



**EC/FAO Food Security Programme - Phase II**  
*'Food Security Information for Action'*

Programme Workplan for Moldova

<b>Donor:</b>	European Commission
<b>Implementing Agency:</b>	FAO
<b>Proposed Funding:</b>	\$ US 380, 000
<b>Duration:</b>	3 years
<b>Starting date:</b>	1 April 2005

The Programme will strengthen national capacity in the veterinary service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry to deal adequately with potential major epizootic disease outbreaks, thereby meeting two specific conditions in the EU-Moldova action plan and helping to alleviate rural poverty. It will also assist in the collection, management and dissemination of food security information.

The Programme will focus on the following specific aspects, which were prioritized by the GoM and the EC-FSP:

- 1 a) capacity building in developing contingency plans for the outbreak of epizootic diseases;
  - 1 b) Increase in conformity with EU norms/SPS standards related to animal health status for FMD and other major TADS (CSF, HPAI)
  - 1 c) Capacity building in the methodology of import risk assessment for animal diseases
2. Provide training for the analysis of the Household Budget Survey.

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## 1. Background

Moldova is a small, land-locked country with good agricultural potential. The disintegration of the former USSR and the subsequent breakaway of Transdnestr, where heavy industry is concentrated, have resulted in widespread poverty (46% lived below the poverty line including 26 % below the severe poverty line, falling to 26% and 15% respectively by 2004). Agriculture and food industry account together for approximately one third of the GDP.

“Food security” in the sense of food availability is not a very relevant notion in Moldova, where exports of food account for up to 70 percent of total exports. While there are problems of access to an adequate diet and micro-nutrient deficiencies, EC/FAO programme activities are more likely to be comprehensible to stakeholders if they address issues of poverty alleviation. A Food Security Information System, as in the other Group III countries, is not considered relevant, by the EC-FSP or the government.

## 2. Problems to be Addressed

Moldova differs from the other countries in the EC Food Security Programme in that EU integration is a top government priority. Actions proposed under the programme should be at least compatible if not explicitly mentioned in the Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper or the EU-Moldova Action Plan for the European Neighbourhood Policy. The EC-FSP wants FAO to take a specific focus area in Moldova’s governing documents (mentioned above) and have a high impact in this specific area.

In order to continue to export livestock products to neighbouring Romania (an EU accession country), Moldova has to harmonize its veterinary hygiene and quality control legislation and practices with that of the EU. The country lacks the expertise and the funds to carry out some specific actions, required by the May 2005 EU DG (SANCO) report. In particular, the country lacks detailed emergency management plans for the major trans-boundary diseases (TADS), including foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Although Moldova has not reported FMD since 1980, it has not been recognised as free by the OIE, (Office Internationale des Epizooties, the responsible WTO/SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary body). Acquiring this status would remove one of the major obstacles to international trade. For the major TADS, weaknesses in risk assessment, national disease surveillance and monitoring, and lack of compliance of laboratory services with requirements of the OIE and EU affect the credibility of the country to certify the disease status of animals and animal products. Considerable technical input will be required to identify the most cost-effective and feasible approaches for setting up the necessary health and quality assurance systems for sustaining a modern livestock sector.

The government is fragmented, has problems with intra- and inter-ministerial communication and needs capacity building in identifying the kind of data to collect for decision making, data handling, processing, sharing, analysis and policy formulation. However, at the same time, the government is to be downsized and restructured radically in the coming year. In particular, the final form the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Bureau of Statistics will take is not clear at this stage.

HBS data and other data on poverty are considered by the government and the EC-FSP to be insufficiently accurate and representative. Yet, they are important tools for estimating poverty and food consumption in an economy where up to one quarter of the working age population is working abroad, remittances are difficult to estimate and a substantial part of the economy is submerged. Amongst other things, the HBS questionnaire does not include information on the consumption of household stocks of food, which are of considerable importance. DFID has (and will continue in 2006 under a no cost extension) to assist the improvement of the HBS and the Labour Surveys, largely by merging the two samples, but the country needs further assistance in processing and analysing the HBS information.

