# Project Fiche for Phare / Pre-accession instrument 2006

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1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 CRIS Number (Year 1) 2006/018-343.03.03

1.2 Title:

Equal participation of Bulgaria on the European seed market based on improved and precise Variety Testing and Quality Control Systems

1.3 Sector: Agriculture

1.4 Location: Bulgaria

1.5 Duration: 11 months

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1. Overall Objective(s):

Strengthen the administrative capacity of the EAVTFICS for variety testing and seed certification through training and supply of update equipment

2.2. Project purpose:

Reaching of the EU standards for Plant Breeders’ Rights and seed quality control through precision of the variety testing and seed testing results

Accession Partnership (AP) and NPAA

The adoption and enforcement of the EU legislation in the “Seed and Propagating Material” sector is an integral part of the National Plan for adoption of the acquis (NPAA). Being the responsible institution for the entire elaboration of the legal basis (draft-acts and secondary acts) in the sector, the Agency for Variety Testing, Field Inspection and Seed Control plays an important role in the implementation of the Action Plans related to Chapter 7 “Agriculture”.

In view of the commitments and requirements arising from the accession negotiations of Bulgaria and the Regular Report 2004, and the Comprehensive Monitoring Report 2005 of the EU Commission, relevant implementing measures need to be established in the “Seeds and propagating material” sector.

In the Peer Review Report on the mission (July 2004) of the experts from TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Exchange of Information Office), DG “Enlargement”
of the EC for checking of the Agency in respect to the implementation of the European legislation on listing of new plant varieties in the Official Variety List of R Bulgaria and the DUS testing conducted in the country, it was specifically pointed out that the variety testing is carried out on a satisfactory level, but the equipment is obsolete and needs to be up-dated.

The proposed new project for strengthening the administrative capacity of the Agency and for improvement of the technical conditions and facilities is an important follow up of the previous Phare projects in this sector and will contribute to achieving equivalence in the methods, procedures and schemes applied in variety testing and seed certification conducted in R Bulgaria upon its accession to EU as part of enlarged Europe.

**Contribution to National Development Plan**

This project will assure reaching the EU level in the field of seed and propagating material, which will provide possibilities for marketing of quality seed and propagating material, produced in Bulgaria, on the EU market.

**Cross Border Impact**

Not applicable

3. **DESCRIPTION**

3.1. **Background and justification:**

Agriculture is an important branch of national economy of R. Bulgaria. It creates a considerable share of the domestic product of the country. The Seed sector plays a significant role in Agriculture of Bulgaria. Seed control is a prerequisite for the free movement of agricultural products on the EU market.

The Agency for Variety Testing, Field Inspection and Seed control was established at the end of 1999. It is the official controlling body of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) in the seed sector responsible for the enforcement of the Law on Seed and Propagating Material (LSPM) and the Law on Protection of New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds (LPNPVAB) and for the adoption and enforcement of the EU legislation in this field. The new project for strengthening and improvement of the activities and the procedures for variety testing and listing of plant varieties, for certification and control on seed and propagating material is necessary in order for the Agency to execute its functions and activities in conformity with EU requirements and practices. In particular, the Agency for Variety Testing, Field Inspection and Seed Control in the seed and propagation material sector faces a strong necessity for:

- Approximation of the level of technical conditions and facilities for conducting of variety testing and seed control with that of EU to conform with the EU standards and requirements;
- Equivalence of the standards for conducting DUS and VCU variety testing with the EU ones;
- Equivalence of the standards for evaluation of the quality of seed and propagating material with those of EU.

The testing of plant varieties is carried out by 12 Regional Trial Stations all part of a testing network throughout Bulgaria, and 14 Regional Stations are involved in the seed testing and certification services, executing the control functions of the Agency pursuant to the Law on Seed and Propagating Material (LSPM) and the Law on Protection of New Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds (LPNPVAB). Bulgaria is a UPOV member since 1998 with the ratification of the 1991 UPOV Convention. Being the official controlling body of MAF the Agency is the only state institution entitled to carry out DUS testing according to the UPOV Rules.

In order to conduct field trials for DUS testing (distinctness, uniformity and stability) and VCU testing (value for cultivation and use) in compliance with the UPOV and CPVO Rules the Variety Testing Stations of the Agency need to have adequate equipment for setting of the field trials, for harvesting and precise reading out of the test results. The trial stations conducting the trials face a strong necessity of proper equipment and apparatuses for better precision of the measurements for the technological, chemical and phytological evaluation of the tested varieties. The conducting of DUS tests requires precise measurements and documentation of the test results.

The Agency’s Central Laboratory is the only ISTA accredited laboratory in Bulgaria. The seed control and certification procedures also require accurate seed testing and correct evaluation results for the seed moving in home and international trade. To achieve conformity with the ISTA standards and upgrade the level of laboratory facilities there is need of new update equipment.

