

the farmers to increase their efforts to retain the snow where it lies. However, none of the farms has been in a hurry to follow the weathermans' recommendations, as they are wondering what will happen if their forecasts are inaccurate and they have a repeat of 1986 when the countryside was awash in spring.

"This is not a new situation", said the head of centre, Mr. L. Cherkasov, "unfortunately there is no system of legal and economic responsibility for use or non-use of meteorological information".

We learned how to make a careful analysis of the volume of losses caused by natural disasters. It turns out that somebody who makes dead sure bears additional costs, whereas somebody who just keeps his fingers crossed, will write off his own sins and miscalculations to some "twist of fate". Neither one side nor the other has any interest in co-operating. The whole problem is that we are a State-run organisation. This is why we see the way out through changing to cost-efficiency, working on a contractual basis, and we have come up with a proposal to allow the Tyumen' Centre, as an experiment, to try out a new form of labour management.

We were interested in following uncontested figures, which are published in many scientific works: for every ruble invested in weather services, the state receives on average four rubles profit, and in certain industries this is much higher. Foreign statistics show a similar situation in other countries. So one is fully justified in asking where these rubles go, certainly not into our forecasting service which is, for the most part, deep in the backwoods and far behind that of other countries? For example, capital investments of 13 billion rubles