

# Newsletter EU Access



This is the second issue of the Newsletter of the EU Access programme, a co-operation programme on sustainable agricultural supply chains in pre- and post-European Union accession countries. This programme started at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands and is now running in co-operation with partners from Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania.

The quarterly Newsletter intends to inform you about new developments around the various projects of the programme. A policy brief will also be published; this will contain more information around a specific theme. For more information about programme, projects, newsletter or policy brief please contact us ([arij.everaarts@wur.nl](mailto:arij.everaarts@wur.nl); phone +31 320 291111).

## Programme news

### Business Day

On 19 April 2005 a Business Day will be organised - in co-operation with the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality - for Dutch producers of field vegetables, fruit and fruit trees and for policy makers covering these sectors. The subject of this meeting will be: 'One year after EU accession of the new Member States. What are the trends and consequences for Dutch field vegetable, fruit and fruit tree growing businesses.'

Relevant facts from Poland, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic and results of the EU Access programme will be presented by both foreign and Dutch speakers. The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs will be present to provide information on international business co-operation programmes. For more information contact: Herman de Putter ([herman.deputter@wur.nl](mailto:herman.deputter@wur.nl); phone + 31 320 291111, fax + 31 320 230479). Applications for participation can be sent to [Bedrijvendag@wur.nl](mailto:Bedrijvendag@wur.nl), or to P.O. Box 430, 8200 AK, Lelystad, attn N. Menses, phone + 31 320 291262, fax + 31 320 230479. Details of the programme are given elsewhere in this Newsletter.

### Workshop Sofia

The next EU Access Programme workshop will be held in Sofia and Bucharest from 20-24 March 2005. The workshop serves as a meeting point for all participants in the programme to discuss progress in the projects. The workshop also serves to present the programme to potential new participants. Bulgaria and Rumania were chosen as they are now pre-accession countries. One organisation from Bulgaria (Agrolink) is already involved in the programme, but new participants from both countries are welcome.

## Qualiman

In 2004 the participants of the Qualiman project held a range of interviews, and conducted some literature research on the topic of food safety and quality management. For The Netherlands, Poland, Hungary and Slovak Republic reports were written containing an overview of bottlenecks considering food safety and quality management for onions and apples.

During the meeting in Sofia on 22 March 2005 participants will compare the situations in the four countries and define common bottlenecks. The aim of the project is to solve, or help to solve some of the bottlenecks for which an action plan will be drawn up during the meeting, defining the project activities for 2005.

For more information please contact

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# Organics Project

## International Conference on Organic Farming and Rural Development 'EKOMIT'

The IVth International Conference on Organic Farming and Rural Development 'EKOMIT' 04 took place on 13-14 October 2004 in Piešťany, Slovak Republic. The conference was initiated and supported by the Organics Project and was organised by the Research Institute of Plant Production Piešťany (Slovak Republic), the Slovak Association for Sustainable Agriculture (SASA) and Applied Plant Research Wageningen UR (the Netherlands). More than 120 participants from eight countries attended the conference. Farmers, trade, policy, research, certification and extension were all represented.

Main target group were farmers and the programme therefore focussed on practical implications of (conversion to) organic plant production. The conference was highly appreciated by the participants and provided new incentives for a national organic farming action plan and for setting up knowledge transfer in organic farming.

## Course on Organic Plant Production

Information and knowledge about organic plant production is scarce in most of the new or candidate EU Member States. The Organics Project is therefore organising a course on organic plant production for researchers and extensionists in September 2005. The course will be held in the Netherlands and will deal with various aspects of organic plant production. Basics of organic farming, participatory research and extension, total system approach and farming methods will be main topics. Two or three persons from each country participating in the organics project will be invited to participate.

For more information please contact Wijnand Sukkel ([wijnand.sukkel@wur.nl](mailto:wijnand.sukkel@wur.nl); phone +31 320 291111) or Herman de Putter, ([herman.deputter@wur.nl](mailto:herman.deputter@wur.nl); phone +31 320 291111).



