



FARM Project Personnel coming to Canada to learn about Agricultural Publishing in Manitoba

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Elena Dashkevich, Manager of the Rural Development and Legal Assistance Centre from Odessa, Ukraine will be in Winnipeg, Manitoba from May 8 to 21. Her visit is one piece of a much larger project, **“Development of Market Information System in Agriculture in Ukraine”** that will bring valuable agriculture market information tools to Ukraine. While in Winnipeg, Ms. Dashkevich will be learning how a Canadian-based information organization, Farmer’s Independent Weekly (FIW), carries out their work of delivering much needed farm information to producers. John Morriss, Publisher and Editor of Farmer’s Independent Weekly, said of the upcoming visit, “We hope that passing on some of what we’ve learned will help them (Rural Development Center) in their work of reporting useful and interesting information to Ukrainian farmers.”

The **“Development of Market Information System in Agriculture in Ukraine”** Project is a joint effort of the FARM Program, the Rural Development Center and Farmer’s Independent Weekly. The overall goal of this initiative is to organize a stable market information system for the agriculture sector in Ukraine, ensuring accurate, regular and timely information is available to producers and processors of agricultural products, state and district agriculture departments as well as other market players. FIW recognizes the commonalities between Canada and Ukraine and feel they have lots of valuable information to share. Morriss says, “Many of our farmer-readers in Manitoba have much in common with farmers in Ukraine, including the landscape, crops and livestock produced and for many, a common heritage and traditions proudly carried on from ancestors who came here to farm during the last century”

The seven partners and production staff of FIW represent a wealth of expertise for operating and publishing a weekly agricultural newspaper. Ms. Dashkevich’s exposure to FIW’s operations will enable her to better assess the kinds of strengths it needs to build to ensure success of this project.

This **“Development of Market Information System in Agriculture in Ukraine”** Project is one of five projects recently approved for grant funding under the FARM Program. This grant facility supports innovative project ideas for agricultural development from partnered organizations in Ukraine and Canada. The FARM Program, which began operations in Canada and Ukraine, in 2003, works to provide valuable assistance to update agricultural practices and strengthen institutions and organization in Ukraine’s agricultural sector.

This five-year program will also position Canada as a key player in the meaningful transition of Ukraine from a command-and control to a market-based economy. With major funding from CIDA in partnership with the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP), FARM provides technical assistance in the areas of institutional capacity-building, civil society development, and extension service creation in the agricultural sector. The Ministry of Agrarian Policy, Ukrainian Academy of Agrarian Sciences, and the National Agrarian University are the Ukrainian partners.

To learn more information about other FARM projects like this, visit the FARM website at www.sasktrade.sk.ca/farm. In addition to a more extensive project overview, interested organizations are also able to download the project criteria and concept paper outline from this website.

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Kari Delsnider
Grant Facility Coordinator, FARM Program
Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP)
Tel: 306-787-7977 Fax: 306-787-6666
Email: kdelsnider@sasktrade.sk.ca

Mrs. Nicole Grande
FARM Program Support
Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP)
Tel: 306-787-9210 Fax: 306-787-6666
Email: ngrande@sasktrade.sk.ca