BELARUS SUBMITS PILOT PROJECT TO GREEN CLIMATE FUND SOCIETY

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Belarus has submitted its pilot fund proposal to the Green Climate Fund, Belarusian First Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Iya Malkina told BelTA after the press conference held on 16 December to discuss the results of the UN climate conference in Paris.

In her words, the Belarusian delegation met with representatives of the Green Climate Fund at the sidelines of the Paris Climate Conference. "We had only one pilot project which we presented to the fund during our meeting. It is a joint project of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the State Committee for Standardization of Belarus regarding the verification of our commitments to the Minamata Convention on Mercury," said the First Deputy Minister.

The major goal of the project is to count the number of mercury-containing lamps in the country. "If we join the Minamata Convention on Mercury, all of them should be replaced. The State Committee for Standardization is interested in implementing new technology in the manufacturing sector, setting certain technical standards for such types of lamps. We, in turn, are interested in counting the number of such lamps in the country and withdraw them from circulation. This project is very cost-intensive," Iya Malkina stressed.

"We have already developed the concept for the project and submitted the relevant application to the Green Climate Fund," she added.

The Paris Agreement financial mechanisms are the Global Environmental Facility, the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund. "For us it is of principal importance to start the negotiations with the Green Climate Fund. We have worked with the Global Environmental Facility for many fruitful years. We have a big number of successful projects, including a big project with the Forestry Ministry which has been recently launched. We have not cooperated with the Green Climate Fund yet and its mechanisms have not been available for us in full. Representatives of the fund met with Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Belarus Andrei Kovkhuto in Paris and promised to consider our application on a more active attraction of the fund's resources for the implementation of international projects in Belarus," said Iya Malkina.

The Paris Agreement was signed on 12 December 2015. In order to come into force, the agreement needs to be ratified by the member states. The document requires any country that ratifies it to commit to a reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions in the coming century, with the goal of peaking global greenhouse gas emissions "as soon as possible" and continuing the reductions as the century progresses. The national goals should be ready by 2022. The agreement includes a global stocktaking in 2023 to assess the collective progress towards the goals of the agreement. The stocktake will be done every five years. Countries will aim to keep global temperatures from rising more than 2°C by 2100, with an ideal target of keeping temperature rise below 1.5°C.
INITIATIVES PAVE THE WAY

International assistance helps Belarus to face challenges and explore new opportunities in the face of climate change.

Is there a chance for Belarus to join the Europe’s list ofmelon exporters in the near future? This question started to take shape when unusually hot summer of 2010 a number of agricultural households in Belarus managed to grow an impressive harvest of watermelons and melons. The public attention and interest was created in summer 2014 when the President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko demonstrated perfect melons and watermelons grown in his garden in the Minsk region and suggested that the southern regions of Belarus should turn attention to growing melons and other cucurbits or vine crops for export.

Conventions present, Belarusians with new opportunities, as well as brought the issue of climate change high on the current government agenda. Since 1989, the country is witnessing an unparalleled warming, with a sharp increase in winter temperature, although a stratosphere pressure difference between 1989 and 2012 1.1°C higher than the climate norm (5.8°C yearly average). According to researchers, Belarus experienced a shift in agro-climatic zones. As the result, the production line of local agricultural sector could be extended with new varieties of vegetables and fruits, including melons.

However, warm climate brings new challenges to agriculture. It is expected that climate change will affect Belarus primarily in terms of increased extreme events, such as floods and droughts, making agriculture, forestry, industry, environment housework of the most vulnerable sectors. Taking into consideration the current situation and 40 percent of GDP, there is a need for the country to strengthen its climate change policy to address the gradually increasing complexity of the climate challenges and enhance the potential positive effect.

Currently Belarus has no overarching adaptation strategy, and the regional level is still under development. Different adaptation mechanisms are scattered across various legal documents and programmes: the National Programme for the Development of Flood Protection in Belarus 2011-2015, and the National Programme on Climate Change Mitigation Measures for 2013-2020. To cope with new concepts and provisions for post-2015 agenda, the country submitted its new climate action plan to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in September 2015. The plan comes in advance of a new universal climate change agreement, which the participating parties aim to reach at the UN climate conference in Paris, in December this year. In case of success, the agreement will come into effect in 2020, empowering all countries to act to prevent average global temperature rises above 3 degrees Celsius and to reap the many opportunities that arise from a necessary global transformation to clean and sustainable development.

