



FARM Program continues to provide opportunities for Canada and Ukraine

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In February 2003, the CIDA-funded program "Facility for Agricultural Reform and Modernization (FARM)" began operating in Canada and Ukraine. The FARM program works to provide valuable assistance to update agricultural practices and strengthen institutions and organizations 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.

A great opportunity for Canadian private companies, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations to become active in development work in the agriculture sector in Ukraine, FARM has a program component that provides a grant fund to Canadian and Ukrainian organizations to become active participants in Ukraine's development. This program component is called the Responsive Mechanism or "ReMech", and it supports organizations with innovative project ideas for agricultural development in Ukraine. These organizations are encouraged to apply for grant funding, which must be done in the form of a joint application in partnership with a Ukrainian partner organization.

Funding has been provided for a total of seven projects since FARM's inception. A good example of one of these projects is Koenders Manufacturing 1997 Ltd. from Saskatchewan, Canada who is paired with PMTO Agro-Soyuz from Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine on a project to introduce the leaf-cutter bee technology to Ukraine. By providing materials, mentoring, and training workshops open to the public, the transfer of this technology is progressing well and the first swarm of bees will be released on an area of 14 hectares in Ukraine.

Another example, the "Hromada" Credit Union from Kherson, Ukraine is working with a number of Canadian specialists from the Province of Alberta to further develop the credit union's scope of services in the areas of marketing cooperatives, agricultural extension, 4H clubs, and green tourism initiatives. Although the project is still on-going, the credit union has been able to expand and diversify the services they offer to their rural clients.

Interested? The first step is to send FARM a brief two-page concept paper outlining the project idea. Following an evaluation, 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 organizations able to develop and implement the project.

More information on specific project details is also available on 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:

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