

Crimea-piloted cooperative model exhibited in Kiev

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UNDP Crimea Integration and Development (CIDP) presented its working model of agricultural service cooperatives at the International Agricultural Exhibition-Fair "AGRO 2011", which is the leading annual exhibition for agriculture, agricultural machinery, livestock farming and food industry in Ukraine. This year it took place from 2 to 5 June.



"We came to Kiev to present here our experience in creating models and environment for increased economic and social development opportunities in rural districts of Crimea", said Ayder Seitomanov, UNDP CIDP National Project Coordinator.

Prime Minister of Ukraine M. Azarov on the booth of Crimea

UNDP's unique approach to sustainable development of rural areas integrates various economic, social as well as environmental aspects. Agricultural service cooperatives which are being supported by UNDP CIDP are expected to play a significant role in increasing standards of living in rural areas of Crimea where agriculture is often the only income-generating activity for households.

Throughout the fair, UNDP's agricultural service cooperatives model was presented in details to various audiences in the framework of workshops, seminars and round tables led by UNDP CIDP experts. Visitors had the opportunity to obtain relevant information and methodological materials, and to meet in person some members of Crimean cooperatives who were also present at the fair.

"Besides sharing our experience, we had a great chance to establish new partnerships for the future", said Aleksandr Mozzherin, member of Khutorok cooperative. "My colleagues and I also had an opportunity to learn more about new agro technologies essential for our cooperatives' successful growth in the future".

In his speech, delivered to over 3000 listeners, Ayder Seitomanov stressed the need to promote cooperatives as a premise for rural areas' development. He also pointed out some perspectives as well as current problems and obstacles encountered by agricultural service cooperatives in Ukraine.

"Today we want to stress that Crimean experience of agricultural service cooperatives promotion as well as the training modules elaborated by UNDP CIDP can definitely be used and replicated in other regions helping reach sustainability in development of rural areas across Ukraine", he said.

Source: UNDP