



EU SUPPORT TO UKRAINE



Two years into Russian's war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU is showing continued support to the country's economy and people. The agri-food sector is a main driver of economic growth and vital for the livelihoods of about 13 million Ukrainians living in rural areas. It has been severely hit by the war, notably through restrictions on movements of goods, damages in critical infrastructures and the presence of mines on agricultural land. Up to 25,000 km² of agricultural land is estimated to be contaminated with mines and explosive remnants of war, thus seriously affecting farming activities.

The EU has been supporting the agri-food sector and rural employment in Ukraine through a fully-fledged range of instruments, ranging from technical assistance to public services, financial schemes for small and family farms and specific actions addressing the various needs of agri-food stakeholders. Through Solidarity Lanes and other trade measures the EU has been facilitating agricultural trade, the latter representing 60% of Ukraine's export value.

Examples of completed and on-going EU initiatives

1

Bringing back land into production

Due to the war, Ukraine has become the most heavily mined country in the world. Roughly 25,000 km² of agricultural land is potentially contaminated with mines and other dangerous debris. This poses danger to people and also threatens agricultural production.

The EU has allocated €7 million to the WFP and FAO to support the restoration of agricultural livelihood activities in areas severely impacted by the war. The programme aims at safely releasing land back to productive use, including by clearing it from mines and other explosive remnants of the war, to help restore agricultural livelihoods, contribute to Ukraine's economic recovery, and phase out the need for humanitarian assistance for thousands of rural families.



2

Supporting farm investments

Through a €50 million Production Support Grant (PSG) scheme, the EU has provided small farms of less than 120 ha with direct payments to uphold their production capacity. So far, about 30,000 farms have benefited from grants which allowed them to purchase inputs, make investments and re-establish or further ensure agricultural activities. An additional €20 million has been provisioned in the PSG scheme in 2024 to support small farms of areas liberated in 2022.

3

Safeguarding genetic resources

Ukraine holds highly valuable collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture of national and global importance. The seeds conserved in genebanks represent a unique resource for breeders, researchers and farmers alike as the basis for nutritious crops adapted to a variety of climatic conditions. Through an existing partnership with the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources and FAO as an implementing partner, the EU has allocated €1.6 million to relocate collections from the National Gene Bank from the heavily bombed city of Kharkiv to the west of the country. Activities have also helped to enhance the description and cataloguing of genebank accessions, regenerate collections and further deposit seed samples from the Ukraine genebank in the UN Seed Vault in Norway.

**4**

Fostering value chains

The EU is providing about €11 million to reinforce value chains from primary production, in particular from berries, vegetables, aquaculture and forestry.



Through the programme which is implemented in cooperation with FAO, farmers have improved access to finance, inputs such as seeds, services for production and access to markets. The aim is to re-establish pre-war level functionality of agricultural value chains and meet the food requirements of local and displaced populations. In terms of capacity building, the project is supporting the Ukrainian administration to conduct phytosanitary, veterinary and food safety certification of commodities.

5

Supporting the entrepreneurial ecosystem

Jointly, the EU and Germany have set up the programme EU4Business which has provided so far more than 300 small enterprises in Ukraine with microgrants. Examples in the area of agri-food sector include grant aid to restore and further develop bakery and meat products or veterinary activities.

6

Strengthening the knowledge and innovation base



Through the EU's research and innovation programme Horizon Europe, the Ukrainian research community can widely participate in research consortia, benefit from research training and access unique research infrastructure facilities. Institutions from Ukraine are active partners in projects such as [AGROSUS](#), working on agroecological strategies for weed management in various crops; [RestPoll](#) to reverse the decline of pollinators or [SQUAT](#) and [FARMWISE](#), proposing the application of data and tools from earth observation, remote sensing and precision agriculture to enhance the management of soils, water and nutrients on-farm.

7

Monitoring land use and natural resources

Through the EU's Copernicus programme, Ukraine has access to valuable and up-to-date data on environmental monitoring and can establish the state-of-the-environment, also in areas affected by the war. The data includes forest fires, illegal logging, soil contamination, air quality, marine ecology, and radiation monitoring.



With an estimated 14.6 million people in need of humanitarian aid in Ukraine, the EU has announced additional €75 million in humanitarian aid to support people in Ukraine in 2024, with a focus on hard-to-reach areas close to the frontline in the eastern and southern regions. This brings the total amount allocated to humanitarian aid programmes to more than €900 million since Russia's invasion in February 2022. In supporting the people in Ukraine, the EU is working closely together with partners such as WFP.