

September 28, 2023

On-field-seminar

“Best practices in horticulture in Ukraine. Challenges and how to tackle them during the war”!!!



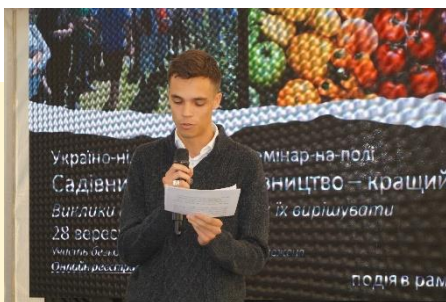
It was the most beautiful, peaceful, sunny, autumn day to be outside at the countryside among fruits, berries, vegetables, good food and wonderful inspiring people.

Growers, Specialists, Professors, and Students.

We started with silence for the soldiers died in the war and followed with the beautiful hymne of Ukraine thrilling over the blueberry fields.

Special thanks to all the speakers.

Sergiy Netudykhata of Artberry welcomed everyone and told how the Russian troops went through their Blueberry and Sweet Cherry Orchards last year but they fixed everything and continued the business more less “as usual”.



We missed Reinoud Nuijten from the Agricultural Council of the Dutch Embassy who really supported us to be able to organize this event, but Mark van Heemskerck of the Economic Department had a great speech in Ukrainian language and had to pause several times due to hard applauding audience.

Jevhen Kuzin showed with the statistics of Fruit Inform that in 2022 the economy had decreased with 30%, land was lost, people had fled and poverty level had increased to 20% of the population. Nevertheless Jevgen showed that Ukraine imported for 200 million Euros fruits and vegetables. Imports which could have been produced in UA UA. the Products which had been exported went to traders and not to the end buyers. Jevgen emphasized that quality of the products should be indisputable but Ukrainian UA producers should think how they gain a bigger margin!!!

Great contributions of Growers! Enza, Rijk Zwaan, Fresh Forward, RAPO, Koppert, the scientists of the National Horticultural Institute and Bila Tserka Agricultural University. Ukraine is currently going through very difficult times, but certainly gets ready for a great future!!!

An expression is that “people are like the soil they were born”! Ukrainian men and women show every day again how resilient they are and how they fight for European democracy. We can not wait until Ukraine joins EU to make Europe stronger!



Ukraine Adopts Law on State Control of GMOs and GM Products



Ukrainian President Signs Euro-Integration Law on State Control over the Placement of Genetically Modified Organisms and Products on the Market

Finally Ukraine has established clear rules and procedures for labeling, market placement, monitoring, transportation, storage, and disposal of GMOs and GM products. These regulations aim to ensure their safety and effectiveness, as well as protect human health and the environment. The law, "On State Regulation of Genetic Engineering Activity and State Control over the Placement of Genetically Modified Organisms and

Products" (No. 3339-IX), introduces comprehensive legal and organizational frameworks for genetic engineering practices, including state supervision and control over the use of genetically modified organisms and the circulation of GM products. The law mandates:

1. Mandatory labeling of GMOs and GM products, allowing consumers to make informed decisions about their purchase.
2. Monitoring of GMOs and GM products to identify any potential risks to human health or the environment.
3. Safe transportation to prevent their release into the environment.
4. Secure storage to prevent spoilage or contamination.
5. Safe disposal methods to prevent their release into the environment.

The law also establishes sanctions for violations of GMO-related rules and procedures. Source: [Press Service of the Verkhovna Rada](#)

USAID Allocates \$1 Million for Crop Insurance-backed Loans



This announcement was made by Paul Oliver, a representative from the USAID Office of Economic Growth, during a press conference at [Ukrinform](#).

"USAID is allocating \$1 million to the insurance company UNIVERSALNA for insuring the crops of small farmers. This insurance will serve as collateral for loans from PrivatBank for borrowers with limited access to financing," he stated.

Micro, small, and medium-sized agricultural entrepreneurs from across the country, except for the occupied territories and areas close to combat zones, are eligible to participate in the program. To take part, entrepreneurs must submit an application for a loan to PrivatBank and commit to insuring the future yield. Following this, the insurance company will assess the crops and enter into an insurance contract with a premium rate of 6.4%.

Agricultural enterprises will be required to pay 0.2% of the premium rate, while the remainder will be covered through grand funds from USAID. In the event of an insured incident, the company will make insurance payouts depending on the incurred loss.

Source: [AgroPortal](#)

Ukraine's Vegetable Storage Crisis and Price Concerns

In Ukraine, there is a critical shortage of storage facilities for vegetables.

The rapid increase in vegetable prices, as was the case last year, is not expected to happen in Ukraine this year. [This opinion was expressed by the First Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine, Taras Vysotskyi](#), according to the ministry's statement reported by [agronews.ua](#).

He noted that farmers in central, western, and even northern regions of the country have started to systematically grow vegetables. **"This year we have grown enough vegetables. The question now is whether we will be able to preserve them, as there is insufficient infrastructure for storage until spring, and it cannot be built very quickly. Therefore, seasonal price fluctuations for vegetables may still occur,"** explained the First Deputy Minister.

