



December 21st, Sityka Ukraina had a Webinar

“Medical Cannabis: also an opportunity for Ukraine?”

As a follow up of the questions from the Ukrainian Horticultural Sector about a webinar regarding CANNABIS production we found **Mr. Peter Christiaens** from Light4Food who was kindly willing to share his experiences with this crop.



Indica та Sativa

Possible Effects of Cannabis

	Sativa	Indica
	Uplifting, light green leaves, tall, thin plants	Short, bushy plants, broad, dark green leaves
	stimulating	relaxing
	creativity	focus
	energy	sleep
	high THC levels	high CBD levels

Source: MEDICALNEWS TODAY

- Cannabis Sativa та Cannabis Indica – два види конопелі.
- Неофіційні дані свідчать про те, що індика має заспокійливу дію на людей, тоді як сатива може підвищити творчу енергію людини, але це може бути надмірним спрощенням.
- Рослини Indica короткі за рослини sativa, і вони мають дерев'янисте стебло, а не волохисті. Рослини Indica також ростуть швидше, ніж рослини Sativa.
- І люди і природа створили гібридні форми між Cannabis sativa, так Cannabis Indica – протягом довгої історії використання конопелі людьми.

Peter Christiaens is professionally (and legally) experimenting with the production of medical CANNABIS in an innovative glasshouse in the Netherlands and exports the technology and knowledge all over the world.

What is CANNABIS and what lessons can be learned from different CANNABIS policies in the world.

December 28th, Sityka Ukraina is awarded with Appreciation Certificate by Agrarian University

At the Academic Council meeting of the of Agrobiotechnological Faculty of the Bila Tserkva National Agrarian University **Stiyka Ukraina** was awarded with an **Appreciation Certificate** which expressed the gratitude for educational and scientific collaboration with the University.

Valery Lashinsky, as a representative of the cluster, reassured the Council members that Stiyka Ukraina is very much looking forward to continue to work together for the mutually beneficial cooperation for the good of our both nations, the Netherlands and Ukraine.





Ukrainian Parliament legalizes medical cannabis

The Verkhovna Rada has voted in favor of legalizing medical cannabis in Ukraine in the second reading. Bill No. 7457 was adopted by 248 votes in total.

The law comes into force six months after its publication. Therefore, this is somewhere in the second half of 2024.

Medical cannabis will be sold only by electronic prescription, and will not be available for free sale. And what is also important: the draft law explicitly prohibits recreational cannabis (in simple terms, used exclusively for "pleasure").

Source: [RBC UKRAINE](#)



Mobilization, War, and Brain Drain – Primary Challenges for Ukrainian Business

Business in Ukraine identifies mobilization, military actions, and the outflow of personnel as the main crisis situations of the current year.

These findings come from the survey [“Assessment of Business Safety in Ukraine”](#) conducted by the European Business Association (EBA).

Specifically, 8% of companies describe the business climate in Ukraine as extremely negative, while 41% view it as merely negative. Another 45% of respondents find the business climate satisfactory, with only 6% considering it positive. Contrastingly, in 2021, 59% of international companies had a positive view of the business climate.

EBA notes that the origin of capital doesn't significantly affect the business climate assessment. Both representatives of Ukrainian and foreign businesses evaluate the country's business climate similarly.

Among the primary crisis situations faced by companies, respondents highlight mobilization (84% of respondents), military actions (67%), the outflow of professional staff (56%), manifestations of corruption (37%), and illegal actions by state bodies (33%).

Beyond the primary crisis situations, the study reveals that international companies face fewer instances of corrupt practices (35% compared to 40% among Ukrainian companies). Meanwhile, illegal actions by state bodies are a concern for companies regardless of their capital origin.

The survey, conducted in September 2023, involved over 100 respondents from across Ukraine.



Poland Leads the World in Import Growth of Berries, Particularly from Ukraine.

EastFruit continues to share intriguing insights from the presentation of FAO economist Andriy Yarmak during the year-end berry event in Moldova for 2023 titled **“Berry Market 2023”**, organized by the Moldovan Berry Association **“Pomuşoarele Moldovei”**.



According to the expert, among the top 10 fastest-growing berry markets globally, Poland leads in relative import growth rates. On average, Poland has been increasing its berry imports by 24% annually or by \$68 million USD. The primary reason behind this surge is the ability to purchase inexpensive frozen berries from Ukraine. As previously reported, over the past five years, Ukraine has been the world's champion in terms of the growth rate of berry exports, with Poland being its primary market. This calculation includes both fresh and frozen berries.

Poland's most rapid increase in imports was observed for fresh blackberries and frozen raspberries. These categories were the fastest-growing in terms of berry exports from Ukraine, making Poland the primary sales market for Ukrainian companies. Fresh blackberries and frozen raspberries accounted for over 60% of Poland's berry imports in 2022..

Source: [EastFruit](#)

USAID tripled funding for Ukrainian processors

The USAID program “Competitive Economy of Ukraine” has tripled its grant support for Ukrainian processing enterprises to \$11 million.

This was reported by the [Ministry of Economy of Ukraine](#).

“Given the large number of applications and significant interest from processing industry enterprises, a decision was made to increase the amount of grant funding,” the statement said.

The total grant program funding for the support of innovative transformation and development of Ukrainian enterprises will be \$11 million, and within the program, approximately 75 grants will be awarded (previously it was planned to be around 25 grants).

In particular, the grants will support businesses in activities that contribute to the production of innovative products, modernization of production, reduction of manual labor combined with the creation of more qualified jobs, increased efficiency in the use of other resources, import substitution in the Ukrainian market and/or export of Ukrainian products to fill niches previously occupied by Russian and Belarusian products, localization of production of goods needed for reconstruction.





Dear esteemed members of the Stiyka Ukraina Cluster,

As the festive season envelops us, we pause to reflect on the bonds we've forged, the challenges we've overcome, and the aspirations we hold for the future. This Christmas, may your homes be filled with warmth, your hearts with joy, and your spirits with hope.

As we usher in the New Year, we eagerly anticipate another year of fruitful collaboration and shared achievements. Together, with unity and determination, we are poised to shape a brighter future for Ukraine, strengthening our nation's resilience and prosperity.

Here's to a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, prosperity, and purpose. Let our collective efforts continue to illuminate the path forward, making Ukraine stronger with each passing day.

Warm wishes for a joyous holiday season and a fruitful year ahead!