The Bulgarian law designates the EAVTFISC to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as the official body responsible for performing the GMO control with seed in order to prevent the dissemination of genetically modified organisms which could have a harmful effect on human beings and animals. Presently the trade of GMO’s on the territory of Bulgaria is not permitted.

Under previous Phare projects basic laboratory equipment was supplied to the Central Laboratory (Central Seed Testing Station) and five (5) regional Labs for seed control were partially equipped but they do not fully meet the ISTA requirements and EU standards yet. In a number of the Agency’s regional stations some of the lab equipment is missing which is needed for performing of seed analyses with a better accuracy. The agricultural machines used for cultivation of the seed plots are either missing or obsolete (over twenty years old) and they need to be replaced by new and reliable ones for performing of the relevant agricultural activities for growing of the varieties tested. The equipment is strongly needed for the recognition by the EU countries of the DUS test results obtained at the Agency’s Trial Stations.

In order to build up a well-equipped and efficient network of variety testing stations within the country for conducting the DUS and VCU tests in compliance with the
UPOV Rules and EU standards and for more effective seed control following ISTA Rules, it is necessary to strengthen laboratories and facilities carrying out such controls. For achieving this, a number of regional Variety Testing Stations and the Labs in the Seed Control Stations should be equipped.

The conformity with EU standards and reaching equivalence with the technical level of EU in conducting the variety testing and seed control and certification procedures through application of a more precise equipment will ensure:

- facilitating and speeding up of the evaluation processes in DUS testing (distinctness, uniformity and stability) and VCU testing (value for cultivation and use) and seed testing which will result in more accurate and reliable results;
- recognition of DUS test results from the trials conducted in the Bulgarian variety testing system by EU countries and listing of plant varieties in EU Common Catalogues;
- free movement of quality seed and propagating material on the EU internal market.

3.2 Sectoral rationale: NA

3.3 Results

The precision and the efficiency in conducting of the variety testing trials (DUS and VCU) and seed analyses by the Seed Testing Laboratories of the Agency will bring about the improvement of the scope of activities and reliability of results relating to Plant Breeder’s Rights (PBR) and listing of plant varieties in the National Variety List and in the EU Common Catalogues. That will ensure reliability of the entire variety testing and certification process which on its part will guarantee the quality of seed and propagating material produced in Bulgaria.

The results expected from the realisation of the new project for strengthening of the Agency’s activities are the following:

- The Central Laboratory of EAVTFISC is equipped
- Regional Variety Testing and Seed Control Stations are equipped with basic machines and accessories
- DUS Department at Central Office of the EAVTFISC is equipped
- Experts from DUS and VCU Departments are trained in application of EU testing procedures

3.4 Activities (including Means)

➢ Twinning Light (EUR 150’000)

For the purpose of strengthening the administrative capacity of the Agency and up-lifting of the professional skills of the staff for conducting of the DUS and VCU
testing of plant varieties for PBR and listing in the catalogue, to comply with the EU practices training of the Agency’s Experts is necessary to be carried out.

The training activities envisaged are focused on the following topics:

I. Variety Testing
   1. DUS testing (distinctness, uniformity and stability) of:
      - Winter crops: *soft and durum wheat, oats, barley, rye, triticale*
      - *Maize and sunflower*;
      - *oil rape*;
      - *Vegetables: cabbage, carrots, cucumbers*
   2. DUS - Post Control Testing (cereals, maize and sunflower)
   3. VCU Testing – Post registration testing (cereals, maize and sunflower)

II. Variety listing: Preparation and publishing of:
   - Descriptive lists and a Bulletin (*Official Gazette*) for newly accepted plant varieties
   - Recommendation lists based on Post-registration testing (VCU)
* Maize and sunflower are requested again as training topics because of necessity for clarification of certain details related to characters observed for the purposes of elaboration of variety descriptions

➢ Supply of equipment

In view of the controlling functions which are responsibility of the Agency it is necessary to strengthen laboratories and facilities carrying out such controls.

In order to meet the EU standards and ensure minimum conditions for conducting variety testing (DUS and VCU) of vegetable and agricultural crops in conformity with EC Directives 2002/53/EC, 2002/55/EC, 2002/8/EC (amending Dir. 72/168 and 71/180/EC) and Regulation 930/2000/EC the following equipment is needed to be supplied to the Agency’s Variety Testing Stations:

- Supply of supplementary laboratory equipment for seed testing to Central Laboratory in Sofia and to the regional variety stations and regional Station for Field Inspection and Seed Control as detailed in Annex 7;
- Supply of basic machines and accessories for the Agency’s regional Variety Testing Stations as detailed in Annex 7;
- Supply of lab equipment for the needs of DUS Department at Central Office of the Agency as detailed in Annex 7.

