advisory activity in Ukraine. The goal of this project was to increase the usefulness of the website, and as a result a number of sections of the website were reworked and reorganized and a number of key components were added such as, information on agrarian markets, development of rural areas and rural entrepreneurship, organization of advisory activity to support advisors and extension methodology.

The National Agrarian University's website [www.agroua.net](http://www.agroua.net) ("Agrarian Sector of Ukraine") contains a tremendous amount of agricultural information important for agricultural advisors. Developed by specialists at the University, it contains databases of plant growing, cattle breeding and accounting and supports the policy work of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine. The website is a considered the national information portal on all things pertaining to agriculture. However, the large quantity of information made available on the website made it very difficult to navigate. It was determined that in order to insure the long term sustainability of these valuable web resources and data bases, there was a need for joint support in maintaining the website. Therefore, NAU established an agreement with NAAAS to continue development of the agroua.net website and to collect further scientific research for use in databases on the site. To facilitate this, the NAU received a grant from the Government of Ukraine in the amount of

\$40,000usd In order to effectively provide advisory services, it was essential for both organizations to collaborate in the administration of both websites agroua.net and doroda.org, with agroua.net website serving as a universal agrarian portal and the doroda.org website as the educational support of advisory activity

Prior to the project The Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Science (UAAS) had not developed an independent website which prevented the dissemination of information about the scientific practices and activities of UAAS. In addition, agricultural advisors and commodity producers were constrained by this lack of information from the UAAS. Without a website, UAAS did not have the opportunity to influence interactive management with its associated institutions nor provide corresponding informational material needed by enterprises and rural population. The project gave UAAS an opportunity to develop a website and in collaboration with NAAS and NAS and deliver valuable information to stakeholders in the agricultural community.

## **Overall Project Goal**

The overall goal of this FARM grant project was to provide support and assistance to develop advisory web resources for extension agents, commodity producers and the rural population in general. This project focused on institutional development by linking the National Agrarian University, the Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Science and the National Association of Agricultural Advisory Services of Ukraine, to coordinate their efforts to provide necessary web-based resources to the system of agricultural advisory services in Ukraine.

## **Project Goal and Objectives**

1. Develop and upload information to old and new sections of DORADA's website with information on agrarian markets, development of rural areas and rural entrepreneurship, organization of advisory activity to support advisors and extension methodology.
2. Creation and development of a UAAS web site.
3. Creation of web-based market and price information databases for use by agriculture extension advisors.
4. Provide access to information on methodology, organization of advisory activity as well as to databases on technical issues for agriculture extension advisors through all three linked websites (agroua.ua, doroda.ua and UAAS's new website).
5. Provide agricultural advisors with new information on agricultural issues, agricultural market, prices and extension methodology.
6. Enhance the qualifications of agricultural and expert advisors through distance education programs on the "DORADA" web site.

## Anticipated Outcomes and Results Table

Anticipated Outputs and Deliverables	Project Results	Evaluation
1. Updating of DORADA website	Result: DORADA web site and all information in every sections and subsections were completely revised. DORADA website sections also updated in English	Result achieved on "DORADA" website nearly 400 new articles.
2. Elaboration of Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Science web site	Result: Development of Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Science web-site ( <a href="http://www.uaan.gov.ua">http://www.uaan.gov.ua</a> ).	Result achieved
3. Development of software for filling of the program of distance education on DORADA website	Tests and accompaniment of the system of distance education installed on "DORADA" website "Agricultural Advisory Activity" course prepared by programmer of Department of Agrarian Consulting and Service of National Agrarian University	Result achieved
4. Carrying out training seminars for agricultural advisors and experts-advisors on interactive use of web sites, distant extension, use of agrishop Holding of 4 regional seminars and 1 large	November 22, 2005 in Shack Volyn region, Regional seminar Jan 26-27,2006 Regional seminar February 02-03, 2006 March 9, 2006 National seminar March 9-11	Result achieved.
5. Achievement for professional training and rising of advisors and expert-advisors qualifications.	Development of distance education course "Agricultural Advisory Activity" and its installation on DORADA website.  System of distance education includes 5 themes and one laboratory work for each theme. There are also tests for evaluation of knowledge of advisors and expert-advisors.	Result achieved

## **Partnership and its Sustainability**

Creation of a system of links to sites of Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Sciences and National Agrarian University opened new possibilities for advisors and expert-advisors in using informational web-resources. Advisors are now able to review scientific research for accurate implementation into production and elaborations of education for active use. The potential to effectively solve problems of local rural communities due to these added resources has significantly increased. In turn this also encourages the development of youth programs, created new working places and increased employment of the rural population.

The project involved a partnership effort between NAU, UAAS, and NAAAS. It also included support and input from the agriculture advisory service members. Other national nongovernmental organizations from the agrarian sector were also involved in upgrading and improvement of the website. Response from the Meeting of the Board of Association and General Meeting on March 10-11, 2006 indicated there is a strong interest in the use of the “DORADA” website by advisory services and this gives a certain level of confidence that the work of this project is sustainable.

## **Conclusion**

This project joined informational resources of science, education and advisory services with the cooperative use of websites [www.uaan.gov.ua](http://www.uaan.gov.ua), [www.agroua.net](http://www.agroua.net) and [www.dorada.org.ua](http://www.dorada.org.ua). This is the first real step on the way to realizing the Strategy of Agriculture Advisory Development in Ukraine.

Advisory service personnel, who attended the information sessions, noted the large quantity of valuable information on the “DORADA” website. In particular, they made reference to links to UAAS and NAU sites, the distance education component “Agricultural Advisory Activity”, and articles on accounting and taxation of budget institutions in the section “Consultants and Trainings Manual”. Advisory service personnel seemed pleased with the upgrade and new features of the Association’s website and its links with the websites of the National Agriculture University and Ukraine Academy of Agriculture Sciences.

Considering the difficult process of receiving approval by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and Ministry of Agrarian Policy on the Law of Ukraine “On Agricultural Advisory Activity” and the first State Targeted Program of Agricultural Advisory Activity for 2006-2009, NAAAS will appeal to projects of international technical assistance including the FARM Program to support further development of the “DORADA” website.