



UKRAINE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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Ukraine expands geography of goods export to 85 new markets in 2018



Ukraine in 2018 expanded geography of export of goods and increased the number of companies, which were authorized to export food of animal origin, according to a report of the State Service for Food Safety and Consumers' Protection. According to the report, in 2018, 85 new markets were opened for various types of products – these are the markets of Albania and Ghana (poultry and products made of it), Hong Kong (poultry and products made of it, eggs and egg products), Morocco (poultry and products made of it, egg products), Macedonia (dairy products, feed), UAE (live sheep and goats, young poultry, live poultry, hatching eggs), Tunisia (poultry meat), Montenegro (eggs and egg products), and other countries.

In addition, 306 Ukrainian enterprises, including 126 food producers (poultry, fish, honey, eggs, and dairy products) now are authorized to export its products to the countries of the European Union.

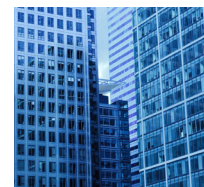
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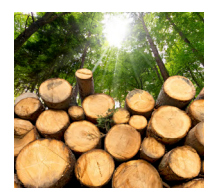
COLLIERS: 406,000 SQUARE METERS OF OFFICE SPACE TO BE COMMISSIONED IN KYIV



DTEK OPENS 12,000 SQUARE METERS EDUCATIONAL PLATFORM AT UNIT.CITY



BIOPHARMA STARTS COMMISSIONING WORK AT NEW PLANT IN BILA TSERKVA



UKRAINE LOGS 22 MCM OF WOOD IN 2018

Capital investments in Ukraine for 2018 increases by 16.4%

Capital investments in Ukraine for 2018 increased by 16.4%, while for 2017 by 22.1%, the State Statistics Service has said. The agency said that during the past year, growth has slowed: in the first quarter they reached 37.4%, then after the first half of the year they dropped to 26.5%, and in the first three quarters – to 19.9%.

In 2017, the growth pace were different: capital investments grew at a steady pace: 21.4% after the first three months, 22.5% – by the middle of the year, 20.7% – by the end of nine months with an acceleration of up to 22.1% in general for the year.

The own funds of enterprises and organizations remained the main source of financing of capital investments, and thanks to which 71.3% of the total volume was used (69.9% a year earlier). The share of banking and other loan financing last year increased from 5.3% to 6.7%, the national budget – from 3.5% to 4%, while local budgets decreased from 9.2% to 8.7%. According to the State Statistics Service, some UAH 526.3 billion of capital investments were used in 2018.



The largest increase in capital investments in 2018 compared with 2017 was recorded in Donetsk (by 54.6%), Vinnytsia (by 37.8%), Cherkasy (by 32.4%), Dnipropetrovsk (by 29.4%) and Kyiv city (by 30.6%).

According to statistics, capital investments for the reporting period decreased in Ivano-Frankivsk (by 15.3%), Mykolaiv (by 12.6%), and Zaporizhia (by 12%) regions.

In terms of industry, the largest increase in capital investment this year was recorded in retail trade, except for trade in motor vehicles and motorcycles (more than 2 times), in the field of art, sports and entertainment (by 85.8%), wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (by 49.1%), computer programming (by 49%), in the field of information and telecommunications (by 41.9%), air transport (by 35.9%), publishing, film and video production, television programs, sound recording, radio and television broadcasting activities (by 34%), wholesale trade, except trade in motor vehicles and motorcycles (by 32.8%), financial and insurance activities (by 30.4%), provision with food and beverages (by 29.8%), advertising and market research (by 27.8%).

Smart Energy Group plans to invest UAH 1 bln in natural gas production

Smart Energy Group plans to invest about UAH 1 billion in increasing natural gas production in 2019, director general of the group of companies Serhiy Hlazunov has said at a press conference in Kyiv.



“Investments are foreseen for drilling new wells – we have plans to drill four new wells this year. We also plan to overhaul both our wells and those of Ukrgazvydobuvannia located in our fields,” he said.

According to him, the company as a whole expects to overhaul five wells this year. Of the four wells planned for drilling, one could be put into operation before the end of 2019.