3.5 Linked Activities

Phare project **BG 9507-02-08** “Strengthening of the Chief Inspection for Field Inspection and Seed Control” (Technical assistance and supply, implemented in 1997)
As a result of this project a small number of equipment was supplied to the previously existing Chief Inspection for Field Inspection and Seed Control (now a Directorate under the Agency). The equipment was distributed among the Laboratories of the Inspection (Central Seed Testing Station and Regional Labs) in order to strengthen their seed testing and seed control capability. Technical assistance was rendered in preparation of Seed Regulations.

Phare project **BG99/IB/AG01-B** “Improvement of Activities for Field Inspection and Seed Control” (Twinning project)

This project was a follow-up of the above project with the objectives listed below:

- Follow-up restructuring of the Directorate for Field Inspection and Seed Control;
- Improvement of the system for seed certification and seed control in compliance with the EU requirements, OECD Schemes and methods and the ISTA Rules;

Phare project **BG9913-03/EQT** - Supply of equipment

Equipment was supplied for several seed testing Laboratories of the Directorate for Field Inspection and Seed Control for improvement of their seed testing and certification capabilities. A software product was developed for data base management in the seed certification process.

Phare project **BG2004/IB/AG-TWL**

Training was offered by the German partners in variety testing: DUS (distinctness uniformity and stability) and VCU (value for cultivation and use) and training in seed certification and control. The Agency’s DUS experts were trained in variety testing (DUS) of several plant species - other than the ones envisaged to be covered by the new project - and started implementing the CPVO (Community Plant Variety Office) protocols and practices in variety testing of the respective species conducted in R Bulgaria. A software programme for VCU data processing was purchased after the training by the German partners. The limited scope of project activities was not sufficient to cover all the necessary training topics in variety testing and the other activities of the Agency.

Phare project **BG2004/016-711.03.02** – Supply of equipment

It is still under preparation. Supply procedure has not started yet (envisaged to be completed by the end of 2006).
3.6 Lessons learned:

At the end of the training process under Phare project BG/IB/AG-01-B it was established by the Agency’s experts that no substantial differences exist between the Bulgarian and the European seed certification procedures. It was learned that only with the Post Control testing of seed there is a necessity of conducting the testing by setting standard plant varieties next to the tested ones.

The new up-date equipment supplied to Central Laboratory and to some of the regional Labs under Phare project BG99-13-03 is a valuable acquisition, replacing the more obsolete one. It was established that the new apparatuses provide conditions for better preciseness in conducting of the seed testing in the Labs where delivered. The machines supplied are of a better capacity and offer wider possibilities for application.

Phare project BG2004/IB/AG-TWL – The Agency’s DUS experts started implementing the EU (CPVO) protocols and practices in variety testing conducted in R Bulgaria. A software programme for VCU data processing was purchased after the training by the German partners. The knowledge acquired was used for improvement of the methodologies for testing of the species covered.

The equipment for setting of the trials and for harvesting of the crops from the trials which the Agency’s stations (EAVTFISC) utilize is out of date and obsolete which was specifically pointed out by the Experts of the European Commission, DG “Enlargement”, Technical Assistance and Exchange of Information Office (TAIEX), Brussels in the Peer Review Report on the mission (July 2004) for checking of the Agency in respect to the implementation of the European legislation on listing of new plant varieties in the Official Variety List of R Bulgaria and the DUS testing conducted in the country.

4. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

EAVTFI&SC has the following structure:
**Executive Agency for Variety Testing, Field Inspection and Seed Control** (EAVTFISC) was established by Council of Minister’s Decree No 203 dated 10.11.1999, published in State Gazette issue No.105/02.12.1999(vide). The Structure Rules of EAVTFISC were published in the State Gazette issue No.43/26.05.2000. The amended Structure Rules were adopted vide CM’s Decree No.148/10.07.2003. The Agency is subjected to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. The EAVTFI&SC is headquartered in Sofia and consists of 1 Directorate “Administrative & Financial Management” and 3 specialized Directorates and it has 26 Regional Stations in total including 3 Post Control Plots. The EAVTFISC is the official controlling body of MAF in the seed sector.

In the competence of the Agency is the registration of producers, processors and traders of seed and propagating material and field inspectors. Directorate of Variety Testing (DVT) conducts the official state variety testing for DUS (distinctness, uniformity and stability) and VCU (value for cultivation and use), carries out post control for establishment of varietal purity and identity and participates in the procedure for provision of legal protection to the plant varieties (Plant Breeder’s Rights) and publishes annually the National Variety List of R Bulgaria.

