

POSTHARVEST INSTITUTE FOR PERISHABLES



Second Quarterly Report
on
Potato Storage Activities
in
Russia and Ukraine

July 1993

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Cooperative Project No.: CCN-0006-A-00-3007-00

Grant No.: CCS-0006-6-00-2028-00

For

USAID/NIS Task Force Office

By

The Postharvest Institute for Perishables

July 1993

**Second Quarterly Report on Potato Storage Activities
in Russia and Ukraine
Postharvest Institute for Perishables**

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This is the second quarterly report on Project No. CCN-0006-A-00-3007-00, Potato Storage Improvements in Russia and Ukraine. In addition, activities covered under Grant No. CCS-0006-6-00-2028-00 is also included.

ACTIVITIES

1. TA on Storage, Diseases and Agribusiness Activities

Dr. Robert Dwelle, Dr. Maury Wiese and Mr. Will Anderson visited Russia and Ukraine in May 1993 to advise on improving potato storage, disease control and improving the business aspects of potato handling and marketing.

The three specialists visited numerous organizations in Russia and Ukraine, including local and AID-supported entities to determine the way potatoes are stored, disease problems, and how potatoes are marketed. Also on the itinerary were several private farms where Russians are trying to establish a commercial farming base. After their return, Wiese and Dwelle, picked up a number of documents on potatoes requested by the Russian Potato Concern. The documents will be sent to Moscow in the near future.

This trip provided PIP with additional information on focus points within the potato industry and helped show where PIP's efforts should be concentrated in the future.

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2. Training

Two potato specialists from Russia and one from Ukraine visited Idaho for a tour of potato storage and handling facilities. The following areas were visited by the three specialists:

Kimberly Potato Research Station - seminar on potato storage

seminar on cooperative extension system

Idaho Falls - explanation of the Idaho potato seed certification system

SE Idaho - tour of equipment manufacturers and potato processing and handling facilities

Aberdeen Research Station - tour of potato storage and production facilities

Boise, ID - meetings with representatives of major agribusiness and food processing corporations in Idaho (Simplot, ORE-IDA)

University of Idaho, Moscow - potato seed/tissue multiplication process

Private facilities in processing and equipment manufacturing were also visited by the group.

3. Information Distribution

PIP has taken out subscriptions for the following publications which are relayed to Russia Potato Concern and Ukraine Potato Institute:

The Packer - business newspaper of the produce industry

Potato Country, Potato Grower, Spudman - all related to the private sector potato industry in the U.S.

A second request of various technical publications on potatoes has been received by PIP for Russia Potato Concern. This is a comprehensive list of technical books, research documents and other publications.

4. Small Equipment Order

PIP has received small equipment orders (under Grant No. CCS-0006-6-00-2028-00) for upgrading the capabilities of Russian Potato Concern and the Ukrainian Institute for Potato Research to test and monitor potatoes in storage. PIP has started the process of filling the equipment request. (See appendix I)

5. Translation into Russian of Three Potato Videos

The three potato videos provided by the University of Idaho on reduction of bruising of potatoes during the harvesting and handling process are being translated into Russian. Copies of the translated version will be used at workshops PIP is planning to organize in Russia and Ukraine.

6. Grain Storage Monitoring in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakstan

PIP has received a date for its engineer to visit the above three countries to inspect the grain storages being funded by AID and constructed by North American Agriculture, Inc. The date of the visit has been set for the end of August.

7. Catholic Relief Service Request from Vladivostock

The CRS in Vladivostock has requested that PIP assist in organizing a potato storage demonstration/workshop with potato farmers in the Vladivostock area. PIP has plans for underground potato storage facilities with passive ventilation systems used until the 1960's in Idaho. These can be constructed with local materials and

could be constructed by the emerging private potato farmers. PIP may be able to translate the dimensions and specs into Russian to facilitate use by Russian farmers.

8. Upcoming Activities

The following activities are planned for the next quarter:

- A. **Training - Base Storage Business Management Course** - PIP's proposal to offer a five week intensive business management course to 12 base storage managers has been approved by USAID/Russia. Huge base storage facilities surround the large metropolitan areas in NIS countries. This training course will assist the base storage managers to transform their facilities into commercial wholesale distribution centers which can cater to private farmers. Activities will begin at the end of August and will be funded by a separate contract. (See appendix II)
- B. **Potato Specialists to Visit Idaho** - Two more potato specialists from Russia and one from Ukraine will spend three weeks training in storage, agricultural inputs and potato handling equipment in Idaho. The specialists are expected to arrive the end of September so they can observe potato harvesting and placing potatoes in storage.
- C. **Commercial Potato Marketing Workshop** - Ukraine, July.
- D. **Potato Processing Specialist** - Ukraine, late July; Russia, early August.
- E. **Grain Storage Monitoring** - Russia, Ukraine, Kazakstan - end of August.
- F. **Potato Harvester Workshops to reduce potato bruising** - Ukraine and Russia - September.