Commenting on gas production plans, he added that the company expects a 10% growth (about 30 million cubic meters), to 325.2 million cubic meters.

Canadian TIU plans to complete construction of two solar power plants in Ukraine



TIU Canada plans to complete construction of two solar power plants with a total capacity of some 31 MW in Lymansky district of Odesa region this summer, TIU Canada in Ukraine Manager Valentyna Beliakova has said in an interview with Reform.Energy portal.

Commenting on plans to expand the solar power plants portfolio to 100 MW, she said that the company will return to them after the adoption of the law on green auctions.

According to the forecast of Beliakova, the market for the construction of solar power plants in 2020 after the introduction of auctions will definitely begin to fall. "Until the auction system will be adjusted, until investors will understand how to work on it, and until they will allocate quotas... the volume that is planned to be provided to all renewable energy facilities now – and the numbers of 500-700 MW per year are voiced – is small," she said.

According to Beliakova, the stimulation of green energy, of course, should be only until its share reaches a certain level.

"However, Ukraine does not yet follow the schedule for renewable energy facilities outlined in the Energy Strategy," the head of TIU Canada in Ukraine said, recalling that the share of alternative sources of Ukraine's overall generation remains low – less than 2%.

Commenting on the fact of the high tariff for the purchase of electricity from the solar power plants in Ukraine, Beliakova said that in Germany, one of the first to introduce this mechanism of support for renewable energy, the tariff was valid for 10-15 years at a fairly high level. In Ukraine, less time has passed since the establishment of the feed-in tariff, moreover, in 2015-2016, it was reduced.

Ukrainian Economy Ministry continues working on launch of Export-Credit Agency

The Economic Development and Trade Ministry of Ukraine continues working on the creation of a supervisory board of the Export-Credit Agency (ECA) required for the launch of the agency, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economic Development and Trade Stepan Kubiv has said.

"We have carried out some work and consultations on this issue. I think we will hold another meeting if necessary. We will resolve this issue," he said.

Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman reiterated the importance of launching the ECA as soon as possible. At the same time, he added that the delay was due to the fact that the government is launching such a project for the first time.

In addition, Groysman said that the agency will work not so much with its own resources as with tools for attracting resources. "It is necessary to fill it not with a financial resource, but with tools for access to broad resources, since this is not a question of millions, it is a question of billions, perhaps dozens of billions, to support Ukrainian exports," he said.

Spanish-based Acciona Energia wants to join another solar plant project of UDP Renewables of Vasyl Khmelnytsky



Spanish-based Acciona Energia Global could acquire over 50% in the solar power plant projects Hudzivka-Solar 1 and Hudzivka-Solar 2 of UDP Renewables of Vasyl Khmelnytsky near Izmail in Odesa region. According to the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine, it plans to consider the relevant statement of the Polish company Dymarka Solar Poland Sp. z o.o. controlled by Acciona.



According to UDP Renewables, the capacity of the Hudzivka solar plants being under construction in 2019 is 25.9 MW.

Managing Partner of UDP Renewables Serhiy Yevtushenko told the Interfax-Ukraine agency that UDP Renewables intends to remain in this project after Acciona joins it in order to develop it together. He added that the details of cooperation will be announced later after the successful completion of the transaction. In early January of this year, the State Architectural and Construction Inspectorate reported that it had allowed Hudzivka-Solar 2 LLC to build two solar plants with a capacity of 10 MW each in Izmail.

Ukraine to double wind power capacities in 2019

Up to 300 MW of wind power capacities could be introduced in Ukraine in 2019, which is at least twice more than in 2018, Board Chairman of the Ukrainian Wind Energy Association (UWEA) Andriy Konechenkov has said.

He said that currently wind farms are being built by Wind Parks of Ukraine LLC in Mykolaiv and Donetsk regions (about 50 MW). The DTEK Group in Zaporizhia region is building the first phase of the Prymorska Wind Farm (expected to be completed in the first half of the year), as well as the Orlovka Wind Farm. In Kherson region, Windkraft Ukraine is completing the construction of a 70 MW Overianivka Wind Farm, and the company is starting construction of a 163 MW Myrne Wind Farm, the head of the UWEA said.