# TRANSFER

## Strengthening knowledge circulation and generation for small farmers in EU countries: Krakow workshop formulates recommendations

From 8-10 November 2004, 16 experts met in Krakow to analyse the Agricultural and Rural Development Knowledge and Information Systems in Poland, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic and Hungary. As far as advisory services are concerned, they concluded that their effectiveness and efficiency needs to be improved by increasing their responsiveness to farmers' information needs. Advisors are highly knowledgeable and experienced in their subject matter areas, but their advisory and facilitation skills needs strengthening as well as their access to information. Other recommendations focused on organisational performance and quality control of the information services provided.

At institutional level, linkages between research, advisory services, non-governmental and farmer organisations and local and national government need to be strengthened. Especially with regard to the roles and responsibilities of public and private advisory services, the following issues need to be addressed at policy level:

- Which information is to be provided free of charge and which information has to be paid for by farmers?
- To what extent are specific measures needed to meet the information needs of small individual farms as compared to corporate farms?
- What role should public and private services play and how can they become complementary?

In 2005, TRANSFER will implement a pilot project based on these Krakow recommendations.

For more information please contact Dieuwke Klaver, ([dieuwke.klaver@wur.nl](mailto:dieuwke.klaver@wur.nl); phone +31 317 495240).



# Business Day organised for the EU Access programme

April 19 2005

## For whom?

- Field vegetable growers, fruit growers and fruit tree growers
- Policy makers of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture covering vegetable and fruit production
- Businesses with interests in fruit and field vegetable production

## Organisation

- Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality, the Netherlands
- Applied Plant Research, the Netherlands

## Location

- Castle Groeneveld, Baarn, The Netherlands

## Topics

- One year after accession
- What are the trends and consequences for the Dutch field vegetable, fruit and fruit tree growing business



## Programme

### Morning (9.30 – 12.15)

- |       |   |       |                                     |
|-------|---|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 9.30  | – | 10.00 | Arrival and reception with coffee   |
| 10.00 | – | 10.10 | A. Oostra, LNV, opening             |
| 10.10 | – | 10.15 | A.P. Everaarts, Programme EU Access |

Overview of the fruit growing business in Poland in relation to foreign involvement

- |       |   |       |                       |
|-------|---|-------|-----------------------|
| 10.15 | – | 10.35 | K. Zmarlicki (Poland) |
|-------|---|-------|-----------------------|

Overview of the fruit growing business in the Slovak Republic in relation to foreign involvement

- |       |   |       |                              |
|-------|---|-------|------------------------------|
| 10.35 | – | 10.55 | M. Dokupil (Slovak Republic) |
|-------|---|-------|------------------------------|

Reaction from the chairman of the Dutch Fruit Growers Association

- |       |   |       |                |
|-------|---|-------|----------------|
| 10.55 | – | 11.05 | J. van Haarlem |
|-------|---|-------|----------------|

Overview of the field vegetable growing business in Poland in relation to foreign involvement

- |       |   |       |                      |
|-------|---|-------|----------------------|
| 11.05 | – | 11.30 | Break                |
| 11.30 | – | 11.50 | F. Adamicki (Poland) |

Reaction from the chairman of the Dutch Field Vegetable Growers Association

- |       |   |       |           |
|-------|---|-------|-----------|
| 11.50 | – | 12.00 | J. Robben |
|-------|---|-------|-----------|

- |       |   |       |                  |
|-------|---|-------|------------------|
| 12.00 | – | 12.15 | Short discussion |
| 12.15 | – | 13.30 | Lunch            |

### Afternoon (13.30-15.00)

Quality demands in CEE countries

- |       |   |       |                 |
|-------|---|-------|-----------------|
| 13.30 | – | 13.45 | H. Schoorlemmer |
|-------|---|-------|-----------------|