## 3. Ongoing Assistance

The Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper is an ongoing process, in which the government, after the elections this year, and the stakeholders, - particularly UNDP - are deeply involved. The IMF programme is going to be restarted

The EC-FSP provides budget assistance (about € 10 million per annum) to the Ministry of Finance provided that agreed conditionalities are met. At present all EC assistance including TACIS projects, are related to the EU/Moldova Action Plan or to the EGPRSP. Assistance is geared to helping Moldova fulfil the strategic objectives of the EU Moldova Action Plan (AP) which in turn will help Moldova sign a Partnership and Cooperation agreement with the EU. Central to the AP are the adoption and implementation of economic and trade related rules and regulations with the potential to enhance trade with the EU and its accession countries, thereby alleviating poverty.

The World Bank is implementing a major US\$ 30 million Rural Investment and Services Project under which two types of credit lines have been developed for agricultural enterprises and individual farmers.

DFID and SIDA have provided considerable TA to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) - formerly the Department of Statistics and Sociology DSS. Under a programme due to finish in 2005 (but to be continued into 2006 on a no-cost extension), the DSS has received TA from DFID to train enumerators, to develop survey questionnaires and training in the methodology of household, labour and agricultural sample surveys. In 2006 DFID will assist the DSS in integrating the Labour Force and HBS samples. It is uncertain that funds will also be available for tripling the agricultural sample survey.

UNDP/UNICEF provides assistance with economic policy formulation for growth, employment and poverty reduction, strategic long-term planning for achieving nationalized MDGs, as well as in the effective monitoring and evaluation of the Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy targets, Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the European Union – Republic of Moldova Action Plan.

FAO has both ongoing and pipeline TCPs in Moldova. Ongoing projects address land use, remote sensing in mapping landcover and usage, small scale on-farm irrigation, and two interregional projects for facilitating trade in BSEC countries and food safety in South East European Transition countries. The pipeline includes a request (not endorsed by the authorities responsible for the coordination of external technical cooperation) for building crop monitoring and forecasting capacity.

## 4. Expected Outcomes at the End of the Programme

The following outcomes are expected to be achieved by the end of the Programme Phase II:

1. Improved capacity to deal with outbreaks of major epizootic animal disease. A system for the development and continuous review of national contingency plans (NCPs) will be established for priority animal diseases (FMD, CSF, highly pathogenic avian influenza [HPAI]). This will enhance country capacity for mobilising resources on demand for responding to new disease events as well as reduce the impact of new disease events. These plans should be fully in line with current EU requirements.
2. Increase in conformity with EU norms/SPS standards relating to animal health status for FMD and CSF of potential livestock trading partners, thereby enhancing the capacity of the country to export livestock products to the EU and other countries and bringing the country two steps closer to signing a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the EU. The improvement of risk assessment and risk management at the national level, along with the national contingency plan, is essential for reducing the incidence of major epizootic diseases.
3. Enhanced capacity in food security analysis and reporting, as the capacity in HBS processing, analysis and report writing is strengthened by specific programme activities.

## Objective, Outputs and Activities

The activities envisaged in the present workplan are consistent with the overall logical framework defined in the EC-FAO Food Security Overall Programme Document. Most of the foreseen interventions fall into the domain of “Specific Objective 1: Improve availability and quality of relevant food security information” because the gaps identified in this area considerably affect the food security formulation process. The elimination of these gaps is a priority for the government and EC-FSP, which are in favour of using programme resources in this direction. However, there is also a direct and indirect contribution to the other two programme objectives, in particular with regard to the “Specific Objective 2: Reinforce capacity in formulating food security policies, strategies and programming based on food insecurity and vulnerability information”.

