

AGRO 2014: Presentation of the interim project results in Ukraine

AGRO is the largest agricultural exhibition of the CIS-Countries and Eastern Europe, the most important annual state-level event in the Agro-Industrial Complex (AIC) of Ukraine. The fair has the highest number of visitors, including top government, leading shareholders in agriculture from all regions of Ukraine, top-managers and specialists from agricultural enterprises.

A series of specialized experts' events took place in the framework of AGRO 2014. One of them was the **conference "Prospects for development of renewable energy sources and alternative fuels"** organized within the **International Biofuels' Day 2014**.

Mr. Yurii Khomenko, Head of Energy and Alternative fuels Department of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, made a presentation on the State and Prospects of Bioenergy Development in AIC of Ukraine. He has mentioned that Ukraine has significant bioenergy potential, especially for biogas (21,8 billion cubic m) and solid biofuels (14,8 million tons), which is insufficiently utilized: Only 0,7% of the biogas production potential is currently explored. The situation related to the production of solid biofuels is definitely better. 8% of the production potential is considered. However, further 92 % of the bioenergy potential based on utilization of solid biofuels would significantly improve the energy balance of the country. Mr. Khomenko also stressed the importance of the cultivation of energy crops in Ukraine. In conclusion, he mentioned that the development of the bioenergy sector would reduce the national dependence on energy imports by 20%.

Prof. Dr. Mykola Royik, Head of the Institute of Bioenergy Crops and Sugar Beet at the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences, has emphasized that Ukraine is highly energy-dependent and imports of natural gas amount to about 33 billion cubic m. Taking into consideration the biomass potential of Ukraine, this amount of natural gas can be substituted completely only by utilization of energy crops to be cultivated at an area of 3 million ha. This area can be taken from 8 million ha of marginal land available in Ukraine. Prof. Dr. Royik also spoke about the necessity to meet sustainability criteria especially on GHG emissions reduction.

Dr Lesya Matiyuk, Expert in the department EU/International Cooperation at the Agency for Renewable Resources/FNR, Germany, made a presentation on the interim BIO-PROM project results from the perspective of the sustainable resource management. She introduced the sustainability components and regulative framework in Germany as well as the recent discussion on further development of the sustainability standards in the EU. Furthermore, on the example of one of the BIO-PROM pilot projects in Ukraine, she demonstrated how this bioenergy project provides practical and transferrable solutions to the challenges introduced by Mr. Khomenko and Prof. Dr. Royik.

Mr. Oleksandr Matviychuk, Deputy Head of The Committee on Fuel and Energy Complex, Nuclear Policy and Nuclear Safety in the Verhovna Rada/Parliament of Ukraine, concluded the experts' exchange session emphasizing the necessity to improve current legal and regulatory framework. Further and rapid improvement of the National Law "On Green Tariff" for alternative resources is urgently required in order to stimulate the development of the bioenergy sector and attract private investments.

The presentations were followed by engaged discussions with stakeholders from politics, entrepreneurship and the research institutions.

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