

Ukraine and Saudi Arabia enhance cooperation in agriculture

Under the XXII International Agro-industrial Exhibition "Agro-2010" in Kiev, negotiations between first persons in agricultural sectors of Ukraine and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took place. The Business Council Center "Ukraine – Middle East" acted as the initiator of the meeting. Negotiations were held with the Minister of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine Mykola Prysyazhnyuk, MP and founder of the Business Center "Ukraine – Middle East" Pavlo Klymets, and Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Saudi Arabia Dr. Abdullah A. Al-Obeidi and other representatives of the ministry. As a result of negotiations the parties agreed to begin systematic work in agriculture, and expressed intention to create joint ventures and technology parks in the agricultural sector in Ukraine.

The parties agreed on the importance of cooperation between Ukraine and Saudi Arabia in the field



of agriculture, and discussed possibilities of investment by Middle East partners in the Ukrainian economy. The development of a detailed investment plan was started by ministries of both countries with the support of Business Center "Ukraine – Middle East".

According to the Minister of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine Mykola Prysyazhnyuk, with the new marketing year, export of Ukrainian grain to Saudi Arabia might increase to 1 million tonns.

Mykola Prysyazhnyuk, the Minister of Agrarian Policy of Ukraine:

"The Government carries out its commitments to make reforms in agriculture and improve the investment climate in the country. In the nearest future the State Grain Company and State Land-mortgage Bank will be established, through which investors will be able to rent the Ukrainian land for joint cultivation and processing. The benefits in the agricultural sector of Ukraine, which are now available for investors, are very attractive. In addition, the new Tax Code provides benefits under the priority development areas - and they include almost all rural areas. Cooperation with Saudi Arabia – it is guaranteed logistics, investment and market outlet."

According to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Abdullah A. Al-Obeid, the lack of water resources today does not allow Saudi Arabia to develop effectively their own agriculture. Country refused to grow grain, and last year imported 2 million tons of wheat to meet the needs of its growing population.

Dr. Abdullah A. Al-Obeid, the deputy Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

"Ukraine is now considered as one of the leading states to invest because of its rich natural resources. Ratio of cooperation can be very high due to capital investment, new technologies, know-how. In addition, we are going not only to export from Ukraine, but also to establish production in Ukraine and to provide local markets with products".

Business Council Center "Ukraine – Middle East" has recently intensified cooperation with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. A few months ago Kingdom Embassy in Ukraine was opened.

Pavlo Klymets, the founder of Business Council Center "Ukraine – Middle East":

"Business Center helps to intensify a dialogue between Ukraine and the Middle East countries. Today's talks and reached agreements - it is our symbolic victory, but it is only the beginning. In the future we will initiate negotiations at a high level of top officials of Qatar, Oman, UAE and others to open Ukraine to the Middle East and implement large-scale investment projects, providing Ukraine with inflow of investments, new technologies, new jobs".