SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

Project number: BG980601

Title: Developing the agricultural administrative, veterinary and phytosanitary capacity to manage the acquis

Location: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Agrarian Reform, Bulgaria

Objectives:

The wider objectives are to strengthen the national and regional capabilities of the Ministry of Agriculture and relevant Agencies to undertake the short-term sectoral priorities for EU alignment and market-oriented reforms and development and begin the medium-term reforms identified in the Accession Partnership and the NPAA.

Specific objectives:
- Develop and implement a phased programme of other CAP/CFP sectoral alignments, taking account the contribution the sectors can make to economic, quality and marketing of domestic industries;
- Develop national rural policy and SAPARD planning capabilities within the Ministry in parallel with the local, regional and general regional policy capabilities being established under the Special Preparatory Programme (SPP);
- Strengthen the existing 9 regional and 30 local advisory offices of the recently established National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS) to meet the needs of agricultural and rural businesses in the private sector;
- Improve Bulgarian animal health diagnostic, border control and animal movement controls in Bulgaria and at the main border crossing point with Turkey to EU standards;
- Harmonise plant health and quality controls within Bulgaria and at border crossing points.

Description:

Economic reform and alignment

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) has to introduce major new policies and means of supporting general and sectoral reforms and developments, and align laws, institutional and enforcement capabilities for every major sector of the Common Agricultural, Fisheries and Forestry Policies and develop policy and project evaluation capabilities by 2000 to utilise EU rural development aid. To do this, it has less than 100 A-grade officials, many of whom have no experience of private sector market management or policy consultation and formulation. Thus it is intended to give training possibilities to 35 staff in the area of policy analysis, integration processes and accession negotiation implemented through in-country training, exchange visits to Member States and by providing Bulgarian and foreign external experts to undertake studies, surveys and syntheses of policy alternatives and other countries’ experiences. To compliment this three seminars dealing with European integration will be organised to give MAFAR staff fuller understanding of the processes involved with integration. Assistance to the process of approximation of Bulgarian legislation to that of the EU Acquis will be continued through technical
assistance to the 15 existing sectoral working groups (the working groups in veterinary and phytosanitary control legislation will be assisted under the other two sub-projects below).
In addition, MAFAR will be helped to identify and plan the next series of sectoral alignment and reform priorities (following veterinary and plant health harmonisation), on which available resources will be concentrated, in order to help national producers and processors increase economic earnings on national and, particularly, international markets.
On a regional and local level the MAFAR will contribute to the development of economically, technically and environmentally sustainable agricultural and rural practices through support of the National Agricultural Advisory Service.

Animal health and diagnosis

National diagnostic capabilities to recognise diseases on List A of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) will be improved at the central laboratory of the National Veterinary Service (NVS). The laboratories for control of residuals in Varna and Bourgas will be upgraded. 8 reference laboratories (one in Northern and one in Southern Bulgaria per each type of product) of the State Veterinary Control Service (SVCS) will be equipped for control of meat, fish, milk and poultry products. These national and regional centres will provide, with their services, a nationwide coverage. Essential equipment needs will be assessed and provided for effective implementation of controls.
Improved capabilities will be achieved through training of at least 15 NVS staff and 25 personnel of the SVCS of the related laboratories in the use of EU schemes and methods of laboratory control. Apart from this 20 specialists shall be trained in preparing and implementing harmonised veterinary legislation. At least 6 seminars shall be held, with 40 participants from the SVCS, regarding the issues of agricultural products control.
Additional strengthening of the control of animal diseases will be achieved by the introduction of a unified veterinary information system for the laboratory control systems and for planning and implementation of control schemes.
Specific guidance will be provided to combat food and month disease ensuring the necessary training of veterinary inspectors from NVS in early diagnostics, planning and implementing remedial actions and simulation of epidemic conditions.

Assistance will be given to align and standardise with the requirements of EU Directives and recommendations from EU veterinary inspections, border control procedures (documentary, animal loading/unloading/disinfection) at the main Bulgarian-Turkish border post at Capitan Andreevo. Local laboratory and office facilities are being built with Government funds and assistance will be given for training staff at the border point and supply of computer and communication equipment and relevant information systems.