According to the National Commission for Energy, Housing and Utilities Services Regulation of Ukraine (NCER), in 2018, 67.7 MW of wind farms were installed. In particular, the statistics of last year included the second stage of the Novotroyitske Wind Farm with a total capacity of 40.15 MW, built in 2017, but which obtained a feed-in tariff as early as 2018.

Some plants built last year were not taken into account by the NCER, since they obtained or will obtain a feed-in tariff this year, the UWEA said. For example, last year in Odesa region (the first project in wind power in this region), Turkey's Guris Holding Co. built the Ovid Wind plant with a capacity of 32.4 MW. Due to the problems associated with obtaining different licenses, the launch is expected by the end of March.

According to the calculations of the association, the total number of projects currently under construction in Ukraine is 893 MW (those that have already received funding and for which contracts have been signed for the supply of wind turbines), including the Syvash Wind Farm project for 250 MW. Most of them will be implemented before the end of 2020, the head of UWEA said.

The further development of wind energy will depend on the final version of the law on green auctions, which is expected to be adopted in March, in particular, from the state-allocated quotas for the construction of renewable energy facilities.

Ukrenergo presents platform for new wholesale power market

National Energy Company Ukrenergo has presented the Market Management System platform for two new segments of the wholesale electricity market (the balancing market and the ancillary service market), which has been functioning in the test mode since December 2018.



“Now we are trying to organize the schedule of our work in such a way as to create minimally sufficient functionality for launching a new market on July 1,” Ukrenergo CEO Vsevolod Kovalchuk said at the presentation.

He recalled that the platform developers intend to suspend work due to slippage in the payment schedule: the Energy and Coal Industry Ministry stopped agreeing on payments after the reassignment of Ukrenergo to the Finance Ministry.

Kovalchuk expressed hope that the problem will be resolved in March. To this end, the Finance Ministry and the Justice Ministry will prepare draft amendments to a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers and the contract of Ukrenergo with a consortium of contractors.

Flow of health tourists from Ukraine to Germany grows by 20% every year



The flow of health tourists from Ukraine to Germany grows by some 15-20% every year, and the sharp growth was seen after the introduction of visa-free regime, Director of DeutschMedic GmbH Anna Weegen (Essen, Germany) has told Interfax-Ukraine. “In 2019, it will be the 21st year, as I organize the arrival of patients from the countries of the former USSR for treatment in Germany. According to my observations and according to the press, the flow from Ukraine is increasing annually by 15-20%. A significant jump occurred after the abolition of the entry visas to the countries of the Schengen legislation of the European Union for holders of Ukrainian biometric passports,” she said.

The cheapening of air links between Ukraine and Germany contributes to the increase in the flow of medical tourists, according to the expert.

For patients from Ukraine, requests for treatment of oncology are currently the most relevant. Neurology is second, outperforming traditionally high-demand cardiac interventions (electrophysiology, stenting, valve replacement, and aortocoronary shunting), orthopedics is in fourth place, including total joint replacement.

Weegen said that currently there are no legislative acts in Germany prescribing medical institutions to report to any authorities on the number of foreign patients. However, those institutions that have not some foreign patients, “but dozens and hundreds, keep their own internal statistics, which is sometimes shared with the press or economic authorities.”

“In Germany there are almost 2,000 hospitals with a total fund of about 500,000 beds, and 20 million inpatients per year. At the same time, there are hospitals where there have never been foreign patients, but in some clinics the proportion of medical tourists can approach 10% of the total number of patients,” she said.

In this case, medical tourists receive not only inpatient, but also outpatient treatment in Germany, using the services of medical practices, which in Germany are more than 75,000. Weegen said that the share of health care in Germany is about 11% of GDP, and the share of medical tourism in health care is less than 0.04% of GDP.

Alstom (France) interested in subway modernization projects in Ukraine

Alstom (France), a manufacturer of rolling stock and infrastructure, is interested in subway modernization projects in Ukraine, Alstom CEO Henri Poupart-Lafarge has told reporters in Kyiv.