However, adaptation to climate change alone is not enough. The full-scale solution also requires disaster risk and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, increase of energy efficiency and a shift to sustainable renewable energy in industrial and residential sectors.

International development assistance empowers the country with further capacity building. The projects implemented under national low-carbon development strategies consist with national priorities and emission reduction efforts of Belarus. The UNDP implemented its second national adaptation programme in 2014 and the third under development. The projects focus on national adaptation, as well as facilitates green investments, minimising financial burden on public funds.

Belarus’ natural mires are important stores of carbon. Between 1960 and 1980 around 1.5 million ha of peatlands were drained for agriculture, forestry and peat mining. The carbon, which was locked for thousands of years started to leak into the atmosphere as a knock-on effect on carbon balance in the atmosphere.

The UNDP Belarus, GEF, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB, the UK), Belarusian NGOs support efforts focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable wetlands management, flood protection, green economy approaches in Belarus.

The UN Express Belarus for SDG initiative that trained 6000 Belarusians in late October 2015 featured the First Climate Change Hearings that took place on 29 October in the City of Vitebsk. The event, organised by UNDP in Belarus in a partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Republic of Belarus and the Vitебsk State University, featured a series of presentations and open discussions from the key UNDP-implemented projects that tackle various aspects of climate change.

For a country that is vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods and droughts, making agri-cultural crops for export.

Belarusian melons and cucurbits are now being produced in the regions, designed a flood risk map and provided human and institutional capacity strengthening in deploying and enhancing a regional flood early warning system.

Climate change is expected to affect water resources, food production, and economy in the Pripyat River, Neman and River Basin. Taking into account possible climate change impacts, the project strengthen Belarus’ capacity in managing flood and related disasters in the regions, designed a flood risk map and provided human and institutional capacity strengthening in deploying and enhancing a regional flood early warning system.

The housing sector consumes more than 16 percent of the total electricity consumption and about 30 percent of final energy consumption and is responsible for about one-third of total greenhouse gas emissions (one of the key contributors to a human induced global warming) in Belarus.

The UNDP-GEF project ‘Improving Energy Efficiency in Residential Buildings’ in the Republic of Belarus is looking at high-tech solutions to turn residential houses from using fossil fuels to facilitate a shift to renewable energy sources during their operational phase. The project also demonstrates how the potential for greenhouse gas emission reductions in buildings can be realised in practice. The initiative promotes a new model of green residential housing featuring energy efficiency of construction and appliances, as well as energy generating technologies, such as solar water heating, solar photo-voltaic system and heat pumps.

The model, suggested by the project, envisages a fourfold reduction of thermal energy consumption that will result in GHG emission reduction of up to 10 thousand tons of CO2 per building in the course of its operation.

Belarus’ natural mires are important stores of carbon. Between 1960 and 1980 around 1.5 million ha of peatlands were drained for agriculture, forestry and peat mining. The carbon, which was locked for thousands of years started to leak into the atmosphere as a knock-on effect on carbon balance in the atmosphere.

Belarus’ natural mires are important stores of carbon. Between 1960 and 1980 around 1.5 million ha of peatlands were drained for agriculture, forestry and peat mining. The carbon, which was locked for thousands of years started to leak into the atmosphere as a knock-on effect on carbon balance in the atmosphere.

Belarus’ natural mires are important stores of carbon. Between 1960 and 1980 around 1.5 million ha of peatlands were drained for agriculture, forestry and peat mining. The carbon, which was locked for thousands of years started to leak into the atmosphere as a knock-on effect on carbon balance in the atmosphere.

Belarus’ natural mires are important stores of carbon. Between 1960 and 1980 around 1.5 million ha of peatlands were drained for agriculture, forestry and peat mining. The carbon, which was locked for thousands of years started to leak into the atmosphere as a knock-on effect on carbon balance in the atmosphere.

Belarus’ natural mires are important stores of carbon. Between 1960 and 1980 around 1.5 million ha of peatlands were drained for agriculture, forestry and peat mining. The carbon, which was locked for thousands of years started to leak into the atmosphere as a knock-on effect on carbon balance in the atmosphere.

Belarus’ natural mires are important stores of carbon. Between 1960 and 1980 around 1.5 million ha of peatlands were drained for agriculture, forestry and peat mining. The carbon, which was locked for thousands of years started to leak into the atmosphere as a knock-on effect on carbon balance in the atmosphere.