Directorate of Field Inspection and Seed Control (DFI&SC) covers in its functions: Field inspection, the inspection of imported, exported and home traded seed, official seed sampling, the issuance of seed & propagation material certificates and approval of seed lots, control of the enforcement of the Seed Law.

Directorate “Central Seed Testing Laboratory” conducts the seed testing of all samples from seed lots entered for certification based on applications from seed producers and seed companies and issues the respective Quality Certificates. The Laboratory is ISTA (International Seed Testing Association) accredited, and it is also authorized to issue International Orange Certificates for the movement of seed on the international market.

5. **Detailed Budget**

*Strictly follow the following format.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phare/Pre-Accession Instrument support</th>
<th>Co-financing</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Public Funds (*)</td>
<td>Other Sources (**)</td>
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<td>£M</td>
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<td>1,146</td>
<td>0,382</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply of equipment</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment support – sub-total</td>
<td>1,146</td>
<td>0,382</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of total public funds</td>
<td>max 75 %</td>
<td>min 25 %</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution Building support</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Twinning light</td>
<td>0,150</td>
<td>*** (up to 10%)</td>
<td>*** (up to 10%)</td>
<td>0,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>IB support</td>
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<th>0,382</th>
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<th>1,678</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total project</td>
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</table>

(*) contributions form National, Regional, Local, Municipal authorities, FIs loans to public entities, funds from public enterprises

(**) private funds, FIs loans to private entities

The PHARE contribution for investment costs will be no more than 75% of eligible public expenditure, the balance having to be covered by the national co-financing. The national co-financing will be provided by the National Fund Directorate at the Ministry of Finance. All operational and running costs and the maintenance of the equipment will be provided by the final Beneficiaries.

(*** Up to 10% of the Twinning project will be covered from the national budget through the National Fund Directorate at the Ministry of Finance. Phare and national co-financing will be tendered and contracted jointly.

6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Implementing Agency

The CFCU (Ministry of Finance) will be the Contracting Authority and in that capacity will issue and evaluate tenders, conclude contracts and authorize the treasury to make contractually related payments. The State Treasurer of Ministry of Finance will act as PAO of the project.

Contact details of PAO are:

State Treasurer of Ministry of Finance and PAO
Address: 102 Rakovski Str.
1040 Sofia
Tel.: (+ 359 2) 9859 24 90
Fax: (+ 359 2) 980 68 63
E-mail: g.beremska@minfin.bg

Beneficiary
Executive Agency for Variety Testing, Field Inspection & Seed Control

Contact details:
Contact person: Executive Director of the EAVTFI&SC
Address: 125, Tzarigradsko Shosse Blvd., Block 1, 1113 Sofia, Bulgaria
Tel: +359 2 - 870 03 75, 870 34 93, 71 36 35 ; Fax: +359 2 – 870 65 17
E-mail: iasas@iasas.government.bg

A Steering Committee, overseeing the project implementation and securing exchange of information between the major stakeholders, has representatives of the following institutions:

- Contracting authority
- EC Delegation
- MAF – PIU
- Beneficiary
- Contractor

The PIU at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will be responsible for monitoring of project implementation and coordination of the activities at all stages of the project cycle.

Contact details of the PIU:
Head of Phare Implementation Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Address: # 55 Christo Botev Blvd.
Sofia
Tel: 359 2 981 61 63
Fax: 359 2 981 75 42
e-mail: demina@phare-agr.orbitel.bg

6.2 Twinning

Twinning light project is envisaged for strengthening of the administrative capacity of the Agency and up-lifting of the professional capacity of the staff for conducting of the DUS and VCU testing of plant varieties for PBR and listing in the national and EU Catalogues in compliance with the implementing practices of the EU Member-States. The training topics envisaged are supplementary to the ones covered by the preceding Phare projects implemented (pls see Item 3.5 - Linked activities.)

6.3 Non-standard aspects

Practical Guide to contract procedures financed from the General Budget of the European Communities in the context of external actions and Twinning Manual will be strictly followed.

6.4 Contracts

1. TWL contract: EUR 150,000
2. Supply Contract: EUR 1,528,000

7. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals
   Contract 1    March 2007
   Contract 2    April 2007

7.2 Start of project activity
   Contract 1    June 2007
   Contract 2    October 2007

7.3 Project completion
   Contract 1    November 2007
   Contract 2    January 2008

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

   Equal opportunity for employment of men and women will be guaranteed.

9. ENVIRONMENT

   The equipment to be supplied is intended for land cultivation and for laboratory analyses of seeds and its nature will not have a harmful effect on the environment.

10. RATES OF RETURN

   The investment has no direct economic rate of return. The Agency has no production, only controlling functions. One of the expected results from the supplied equipment is improved level and quality of activities for land cultivation related to variety testing and precision of laboratory analyses for seed certification. It is aimed at improvement of the technical facilities to reach the EU standards and will contribute to the recognition of the DUS test results of variety testing conducted in R Bulgaria by the EU Member States.