“We know that the subway in Ukraine should be modernized. So far we have not conducted any negotiations on this, but in principle this could be a project for cooperation,” he noted.

According to the Alstom CEO, first of all, the company is interested in cooperation with large cities. “First of all, we are interested in Kyiv, because the larger the metro network in the city, the more interesting cooperation with it is. But so far we have not met with the local authorities, only at the government level,” the expert said.

Alstom is one of the world's leaders (along with Siemens and Bombardier) in the production of power equipment and railway transport. The company's revenue in the 2017-2018 fiscal year grew by 8.8%, to EUR7.95 billion.

Kyivstar has 13.2% rise in revenue in 2018

Net revenue of JSC Kyivstar in 2018 totaled UAH 18.719 billion, which is 13.2% more than in 2017. According to a report of the VEON parent company, revenue of the operator from providing mobile communications services grew by 13.6%, to UAH 17.412 billion, and from the provision of fixed-line communication services – by 6.5%, to UAH 1.206 billion. In addition, earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) last year rose by 14.2%, to UAH 10.529 billion, and EBITDA margin – by 0.5 percentage points (p.p.), to 56.2%.

Kyivstar's capital expenditure in 2018 (not including the cost of licenses) increased 18.4%, to UAH 3.1 billion. The number of mobile operator's subscribers in the fourth quarter of 2018 decreased 0.5% compared with the fourth quarter of 2017, to 26.4 million, while the number of fixed-line subscribers increased 11%, to 0.9 million.

In the fourth quarter of 2018, the operator's income increased 16.6%, to UAH 5.009 billion.

Capital investment in the fourth quarter of 2018 amounted to UAH 749 million, which is 40.4% more than in the same period of 2017. According to the operator, mainly the funds were sent to the development of the 4G network, improving the quality of services.

City Capital Group intends to invest \$50 mln in business centers in Kyiv

City Capital Group (CCG, Kyiv) of Israeli businessman Ofer Kerzner, managing the Platforma art factory in Kyiv, plans to invest more than \$50 million in opening new offices in the capital in four years. “The office real estate market is coming to life. All experts predict an increase in the demand in this segment. IT companies are declaring a shortage of quality space. We respond quickly to the increasing interest and are working to become the largest ecosystem of innovative office spaces in Ukraine ... During the next four years, the company will use at least \$50 million for investment,” Maria Kazantseva, a member of the board of directors of City Capital Group, said in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine.

According to her, all new CCG projects will be a revitalization of old industrial facilities. All the new office formats of the company (the Voronin factory, the Innovation Park platform and the project in Skovorody Street in Podil) will be included in the umbrella brand Platforma.

Colliers: 406,000 square meters of office space to be commissioned in Kyiv



After the renewed interest of developers in the implementation of office projects in Kyiv, the volume of office space to be commissioned in 2020-2021 is 406,000 square meters, Ihor Zabolotsky, an expert of Colliers International (Ukraine) in the field of commercial real estate, has said.



"Developers have become very active. The volume of new supply for 2020–2021 will be about 400,000 square meters. There is, of course, a certain discount that some facilities will not be put into operation on time. But in general, we see a huge amount of new projects," the expert said.

He explained this situation has arisen due to a very low rate of commissioning new projects in the last five years, as a result of which the vacancy in the market in 2018 fell to 6.5% and still continues declining.

"In 2019-2020, the vacancy will continue falling, i.e. we will be in the lessor's market. Many corporate tenants have already experienced this in during negotiations both with the current lessors and during the move. Accordingly, rental rates will increase," he said. He noted that until 2014 the annual supply in the Kyiv office market was 130,000-150,000 square meters, then decreased by three times.

U.S. outdoor brand The North Face and eight other stores to open in River Mall

Intertop Ukraine LLC (Kyiv), founded by MTI Holding, plans to open Ukraine's first mono-brand store of the U.S. outdoor brand The North Face and eight more stores in the River Shopping trade and entertainment center with a total area of 140,000 square meters being built in Darnytsky district in Kyiv. The press service of River Mall told the Interfax-Ukraine news agency that the total area of Intertop Ukraine stores in the facility will be 1,300 square meters.



