

Canada-USSR agriculture agreement extended

Agriculture Minister John Wise has announced a new protocol that extends Canada-USSR agricultural co-operation to include commercial issues.

The Protocol of the Mixed Soviet-Canadian Commission on Co-operation in the Field of Agriculture for 1986-87 was signed during Mr. Wise's visit to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, October 2-9.

Mr. Wise was in the USSR to co-chair with Soviet Agriculture Minister V.K. Mesyats, a meeting of the Mixed Soviet-Canadian Agricultural Commission that was set up in 1981 to co-ordinate agricultural projects between the two countries. The USSR is a priority market for Canada, worth \$2.1 billion in Canadian grain and other agricultural products and technology.

"It was a very fruitful and successful visit," said Mr. Wise. "Our two countries have enjoyed a long-standing and productive relationship on agricultural matters. As a result of our latest discussions, we were able to extend our current co-operation on scientific and technical matters to include commercial issues benefiting both parties," he added.

Wide coverage

The protocol covers plant production and protection, animal and feed production, animal disease control, agriculture and food production equipment, and computer technology applications.

Specific items for further development

include minimum tillage projects for soil conservation, seed exchanges and demonstration of Canadian canola technology, and exchange visits by Canadian and Soviet scientists and specialists during 1986-87.

"I'm very pleased that many projects under the program of co-operation will involve not only Agriculture Canada but will also give opportunities to both provincial ministries of agriculture and Canadian firms," said Mr. Wise. He added that the two countries were very close to signing amendments to a bilateral agreement on bovine semen and embryos which would allow increased movement of high-quality Canadian genetic material to the USSR.

Additional transactions

Several Canadian agribusinessmen and agriculture officials from Alberta accompanied Mr. Wise to Moscow for discussions with Soviet representatives. Commercial transactions that took place included: the signing of a protocol between OSECO INC. of Brampton, Ontario, a seed reproduction firm, and the USSR Ministry of Agriculture for long-term co-operation in the testing of varieties and hybrids of forage crops; the arrival from Semex Canada of the final shipment of a 70 000-unit dairy bull semen contract and commencement of negotiations for further contracts in 1986; and a Soviet commitment to increase their use of Holsteins in milk production for which much of the genetic material would come from Canada.

NATO leaders briefed



Prime Minister Brian Mulroney (right) with United States President Ronald Reagan (left) and Lord Carrington, secretary-general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) at the post-summit meeting in Brussels on November 21. Mr. Mulroney was one of 14 NATO leaders briefed by President Reagan after his talks in Geneva with Mikhail Gorbachev, secretary general of the Communist Party in the USSR.

Countertrade primer

Minister for International Trade James Kelleher recently released a new publication, *Countertrade Primer for Canadian Exporters*, to help Canadian exporters address countertrade demands. Countertrade includes all transactions where a sale to an importer is conditioned upon a reciprocal purchase or undertaking by the exporter.

The primer provides information on the growth of countertrade, ways and means for exporters to better cope with countertrade demands, profiles on 44 countries where countertrade is currently practised and a listing of trading houses that have had experience in handling such transactions.

Mr. Kelleher said that in 1984, approximately \$600-million worth of Canadian exports involved countertrade. The main companies affected were those primarily responsible for Canada's exports of capital equipment and services including transportation; telecommunications, defence and other hi-tech products; resource and energy extraction, processing and generation equipment; agricultural and forestry equipment; and engineering and consulting services.

Agriculture Canada



Agriculture Minister John Wise (right) and Soviet Agriculture Minister V.K. Mesyats sign new protocol extending co-operation to include commercial issues.

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