



President of Ukraine participated in the opening of the 17th International Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition Fair Agro-2005

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In his speech, the Head of State convincingly opined that today's agricultural-industrial sector in Ukraine was "showing much enthusiasm". Victor Yushchenko also noted that in recent years citizens of Ukraine have been witnessing the way this agricultural exhibition was "developing its muscles". Commenting on this year's event, the President stressed it "really became" international, as 19 countries take part in the fair. According to the Ukrainian leader, this year there was a period of the heated fights for exposition place among the potential participants.

Victor Yushchenko is confident the nation is changing its attitude to the village every day. The President thanked all organizers of this year's exhibition, noting they pay a part of

the debts back to the village – those colossal debts which Ukrainian authorities have accumulated in recent years.

Mr. Yushchenko assured everyone the "attention to the village and its problems will be one of the fundamentals of Ukrainian policy". "Next year will be proclaimed the Village Year in Ukraine, and each minister and each oblast head will immediately respond to the needs of the village", he emphasized.

According to the Head of State, the government is now searching for various means to support the village, the most important of them being the so-called state order for specialists who will work in the village after their graduation. "We will also speak of the special stipends. We will make every minister – from the Education Minister or the Minister of Interior to the Minister of Agricultural Policy and the whole Cabinet elaborate a special program and personally contribute to the development of the village in 2006", said Mr. Yushchenko.

The Head of State promised there would be no agricultural policy the former regime executed. "We will do our best to make the Ukrainian village stand from its knees", he stressed, adding these were not ephemeral proclamations, as the loss of the village would mean the loss of the key economic sector. "You will not be forgotten and abandoned from now on, said the President of Ukraine, addressing the participants and guests of the exhibition. The State and the government are with you – together we are many, we cannot be defeated".

After making his statement, the Head of State walked around the exhibition, having noted the great assortment of agricultural produce and equipment, particularly that used for beekeeping.

This year, more than 2000 participants from Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Slovenia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Holland, Great Britain, France, India, China, the USA, Israel, and Iran are taking part in the exhibition fair Agro-2005. The best samples of agricultural produce, processed goods, productive cattle and agricultural technologies and equipment are being displayed.