



United States
Department of
Agriculture

August 14, 2008

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

TO: Nancy Hirschhorn
Chief
Grant Management Branch
Foreign Agricultural Service

1400 Independence
Avenue, SW
Washington, DC
20250-2000

FROM: Larry Sivers
Director
International Programs Office

SUBJECT: Proposed Emerging Markets Program FY 2009 Funding of NASS
International Statistical Cooperation Projects, UKRAINE.

GENERAL:

The following proposal requests Emerging Markets Program (EMP) funding for a one-year project between the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine. The project objective is to provide assistance to the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine in improving Rural Household Surveys and in designing new Economic Surveys. Improvements in the Rural Household Surveys will improve agricultural and rural statistics on 4.8 million rural households involved in agricultural production. The new Economic Surveys will provide data on economic activity of agricultural producers in Ukraine. The State Statistics Committee of Ukraine has requested technical assistance and training from USDA-NASS, as part of their effort in improving Rural Household Surveys and to design new Economic Surveys.

BACKGROUND:

The project is oriented toward the development of an emerging market-based economy by improving the availability of statistics on agriculture production and economic activity. Such statistics are necessary to allow a market economy to function efficiently and properly. The Ukraine government has been providing basic statistical information on crop areas and production, and livestock inventories. Improvements in survey methodology for Rural Household Surveys are necessary to expand the current level of information for crop and livestock statistics, and rural data. The information contained in the new Economic Surveys will expand the scope of information provided by the Ukraine government. This information is important to U.S. agricultural interests in development of market strategies for Ukraine.



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AGRICULTURE INFORMATION SYSTEM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROJECT IN UKRAINE.

Proposal Date: August 14, 2008

The project is proposed by:

National Agricultural Statistics Service,
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

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I. PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION.

Ukraine Agricultural Statistics Improvement Project (FY2009): This project would provide for development and implementation of enhanced capability of the Ukraine government to plan and conduct Rural Household Surveys and Economic Surveys on agricultural production in Ukraine.

II. RATIONALE.

An effective system of agricultural statistics should include many types of statistics, and should include statistics in the following areas: crops; fruits and nuts; vegetables; livestock; poultry; dairy; agriculture chemicals; economics. The State Statistics Committee of Ukraine is interested in expanding the level of information on crop and livestock statistics, and in providing new economic statistics. The expanded Rural Household Survey and new Economic Survey will cover the following crops: wheat; buckwheat; corn; oats; barley; sunflowers; soybeans; rapeseed; flaxseed; potatoes; vegetables; fruit; and grapes. The expanded Rural Household Survey and new Economic Survey will cover the following types of livestock: cattle; hogs and pigs; sheep and goats; and poultry.

While there has always been a need for reliable data on which to base decisions, this need is much stronger today in Ukraine with the profound changes to its economic and

political systems. Government policy makers must rely on efficient information for better decision-making and policy formulation. Accurate, reliable and timely information is needed by both the public and private sector for developing production strategies, allocating resources, and the expansion and growth of markets. Foreign (including American) agricultural interests need reliable data for assessing agricultural markets in Ukraine.

The State Statistics Committee of Ukraine needs training and consultation to successfully improve methodology for their Rural Household Survey and for new Economic Surveys. The expanded level of information generated by improved Rural Household Surveys and new Economic Surveys will be important to U.S. agricultural interests in development of market strategies for Ukraine.

III. PROJECT PARTICIPANT IDENTIFICATION.

This project would work extensively with the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine which has responsibility for agricultural statistics in Ukraine.

Institutional Capability:

As the statistical agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has as its mission “to provide timely, accurate and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.” NASS has also been helping to establish and improve agricultural statistics programs in countries around the world for nearly 60 years.

NASS specialists provide technical assistance and training on a reimbursable basis in all aspects of statistical surveys, censuses and data systems. The institutional relationships established between NASS and counterpart organizations, which generally continue long after projects are completed, have been mutually beneficial for understanding and addressing improvement issues.

With a total staff of more than 1300 employees, a large portion of which are professionals experienced in various aspects of census and survey work, NASS can draw from a large and diverse set of skills to support international projects. NASS is the United States’ only source of a large permanent staff experienced in the practical application of the technology and latest operational developments in the field of agricultural statistics.

IV. RESOURCES REQUIRED.

The amount of resources identified in this proposal to assist in improving Rural Household Surveys and in designing new Economic Surveys is for training and technical assistance. This support will be for NASS experts' travel to Ukraine to work with counterparts, with costs reimbursed at US Government travel allowance rates and salary for NASS staff involved at actual daily rate/individual plus 19.9% benefit and 20.9% leave factor rates. This will be done with the equivalent of six TDYs (10 days each) to Ukraine by NASS staff.

BUDGET NEEDS:

ITEM	Amount FY 2009 Amount (\$000)
Salaries	54
Travel	41
Total	95

In addition to the resources provided from the U.S. side for technical assistance, significant resources in the way of National staff, regional staff, and local staff, travel expenses, data collection and processing cost will be provided by the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine.

V. IMPLEMENTATION.

The following activities will be undertaken:

- Comprehensive review of sample design and estimation procedures for current Rural Household Survey.
- Technical assistance with development of new sampling methodology for the Rural Household Survey and new Economic Survey.
- Assistance and training on survey methodologies and questionnaire design for Economic Surveys.
- Training on data analysis and estimation of results from Rural Household Surveys and Economic Surveys.

VI. KEY CONTACTS.

USDA/NASS management of the project will be under the guidance of Larry Sivers, Director, International Programs. In country contact is Oleg Prokopenko, Director, Agricultural Department, State Statistics Committee of Ukraine.

ATTACHMENT A

MEMORANDUM

July 30, 2008

TO: Emerging Markets Staff

FROM: FAS KYIV – Ann E. Murphy, Attaché

SUBJECT: Support for Proposal

I would like to supply testimony and support for a NASS program for Ukraine.

From the point of view of the FAS work in Ukraine, FAS Kyiv relies on information and needs to continue to have access to information from the Ukrainian State Statistical Service (USSS). The more skills the USSS can master, and the better they perform their work, the better FAS reporting becomes. The FAS agricultural specialists' work counts on the availability and reliability of the State Statistical Service professionals for key FAS reporting on some of our GAIN reports, and to monitor changes in the agricultural sector. NASS work in Ukraine in the past has been very constructive. As one example I can mention NASS assistance to the USSS to produce a household survey.

Since my arrival in Kyiv I have been encouraged by the Ambassador to collaborate with other USG initiatives in the agricultural sector. This particular embassy includes a USAID mission and a large Peace Corps presence, the latter mostly in rural areas. In my opinion USDA NASS is uniquely able to provide institutional strengthening to the State Statistical Service. Doing so will help FAS work, USAID work, and likely others' as well. It will help the image of the United States government for NASS to continue to collaborate with the State Statistical Service. Improving the professional capacity of Ukraine's statistical analysts and broadening their use of statistical data will in turn shine a spotlight on the rural sector – its labor, its inhabitants, its households.

The rural sector in Ukraine is not experiencing identical growth to that of the urban sector. In many regards Ukraine's agricultural sector, while holding promise for increased food productivity and the possibility of attracting investment, still lags. NASS work with the State Statistical Service in Ukraine has been, in the past, fundamental to understanding the situation in the rural areas of this country. I highly recommend that NASS continue to work with the Ukrainian State Statistical Service.