11. INVESTMENT CRITERIA (APPLICABLE TO ALL INVESTMENTS)

   11.1 Catalytic effect
       Not applicable

   11.2 Co-financing
       The national co-financing is 25% for the investment component of the project and up to 10% for the Twinning light component.
11.3 Additionality - N.A.

11.4 Project readiness and size

The technical specifications will be ready by the date of the start of the tendering procedures.

11.5 Sustainability

The Agency is a similar structure to the ones existing in all the EU Member States. It will continue functioning as a state controlling body of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The Agency will continue using the equipment supplied under the project for its basic activities as its delegated controlling functions will not be changed in the next ten years. Human resources trained in performing the relevant activities will be available. The Agency will ensure the necessary financial assets for maintenance of the equipment and its full capacity use.

11.6 Compliance with state aids provisions

Not applicable

12. CONDITIONALITY AND SEQUENCING

Full commitment and participation of the senior management of the beneficiary institutions in the implementation of the project.

• Before receiving the equipment, the laboratories will be refurbished, and fully ready for receiving the equipment (staffed, refurbished, etc).
• Responsible staff available during the whole implementation of the project;
• Appointed quality managers available;
• Appropriate equipment and consumables available.

The supply of equipment listed in Annex 7 hereto is not directly linked to the training activities envisaged under the TWL project. It will be used for conducting of the variety testing activities to achieve a better precision and more reliable test results in variety testing conducted in R Bulgaria.

ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logframe in standard format (compulsory)
2. Detailed implementation chart (compulsory for year 1, optional for future years)
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule, by quarter, for full duration of project (including disbursement period) (compulsory for year 1)
4. Reference list of feasibility/pre-feasibility studies, (compulsory)
5. Reference list of relevant laws and regulations (compulsory)
6. Reference list of relevant strategic plans and studies (may include institution sector strategies, development plans, business development plans, etc) (compulsory)

7. List of equipment to be supplied to EAVTFISC

8. Comparative Table – equipment supplied/ expected to be supplied / foreseen to be supplied

9. Comparative Table – training received under 2 preceding projects (1999-2000 & 2005) and foreseen under requested project
## LOGFRAME

### Project name and number

**Equal participation of Bulgaria on the European seed market based on improved and precise Variety Testing and Quality Control Systems**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracting period expires</th>
<th>End of execution of contracts period expires</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2008</td>
<td>November 2009</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Total Budget

- **1 678 300 euro**
- **Phare / pre-accession budget**: **1 296 225 euro**

### Overall objective

- Strengthen the administrative capacity of the EAVTFICS for variety testing and seed certification through training and supply of update equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protection of plant varieties in Bulgaria in accordance with EU procedures, methods and schemes for Plant Breeders Rights (PBR)</td>
<td>Official Variety List of Bulgaria, Varieties listed in EU Common Catalogues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Project purpose

- Reaching the EU standards for Plant Breeders’ Rights and seed quality control through precision of the variety testing and seed testing results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Variety testing and Seed quality control systems in Bulgaria are compliant with the EU standards and practices</td>
<td>International Proficiency Tests (ISTA), MAF orders for acceptance of varieties, EAVTFI&amp;SC, EC, Quality Control Certificates, Technical Protocols and Variety Descriptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% of applications for seed quality certification (analyses) are fulfilled in compliance with the international and European practices for seed testing by November 2009.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>100% of applications for variety testing are conducted in compliance with CPVO and UPOV rules by November 2009.</td>
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</table>

### Results

- The Central Laboratory of

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectively verifiable indicators</th>
<th>Sources of Verification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% of analyses requested by</td>
<td>Monitoring reports</td>
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</table>

### Assumptions

- Changes in EU standards
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supply of supplementary laboratory equipment for seed testing to Central Laboratory of EAVTFISC in Sofia and to the Labs in the Regional stations for seed control.</td>
<td>Supply contract</td>
<td>• Supply of equipment as per the contractual terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply of basic machines and accessories for the EAVTFISC’s regional Variety Testing and Seed Control Stations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply of lab equipment for the needs of DUS Department at Central Office of the EAVTFISC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further specialization in variety testing procedures related to agricultural and vegetable crops in compliance with EU practices and Legislative Acts: Regulation 930/2000/EC; Decision 90/639/EEC; Directive 2003/90/EC and Directive 2003/91/EC</td>
<td>Twinning Light Contract – Missions of STE in training on variety testing procedures and control on seed and propagating material; and study visits to Member States</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Training topics envisaged:</td>
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</table>

EAVTFISC is equipped with basic machines and accessories. Regional Variety Testing and Seed Control Stations are equipped with basic machines and accessories. DUS Department at Central Office of the EAVTFISC is equipped.