Organic production in CEE countries

- |       |   |       |           |
|-------|---|-------|-----------|
| 13.45 | – | 14.00 | W. Sukkel |
|-------|---|-------|-----------|

Producers organisations in CEE countries

- |       |   |       |          |
|-------|---|-------|----------|
| 14.00 | – | 14.15 | M. Groot |
|-------|---|-------|----------|

Knowledge sources and knowledge transfer in CEE countries

- |       |   |       |           |
|-------|---|-------|-----------|
| 14.15 | – | 14.30 | D. Klaver |
|-------|---|-------|-----------|

Possibilities for cooperation with CEE countries

- |       |   |       |                                                                       |
|-------|---|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14.30 | – | 14.45 | N. van der Straaten, EVD, Funding Agency of Min. of Economic Affairs) |
|-------|---|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|

- |       |   |       |       |
|-------|---|-------|-------|
| 14.45 | – | 15.20 | Break |
|-------|---|-------|-------|

- |       |   |       |                                                                |
|-------|---|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15.20 | – | 18.00 | Drinks and possibility to consult speakers ("consulting hour") |
|-------|---|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------|



# Producers' Organisations (POs)

## Workshops

December 2004 was a busy month for the PO project.

The first workshop on quality issues for PO's, with 23 participants, was held in Poland in co-operation with K. Zmarlicki of the Institute for Floriculture and Pomology in Skierniewice. Subjects were quality management, product quality and quality control. Presentations were followed by exercises and discussions. A follow-up will be organised in spring 2005.

The first workshop on organisational strengthening of PO's was also held in December 2004, in the Czech Republic. The programme was organised in co-operation with the Horticultural and Economic Faculties of the Mendel Agricultural University in Brno (Dr. Robert Pokluda, Prof. Dr. Iva •ivt'lová, Dr. Jaroslav Jánský, Dr. Petr Procházka) and dealt with tools and techniques to assess the current performance of the PO that deal with marketing and logistics of fruits and vegetables for their members. Critical strategic and organisational issues that PO's are facing were discussed. Examples from producer-owned organisations in the Netherlands were used to initiate the discussion of some of these issues.

The twelve participants represented two POs from the Czech Republic and two from Slovakia. The examples, exercises and methodologies introduced during the workshop helped PO members structure their thoughts and to view their situation from a different perspective and address their challenges in a different way. All attending parties were enthusiastic about continuing the training. Most participants agreed that the training provided a platform for open discussions about problems at different POs, for exchanging ideas, and for comparing views and experiences.

The successful workshop was concluded with an agreement on a number of PO-specific actions that should elaborate on performance assessment and analysis which will be used during the second meeting (3-4 March, 2005), during which the strategic plans will be finalised. For more information about this workshop, please contact Monika Sopov of IAC, ([monika.sopov@wur.nl](mailto:monika.sopov@wur.nl); phone +31 317 49 53 68) for more information about the project, please contact Marianne Groot, ([marianne.groot@wur.nl](mailto:marianne.groot@wur.nl); phone +31 488 47 37 12).

## Agenda

### 2005

March 3-4:	Second meeting workshop PO's – Organisation Development
March 20-24:	Programme Meeting in Sofia/Bucharest
April 19:	Meeting for Dutch agribusiness in Baarn, The Netherlands
September	Course on Organic Plant Production



### Addresses

If you would like to unsubscribe or subscribe to the electronic version of this Newsletter or if you would like to be included in the mailing list of the printed version, please contact Herman de Putter ([herman.deputter@wur.nl](mailto:herman.deputter@wur.nl); phone +31 320 291111).

Three institutes of Wageningen University and Research Centre are involved in this programme: Applied Plant Research (PPO), International Agricultural Centre (IAC) and Agricultural Economics Research Institute (LEI)

The EU Access program is sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of The Netherlands.



**agriculture, nature  
and food quality**