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Final Report Project Summary

**Association of Farmers and Private Landowners of Ukraine and
Agriculture Producers Association of Canada
Introduction of the Law of Ukraine “On Individual Farm”**

Project under FARM Responsive Mechanism

Project start date: December 1, 2003

Project end date: February 29, 2004

I. Executive Summary

The Association of Farmers and Private Land Owners of Ukraine submitted the Draft Law “On Individual Farm” to the profile Committee at the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Agrarian Policy and Land Relations, which was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada on 19 June, 2003. With the enactment of the Law a need in a broad explanatory and promotion work among the rural population of Ukraine has arisen; it would enhance the development of farming movement in Ukraine, facilitate agriculture reform and development of civil society in rural area.

II. Summary Project Description

a. Background and Rationale for the Project

The Project “Introduction of the Law of Ukraine “On Individual Farm” was implemented on the territory of Ukraine. The project was aimed at resolving problems existing in the agricultural sector and achieving results facilitating the increase of production efficiency in agricultural sector of Ukraine. Implementation of the Project has favoured the process of reforming agricultural production and processing enterprises, establishment of profitable farms and improvement of the rural populations’ living standards under the conditions of a market economy, and involvement of agricultural NGOs into development and implementation of agricultural policy. The Project has set the objective to conduct a number of training seminars and a “round table”, organize publication of a farmers’ newspaper “Visnyk “Farmer of Ukraine” (Ukrainian Farmers’ News) with publication of the Law of Ukraine “On Individual Farm” with questions, answers and comments; publication of a brochure with the Laws analyses and comments provided by the legal consultants. The project envisaged dissemination of information materials among farmers and owners of land and property shares aimed at stimulation of farming development, decrease of unemployment in rural area, decrease in a number of court cases against farmers, improvement of social and economical situation in rural area. A significant indicator of achievement of the desirable results would be increase in the number of individual farms, increase of economical indices and profitability level.

The second stage of the Project implementation envisaged conducting the “round table” “Influence of the Law of Ukraine “On Individual Farm”, on 16-20th of January, 2004, on the development of agrarian policy of Ukraine” with participation of the People’s Deputies from the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, state officials, and commercial structures representatives. Farmers of Ukraine were informed about the results of discussion of the provisions of the Law of Ukraine “On Individual Farm”, directly and through mass media, a legal group has been created at AFLOU, which was comprised of three lawyers, which have good experience of working with agricultural producers. Legal consultations have been provided to farmers and private household plot owners wishing to register their private farm; farmers also received information about changes in legislation regulating farming operation in Ukraine.

b. Project Goal/Objectives

Objective of the Project was familiarisation of the maximal number of individual farmers and household plot owners with the statements of Laws “On Individual Farm” and “On Household Plot Farm”.

The Project had the following objectives:

- ✓ Decrease of unemployment for 5%.
- ✓ Increase number of individual farms by 20% within the next 1,5 years. According to the data from the Ministry of Statistics of Ukraine during last 10 years annual growth of the number of individual farms was 10% (Table 1). Therefore due to the implementation of the Project expected growth in the number individual farms will be over 10%.
- ✓ Increase in the number of established private individual farms on the basis of land shares and household plots by 5% .
- ✓ Expanding the existing individual farms at the expense of joining additional rented land shares of rural inhabitants by 5% .
- ✓ All participants of trainings will obtain knowledge on setting up own individual farm, selection of the optimal legal form for farm business.
- ✓ Approximately 22,000 Association members and 43,000 individual farms will obtain knowledge on the Law “On Individual Farm” and establishment of their individual farms.
- ✓ About one third of Association members are female, who will obtain high level knowledge on establishment and profitable farming, avoiding conflict relations with representatives of former collective farms and local authorities.