Experts from DUS and VCU Departments are trained in application of EU testing procedures. 17 Experts from DUS Dept., 12 Experts from VCU Dept and 5 Experts in Variety listing are trained by 30 June 2008.

Applicants for seed quality certification performed by November 2009. Upgraded cultivation activities for variety testing by November 2009. DUS Department is appropriately equipped for observation of variety testing activities by November 2009.


Training topics envisaged: reports of MS experts, certificates obtained by trained BG staff, and acceptance certificates.
I. Variety Testing

I. DUS testing of:
- Winter crops: soft and durum wheat, oats, barley, rye, triticale
- maize and sunflower;
- oil rape;
- DUS testing of vegetable varieties:
  - - r, - cabbage,
  - carrots, cucumbers
2. DUS - Post Control Testing (cereals, maize and sunflower)
3. VCU Testing:
- Post registration testing: maize
- Improvement of methodologies for Competitive variety trials: cereals, maize and sunflower

II. Variety Listing:
- Preparation of Descriptive Lists and a Bulletin
- Preparation of Recommendation lists based on VCU Post-registration testing

Preconditions
- EAVTFISC guarantees the allocation of appropriate human resources.
- All (laboratories and machine shelters) are available and refurbished prior to supply
ANNEX 2  DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION CHART

*Project:* Equal participation of Bulgaria on the European seed market based on improved and precise Variety Testing and Quality Control Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<td>P P P P P</td>
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<td>Contract 2 Supply</td>
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<td>P P T T T</td>
<td>T T T T T</td>
<td>C I I I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

P – Preparation  
T – Tendering  
I – Implementing
**ANNEX 3 CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE**

Project title: Equal participation of Bulgaria on the European seed market based on improved and precise Variety Testing and Quality Control Systems

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1. **BG9507-02-08 Master Plan for Development of Seed Control**

A Master Plan for readjusting the seed certification and quality control system ready for Bulgaria’s accession to EU was prepared in autumn 1997 under Phare BG9507-02-08 by EU expert. The objectives of the STE mission were to review the structure, resources and operation of the then existing Chief Inspection for Field Inspection and Seed Control (CICSC) (which is now a Directorate under the Agency for Variety Testing, Field Inspection and Seed Control) and to prepare with participation of the Beneficiary a Master Plan for development of the institution.

The Master plan of the Agency covered the period 1998-2002. Its objective is the readjustment of the seed certification and quality control system in preparation for Bulgaria's integration into the internal market of the EU and of strengthening of institutional resources and capacity to carry out effective seed quality control in the market economy. The master plan contains six major components:

- finalization and introduction of the new Seed Law and the drafting and adoption of EU equivalent seed regulations and standards to accompany the seed law;
- rationalisation of Agency’ regional structure with activities being primarily focused on 16 regional inspectorates;
- adoption of EU and OECD seed quality control systems and methods;
- equipment of Agency’ seed laboratories and post control centres as well as an improvement in the inspectorate's transport arrangements;
- introduction of an appropriate data management system;
- Agency’ staff training in the new systems and methods as well as the training of licensed seed laboratory analysts and field inspectors;
- establishment of a Seed Industry Liaison Committee and the implementation of activities to inform seed industry participants in the new laws, systems and procedures.

The Master plan was aiming to assist Bulgaria achieving compliance with the seed aspects of EU Norms on agriculture. It was expected to support continued restructuring of the seed industry and Bulgaria's regional integration in EU seed trade. The training and technical assistance elements were envisaged in order to expose Agency’ staff to the administrative and technical practices in the EU and the transposition of legislative *Acquis communautaire* into national law. To implement the Master plan funds were required for equipment, overseas training, local training, technical assistance and software programming. The total cost of the Master plan was estimated by EU expert to 1,670,690 Euro. This includes 1,046,970 Euro for Phase 1 (1998-99) and 623,720 Euro for Phase 2 (2000-02). It was recommended that the Master plan implementation is assisted by Phare programme, justified on the grounds of direct relevance to the key investment and institution building priorities contained in Phare’ policy guidelines of the Accession Partnership.

The TA was successfully provided in 2001-02 by a twinning under BG9913-03-01 (see point 3.2. above). The most urgent laboratory equipment and machinery were supplied as well. The total amount of the Phare assistance was 1.1 MEuro, including the co-financing.

2. **Seed Law from 2003**

With the establishment of marketing principles in Bulgarian economy and in agriculture in particular and with the privatization of the seed industry the Bulgarian seed trade has become internationally oriented. The Government is committed to prepare Bulgaria for integration into the internal market of the EU.
As part of this commitment the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with the active participation of the experts from the Agency for Variety Testing, Field Inspection and Seed Control has elaborated a new Law on Seed and Propagating Material (LSPM) adopted by XXXIX National Assembly on 18 February 2003 and published in State Gazette issue No.20/04 March 2003.