"Intertop Ukraine opens the first mono-brand store of the legendary U.S. brand The North Face and eight more stores in the River Mall center. Among them are such well-known international brands as Armani Exchange, Napapijri, Marc O'Polo, Ecco, Skechers, Geox, Timberland, as well as the Intertop store for the whole family," the report says.

The North Face store will become the first mono-brand store in the Intertop Ukraine portfolio in Ukraine. It will present male and female clothes, as well as accessories.

"As of the end of January 2019, the design of the stores is at the completion stage. In the near future, the company is ready to start repair and construction work. The opening of the stores is scheduled simultaneously with the official opening of the River Mall center in the spring of this year," the press service said.

DTEK opens 12,000 square meters educational platform at UNIT.City

DTEK Energy Holding has announced the start of transformation of its corporate university into an innovative educational business platform, Academy DTEK, and on February 21 presented a training platform in UNIT.City, where it occupied two floors of a new six-storey campus, the total rental area of which is 12,000 square meters.



“Academy DTEK is becoming an innovative educational business platform open to business representatives, the public sector, the public, and international partners,” Oleksandr Kucherenko, the Director for Sustainable Development at DTEK, said at a press conference.

He clarified that the corporate university was created nine years ago, and in 2014 began entering foreign markets. According to him, it currently works with 17 government organizations, including the National Bank, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry, Ukrposhta, for which 72 training events were held last year.

Kucherenko noted that in the new quality Academy DTEK will introduce in Ukraine international HR practices together with its partners: the business schools and organizations INSEAD, IE Business School, Thunderbird, HRCI, Kyiv-Mohyla Business School.

Mastercard has 26 million payment cards in Ukraine, key rival Visa only 10.5 mln



The number of active cards in the Mastercard payment system in Ukraine in the fourth quarter of 2019 grew by 4.3%, to 25.97 million, while its key rival – Visa – had 6.9% less cards, to 10.52 million, according to the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU). According to the report, in October-December 2018, the number of active payment cards in Ukraine increased 0.8%, to 36.95 million, as a result, the share of Mastercard of the Ukrainian market increased from 67.9% to 70.3%, while the share of Visa decreased from 30.8% to 28.5%.

In the fourth quarter of last year, the Prostir national payment system managed to increase the number of active cards by 4.9%, to 459,000 (with a decrease in its cards in circulation by 6.6%, to 586,000). However, its share increased very slightly – from 1.19% to 1.24%, which is lower than the figure as of the middle of 2018 being 1.26%.

The number of cards of all other payment systems at the beginning of 2019 in Ukraine was extremely small – only 4,000 (out of 27,000 cards in circulation). In the last quarter of last year, it halved.

The National Bank also reported that in general, the number of payment cards in circulation in Ukraine in October-December last year decreased by 2%, to 59.39 million. Their growth was recorded only for Mastercard – by 1.7%, to 41.23 million cards, while Visa recorded a drop of 9.7%, to 17.55 million cards.

The NBU said that every ninth active payment card at the beginning of this year was contactless – 4 million cards, which is 44.3% more than at the beginning of 2018.

Biopharma starts commissioning work at new plant in Bila Tserkva



Biopharma, a manufacturer of products from human donor plasma, has begun commissioning work at a new fractionator plant, which is being built in Bila Tserkva (Kyiv region).

"Biopharma has started commissioning work at the new plant," Kostiantyn Yefymenko, the head of the board of directors of the Biopharma group of companies, said on his Facebook page.

According to him, at present, the plant has already launched warehouses for raw materials and finished products, while systems for water supply, chilled water, water for injection, steam, diethylene glycol, compressed air, purified air, neutralization of waste water are being tested.

As reported, investment in the construction of a new plant fractionator of blood plasma amounted to about \$50 million. The plant will have three lines for the production of albumin, immunoglobulin, and factor VIII. Biopharma immunobiological pharmaceutical company is among the ten largest Ukrainian manufacturers of drugs. It produces more than 20 immunobiological preparations from donated blood plasma, preparations obtained by recombinant DNA technology and probiotics.