Plant health and quality control

Implementation of a programme to upgrade inspection procedures, laboratory tests and national technical training for inspectors and laboratory staff of the National Service for Plant Protection, Quarantine and Agro-Chemistry (NSPPQAC); this will include training in analytical methods for 30 staff of the NSPPQAC central laboratories (Laboratory for Biological Testing of Plant Protection Products, Central Laboratory for Plants Quarantine and the Central Laboratory for Control of Pesticides, Nitrates, Heavy Metals and Fertilisers) and information and technical support to the 15 regional plant protection services.
In relation to seed and grain quality control 18 specialists from the Chief Inspectorate for Field Testing and Seeds Control will be trained in use of EU laboratory control methods and seed testing, while 15 specialists from the National Inspectorate for Grain and Grain Fodder Control will be trained to use the standards for quality control systems in compliance with the European and ISO standards. Essential equipment will be provided to upgrade existing facilities to attain these standards.

For the three above areas important initial and preparatory activities have been made with Phare assistance under previous years programmes in particular 1995. See annex 4 for details.

**Institutional Framework:**

The structure of MAFAR consists of a relatively small central unit dealing with the following main sectoral activities: plant growing and animal breeding, processing and standardisation, land reform and land use, forestry, privatisation of SOEs in the food&milling industry and of agricultural enterprises, agricultural mechanisation, ecological agriculture, economical regulations and agro-statistics. Specialised functions are carried out by a large number of subordinate bodies reporting to the Minister, including the National Veterinary Service (NVS), the National Service for Animal Selection and Reproduction, the National Plant Protection Service (NSPPQAC), National Inspectorate for Grains and Grain Fodder Control, Chief Inspectorate for Seed Testing and Control, National Inspectorate of Fisheries. Some aspects are covered by state owned companies such as Irrigation Systems and Agrovodinvest, Geocontrol.

The following important issues affect MAFAR’s relations with other Ministries:

- responsibility for the food processing industry. Currently, this rests with the Ministry of Industry, excluding the feed and milling industry and the primary agricultural enterprises (pig farms, mechanisation units, etc.);
- responsibility for food control and the protection of public health. Responsibility here is divided between MAFAR and the Ministry of Public Health;
- responsibility for agri-environment measures, where the Ministry of the Environment have the principal;
- responsibility for rural development. Lead responsibility for regional development (which includes integrated rural development programmes) rests with the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works;
- responsibility for cadastral and land registry services. This is divided between MAFAR (for rural and forestry land) and the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works (for urban land).

Government policy concentrates around four main objectives:

- Creating and maintaining market structures based on firm relations of land ownership which are favourable for the development of efficient agriculture. Thus priorities include; completion of land restitution of agricultural and forestry land, land consolidation, creating conditions for a land market both for buying and leasing.
- Improving the competitiveness of agricultural products and creating good conditions for export orientated agriculture by helping in the development of wholesale markets, improving the investment environment via Government incentive measures, production of good quality food products corresponding to EU standards and creating a system for stimulating exports.
• Improving the standard of living for those people living in rural areas. In particular development of mountainous regions; identification of regions of unfavourable natural conditions with poor social and economic characteristics; stimulating alternative rural and agricultural activities; improving the infrastructure in rural areas.

• Preparation for accession to the European Union. The legal-administrative aspect will focus on the implementation of the legislative alignment process and institution building. With a view to the future implementation of CAP principles and mechanisms, MAFAR experts will conduct detailed analysis of the current CAP regimes, taking into account the most recent trends of policy development and change. The analysis is aimed at drawing up an agricultural strategy which will structure the process of gradual introduction of these principles, mechanisms and organisational patterns into Bulgarian agricultural policies.

In line with successful arrangements implemented in other associated countries, MAFAR has established 15 working groups for individual sub-sectors (eg livestock, cereals) of officials, academics and industry/consumer interests to identify the options available for alignment within the sector, taking account of EU-15 practices, and to recommend the approach best suited to Bulgarian circumstances. The groups will be helped to understand EU legislation and practices, visit selected Member States, prepare analyses and recommendations for Ministerial and public consideration. To assist with central coordination of the working groups’ approaches, cross-sectoral economic analyses and associated economic policy activities, support and training will be given enabling MAFAR to undertake central policy analysis and associated activities.

The Phare project management in MAFAR has successfully implemented the previous four programmes within the specified time schedules.

**Budget (in MECU):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Institution building</th>
<th>Total Phare</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic reform and alignment</td>
<td>0,600</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants and seeds: health/quality control</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>0,500</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Health and diagnosis</td>
<td>3,600</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,300</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>8,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Under Institution Building an estimated 2.5 Mecu is expected to be contracted by Brussels for twinning arrangements.