The areas of intervention (AOI) for the EC-FAO Food Security Programme have been identified as follows:

### **1 a) Capacity building in developing contingency plans for major epizootic disease outbreaks and in the methodology of risk assessment for animal diseases.**

The MoA veterinary service and the Moldovan livestock farmers will be the direct beneficiaries of this activity. The programme will assist the MoA in establishing a national animal disease contingency planning capacity (task force) for undertaking the development of national plans for each priority disease (FMD, CSF and HPAI are suggested as essential) using the standard EC norms for format and content. This assistance should provide the necessary experience required for i) testing and regularly reviewing/updating the plans, ii) meeting changing circumstances and needs, iii) assisting the forward planning of MAFI and iv) giving assurance to stakeholders. The system established should ensure that problems for policy implementation raised during the NCP development process are identified and addressed. NCP development should thereby also assist MAFI in prioritising reforms and needs for support/change.

International consultants will undertake missions to initiate contingency planning for epizootic diseases, and to assist the Government in evaluating the feasibility and organisational capacity for implementing plans through a simulation exercise. Advisory technical services will be provided by AGAH officers and will include participation at an inception workshop, training sessions, and installation and training on the use of animal disease information systems using TADinfo customized (under consultant contract) for Moldova. National staff (national consultants) will support the above three NCs, one per major disease for two months each.

### **1 b) Increase in conformity with EU norms/SPS standards related to animal health status for FMD and other major TADS (CSF, HPAI) of potential livestock trading partners**

Activities will include:

- Assistance in meeting SPS (OIE) requirements for demonstrating freedom from FMD.

An international consultancy to develop a documentation and surveillance action plan, with follow up missions to backstop action plans and finalise documents for submission to OIE review will be conducted. If the documentation does not international status to be gained, the final mission will develop recommendations and plans for follow up. Additional inputs that may be identified before or during the first mission include external laboratory services for conducting internationally required tests for giving evidence of freedom from disease..

- Establishing a national plan for accreditation, including external quality assurance of veterinary laboratory services relating to major animal disease surveillance.

A study tour for two persons for two weeks to (EU member state) to provide training on laboratory accreditation. Conduct a workshop for senior MAFI veterinary staff for identifying options and provide recommendations on the route map for achieving accreditation in laboratory services required to meet national, OIE/SPS and EU priorities. There will be a follow up mission to backstop progress and identify remaining constraints to be addressed at the national level. The scale of required inputs is difficult to assess; additional person inputs of up to 20 person days may be required. If necessary, specific training will be provided to establish required inputs for specific TADS (FMD, CSF and HPAI,..) in order to support the transition to international norms for laboratory tests and external quality assurance.

- Upgrading the performance of national animal disease monitoring and reporting systems to meet EU/SPS requirements.

FAO adapted and installed the TADinfo database with the aim of improving capacity to monitor and report national animal disease information in Moldova in 2002 under TCP/RER/0066. The DG-SANCO report indicates that reports received were inadequate, suggesting TADinfo is not being used or that analytical and reporting capacity did not recognise or respond to EU requirements. An AGAH mission will be required to assess inputs required (for re-training, upgrading hardware, software and networking). A 4 day mission plus additional inputs and backstopping equivalent to 20 days will be required.

- Supporting the development of EU standards in animal and holding identification.

An international consultancy of 2-3months to identify options and required actions for establishment of animal i/d and tracing systems that would meet EU requirements. Development in this area is a pre-requisite for any progress towards trade in livestock products with the EC (and efficient TADs control), as can be seen in the findings of the DG-SANCO mission. Some support can be given to project formulation; the scale of technical support required is usually high (several months to several years of TA inputs).

These very specific activities support Moldova's ambitions for further integration with Europe by having a direct impact on the ability of the Republic of Moldova to export livestock products to the EU and other developed countries. They have their origin in the report of the EC DG (SANCO) Animal Health and Food Safety Situation mission to Moldova 23-27 May 2005 (meat and dairy). These activities also relate directly to the goals of the Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy of Moldova since access to EU markets is important for improving rural incomes and alleviating rural poverty

**1 c) Capacity building in the methodology of import risk assessment for animal diseases**

Assistance in:

- improving capacity for identification and management of animal disease risk by means of a national workshop, and external training in legal and illegal import risk assessment.