Belarus’ natural mires are important stores of carbon. Between 1960 and 1980 around 1.5 million ha of peatlands were drained for agriculture, forestry and peat mining. The carbon, which was locked for thousands of years started to leak into the atmosphere as a knock-on effect on carbon balance in the atmosphere.
**UNDP: ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSES BRING BELARUS CLOSER TO GREEN ECONOMY**

By building energy efficient houses, Belarus makes the first steps towards a sustainable future, Deputy Resident Representative in Belarus Yekaterina Paniklova said at the ceremony to launch the construction of the second energy efficient house in Grodno on 18 December, BelTA has learned.

Yekaterina Paniklova noted that she had been to Grodno several times before. The city was the first stop on her journey of the UN 70 Belarus Express. Foreign guests were greatly impressed with the regional capital.

Yekaterina Paniklova also pointed out that the Paris Climate Change Conference ended a week ago. A Belarusian delegation attended that event. The conference focused on protecting the planet from harmful impacts. The countries that took part in the conference assumed certain obligations to save the planet for future generations. Yekaterina Paniklova believes that the construction of the energy efficient house contributes to the implementation of the decisions of the Paris conference.

For his part, Deputy Chairman of the Grodno Oblast Executive Committee Vladimir Deshko said that a similar energy efficient house was built in Grodno with UNDP’s financial assistance. He believes that the construction of new energy efficient residential complexes will help the city cut its utility expenses. The second energy efficient house is expected to be commissioned in 2017.

The ceremony was attended by delegations of Belarus and Poland that took part in a twintown meeting on 18 December. Attending the event also was UNDP/GEF Project Manager Alexander Grebenkov.

**BELARUSIAN ELECTRIC CARS MARKET ‘UNABLE TO GROW WITHOUT STATE SUPPORT’**

The electric cars market in Belarus will not be able to grow without state support or, to be exact, without the relevant government program that would encourage the use of this means of transportation, BelTA learned from Sergei Kamornikov, Deputy Director General of the Belarusian industrial group Belorusneft.

According to the source, Belorusneft has active plans to set up five recharging stations as part of the proprietary recharging stations network. The company’s experts and social models for using the recharging stations are being worked out. “We’ve encountered a minor setback: the legislation is not ready for this kind of business. Where should we move on now? The question resembles what came first — the chicken or the egg? Do we wait for the emergence of electric cars that would encourage us to build recharging stations first or do we build recharging stations first in order to encourage the emergence of electric cars?” said Sergei Kamornikov.

According to the source, there are stations for recharging electric cars every 100km in the direction from Minsk to Gomel. Belorusneft also intends to take care of the matter along other major roads. “As for the notion of electric motor vehicles in Belarus, I don’t think it is a big figure,” said the Belorusneft Deputy Director General. In his words, measures to support manufacturers and users of electric vehicles are in place in some countries. The measures include the exemption from import duties and the vehicle registration fee. Electric vehicles are also granted free parking services. The drivers do not have to pay road toll, they are free to drive in the bus lane and so on. The effectiveness of these measures is obvious: the number of electric vehicles in the world increases every year.

**ALMOST 50 NEW DAMS BUILT AT YELNYA BOG UNDER UNDP/GEF PROJECT**

Nearly 50 new dams have been built at the upland bog Yelnya in Miory District under the UNDP/GEF Project Peatlands 2. BelTA learnt from director of the state nature protection institution Yelnya Ivan Borok.

The project aimed at restoring the hydrologic regime of the bog and its natural ground cover, as well as preventing the spread of drainage and subsequent losses of fresh water. Since the beginning of the project, the water level has risen slightly. Before the launch of the project, we calculated how much fresh water was contained in the bog system. It turned to be 475 million cubic meters. The higher amount is only 0.1 percent. Yekaterina Paniklova believes that the shortage of fresh water will be of crucial importance by 2030, the current work is of crucial importance, Ivan Borok stressed.

The plans for this year included only the construction of dams under the project. However, thanks to the participation of the Coca Cola Beverages Belorussiya, the implementation of one more project has become possible, which is the construction of dikes for special-purpose vehicles. This work has been launched this week. There are plans to build nearly 2km of dikes.

The landscape reserve Yelnya is Belarus’ biggest and one of the European largest lake and bog systems, and also an ice-age specimen. It is home to rare plants and animal species, massive peat beds. A healthy peatland is known to neutralize great volumes of CO2. Yelnya is a Ramsar wetland (since 2002), a key ornithological (since 2000) and botanical (since 2003) territory of the international importance. In the Belarusian environmental network scheme developed by the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Yelnya reserve is viewed as a promising core of the national network.