**Implementation Arrangements:**

The Integration Policy Department (IPD) in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) will be responsible to the Minster and through him to the National Phare Coordinator for MAFAR’s actions as an Implementing Agency with overall responsibility for the project. As part of its responsibility for CAP alignment timetabel etc. The IPD will directly manage the component for EU alignment and reform. Veterinary and plant health alignments and
advisory service improvements will be managed by MAFAR’s technical directorates, namely the National Veterinary Service (NVS), the National Service for Plant Protection, Quarantine and Agro-Chemistry (NPPQAC), the National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS) respectively. These directorates will be advised by steering committees or task forces, including industry and other interested parties, for Economic Reform and Alignment, Integrated Rural Development, Animal Heath and Control, Health and Quality Controls of Plants and Seeds.

Implementation schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Start of tendering</th>
<th>Start of project</th>
<th>Completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic reform etc</td>
<td>08.98</td>
<td>01.99</td>
<td>09.2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants and seeds</td>
<td>09.98</td>
<td>03.99</td>
<td>09.2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal health etc</td>
<td>09.98</td>
<td>03.99</td>
<td>09.2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conditionalities

Ministry of Agriculture/Government adopts and implements the legislation and provides the resources needed to establish the operational structures required in accordance with the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wider objectives</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Sources of information</th>
<th>Assumptions &amp; Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen the institutional and administrative capacity to manage the Acquis</td>
<td>• Legislation compatible with the EU one</td>
<td>State Gazette of Bulgaria and other decisions of Government and Minister of Agriculture</td>
<td>Objective of Bulgaria to join the EU is maintained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Institutions able to manage the acquis and to implement the Common Agricultural policy</td>
<td>Consultation and other documents issued by MAFAR on rural development</td>
<td>Political stability allows to pursue the programme of reforms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Central capabilities for rural development planning established</td>
<td>Regular reports of the EC</td>
<td>Financial and other means are made sufficient for allowing the reform programme to be achieved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immediate Objectives</th>
<th>Indicators of Achievement</th>
<th>Sources of information</th>
<th>Assumptions &amp; Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Preparation/implementation of reforms in Agriculture &amp; rural areas according to priority order.</td>
<td>• Work-programmes and alignments by Ministry of Agriculture</td>
<td>Work-programme of Ministry of Agriculture; Delegation reports; EU technical inspections; Bulgarian disease notifications to OIE etc.</td>
<td>Means allocated to programme consistent with Government programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improved plant and veterinary laboratory control</td>
<td>• number of staff trained</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Improved border posts control</td>
<td>• number of disease outbreaks diagnosed; number of infected animals intercepted;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Indicators of achievement</th>
<th>Sources of information</th>
<th>Assumptions and risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Priorities established for alignment with acquis;</td>
<td>• Number of staff with a knowledge of EU developments</td>
<td>• Project monitoring reports</td>
<td>Staff availability and commitment; Salary Structures and Motivation; Improved liaison within MAFAR and effective use of horizontal information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Working groups trained and supported by EU experts</td>
<td>• Number of training sessions</td>
<td>• Presence sheets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Information on CAP developments disseminated</td>
<td>• Number and quality of trainees</td>
<td>• Revised national programme for adoption of the acquis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Laboratory tests meet EU standards</td>
<td>• Proposals of amendments to the legislation in corresponding areas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Notes and documents on CAP transmitted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Equipment supplied and used</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inputs</th>
<th>Indicators of achievement</th>
<th>Sources of information</th>
<th>Assumptions &amp; Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Trainers and technical assistants/twinning</td>
<td>• Contracting and disbursement</td>
<td>• Contractor’s and official reports</td>
<td>Ministry contribution and support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Training facilities/inputs</td>
<td>• Project monitoring indicators</td>
<td>• Reporting from Implementing Agency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Equipment</td>
<td>• Certificates of acceptance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Annex 2 - Implementation Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Economic Reform and Alignment</strong></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution Building</strong></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 TA and training to MAFAR’s admin.</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Support to NAAS</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Implementation Agency - Project Mgt.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investment</strong></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Plan for MAFAR MIS</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Support to NAAS</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Master Plan for control of Fruit &amp; Veg.</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Plants and Seeds Health and Quality Control</strong></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution Building</strong></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1. TA to the NSPPQAC</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including Training for seeds and grain control</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investment</strong></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Phytosan. control strengthening of NSPPQAC</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2 Equip. for grain, grain fodder, field testing &amp; seed control</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3 Equip. for fruits and veg. quality control</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Animal Health and Diagnosis</strong></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution Building</strong></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Technical Assistance to NVS</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investment</strong></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1 Feasibility study for Capitan Andreevo</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>P</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Supply of equipment