Ukraine's Agricultural Policy and Food Ministry revises forecast for exports of grain to 49 mln tonnes



Ukraine's Agricultural Policy and Food Ministry has revised upwards its forecast for exports of grain from Ukraine for 2018/19 agricultural year (July-June) from 47.2 million tonnes to 49 million tonnes, the press service of the ministry has reported. "This agricultural year we expect that grain exports from Ukraine would reach 49 million tonnes," Deputy Minister Olha Kovaleva said.

As reported, Ukraine since the beginning of the 2018/2019 agri-year as of February 20, 2019 had exported 31.31 million tonnes of grain and leguminous plants, which is 21.5% more than on the same date of the previous agri-year. On the specified date, 164,000 tonnes of flour had been also exported.

The gross grain harvest in Ukraine in 2018 amounted to about 70.1 million tonnes compared to 62 million tonnes in 2017.

Zaporizhia Automobile Plant starts producing pilot batch of South Korean tractors



Zaporizhia Automobile Plant (ZAZ), part of the UkrAVTO Corporation, has started producing a pilot batch of LS Mtron tractors to study the process of production and demand, Spokesman of the Corporation Dmytro Skliarenko has said. "The creation of a joint venture with the manufacturer is not being discussed yet," he told Interfax-Ukraine.

The corporation does not disclose other details of the project. As reported, in autumn 2017, the UkrAVTO Corporation, the leading player on the Ukrainian automobile market, was studying consumer demand on tractors of South Korea's LS, which has not yet been presented in Ukraine. UkrAVTO presented these tractors at the AGROEXPO 2017 exhibition held in Kropyvnytsky.

Later the distribution agreement with LS company was signed. LS is the exclusive supplier of tractors under the governmental agriculture development program in South Korea.

According to experts, according to their characteristics, LS are direct competitors of the most popular MTZ Belarus tractors in Ukraine. UkrAVTO intends to stake in Ukraine on two models of LS tractors: V-series with a capacity of 70-80 hp and H-series with a capacity of 110-140 hp. The LS tractors' price starts from \$38,000, and the price of the most powerful is \$70,000.

New grain processing plant is launched in Cherkasy region

Mover Mill LLC has launched a plant for processing grain in the village of Kryvi Kolina, Cherkasy region. According to the press service of Cherkasy Regional State Administration, the capacity of the plant is 350 tons of flour per day, it also produces semolina and bran. The products are sold under the Pershy Mlyn brand.

The cost of investments in the plant is about UAH 100 million.

According to Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Viktor Sheremeta, this company is currently one of the largest potential exporters of flour. According to data from the state register of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs, Mover Mill LLC was registered in 2016. Its owner is Volodymyr Movchan.

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Epicenter wants to invest EUR 5 mln in grain trucks purchasing

The Epicenter K Group, developing the agricultural business, plans to invest around EUR 5 million in purchase of 100 grain trucks. According to the press service of the company, Epicenter will purchase the first 10 grain trucks by the end of February. The approximate cost of one truck is EUR 45,000.

"We are thinking about the alternative to the railway. This season we are exporting grain by grain trucks from the Hnivan and Nemyriv silos (Vinnytsia region). The difference in corn trucking from Nemyriv to the port compared to the railway is \$ 2 per tonne, and this is a good bargaining price for corn. In addition, it gives us efficiency in work and ensures the implementation of contracts," Deputy Head for Agriculture of the Silo Division of the Epicenter K Svitlana Nykytiuk said.

At the same time, according to her, the company plans to complete the construction of railway lines to silos in Vapniarka and Vendychany (Vinnytsia region). "At other facilities, there is a railway connection, except for our silo in Kyiv region. The automobile logistics is more interesting there than the railway one," Nykytiuk said.

US Corteva Agriscience has 21% of Ukrainian corn seed market and 16% of sunflower market

Corteva Agriscience, the agricultural division of DowDuPont (the United States), a large global seed producer, occupied 21% of the Ukrainian corn seed market and 16% of the sunflower seed market (the seeds of the two brands – Pioneer and Brevant).

