Belgium and FAO join efforts to support Ukrainian farmers with seeds for spring sowing campaign

Agriculture is a vital source of livelihoods for 13 million rural people in Ukraine, with smallholder producers contributing over 50 percent of agricultural output. As the war continues, rural families urgently require livelihoods assistance to strengthen their household production amid economic strain and uncertainty. Without targeted livelihoods assistance, there is a growing risk of sustained dependence on food aid and negative coping strategies.

Against this background, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) aims to provide lifesaving assistance to war-affected rural communities to enable them to secure spring and winter harvests and meet their basic needs. In support of FAO’s emergency response, through SFERA, the Government of Belgium contributed USD 900,000 to support smallholder families whose productive capacity has been eroded by the war. The project supported over 700 farmers in Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Kharkivska and Sumska oblasts through the distribution of soybean seeds to enable them to protect their livelihoods and maintain food production.

With this contribution, Belgium joined the governments of Japan and Norway in enabling FAO to reach 2,900 farmers with 3,800 tonnes of cereal seeds (spring wheat, sunflower and soybean), cultivated across 28,500 hectares.

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