REHABILITATION OF CHERNOBYL AFFECTED TERRITORIES (BYE/9/006) J3 New

MODEL PROJECT

CORE FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Group Activity	Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Group Training	Sub-Contracts	Misc. Comp.	TOTAL
	m/d	US $	US $	US $	m/d	US $	m/d	US $	US $	US $	US $	US $
1999	3/15	51,450	0	50,000	0/0	0	0/0	0	5,000	0	0	106,450
2000	3/0	46,350	0	24,550	2/0	7,200	1/0	11,400	0	30,000	0	119,500
2001	1/0	16,200	0	50,000	2/0	7,500	0/0	0	0	20,000	0	93,700
2002	1/0	16,350	0	50,000	2/0	7,800	0/0	0	0	0	0	74,750

FOOTNOTE a/ FINANCING

YEAR	Experts		Group Activity	Equipment	Fellowships		Scientific Visits		Group Training	Sub-Contracts	Misc. Comp.	TOTAL
	m/d	US $	US $	US $	m/d	US $	m/d	US $	US $	US $	US $	US $
1999	6/0	92,700	0	25,000	3/0	10,350	0/0	0	0	40,000	0	168,050
2000	6/0	97,200	0	25,000	3/0	10,800	0/0	0	0	25,000	0	158,000

First Year Approved: 1999

OBJECTIVES: To minimise the impact of the Chernobyl accident consequences and to create favourable conditions for the sustainable development of the affected region.

BACKGROUND: The Chernobyl accident caused the radioactive contamination of large tracts of land. The Belarus authorities reportedly spend 15% of the GDP per annum to protect the population, which includes the resettlement of large numbers of people from the affected territories. These measures, in turn, have led to major socio-economic problems in the region. Inhabitants of more than 120 settlements located in the contaminated territories of Belarus receive doses exceeding 3 mSv/year. The highest doses are frequently dominated by external exposure. Studies demonstrate that contamination on land (roads, garden, parks) adjacent to buildings, in particular, as well as on buildings themselves, makes a significant contribution to the doses received. It has been shown that management of the contamination on these surfaces can lead to cost effective dose reduction even 12 years after the accident. About 20% of the forests in Belarus were contaminated by radionuclides following the Chernobyl accident. This contamination is of concern in harvesting forests, because of potential radiation exposure to workers and to the public consuming forest products. Part of the territory of Belarus, known as the Polesye reservation, is particularly contaminated and requires special consideration. Over 18,000 km^2 of agricultural land and the food products derived therefrom were deemed to require some form of contamination monitoring. The current system of control is broad and a number of organizations are involved in the monitoring. An area of concern is the QA of this monitoring and its effectiveness.

PROJECT PLAN: This project is aimed at assisting Belarus to achieve the maximum benefits in protection by optimizing the use of national and international resources in three main areas: (1) field demonstration (in Svetilovichi) of possibilities for decontamination of settlements; which will involve a site visit by experts, development of plans, procedures and training materials in Russian; procurement of some simple tools; training of trainers in the methods and procedures; the field trial itself; and evaluation and revision of the procedures; (2) management of forests and excluded areas, which will involve an external QA audit of all procedures and lead to the marketing of forest products; an audit of the practices of the reservation and forest management; identification of missing items in the QA process, and of sources of assistance to improve the QA procedures; assistance in developing appropriate procedures, and procurement of necessary equipment; and (3) foodstuff monitoring, which will include an external QA audit of monitoring procedures; review of the effectiveness of the radiation control system; recommendation of means to improve the system; and assistance in the installation of any equipment deemed necessary. The results of activities in all project areas will be presented to high level decision makers.

NATIONAL COMMITMENT: Commitment of some 15 senior staff from several relevant authorities (including the Ministry of Emergencies, the Ministry of Forests, the Polesye Management, the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Committee on Hydrometeorology); medical services facilities at Polesye; Svetilovichi village for the demonstration decontamination; existing radiation monitoring network.

AGENCY INPUT: Expert services to provide QA audits, development of procedures, collaboration on field trials, training, presentation of results to decision makers; equipment: simple tools for the demonstration decontamination, crucial dosimetric and monitoring equipment as identified by the audits; fellowship training in the forestry and foodstuff industries.

PROJECT IMPACT: One of the main outputs of the project will be a set of detailed written procedures for carrying out decontamination actions that have been tested and modified in a real village. These procedures can then be generically applied in many contaminated settlements at a relatively low cost. The economic impact could be very substantial, allowing people to return to their normal lifestyles, communities and businesses. The psycho-social impact could also be positive. Assuring the safety of forestry products will be important for the long term development of the forestry industry, potentially an important economic sector. Moreover, the audits will identify and enable the reduction of wasted resources in monitoring foodstuffs for consumption, as well as identifying areas for further investment.