STANDARD SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

Project Number R0 9804.03

Sub-programme: strengthen the institutional and administrative capacity to manage the acquis

Title: Agricultural and Veterinary Assistance

Objectives

The wider objective is to strengthen the national and regional capabilities of the Ministry of Agriculture and relevant Agencies for EU alignment in agriculture, fisheries and rural development sectors and for supporting market-orientated reforms and developments.

Specific objectives include:

- Survey central and regional Ministry work requirements, staff numbers and capabilities; discontinue or reduce less essential activities; introduce retraining and relocation measures; develop phased alignment programme in order to make best use of available staff numbers and skills to undertake alignment and economic reforms;

- Align with current EU standards animal health controls at 5 major border crossing points and diagnostic standards at 6 designated laboratories;

- Establish training facilities at the central laboratory enabling phytosanitary and residue inspection to be aligned with best EU practices.

Description

Economic reform and alignment

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAFF) is required to introduce policies supporting the Government’s general economic reforms and to achieve the demanding tasks of aligning laws, establishing institutional and enforcement capabilities required for agricultural, fisheries and rural development alignment with the relevant acquis. It has very limited staff resources to achieve these demanding responsibilities - there are less than 400 staff (all grades) at MAFF HQ. Substantially more technical and administrative staff work for MAFF in regional (judet) and local (communas) offices. Staff resources available for alignment and reform can be increased by reorganising the structure of the Ministry, introducing appropriate training and encouraging regional staff to move to Bucharest or to regional centres to which work can be decentralised. The Ministry will be helped to establish objectively information on current staff numbers, skills and mobility, plan and undertake reorganisation and training.

In line with successful arrangements implemented in other associated countries, MAFF has established working groups for individual sub-sectors (e.g. 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 Romanian 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 co-ordination of the working groups’ approaches, cross-sectoral economic analyses and associated economic policy activities, support and training will be given to the central policy analysis group within MAFF’s European Integration General Direction.

Animal health and diagnosis

Surveillance and diagnostic capabilities to recognise diseases on List A of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), Bovine Spongioform Encephalopathy (BSE) and other epidemic diseases of animals will be improved to meet EU standards at the Central Veterinary Laboratories, Bucharest and regional laboratories at Constanta, Iasi, Cluj, Timisoara and Bucharest (region) through the provision of training and equipment.

Assistance will be given to align and standardise border control procedures (documentary, animal loading/unloading/disinfection) with the requirements of EU Directives and EU inspections, equip
laboratories and office facilities being built with Government funds, and provide adequate communication facilities at 5 border posts, handling the bulk of Romanian-third country trade in animals (i.e. Ukraine (Siret), Moldova (Ungheni and Albita), Bulgaria (Giurgui) and the Black Sea (Constanta)).

The current Romanian register for animals will be replaced by a register/ear tagging system which complies with current EU requirements and is capable of further expansion and adaptation to match imminent introduction of Community-wide and national animal identification and movement recording systems in response to the BSE problem. Assistance will be given to develop the legal and institutional capabilities needed and to introduce the arrangements for registration, recording movements and issuing/enforcing use of ear tags issue, initially (by mid-1999) in the pedigree livestock breeding industry. Assistance will also be given to develop policies and other measures supporting national application of the results of the pilot on the basis of progressive cost-recovery from the industry from 2000 onwards.

**Plant health and residue inspection**

Inspection procedures, laboratory tests and national technical training facilities for inspectors and laboratory staff will be established at the central laboratory (Ilfov, Bucharest), using suitable EU practices and equipment in operation in EU Member States

**Institutional Framework:**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAFF) will have overall responsibility for the project and will be the direct beneficiary of the components for staff reallocation and retraining, general economic reform, EU alignment and establishment of the phytosanitary training facility. The National Sanitary-Veterinary Agency (NSVA), an independent Agency under the responsibility of MAFF, will be responsible for animal health and diagnosis components: central laboratories at Bucharest; regional laboratories at Constanta, Iasi, Cluj, Timisoara and Bucharest; and border inspection posts with Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and the port of Constanta will be improved.

**Budget**

<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>1,200</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phytosanitary training facility</td>
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<td>0,250</td>
<td>0,750</td>
<td></td>
<td>0,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Health and diagnosis</td>
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<td>0,550</td>
<td>3,050</td>
<td>3,420</td>
<td>6,470</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>3,420</td>
<td>8,420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Implementation Arrangements**

The implementation agency is the MoAF. Separate steering committees have been established for the Economic Reform and Alignment and the Animal Heath and Control components. For the phytosanitary training component, MAFF will establish a steering committee with representatives from the policy and inspection divisions, the Ministries of Health, Water, Forestry and Environmental Protection, local authorities and institutions with responsibilities for inspection and control in the field.

The veterinary and phytosanitary components and support to individual CAP/rural development Working Groups will be implemented through twinning or, if necessary, through commercial consultancy contracts.

**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>
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<td>10.98</td>
<td>12.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phytosanitary training</td>
<td>09.98</td>
<td>02.99</td>
<td>12.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal health etc.</td>
<td>09.98</td>
<td>02.99</td>
<td>01.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Equal opportunity**

Equal participation in project by women and men will be ensured. Women participation will be measured through recording gender breakdown of trainees and consultants employed.

**Environment/rates of return/investment criteria**

N/A

**Conditionalities**

1. **Economic reform**: Ministry of Agriculture/Government implements the commitments to privatise the agro-industry *regies autonomes* for seeds (Unisem and Semrom), Land Reclamation and Irrigation and Animal Vaccines (Pasteur Regie) and closes the National Agency for Agricultural Products by the end of 1999. Ministry of Agriculture will provide maximum policy, financial and other support for staff volunteering for training and relocation.

2. **Phytosanitary training**: The Ministry of Agriculture will provide adapted accommodation at Ilfov, Bucharest and assign for 3 months 3 technical staff (from the Direction of Plant Protection and Quarantine, the Laboratories and the Inspectorates respectively) who have been trained in visits to EU Member States to provide basic training during 1999 to other technical and laboratory staff;

3. **Animal health and control**: Government confirms allocation of 5 billion lei for border post building improvements and guarantees that building works will be completed before equipment is supplied. Staff numbers, salary and operating budgets will be maintained in real terms to end 2002.