III. Project Achievements

a. Outputs/Deliverables

In the process of the Project implementation the following activities have been implemented:

1. Additional copies of the newspaper “Visnyk “Farmer of Ukraine” were published and disseminated through experts of extension services and the Heads of Oblast and Rayon unions of AFLOU. Total number of the newspaper “Visnyk “Farmer of Ukraine” amounted to 15 000 copies which were disseminated in all oblasts of Ukraine in February, 2004.
2. Brochure on the application of the Laws of Ukraine “On Individual Farm” and “On Household Plot Farm” with the comments of lawyers, officials, specialists was published and disseminated through local unions of Association of Farmers and Land Owners of Ukraine. 10, 000 copies of the brochure were published. It was disseminated in 24 oblasts of Ukraine through local unions of Association of Farmers and Land Owners of Ukraine in February of 2004.
3. Two days training seminar was conducted on 2-3 December of 2003 in Kyiv on “Application of the Law “On Individual Farm” for AFLOU Board members, the Heads and Executive Directors of Oblast AFLOU, the Heads of AFLOU Committees, farm managers.
4. A “round table” conducted on 16-20th of January of 2004 in Kyiv on “Influence of the Law of Ukraine “On Individual Farm” on the Development of Agricultural Policy of Ukraine” with the participation of 42 participants: deputies of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, officials from national and regional levels, representatives of educational and research institutions, farmers.
5. A legal group at the AFLOU for a broad explanation of the Law (3 persons) was created.
6. 86 individual farmers and household plot owners were provided consulting support on starting up individual farms, annual organisation and advantages of efficient private farming by agricultural advisory services.

7. At the result of dissemination of the additional copies of the newspapers and brochures 15 – 20 thousand farmers received knowledge and information about the Law of Ukraine „On individual Farm”; the Law provisions have been analyzed in details, their weak and strong points have been determined; farmers learnt how to use this law in practice

IV. Project Sustainability

Sustainability of the Project will be provided through the Project elements, which will effectively continue after the grant end. According to the Project plan they are:

- Conducting a number of training seminars for individual farmers and household plot owners which will continue to be held by local regional extension services;
- Setting up new individual farm will serve as an example to be followed by other village people;
- Information exchange and dissemination, newspapers, brochures among farmers and share owners;
- Continuation of on-going consultations of farmers and rural population by advisory services and regional representatives of AFLOU;
- Growing number of individual farms and agricultural producers will increase their incomes and influence rural communities. As a result rural community leaders will have to protect interests of individual farms and land owners to a greater extend and this will help to further develop farming, which is the aim of the Project.
- Farming development is also supported by advisory services and the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada on Agricultural Policy and Land Relations.

Sustainability of the Project after its end will also be ensured through:

- Provision of consultations by advisory services and AFLOU;
- Continuation of work a legal group within AFLOU, publication of information newsletters, comments and explanations in farmer newspaper;
- Continuation of publication of “Visnyk Fermer Ukrayiny” newspaper with the information on problems of the implementation of the Laws on individual and household farms, legal comments, advice etc.
- Further organisation of Round Tables and training seminars for farms aimed at finding problems in the Laws implementation and ways for solving them.

V. Comments

Positive results expected at the result of the Project implementation have been realized in practice: at the result of dissemination of the additional copies of the brochure 15 – 20 thousand farmers received information about the Laws of Ukraine “On Individual Farm” and “On Household Plot Farm” with detailed analyses of the laws, explanation about their strong and weak points and practical application.

The Association is the centre of farming development in Ukraine as it is actively involved in legal document development and their introduction in practice favours the decrease of unemployment in rural area, increase of quantity and efficiency of farming enterprises, creation of new private farms on the basis of private household plots.

Due to the Project implementation the brochure with the Laws of Ukraine “On Individual Farm” and “On Household Plot Farm” and newspaper „Visnyk „Farmer of Ukraine” were disseminated which will make it possible for the heads of public organizations to work more effectively on oblast, rayon and village level in order to introduce new legislation into practice.