"According to the calculations of the Kleffmann Group, which are based on a survey of farmers in 2018, our market share of the combined portfolio of Corteva Agriscience (the seeds of two brands: Pioneer and Brevant) for corn is 21%, and for sunflower is 16%. The crop protection agents market's share is 7%. However, based on these data, one should take into account the error in the calculations, which can reach almost 3 percentage points," Head of business in Eastern Europe Corteva Agriscience Serhiy Kharin said.

According to him, in the plans for the next season is to get at least 1% growth in the seed market share for each of the crops.

Corteva Agriscience includes Pioneer Nasinnia Ukraine LLC, a commercial office located in Kyiv (it provides sales of Pioneer brand seeds) and Stasi Nasinnia LLC, a seed production plant that has been operating since 2013. Over five years, investments in the production complex amounted to more than \$56 million. The plant reached its full capacity in 2017: for the production of corn seeds – 500,000 seeds per year, for the production of sunflower seeds – 250,000 seeds per year.

Area under agricultural crops in Ukraine in 2019 will remain at 2018 level

The areas sown with agricultural crops in all categories of farms of Ukraine for the 2019 harvest will be within 27.7 million hectares, or at the 2018 level.

According to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, grain crops this year are to be sown on an area of 14.8 million hectares (54% in the structure of the areas), which corresponds to the standards for the best ratio of crops in crop rotation.

As reported, with reference to the ministry, Ukraine increased the area under winter crops in 2018 by 160,000 hectares, to 8.2 million hectares.

The gross grain harvest in Ukraine in 2018 amounted to about 70.1 million tonnes compared to 62 million tonnes in 2017.

Ukraine logs 22 mcm of wood in 2018

Ukraine in 2018 logged around 22 million cubic meters (mcm) of wood, Deputy Head of the State Agency of Ukraine for Forest Resources Volodymyr Bondar said, presenting a report of the authority in Kyiv on Friday. According to him, the enterprises of the agency logged 16.5 mcm of wood (a rise of 3.7% compared with 2017), and about 5-6 mcm of timber was logged by other forest users.

The state forest agency sold 13.7 mcm of round wood to the domestic market (a rise of 9%) for the amount of UAH 12.8 billion, another 2.2 mcm of wood was sent to processing enterprises. Some 527,000 cubic meters of wood were sold to foreign markets (a fall of 40%) for the amount of UAH 0.4 billion. The average price of a cubic meter of wood sold is UAH 946.

According to Bondar, illegal logging in 2018 in the forests managed by the agency amounted to 17,700 cubic meters, and the loss from illegal logging was UAH 117 million. The stock of timber in the Ukrainian forests is estimated at 2.1 billion cubic meters, the annual increase is about 35 mcm of wood. The average annual volume of logging is about 22 mcm.

According to the deputy head of the agency, the agency intends to focus on forest inventory and environmental protection measures in 2019. "We hope this year to improve the work on forest reproduction through the creation of the forest fund in the national budget. In particular, we hope to increase the rate and volume of forest reproduction in the South and East," Bondar said.

According to the agency, the area of forest reserves of the agency's forest structure is 16.6%.

According to the national budget for 2019, UAH 614.7 million was announced for the State Agency of Ukraine for Forest Resources, of which UAH 462 million is for forestry and hunting, protection of forests in the forest fund. As reported, the State Agency of Ukraine for Forest Resources plans to launch a pilot project of an electronic register of logging tickets in March.

The total area of forest areas in Ukraine is almost 10.4 million hectares, the forest cover of Ukraine is 15.9%. Some 7.6 million hectares of forests (73% of the forest fund of Ukraine) are subordinate to the State Agency of Ukraine for Forest Resources.

Kyiv International Economic Forum – KIEF – is a new major international conference focused on the future of economic development. Held annually in Kyiv, it is not just an event about or for Ukraine, but an innovative forum that covers the global agenda. KIEF has been envisioned to become a leading discussion platform at an intersection of civilizations based in the capital of the biggest country in Europe.

This year Kyiv International Economic Forum was supported by the Prime Minister, the next KIEF will be organized on October, 2019

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