In addition Moldova should consider joining the FAO European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EUFMD Commission). This will allow Moldova to access international support in preventing and controlling FMD, including receiving technical expertise and quality assurance services (also under the DG-SANCO: FAO agreement).

**2. Provide training in HBS analysis to get the maximum amount of food security information.** The objective is to provide the government with better and more complete information on food consumption. The HBS is a key document for food security and poverty analysis. The NBS and the MoE, (who monitor progress in achieving the goals of the EGPRSP) will be the direct beneficiaries of this activity. Technical assistance will be provided in 2 distinct stages. First, following the preparation of the basic food,

household and household-member characteristics data files by MoE, experts from both the Ministry of Economy (MoE) and the NBS will receive assistance in data processing, statistical estimation and in using report writing tools (2-week on-the-job training). The training will also include the preparation of the ECT. Secondly, representatives of both NBS and MoE will participate in a regional workshop with representatives of other CIS programme countries, to be organised by ESSA in Rome or a third country. This workshop will bring together producers and users of indicators of food consumption information and will help to maximize information on household consumption from the HBS. It will also stimulate inter-country dialog on food security issues. AS DFID is currently supporting the NBS/DSS in data collection and other aspects, coordination with DFID experts may be required.

The table below shows how the above areas of intervention relate to the Programme logical framework:

Specific Objectives	Results	Outputs	Areas of Intervention
1 – Improve availability and quality of relevant food security information	A - Collection of food insecurity and vulnerability data and information is improved or strengthened	1.A.1 - Food insecurity and vulnerability data and information are improved	2,
		1.A.2 - Food insecurity and vulnerability data and information management are strengthened	1,2
	B - Analysis of food insecurity and vulnerability data and information is strengthened	1.B.1 - National and regional capacity to analyze food insecurity and vulnerability data is strengthened	2,
		1.B.2 - Capacity of using environmental monitoring tools and data for food security assessment are strengthened	
		1.B.3 - GIEWS Workstation is established at global and national levels and capacity in its use is strengthened	
		1.B.4 - National and regional capacity for food security assessment is reinforced	2,
2 - Reinforcing capacity in formulating food security policies, strategies and programming based	A - National and local capacity to produce and use information for policy making are reviewed and updated	2.A.1 - Gaps in national and local capacity to produce and use information for policy making are identified	1,2
	B - National and local	2.B.1 - Response mechanisms to	1

on food insecurity and vulnerability information	capacity to produce multi-sector food security information is strengthened	crises and food security policy formation are improved	
		2.B.2 - National institutional structures and systems are reviewed	1
	C - Dissemination of food insecurity and vulnerability data and information is strengthened	2.C.1 - Integrated food insecurity and vulnerability data and information dissemination systems are strengthened	1,2
	D - Capacity to formulate appropriate food security policies in different contexts using adequate information is increased	2.D.1 - Methodological approaches for integrated use for household, food insecurity and vulnerability data are strengthened	2
		2.D.2 - Guidelines to switch from rehabilitation to development using appropriate data and information are prepared	1
		2.D.3 - Awareness to embody gender aspects in policies using gender disaggregated information is increased	
		2.D.4 - Capacity to formulate food security and rural development policies in countries with natural resources under pressure is increased	1
2.D.5 - Support to selected countries in preparing strategies and operational plans for food security agricultural and rural development is provided		1	
3 - Raise awareness of governments, local actors and international community, on impact of food	A - Causes of food insecurity and vulnerability are better understood	3.A.1 - National context analysis of food insecurity and vulnerability are better understood	
	B - Good practices in food security, poverty	3.B.1 - Good practices in food security, vulnerability, institution	1

insecurity & poverty	and rural development, institution building and networking are identified, analysed and disseminated	building and networking are identified, analyzed and disseminated at national level	
		3.B.2 - Good practices in food security, poverty and rural development are disseminated	1
	C - Dialogue and exchange of experience within the international community are improved	3.C.1 - Dialogue and exchange of experience among international community are facilitated	1,2
		3.C.2 - Improved information in qualitative and quantitative terms is provided to the GDPRD	1