The new Seed Law in force is compatible with the EC Directives on the marketing of seed and the Common Catalogue of plant varieties and species. The provisions of the new LSPM cover the basic provisions of the EC marketing Directives transposed into the Bulgarian legislation. The unification of the current procedures for variety testing, seed certification and seed and propagating material control which differ from those required by the EC Directives that are inherent in the EU seed control system was achieved through harmonization of the remaining EC Directives in the “Seed and Propagation Material” sector. The relevant Ordinances were elaborated to set these procedures and their practical implementation in compliance with the EU ones.

The secondary legislative Acts pursuant to the new LSPM related to the transposed 6 EC basic seed marketing Directives were approved and adopted by the end of 2003 (published in SG). The remaining EC Directives covering the official variety list and the propagating material were transposed into relevant Ordinances and adopted by the middle of 2004 (published in SG). An Ordinance laying down the conditions for approval of producers and processors of seed and propagating material and registration of traders was also elaborated (see details on legislation in Annex 5). The relevant EU acquis in the seed sector was transposed into 15 Ordinances. Pursuant to the new LSPM private field inspectors and private laboratories will be approved and authorized to carry out field inspection of seed and propagating material production plots, and lab analyses respectively. The Agency will have to organize the training and exercise the control on the activities conducted by the approved private field inspectors and laboratories.

3. RESTRUCTURING OF THE AGENCY - 2003

The restructuring of the Agency’s Directorate for Field Inspection and Seed Control envisaged in the Master Plan is connected with the provisions of the new LSPM. With the establishment of private field inspectors and private laboratories part of the Agency’s functions as an official controlling body will drop off and will be delegated to private field inspectors and private laboratories to carry out activities in field inspection and seed testing under its control. This will result in diminishing the number of the Agency’s regional offices exercising the state control. Under a Phare supported project BG99/IB/AG-01-B (see point 3.2 above) a proposal was prepared by a STE from MS outlining the phases for restructuring of the Agency in the period July 2003-2005. The Action Plan for the Agency’s restructuring which was subject to approval by the competent Bulgarian authorities (MAF) was implemented. As a result, the total number of regional stations was substantially reduced (from 35 to 26).

The variety testing procedures following the UPOV Rules and Technical Guidelines are being brought in conformity with EU requirements (CPVO protocols) in relation to DUS testing (distinctness, uniformity and stability) and VCU testing (value for cultivation and use). The elaboration of technical and regulatory procedures requires training of the Agency’s experts by well-practiced and experienced MS experts.

Under the above indicated Phare project basic equipment was supplied to the Agency’s seed testing laboratories and post control stations which provided conditions for a better precision in conducting of the seed analyses and improved the facilities for carrying out the seed control activities.

3. MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Agency for Variety Testing, Field Inspection and Seed Control is an associated Member of OECD schemes for seed certification. Its Central Seed Testing Station is an ISTA accredited Member.

R Bulgaria is a UPOV Member since 1998 with the ratification of the UPOV Convention of 1991. The Agency is delegated to carry out activities related to the responsibilities and obligations pursuant to the membership.
ANNEX 5  LIST OF RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

1. Law on Seed and Propagating Material, published in State Gazette No.20 dd 04/03/2003.2.

3. Ordinance No.12 / 15 March 2004 on the Terms and order for plant variety testing, acceptance, registration in and deleting from the Official Catalogue of Plant Varieties of the Republic of Bulgaria, SG, 40 /14 May 2004

4. EC marketing Directives on Seed and Propagating Material:

   - 66/400/EEC (=2002/54 consolid.) - on beet seed, inclusive small EC packages;
   - 66/401/EEC - on fodder seed;
   - 66/402/EEC - on cereals seed;
   - 66/403/EEC (=2002/56 consolid.) - on potato seed;
   - 93/17/EC
   - 69/208/EC (=2002/57 consolid.) - on oil and fibre seed;
   - 70/458/EC (=2002/55 consolid.) - on vegetable seed, inclusive ‘Standard seed” and small EC packages;

3. EC legislative Acts on variety testing and Variety List:

   - Regulation 930/2000/EC – on denominations of varieties of agricultural plant species and vegetable species;
   - Decision 90/639/EEC of 12 Nov.1990 – on determining the names to be borne by the vegetable varieties;
   - Directive 2003/91/EC - determining characteristics and minimum conditions for inspecting vegetable varieties;
   - Directive 2003/90/EC - determining characteristics and minimum conditions for examining agricultural varieties;
ANNEX 7