Taras Vysotskyi also spoke about investments in the processing industry. Despite the war, this sector is developing, and several dozen factories have already been launched or are in the process of being launched this year.

[Source...](#)



Plans to Double the Processing Share in Ukraine's GDP Structure

The development strategy of the Ukrainian economy envisages the stimulation of sectors with high added value, primarily processing enterprises.

Deputy Minister of Economy Nadia Bihun made this statement at an economic forum, as [reported by the Ministry of Economy's press service](#).

"When forming the strategy for the development of the real sector of the economy, we need to focus on stimulating sectors with high added value. An important sector here is processing... That is why we are trying to increase the share of processing in the GDP structure from the current 10%

to at least 20%," she said.

As an example, the Deputy Minister explained that if we simply sell wheat, then out of the hypothetical \$300 per ton of this product, the added value will be only \$90. If we process it into flour, the added value increases to \$220. If we produce a more complex product like gluten, the additional value will be \$550.

The same applies to other products. For instance, if the added value in a cubic meter of wood is only \$26, it increases to \$190 when turned into plywood, and in case of making fitted furniture, it reaches \$290, added Bihun. She noted that in the context of complicated export logistics, new solutions need to be sought, among which the main focus should be on increasing the added value per unit of exported product.

Source: [AgroPortal](#)



Ukraine's Ascent as a Global Leader in Frozen Raspberry Exports Despite Challenges



In a surprising turn of events, Ukraine is making remarkable strides towards establishing itself as the world's foremost exporter of frozen raspberries.

This achievement is all the more astonishing given the ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine. Over the past five seasons, Ukraine has experienced an astonishing 3.1-fold increase in frozen raspberry exports. In the same period, traditional leaders in the industry, Serbia and Poland, saw their net exports decline by 35% and 26%, respectively. Ukraine has consistently boosted its exports by 40-45% each year, gradually gaining market share from Poland and Serbia.

A decade ago, Ukraine was virtually absent from the frozen raspberry export market, accounting for less than 1% of Serbia and Poland's exports. However, by 2018, Ukraine began to gain recognition, albeit with export volumes only reaching about 5% of the leaders' total volume. By the end of the 2022/23 season, Ukraine's raspberry exports had exceeded 50% of Serbia's exports and 43% of Poland's total frozen raspberry exports. It's important to note that a significant portion of Poland's raspberry exports were re-exports, with Ukrainian raspberries playing a prominent role in this supply chain. In terms of net exports, Ukraine is now closing the gap with Poland in export volume.

Andriy Yarmak, an economist at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Investment Centre, highlights that these figures also encompass frozen blackberry exports, although their volume remains relatively small. Additionally, both Serbia and Poland have increased their raspberry imports from other countries, including Ukraine, for subsequent re-exports. However, Ukraine has not imported frozen raspberries at all.

While Ukraine's raspberry exports have been on a steady upward trajectory, Serbia and Poland have experienced consecutive declines in net exports. This divergence is indicative of Ukraine's commitment to growth even in the face of unfavorable pricing and weak demand conditions.

Despite these achievements, Ukraine lags far behind Poland and Serbia in terms of export value. This discrepancy is a concern for the Ukrainian raspberry industry, particularly for growers who often struggle with prices that do not cover production costs. However, this challenge is characteristic of the cyclical nature of the raspberry market. Yarmak emphasizes that Ukraine historically relied on selling raspberries at lower prices to Poland, missing out on significant added value. Ukrainian freezers have further exacerbated the pricing situation by creating a new quality category for frozen raspberries. With minimal investments in marketing and quality improvement, Ukraine could potentially export raspberries at nearly double the price, preventing the loss of approximately \$100 million USD to other countries, primarily Poland.

The current situation in Ukraine presents challenges to industry growth. The country is still partially occupied by Russian aggressors, who continue to engage in missile attacks on civilian infrastructure. This has led to a labor shortage, with many residents becoming refugees in other countries, and men enlisting to defend their nation.

Nonetheless, there is hope that Ukraine will overcome both external aggression and the issue of added value in raspberry exports. Industry consolidation, the introduction of optical sorting lines for frozen berries, and increased efforts to promote high-quality frozen products to markets like the USA, Canada, Japan, and others that pay significantly more for raspberries than Poland are expected in the near future. If Poland were to ban imports of fresh and frozen raspberries from Ukraine, it could encourage investments in quality and marketing, resulting in an additional \$100 million USD in export earnings for Ukraine, which could be reinvested in expanding raspberry production and freezing.

Furthermore, Ukraine's active expansion into global markets has already led to a decrease in frozen raspberry exports from Chile, with Ukraine surpassing Chile in the world ranking of exporters during the 2022/23 season. Ukraine has also overtaken Mexico, which is actively increasing its production of frozen raspberries due to its proximity to the largest buyer in the world, the United States. Moroccan raspberry growers have also significantly increased their production and export volumes in recent years. This ongoing growth and competition indicate the expanding capacity of the global frozen raspberry market. Ukraine's determination to become a leader in this industry showcases its potential to make a significant impact on the international stage despite challenging circumstances.

Source: [EastFruit](#)