**BELARUS, EU PLAN TO IMPLEMENT BIOETYCHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROJECT**

The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) and the European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association (EBTNA) are planning to launch a biotechnology education project, EBTNA President Munis Dundar told reporters at the opening of the 11th European Forum of Young Scientists on 1 December, BelTA has learnt.

The association maintains close cooperation with various academies of sciences all over the world and, first of all, with young scientists. It has a clear mission: to promote the work of our organization and to prepare innovative scientists. For example, we are interested in education projects for students and young scientists, holding biotechnology seminars here,” he stressed. According to the scientist, this initiative is under consideration right now.

Munis Dundar said that the European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association implements similar projects in other countries, including Russia. “The plan is to implement the project in Belarus for the first time. On 1 December he will make a report at the plenary meeting of the 1st EurAsian Forum of Young Scientists.”

The meeting is hosting the 1st EurAsian Forum of Young Scientists from 1 through 4 December. The event has been organized on the initiative of the NASB Council of Young Scientists and supported by all young scientists from the EEU member states. The forum is held once in two years. Partaking in the forum are about 500 people, including 100 foreign guests from Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Turkey, Germany, and other countries. The event aims to gather young scientists from various fields of science, international activity of global importance and applied issues in science. Scientific achievements in different fields, from environmental protection to medicine, will be showcased during the forum. The event is focused on scientific breakthroughs and the economic and social processes that are underway in the context of the potential of the integration. The work of the forum will be divided into three sections, namely Material Science, Life Science, and Social Science.

**GOD’S CREATION OF THE PARISH**: The National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) and the European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association (EBTNA) are planning to launch a biotechnology education project, EBTNA President Munis Dundar said at the ceremony to launch the construction of the second energy efficient house in Grodno on 18 December, BelTA has learnt.

The association maintains close cooperation with various academies of sciences all over the world and, first of all, with young scientists. It has a clear mission: to promote the work of our organization and to prepare innovative scientists. For example, we are interested in education projects for students and young scientists, holding biotechnology seminars here,” he stressed. According to the scientist, this initiative is under consideration right now.

Munis Dundar said that the European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association implements similar projects in other countries, including Russia. “The plan is to implement the project in Belarus for the first time. On 1 December he will make a report at the plenary meeting of the 1st EurAsian Forum of Young Scientists.”

The meeting is hosting the 1st EurAsian Forum of Young Scientists from 1 through 4 December. The event has been organized on the initiative of the NASB Council of Young Scientists and supported by all young scientists from the EEU member states. The forum is held once in two years. Partaking in the forum are about 500 people, including 100 foreign guests from Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Turkey, Germany, and other countries. The event aims to gather young scientists from various fields of science, international activity of global importance and applied issues in science. Scientific achievements in different fields, from environmental protection to medicine, will be showcased during the forum. The event is focused on scientific breakthroughs and the economic and social processes that are underway in the context of the potential of the integration. The work of the forum will be divided into three sections, namely Material Science, Life Science, and Social Science.
5 REASONS TO VISIT BELOVEZHSKAYA PUSHCHA

Pesnyary band sings ‘Reserve, place of crystal sunrise rays and the light rising above the land’: words devoted to a unique place which everyone should visit.

1. ‘Majestic grandeur of many-year oaks…’ The oldest forest in Europe – covering 500,000 square kilometres. Many centuries ago, Vladimir Monomakh used to spend a night in the forest. ‘Pushcha Robinsons’ tour envisages spending a night in the forest.

2. ‘Finding my way to the spring along an invisible path…’ Many centuries ago, Vladimir Monomakh used to hunt here and, in 1888, the Puschcha officially became property of the royal Romanovs, who ever, is not true: their famous white in Soviet times (being plain brick until then).

Visit Father Frost

4. ‘Where the grass is tall and bushes are thick…’ Belarusian Father Frost’s Residence occupies almost 15 hectares and is one of the most beautiful sites globally in which you may visit. Spring along an invisible path…’ Many centuries ago, Vladimir Monomakh used to spend a night in the forest.

5. ‘On hearing the voice of our forefathers…’ The fortified 13th century fortress of Krasnyy Bor private research centre joined us. Look at Belarus from the White Tower.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>№ 12 (27), 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEWS &amp; EVENTS IN BELARUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International Scientific Centre of Wild Nature Support – Krasny Bor – opens in Ivanovsky (Verkhnedvinsk District, Vitebsk Region).

