

Russian Agro-Holdings™

Features

- Joint program with the individual agro-holding
- Focus on local conditions
- Realistic expectations and targets
- Modular structure and step-by-step approach
- Concrete and measurable results
- Training on the job and education program

Content

- Productivity scan of the agro-holding
- Overall improvement plan
- Tailored on-farm projects
- Training and education program

Results

- Better grip on farm processes, knowing what is going on
- Operational excellence
- Improved economic profitability
- Training of employees of the agro-holding
- Success story for others to see



Wageningen UR your partner for the future



Prof. Ruud Huirne,
Program Director

Wageningen UR can help you to achieve your goals and optimize the way your farm is operated. Wageningen UR is Europe's leading agricultural knowledge centre. Working with us gives you access to an unrivalled wealth of experience, research, education and expertise in the domains of

- food and food production
- the living environment
- lifestyle and livelihood

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Improvement Program for Russian Agro-Holdings™

Choose for Change



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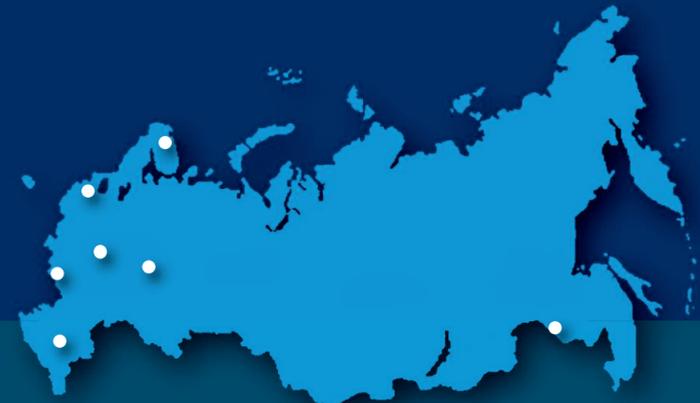
Our mission: to explore the potential of nature to improve the quality of life



Improvement Program for Russian Agro-Holdings™

Russian agro-holdings have developed and grown rapidly during the last decade. Big investments have been made in new technology, buildings, equipment, genetics and processing. The challenge now is to increase productivity by making optimal use of the new technology. This can be achieved by integrating knowledge and understanding of the technical, economic and management aspects of running a large agricultural enterprise.

Wageningen UR has developed a practical and effective productivity Improvement Program for Russian Agro-Holdings.™



Starting up

Good preparation takes time, but yields better results in the long run. We start with an introduction to the productivity improvement program on the agro-holding: how does it work, what needs to be done, who is involved and when can results be expected? Then teams are formed from the agro-holding and from Wageningen UR. These teams get to know each other, in Russia and in the Netherlands, and jointly establish the improvement program.



Progress and Results

During the following years, the productivity improvement program really gets underway. It becomes increasingly dynamic as we measure progress and results, and fine-tune the various projects accordingly. To achieve the full results and desired productivity improvement at the agro-holding level usually takes between 3 and 5 years. If objectives are met more quickly, our program finishes earlier.



Productivity scan

First a comprehensive analysis of the current situation on the agro-holding is made. This is called the 'productivity scan'. Using a proven and successful method, the strengths and weaknesses in productivity are identified. Managers and workers are actively involved, as we make site visits and interview key employees. The data analysis and the 'Wageningen productivity diagram' are presented in a short report, and discussed for feedback from managers and workers.

Working out the projects

The specific projects that have been identified are worked out individually, to include:

- Detailed project plan for activities on the agro-holding, including time planning
- Personnel involved, from the agro-holding and from Wageningen UR
- Budget required
- Expected results

Adjustments

After the first year, progress is checked and the improvement plan is adjusted accordingly. For instance, there may have been changes in the environment of the agro-holding that require adjustments in the improvement plan.

- Examples are:
- prices of inputs or outputs
 - extreme weather conditions
 - government regulations

Improvement plan

From the report, we draw up the overall improvement plan. This includes:

- List of concrete problems and opportunities that require action
- Knowledge gaps and training needs that should be addressed
- Prioritization of required projects

Training needs

Improving productivity requires different kinds of training depending on the nature of the projects. Wageningen UR offers courses for on-farm training of workers, and also applied courses for middle management and strategy courses for top management. For each course a time planning and budget is worked out, and teaching materials are developed. The outcome will be more theoretical and practical knowledge for the agro-holding, which will impact its overall economic and technical results.

Projects

Several projects are started in line with the agreed (adjusted) improvement plan. The projects are selected in close cooperation with the management of the agro-holding.

- Examples of possible activities:
- high-value crop rotation and feed optimization
 - animal management and post-natal mortality
 - disease and pest control
 - young stock management
 - irrigation and water supply
 - harvest and handling
 - soil tillage
 - weed control

Training activities

The specific on-farm training activities are continued, and sometimes new courses are identified and started. All courses are worked out in accordance with the (adjusted) improvement plan, and agreed upon with the agro-holding management.

- Examples of courses for workers and middle management:
- maintenance of equipment
 - economics and risk management
 - human resource management
 - hygiene and food safety
 - animal health and vaccination
 - productivity and quality management
 - energy use, biomass and re-use of waste