APPENDIX I

RUSSIAN SMALL EQUIPMENT ORDER						
QT	CAT. #	MODEL	PAG	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
2	DS 105101	Turbo	6	Vane Air Velocity Meter	\$165.00	\$330.00
1	YK 177103	2455-13	224	Digital Thermometer	185.00	185.00
1	EM 17		235	Penetration Probe	104.00	104.00
1	BN 215720		232	Air Probe	49.00	49.00
1	BN 215721		232	Surface Probe	65.00	65.00
1	BN 215722		232	Penetration Probe	39.00	39.00
1	HB 379679	IT-300	258	Infrared Thermometer	599.00	599.00
1	VA 239635	HM 34C	348	Humidity-Temperature Meter	495.00	495.00
1	VA 239604			NIST Certification	35.00	35.00
1	ET 87101	22010	370	Psychometer	135.00	135.00
1	ET 87100			NIST Certification	150.00	150.00
1	DL 229801	KSD-1	375	Soil Moisture Tester	268.00	268.00
1	DL 229802	GB-1		Gypsum Soil Blocks	45.00	45.00
2	EH 1194625	44577C	390	Centigrade Humidity/Temp Indicator	52.00	104.00
1	PZ 156100	306 L	713	Hardness tester	268.00	268.00
1	PZ 156300			NIST Certification	45.00	45.00
1	HI 12206	9024	726	Microcomputer PH/Temp Meter	295.00	295.00
1	HI 12208	1332B		Combination pH Electrode	42.00	42.00
1	K 124901	1150	780	Hand Refractometer	268.00	268.00
1	TT 73461	0560 0500	665	LUX Meter	320.00	320.00
1	TT 73462	0516 0043		Carrying case	51.00	51.00
1	HI 122836	HI 8543	761	Dissolved Oxygen Meter	444.00	444.00
1	AD 47189	600A	885	Compact Balance	399.00	399.00

						4,735.00

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UKRAINIAN SMALL EQUIPMENT ORDER

QT	CAT. #	MODEL	PAG	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
1	TS 14511	8310	23	Analog Air Velocity Meter	\$399.00	\$399.00
1	BN 215701	600-2830	216	Type "J" Digital Thermometer	123.00	123.00
1	BN 215715			Air Probe	49.00	49.00
1	BN 215711			General Purpose Probe	39.00	39.00
2	UN 880101	UTL880	346	Temperature/Humidity Meter	39.95	79.90
1	UN 880120	DCP1000A	425	Volt/Ohm Meter	139.00	139.00
1	PR 95101	SL120	650	Sound Level Meter	152.00	152.00
1	EH 1191025	P401025	664	Foot Candle/Lux Meter	119.00	119.00
1	EH 1191026	P386232		RS232 Interface & Software	159.00	159.00
1	PK 879196		722	pH Meter	206.00	206.00
2	GC 524701	GC501	785	Oxygen Monitor/Alarm	442.00	884.00
2	IM 16701		837	Nuclear Radiation Monitor	335.00	670.00
1	NA 09148		840	Radiation Meter-Beta, Gamma & X-Ray	999.00	999.00
2	AU 100250	PP-250	882	Electronic Digital Scales-250g	203.00	406.00
1	AU 1001200	1200	883	Electronic Digital Scales-1200g	353.00	353.00
						4,776.90

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APPENDIX II

BASE STORAGE BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COURSE IN U.S.A.

The Postharvest Institute for Perishables at the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development will conduct a five-week short course in storage management principles and basic business practices. The course has been designed for managers of 'distribution base' storage facilities and managers and management staff of similar operations in Russia.

The goal of the short course is to give participants an understanding of storage management principles and postharvest physiology and show how these principles apply to controlled atmosphere and cold storage environments. Participants will also gain knowledge of basic business principles and practices that will aid in the transition to a market-based economy. The course will cover the fundamentals of market economics and deal with issues of international trade and business finance.

During one week of the short course, participants will tour controlled atmosphere storage facilities in the United States Pacific Northwest. Participant trainees will observe firsthand how postharvest management practices are applied to perishable crops such as potatoes, apples and onions. There will be an opportunity to interact with growers, warehouse managers and commodity brokers who can provide useful information on storage and marketing of perishable commodities.

SCHEDULE

- Week 1:** Postharvest physiology, disease control, storage facility design, packaging
- Week 2:** Market economics, operations management, strategic management
- Week 3:** Finances, accounting, leadership skills
- Week 4:** Field tour
- Week 5:** Guest speakers - Business Managers

DESIRED PARTICIPANT QUALIFICATIONS

- . Work experience at the managerial level in a distribution base storage or similar storage facility
- . Supervisory experience or evidence of leadership skills
- . Desire to incorporate market-based management practices into current operations

- . Evidence of post-secondary education at the university or vocational-technical level
- . Knowledge of spoken and written English
- . Hold valid passport

EXPENSES COVERED

Applicants who are selected to participate in the program will receive:

- . International airfare from Moscow or Vladivostok to the United States
- . Hotel accommodations and meal allowance while in the United States
- . Transportation for field tours that are scheduled during the short course
- . Instructional materials

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

Applicants who are selected as participants will be required to:

- . Have or obtain a valid passport prior to travel
- . Undergo a medical examination before obtaining a visa to the U.S.
- . Travel from their city of residence to the nearest selected international gateway city (Moscow, Vladivostok, Khabarusk)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please give your opinions for the following questions - use the back side of the sheet if you need more space.

1. What is the fundamental purpose for your organization?
2. What are the top three goals of your organization?
3. What are the top three strengths of your organization?
4. What are the top three weaknesses of your organization?
5. What do you see as the three biggest opportunities for your organization?

6. What do you see as the three biggest threats for your organization?
7. What are the most important changes affecting your industry?
8. What is your organization doing to deal with the changes?
9. What are you personally doing to deal with the changes?
10. How do you keep abreast of the changes affecting your industry?

11. Who are your customers?
12. Briefly, what are the primary laws and regulations which influence the management of your organization?
13. Briefly, what interstate commerce regulations affect your industry?
14. What are the environmental challenges (pollution, etc.) facing your organization?
15. Percentage of transactions on a barter system? _____
Percentage of transactions on a cash & carry system? _____
Percentage of sales or purchases using credit? _____
- If credit is used, please describe the typical terms.
16. What percentage of your employees are unionized? _____

Thank you. You should hear back from us soon.

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