List of equipment foreseen under Contract 2 required for the strengthening of the EAVTFI&SC activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Type of equipment</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Indicative price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>Agricultural machines and equipment</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>1. Plot combine + accessories</strong> – 3 pcs.</td>
<td>3 pcs</td>
<td>€ 330 000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- VTS Bourgas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Gorski Izvor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Pavlikeni</td>
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<td></td>
<td>€ 110 000 x 3 бр.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>2. Accessories for combine (adapters)</strong> – 3 pcs</td>
<td>3 pcs</td>
<td>€ 90 000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- VTS Radnevo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Pordim</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- VTS Selanovtzy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>€ 30 000 x 3 pcs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>3. Plot sowing machine /1.5 m/</strong> – 5 pcs.</td>
<td>5 pcs</td>
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<td>- VTS Selanovtzi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Chepintzi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Dobrich</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Pavlikeni</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Ognyanovo</td>
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<td>€ 16 000 x 5 бр</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td><strong>4. Plot Sowing machine for earthed-up crops</strong> – 8 pcs</td>
<td>8 pcs</td>
<td>€ 152 000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Sofia</td>
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<td>- VTS G.Izvor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Pordim</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- ТЗС Павлиkeni</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Brashlen</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Dobrich</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Bourgas</td>
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<td>- VTS Ognyanovo</td>
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<td>€ 19 000 x 8 бр.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td><strong>5. Tractors /80-100 H.p./</strong> – 5 pcs.</td>
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<td>€ 250 000</td>
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<td>- VTS Selanovtzi</td>
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<td>- VTS Pordim</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Radnevo</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Pavlikeni</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- VTS Groski Izvor</td>
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<td>€ 50 000 x 5 бр.</td>
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II. **Accessories - mounted**
| 6 | **1. Plough - mounted**  
- /4 x 25/ - x 5 pcs  
- /3 x 35/ - x 5 pcs  
- VTS Selanovtzi  
- VTS Pordim  
- VTS Radnevo  
- VTS Pavlikeni  
- VTS Dobrich  
€ 3 000 x 5 pcs (4 x 25)  
€ 3 000 x 5 pcs (3 x 35) | € 15 000  
€ 15 000. |
| 7 | **2. Grain removing machine for maize** – 8 pcs  
- VTS Selanovtzi  
- VTS Pordim  
- VTS Pavlikeni  
- VTS Braslhen  
- VTS Dobrich  
- VTS Bourgas  
- VTS Radnevo  
- VTS Oglya novo  
€ 5 100 x 8 pcs | 8 pcs. | € 40 800 |
| 8 | **III. Climatic station with software** – 6 pcs.  
- VTS Selanovtzi  
- VTS Dobrich  
- VTS Gorski Izvor  
- VTS Chepintzi  
- VTS Oglyanovo  
- VTS Parvomaytzi  
€ 52 000 x 6 pcs. | 6 pcs. | € 312 000 |
| **IV. Laboratory equipment** |
| 9 | **1. Automatic seed counter** – 11 pcs.  
- RS: Varna, Dobrich, Rousse, Razgrad, V. Tarnovo, Bourgas, Pleven, St. Zagora, Plovdiv,  
- VTS: Brashlen, Radnevo  
€ 4 500 x 11 pcs | 11 pcs. | € 49 500 |
| 10 | **2. Binocular + software fro PC** – 2 pcs.  
- VTS Brashlen  
- VTS Radnevo  
€ 15 000 x 2 pcs. | 2 pcs. | € 30 000 |
| 11 | **3. Thermostatic chamber** /up to 700 l/ - 20 pcs  
per Reg.. Stations for seed control  
- CL – Sofia - 3  
- RS: Rousse – 1  
Vratza – 1  
Pleven – 2  
Targovishte – 2  
Razgrad – 1  
Silistra – 1  
€ 6 000 x 20 pcs | 20 pcs | € 120 000 |
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<td>12</td>
<td>4. Oven for work with seeds with chemical treatment</td>
<td>2 pcs</td>
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<td>€ 5 000 x 2 pcs.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>5. Gas-chromatograph + Software with rechargeable flame-ionization detector – for determination of the oil-acidic composition of high-oleic hybrids (sunflower, maize, oil flax and oil rape) - 1 pc.</td>
<td>1 pc</td>
<td>€ 25 000</td>
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<td>– Central Lab</td>
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<td></td>
<td>€ 25 000 x 1 pc.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>V. Computers / printers</td>
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<td>1. Colour-printers – 6 pcs.</td>
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<td>- CLab-phyto-(CO)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TVS : Brashlen, Radnevo, Chepintzi, Novo Selo</td>
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<td>€ 1000 x 6 pcs.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>2. Server</td>
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Supply equipment- Total: € 1’528’300