| P | P | P | P | P | P | P | T | T | T | I | I | I | I | I | I |


## ANNEX 3 - CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

### (MECU AND PERCENTAGE°)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTRACTING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BG ????.01 ENTERPRISE SECTOR TOTAL ECU CUMULATIVE</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Total Budget</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DISBURSEMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ECU CUMULATIVE</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Total Budget</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 11. ANNEX 3. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

**BG ??? STRENGTHENING OF THE STATE AIDS BODY IN BULGARIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK NAME</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BG ??? STRENGTHENING THE STATE AIDS BODY IN BULGARIA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **= Contracting Period**
- **= Implementation Period**
- **= Disbursement Period**
ANNEX 4

Relation of project with previous Phare activities and with ongoing projects financed from other sources, including government budget.

1. Economic Reform and Alignment:
Restructuring and consolidating the administrative structures in agriculture (MAFAR and the subordinated Services)

1.1 Technical assistance and training to MAFAR administration and approximation of legislation

1.1 (i) Technical assistance to approximation of legislative frame and standards harmonisation with those in the European Union

The work relates directly with the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis, facilitating and training the Working Groups concentrating on:
- Legislation:
  - Veterinary Legislation and control
  - Plant Protection
  - Seed and planting material
- Standards:
  - for Fruits & veggies
  - for Meat products
  - for Animal Semen and Feeds

Another activity involves the setting up a Agricultural Legislation Information System in the Ministry of Agriculture.

1.1 (ii) Technical Assistance to the Policy Advisory Unit (PAU) and the Integration Policy Unit (IPD)

Both units are well established in the MAFAR, the PAU being set up in 1992 and IPD in 1995. With the increasing emphasis on accession the IPD’s role has become a central one. The IPD was the author of the agricultural chapter of the NPAA and has increasingly taken on EU - Bulgarian negotiation responsibilities. The PAU’s role has evolved to include the role as facilitator for the Working Groups, providing Chairpeople and technical secretaries, together with their planned and ad hoc advisory work.

Considering the units involvement in EU accession processes the continuation of the IPD and PAU would be a vital element in the MAFAR’s progress towards accession.

1.2. Plan for MAFAR Management Information System (MIS)

The MAFAR have been planning a Management Information System for some considerable time but have not had the resources to implement it. Under the project Technical Assistance to the Policy Advisory Unit (PAU) and the Integration Policy Unit (IPD) a study into the “Organisation, structure and procedures of the MAFAR” was made and the present lack of an internal MIS was stated as “seriously impeding its (MAFAR) efficiency”.

1.3. National Agricultural Advisory Service (MAFAR, Science and Education Department)
1.3 (i) Technical Assistance to the National Agricultural Advisory Service & Strengthening the National Agricultural Advisory Service

The projects have established, from scratch, an extension service which now has a national coverage with 30 functioning Local Advisory Offices, 9 Regional Offices, a Training Centre, an Analytical Laboratory, an Agribusiness and Accountancy Centre, and an Information Centre. The Phare programme’s support of the NAAS is progressively arranged so that the MAFAR take over the full cost of the service.

1.4. Implementation Agency - project management.

The Phare project management in the MAFAR has been very competent with a history of successfully targeted projects and 100% contracting and disbursement of budgeted funds over the four programmes implemented. The staff are of a very high level and experience, the main managers having been in their jobs for over 4 years, which has proven a recipe for success.

2. Plants And Seeds Health And Quality Control:

2.(i) Master Plan for the NSPPQAC

A masterplan was compiled for the restructuring of the NSPPQAC which has been used over the last years as a guide to the services activities.

2.(ii) Technical Assistance to the National Service for Plant Protection, Quarantine and Agrichemistry (NSPPQAC) & Supply contract: Strengthening of the NSPPQAC

The projects are focusing on the three functional components of the NSPPQAC:
- Biological Testing of Plant Protection Products,
- Phytosanitary controls in Bulgaria, carried out by the Central Laboratory for Plants Quarantine
- and the Central Laboratory for control of pesticides, nitrates, heavy metals and fertilizers

It aims to introduce organisational working methods which will lead to EU recognised accreditation. The process is not a simple one and requires a great deal of equipment and training, it will be initiated in this project but will require further input to become a reality.

