

The international forum "[AgroGreenDeal-2021](#)" took place in Kyiv on February 25, 2021.

The event was with the [online broadcast](#).

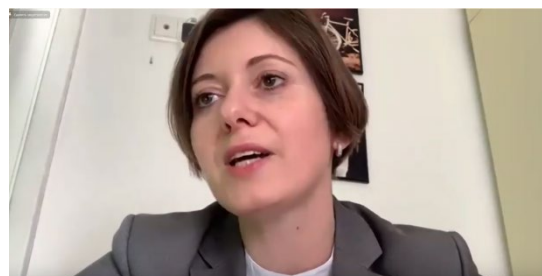
The forum was initiated by the Professional Association of Ecologists of Ukraine and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ukraine, with the support of International Chamber of Commerce of Ukraine and European Business Association.

More than 30 Ukrainian and European experts spoke during the event. They discussed the impact of the EU Green Deal on the agricultural sector and solutions for businesses to address key challenges.



"For Ukraine, the green initiative will undoubtedly have a tangible effect. But unlike the European companies, the Ukrainian agricultural producers may find themselves facing new environmental challenges and even lose the European market for their products," said **Lyudmyla Tsyganok**, president of the Professional Association of Ecologists of Ukraine, during opening of the event.

During the first session, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine **Iryna Stavchuk** noted: "The agro-industrial sector is crucial in the structure of Ukraine's economy, at the same time it is a powerful source of greenhouse gas emissions. During the preparation of the second nationally determined contribution and compiling data in accordance with the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions of Ukraine, it became clear that emissions from livestock, field cultivation, pastures, land use in Ukraine, total emissions from agriculture are already comparable to the emissions in the field of energy.



In recent years, in some areas there have been upward trends. In other words, the agricultural sector is important for the government, because in the context of the European Green Deal and the general movement towards climate neutrality, this sector is important in terms of what action is needed there. "

According to Mykola Shlapak, an expert on climate change mitigation in agriculture of the project "Technological Needs Assessment in Ukraine", "in 2018, Ukraine alone produced 98 million tons of CO₂, which is one third of all emissions.

Of these, 48.2 million tons are emissions come from the loss of organic carbon, and 33.5 million tons are the emissions from agricultural soils. This is largely determined by the use of mineral nitrogen fertilizers and the increase in the land on which they are used. The use of mineral nitrogen fertilizers in 2018 reached 89.5 kg of nitrogen per 1 ha of land. And among livestock, the largest greenhouse gas emissions are generated by cattle breeding. In 2018, out of 10.3 million tons of CO₂ emitted by total livestock, 8.3 million tons would come from cattle breeding."

The experts also discussed the use of minimum till technology, application of information and telecommunications technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, production of biogas from livestock waste, the production and use of solid biofuels from livestock waste and organic farming.



Foreign experts, including German agribusiness expert Victoria Müller, Professor, Dr. Maria Klopčič from Slovenia and Dr. Martina Bavec from the University of Maribor in Slovenia, PepsiCo Senior Director of Agriculture David Wilkinson spoke how their countries implement the principles of the Green Deal, through projects, programs and strategies. **Jouke Knol**, Farm to Fork Project Manager of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, shared Dutch vision on sustainable food systems and EU Green Deal.

In the third session of the forum, the representatives of Ukrainian agricultural companies presented solutions applied by their companies for eco-modernization and organic production.

They were: Kernel-Trade LLC, Goodwell Ukraine, Globino LLC, OPE, representative of Eggersmann GmbH in Ukraine, Chairman of the Board of the Association of Sustainable Development Experts, Regional Director for Eastern Europe of the Danube Soybean Association, Agrochemical Committee of the EBA.

- Sustainable local soybean production: the possibility of transformation in production approaches, enterprise strategies to achieve climate neutrality in agricultural production with the example of soybeans;- Responsible recycling of used plant protection products: how it used to be, how the system has changed in recent years and how it is still possible to improve this system.

In the fourth session, the experts discussed the problems of soil fertility and acidity, as well as the impact of the EU's "green" strategy on the business economy and family entrepreneurship as a basis for regional clusters.

Janjo de Haan of Wageningen University told about Dutch experience of sustainable soil management from the standpoint of agroecology and the approaches applied in the Netherlands to improve farmers' responsible treatment of soil. Special attention was given to practical examples of integration of the building blocks of agroecosystem.



As a soil improvement in Ukraine, the director of the Ukrainian Scientific and Engineering Center "Potential-4" Eugene

Titov proposed to reuse treated wastewater to improve soil fertility and structure. In his presentation, the expert showed the system at the construction stage and how plants were later planted above the system. President of the Ukrainian Association of Lime Industry (UAVP) Mykhailo Korylkevych stressed that in Ukraine in recent years the problem of soil acidity has become more acute. At present, only about 2% of limestone products are used for the agricultural sector and environmental protection, while in developed countries - about 15-20%. Soil acidity leads to 30 to 50% less yields.



At the end of the forum, PAEU President Lyudmyla Tsyganok stressed on the importance of applying sustainable farming techniques. The Ukrainian farmers are concerned with the question how they will be able to benefit from Green Deal.

Source used: Ecobusiness Group Press Office