



Ukraine and FAO

*Advancing policy and technologies for
enhanced food and nutrition security*

Cooperation between FAO and Ukraine has focused on the development of national capacities, with pilot testing and demonstration of new and emerging practices contributing to the overall objective of technology transfer as well as capacity building. In this respect, FAO assistance has comprised successful projects in fields such as improved traceability of livestock and livestock products, and support to the Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES), including surveillance, laboratory diagnostics and contingency planning development.

Strategic investment support

While the prime responsibility for developing field programme assistance in Ukraine lies with FAO's Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, an additional feature of cooperation is FAO's support in the design and implementation of agriculture and rural development-related investment strategies. Partnering with national stakeholders and major

"Close collaboration between FAO and Ukraine is an asset and great opportunity to improve local, regional and global food security."

José Graziano da Silva,
FAO Director-General

international financial institutions, since 2007 the FAO Investment Centre's work in Ukraine has focused on:

- agribusiness sector studies, namely for sunflower seed, grain, sugar, meat and dairy;
- public-private dialogue;
- technical assistance and capacity building;
- creation of new financial instruments to improve pre-harvest financing; and
- improving land registration and cadastre systems.

Matching FAO's expertise to Ukraine's development priorities

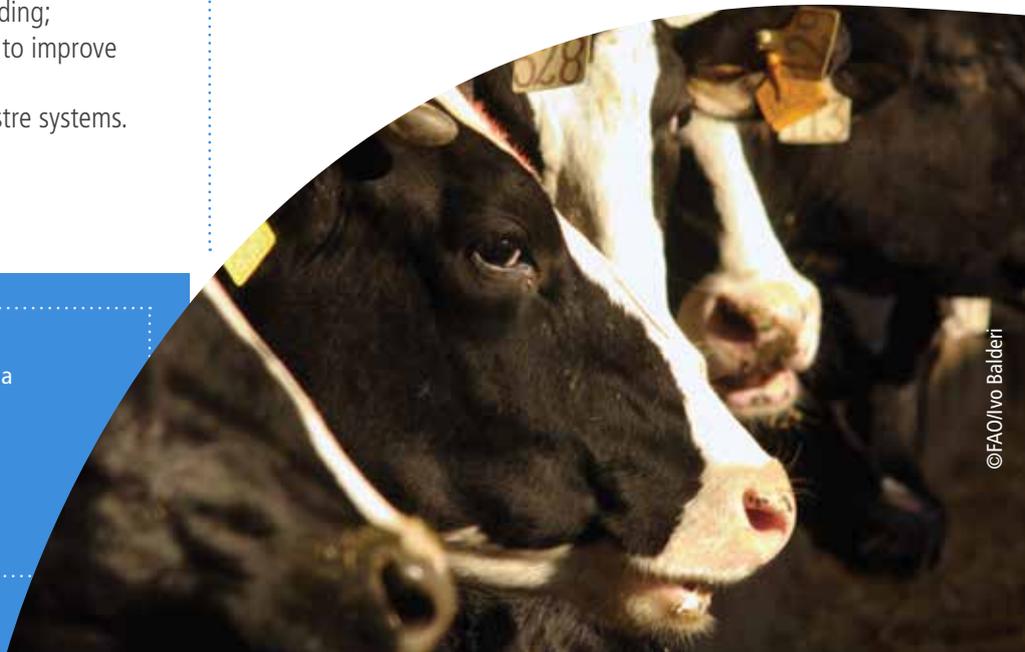
Following consultative reviews of Ukraine's plans for development of its agriculture sector, FAO assistance in the country is currently being prioritized. In addition to the strengthening of agricultural and rural development policy in general, emphasis in the future will include the alignment of national legislation and institutional structures with European Union (EU) mechanisms.

Accordingly, FAO is currently shaping a Country Programming Framework with Ukraine, revolving around the following three priority areas:

- Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
- Improved agriculture and rural development policy and programming, considering Ukraine's role in contributing to regional and global food security in the EU context
- Strengthening of value chain development.

CONTACT

FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
34 Benczúr utca
H-1068 Budapest, Hungary
Tel.: +36 1 461 2000
Email: FAO-RO-Europe@fao.org



Forest policy consolidation

The forest sector in Ukraine is still in a transitional stage and holds enormous potential for improvement and growth in economic efficiency. Forest policy is strongly state-oriented and follows a predominantly top-down approach. Previous administrative reforms in Ukraine have only partially settled forest sector problems.

Although market instruments have been increasingly applied and certification efforts have been intensified, there is still room for greater involvement of other governmental, civil society and private sector actors. There are some legislative contradictions and gaps in the sector, and the division of power and responsibilities between different authorities could be clearer. Improvements in the systems of financing and taxation would be beneficial.

An ongoing FAO project, supported through the Technical Cooperation Programme, aims to develop strategic partnerships and assist the Ukrainian Government in the design and implementation of a National Forest Policy, with specific emphasis on the sustainable development of natural resources and poverty alleviation in rural areas. This is an area where forest management could play a more prominent role. A concise roadmap has already been developed, together with relevant stakeholder groups, to provide a conceptual framework for the Ukrainian forest sector. It includes approaches providing for increased economic efficiency, clarification of forest ownership, and clear cross-sectoral linkages to related fields of policy making, including agriculture, the environment and tourism. An afforestation/reforestation strategy and a public relations strategy for the forestry sector were considered to be of particular urgency in the roadmap, and both will be prepared as part of the project.

It is envisaged that the permanent fora established within the framework of the project for informed forest policy decision-making will continue to work effectively after the lifetime of this specific intervention. The fora include:

- A Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue, organized around specific topics, in which groups are invited to discuss the challenges of forests and forestry in Ukraine; and
- An Inter-Agency task force on forests and forestry, headed by the State Forest Resources Agency, and based on an existing ad hoc forestry working group.

Early diagnosis of African Swine Fever

African Swine Fever (ASF), a serious transboundary swine disease that has killed hundreds of thousands of pigs in the Russian Federation and the Caucasus, has spread to Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. The disease is seriously threatening to spread further in Europe and could cause severe losses to the entire European swine industry.

African swine fever only affects pigs and wild boar. It is not a direct danger for human health nor does it threaten other animal species. However, it can impact people's livelihoods, and food and nutrition security. There is no vaccine or treatment against ASF and almost all infected animals die after a few days. Disease can be prevented through good husbandry practices and controlled through early detection and culling of the affected pigs as well as potentially affected pigs nearby. Such action requires compensation policies to ensure reporting and to ease the hardship on pig owners. Consequently, strengthening of capacities for risk-based surveillance is essential for timely and effective prevention and control.

Under the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme, Ukraine's State Veterinary and Phytosanitary Service has been able to reinforce its capacity for relevant surveillance and laboratory diagnostics. Under FAO technical guidance, a review of the national surveillance protocols has been carried out, capacity development workshops and training courses have been held, and a valuable GIS-based decision-making tool for ASF prevention and control in Ukraine has been developed.

It is hoped that risk analysis and GIS-based decision-making tools will be updated regularly and used for effective prevention and control of ASF as well as other swine diseases. Furthermore, it has the potential for being upgraded and developed for the prevention and control of other types of livestock and diseases.