The strengthening of Plant Protection Services are a high priority for the MAFAR’s strategy for EU alignment, consequently they are strongly represented in the NPAA.

2.(iii) Technical Assistance to support the National Inspectorate for grain and grain fodder and Strengthening of the Grain and Feed Inspectorate Laboratory

Preparation of a Master Plan and technical specifications for the Inspectorate. The Master Plan was very well received by the Inspectorate which is now in the process of restructuring according to the guidelines laid down in this comprehensive plan. The Inspectorate has taken the initiative in restructuring and introducing EU alignments with the use of a small budget for essential equipment, but require assistance to fully realise their plans (as can be seen in the NPAA).
2.(iv) Technical Assistance to support the Chief Inspectorate for Field Testing and Seeds Control and Strengthening Field Testing and SCI Laboratories

Preparation of a Master Plan was made for this Inspectorate, the findings were positive towards the condition and services being offered, however the plan stressed the need for training and upgrade of equipment. A limited quantity of essential equipment was supplied but future needs are great. The NPAA has quite a substantial section for the “Seeds and planting material” which includes aspects from the Master Plan.

3. Animal Health And Diagnosis:

3.(i) Technical Assistance to the National Veterinary Service

The preparation of a Master Plan for the future strategy of the NVS.

3.(ii) Support to Veterinary Sanitary Control

This was one of the areas identified in the Master Plan. The aim of the project was to strengthen the exotic disease Department (a exotic disease laboratory was fitted out and now operates with trained technicians), improve the diagnostics techniques for exotic diseases (comprehensive training for NVS staff for Foot & Mouth, Swine Vesicular, Rinderpest, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Blue Tongue, African Swine Fever, and African Horse Sickness) and to prepare grounds for implementation of the Improvement of Veterinary Border Control Project.

3.(iii) Multi-Country Veterinary Diagnosis and Control Programme (MVCP)

The programme which started in October 1997 will cover 13 East European countries, including Bulgaria.

The programme objectives include:
- the Border Inspection Posts were to be equipped
- equipment necessary for an animal identification system would be provided
- equipment would be provided for local/regional laboratories which will function as surveillance investigation centres
- provide videofilms, manuals and other aids for the diagnosis of the most important epidemic diseases.
- provide the veterinary services with equipment for stamping-out diseases
- provide fax based systems of communication (local/regional offices, BIPs) and word-processing facilities HQ’s (plus equipment & software for communication system).

It is thus suggested that the majority of supplies are provided under Phare national programmes “or other sources”. MCVP are to compile a list of equipment that is required.

It is suggested that, “MCVP serves an umbrella function to design and introduce generic technical systems and provides technical support for their implementation and adaptation by Phare National Programmes”.

Also due to the large amount of overlap with the TAIEX training programme for the 10 Associated Countries a lot of training activities will only be performed for the 3 Non-Associated Countries (ie Albania, FYROM, and Bosnia-Herzegovina).
Thus the input concerning Bulgaria will be training, technical studies, design/provision of technical information systems, country visits to adapt technical systems, manuals, guides & books, limited equipment supply, provide lists of needed equipment.

3.(iv) **Supplies for Foot & Mouth Disease Control**

An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Bulgaria called for rapid action on behalf of the EU in assisting with equipment, which was supplied under this project. There was and still remains a ban on export of live animals from Bulgaria to the EU, however FMD was contained and eradicated. The Bulgarian Government have asked the Commission to reconsider its export ban.

The export of Bulgarian Brine Cheese was temporarily stopped as the hygiene standards of the processors were not up to EU standards; the Commission will send a veterinary mission to assess the status by the Summer of 1998.

The NVS are very active and energetic in their efforts to upgrade and harmonise with the EU and to date have made good progress. However the need for transfer of know-how and upgrading of facilities is significant if EU standards are to be attained; this is substantiated by the heavy emphasise given on the National Veterinary Services in the NPAA.
### ANNEX 2 - IMPLEMENTATION CHART

#### 1. Economic Reform and Alignment

**Institution Building**
- 1.1 TA and training to MAFAR's admin.  

**Investment**
- 1.2 Plan for MAFAR MIS  
  - 1999: P, P
  - 2000: I, I

- 1.3 Support to NAAS  

- 1.4 Master Plan for control of Fruit & Veg.  
  - 1999: P, P

#### 2. Plants and Seeds Health and Quality Control

**Institution Building**
- 2.1 TA to the NSPPQAC  
  - Including Training for seeds and grain control  

**Investment**
- 2.2.1 Phytosan. control strenghtening of NSPPQAC  

- 2.2.2 Equip. for grain, grain fodder, field testing & seed control  

- 2.2.3 Equip. for fruits and veg. quality control  

#### 3. Animal Health and Diagnosis

**Institution Building**
- 3.1 Technical Assistance to NVS  

**Investment**
- 3.1 Feasibility study for Capitan Andreevo  

- 3.2 Supply of equipment  

- Preparation of Tender Dossier  
  - 2000: I, I
### ANNEX 3 - CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(MECU AND PERCENTAGE°)</th>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q 3</td>
<td>Q 4</td>
<td>Q 1</td>
<td>Q 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTRACTING</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ECU CUMULATIVE</td>
<td>0,7</td>
<td>4,0</td>
<td>4,5</td>
<td>8,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Total Budget</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DISBURSEMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ECU CUMULATIVE</td>
<td>0,1</td>
<td>1,4</td>
<td>1,9</td>
<td>4,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Total Budget</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX 4

Relation of project with previous Phare activities and with ongoing projects financed from other sources, including government budget.

1. Economic Reform and Alignment:
Restructuring and consolidating the administrative structures in agriculture (MAFAR and the subordinated Services)

1.1 Technical assistance and training to MAFAR administration and approximation of legislation

1.1 (i) Technical assistance to approximation of legislative frame and standards harmonisation with those in the European Union

The work relates directly with the National Programme for Adoption of the Acquis, facilitating and training the Working Groups concentrating on:

- Legislation:
  - Veterinary Legislation and control
  - Plant Protection
  - Seed and planting material
- Standards:
  - for Fruits & vegs
  - for Meat products
  - for Animal Semen and Feeds

Another activity involves the setting up a Agricultural Legislation Information System in the Ministry of Agriculture.

1.1 (ii) Technical Assistance to the Policy Advisory Unit (PAU) and the Integration Policy Unit (IPD)

Both units are well established in the MAFAR, the PAU being set up in 1992 and IPD in 1995. With the increasing emphasis on accession the IPD’s role has become a central one. The IPD was the author of the agricultural chapter of the NPAA and has increasingly taken on EU - Bulgarian negotiation responsibilities. The PAU’s role has evolved to include the role as facilitator for the Working Groups, providing Chairpeople and technical secretaries, together with their planned and ad hoc advisory work.

Considering the units involvement in EU accession processes the continuation of the IPD and PAU would be a vital element in the MAFAR’s progress towards accession.

1.2. Plan for MAFAR Management Information System (MIS)

The MAFAR have been planning a Management Information System for some considerable time but have not had the resources to implement it. Under the project Technical Assistance to the Policy Advisory Unit (PAU) and the Integration Policy Unit (IPD) a study into the “Organisation, structure and procedures of the MAFAR” was made and the present lack of an internal MIS was stated as “seriously impeding its (MAFAR) efficiency”.

1.3. National Agricultural Advisory Service (MAFAR, Science and Education Department)

1.3 (i) Technical Assistance to the National Agricultural Advisory Service & Strengthening the National Agricultural Advisory Service

The projects have established, from scratch, an extension service which now has a national coverage with 30 functioning Local Advisory Offices, 9 Regional Offices, a Training Centre, an Analytical Laboratory, an
Agribusiness and Accountancy Centre, and an Information Centre. The Phare programme’s support of the NAAS is degressively arranged so that the MAFAR take over the full cost of the service.

1.4. Implementation Agency - project management.
The Phare project management in the MAFAR has been very competent with a history of successfully targeted projects and 100% contracting and disbursement of budgeted funds over the four programmes implemented. The staff are of a very high level and experience, the main managers having been in their jobs for over 4 years, which has proven a recipe for success.

2. Plants And Seeds Health And Quality Control:

2.(i) Master Plan for the NSPPQAC

A masterplan was compiled for the restructuring of the NSPPQAC which has been used over the last years as a guide to the services activities.

2.(ii) Technical Assistance to the National Service for Plant Protection, Quarantine and Agrichemistry (NSPPQAC) & Supply contract: Strengthening of the NSPPQAC

The projects are focusing on the three functional components of the NSPPQAC:
- Biological Testing of Plant Protection Products,
- Phytosanitary controls in Bulgaria, carried out by the Central Laboratory for Plants Quarantine
- and the Central Laboratory for control of pesticides, nitrates, heavy metals and fertilizers

It aims to introduce organisational working methods which will lead to EU recognised accreditation. The process is not a simple one and requires a great deal of equipment and training, it will be initiated in this project but will require further input to become a reality.

The strengthening of Plant Protection Services are a high priority for the MAFAR’s strategy for EU alignment, consequently they are strongly represented in the NPAA.

2.(iii) Technical Assistance to support the National Inspectorate for grain and grain fodder and Strengthening of the Grain and Feed Inspectorate Laboratory

Preparation of a Master Plan and technical specifications for the Inspectorate. The Master Plan was very well received by the Inspectorate which is now in the process of restructuring according to the guidelines laid down in this comprehensive plan. The Inspectorate has taken the initiative in restructuring and introducing EU alignments with the use of a small budget for essential equipment, but require assistance to fully realise their plans (as can be seen in the NPAA).

2.(iv) Technical Assistance to support the Chief Inspectorate for Field Testing and Seeds Control and Strengthening Field Testing and SCI Laboratories

Preparation of a Master Plan was made for this Inspectorate, the findings were positive towards the condition and services being offered, however the plan stressed the need for training and upgrade of equipment. A limited quantity of essential equipment was supplied but future needs are great. The NPAA has quite a substantial section for the “Seeds and planting material” which includes aspects from the Master Plan.

3. Animal Health And Diagnosis:

3.(i) Technical Assistance to the National Veterinary Service

The preparation of a Master Plan for the future strategy of the NVS.

3.(ii) Support to Veterinary Sanitary Control
This was one of the areas identified in the Master Plan. The aim of the project was to strengthen the exotic disease Department (a exotic disease laboratory was fitted out and now operates with trained technicians), improve the diagnostics techniques for exotic diseases (comprehensive training for NVS staff for Foot & Mouth, Swine Vesicular, Rinderpest, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Blue Tongue, African Swine Fever, and African Horse Sickness) and to prepare grounds for implementation of the Improvement of Veterinary Border Control Project.

3.(iii) Multi-Country Veterinary Diagnosis and Control Programme (MVCP)

The programme which started in October 1997 will cover 13 East European countries, including Bulgaria.

The programme objectives include:
- the Border Inspection Posts were to be equipped
- equipment necessary for an animal identification system would be provided
- equipment would be provided for local/regional laboratories which will function as surveillance investigation centres
- provide videofilms, manuals and other aids for the diagnosis of the most important epidemic diseases.
- provide the veterinary services with equipment for stamping-out diseases
- provide fax based systems of communication (local/regional offices, BIPs) and word-processing facilities HQ’s (plus equipment & software for communication system).

It is thus suggested that the majority of supplies are provided under Phare national programmes “or other sources”. MCVP are to compile a list of equipment that is required.

It is suggested that, “MCVP serves an umbrella function to design and introduce generic technical systems and provides technical support for their implementation and adaptation by Phare National Programmes”.

Also due to the large amount of overlap with the TAIEX training programme for the 10 Associated Countries a lot of training activities will only be performed for the 3 Non-Associated Countries (ie Albania, FYROM, and Bosnia-Herzegovina).

Thus the input concerning Bulgaria will be training, technical studies, design/ provision of technical information systems, country visits to adapt technical systems, manuals, guides & books, limited equipment supply, provide lists of needed equipment.

3.(iv) Supplies for Foot & Mouth Disease Control

An outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Bulgaria called for rapid action on behalf of the EU in assisting with equipment, which was supplied under this project. There was and still remains a ban on export of live animals from Bulgaria to the EU, however FMD was contained and eradicated. The Bulgarian Government have asked the Commission to reconsider its export ban.

The export of Bulgarian Brine Cheese was temporarily stopped as the hygiene standards of the processors were not up to EU standards; the Commission will send a veterinary mission to assess the status by the Summer of 1998.

The NVS are very active and energetic in their efforts to upgrade and harmonise with the EU and to date have made good progress. However the need for transfer of know-how and upgrading of facilities is significant if EU standards are to be attained; this is substantiated by the heavy emphasise given on the National Veterinary Services in the NPAA.