The Centre is a Republican Landscape Reserve on the border of the Rossony and Verkhnedvinsk districts, and incorporates a hunting company run by Novopolotsk’s private Interservice company. The northern auroch population here is the most diverse. This is primarily important to conduct genetic parameter researches: Belarus’ national animal. The Centre aims to unite efforts by state and public organisations and commercial structures, to protect and develop our natural wealth. Recently, an amazing event took place: the opening of the country’s first private scientific centre.

Interest coincides

The Centre is located in a comfortable two-storey guest house, incorporating a hotel, a hostel for staff and a laboratory. Andrey Faibich, who heads the laboratory, tells us, ‘We have everything necessary to detect DNA from animal hair. This is primarily important to conduct genetic parameter researches: Belarus’ national animal. As only 3,000 exist globally, all are close relatives, so we need to aim for maximum genetic diversity, to plan to count the herds of our red deer, to improve their characteristics by cross-breeding.’

No scientific centre could function without methods for analysing mammals and birds. The Centre is one of the few in Europe dedicated to creating models in the field of wildlife. Vladimir Ivanovsky – an associate professor at the Vitebsk Mashevor State University’s Department of Nature Protection – took his team to the Vylukievich District, 60km from Brest.

In doing so, Stanislav Shushkevich, Boris Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev were sentenced the great Soviet Union to death.

RIFTOUR Editorial Office Sergey Plytkovich, who heads the laboratory, tells us, ‘We have ever, is not true: their famous white in Soviet times (being plain brick until then).

By PUBLIC TRANSPORT: direct express bus connects the village of Kamymeny (where the national Park’s administration is situated) and Brest.

By CAR:

From Brest, it’s 60km along the Brest-Kamymeny highway (providing the best view of the ‘warm your heart by tall birches…’ Guests to the local Museum of Folk Life can try a nip of the local alcoholic beverage: famous ‘Pushchanka’, once appreciated by Russian Tsars. On coming to the Puschcha, tourists can see: potatoes, potatoes, potatoes. And what do they offer to the Pushchanka: on foot, by horse or by bicycle. ‘Pushchanka’ tours envisage spending a night in the forest.

The most interesting part of the conference began the following day, when bird experts applied their knowledge in practice. Vladimir Ivanovsky – an associate professor at the Vitebsk Mashevor State University’s Department of Nature Protection – took his team to the Vylukievich District, 60km from Brest.

The Centre aims to unite efforts by state and public organisations and commercial structures, to protect and develop our natural wealth. Recently, an amazing event took place: the opening of the country’s first private scientific centre.

Eagle habitats

The first event at the new Centre was a conference devoted to the Krasny Bor auroch population, and to the development of ecological tourism. Participants agreed that the Centre should not focus exclusively on applied hunting developments but should unite ichthyologists, ornithologists, on coming to the Puschcha, tourists can see: potatoes, potatoes, potatoes. And what do they offer to the Pushchanka: on foot, by horse or by bicycle. ‘Pushchanka’ tours envisage spending a night in the forest.

The most interesting part of the conference began the following day, when bird experts applied their knowledge in practice. Vladimir Ivanovsky – an associate professor at the Vitebsk Mashevor State University’s Department of Nature Protection – took his team to the Vylukievich District, 60km from Brest.

The most interesting part of the conference began the following day, when bird experts applied their knowledge in practice. Vladimir Ivanovsky – an associate professor at the Vitebsk Mashevor State University’s Department of Nature Protection – took his team to the Vylukievich District, 60km from Brest.

The most interesting part of the conference began the following day, when bird experts applied their knowledge in practice. Vladimir Ivanovsky – an associate professor at the Vitebsk Mashevor State University’s Department of Nature Protection – took his team to the Vylukievich District, 60km from Brest.

The most interesting part of the conference began the following day, when bird experts applied their knowledge in practice. Vladimir Ivanovsky – an associate professor at the Vitebsk Mashevor State University’s Department of Nature Protection – took his team to the Vylukievich District, 60km from Brest.
BELARUS APPROVES KEY FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT TARGETS FOR 2016

Belarus approved the key forestry development targets for 2016. Such a decision is contained in Resolution No. 1017 issued by the Council of Ministers on 9 December, as it is learned from the press service of the government.

According to the document, 27,300 hectares will be reforested. There are plans to create 7,936 ha of forest plantations and 60 ha of new deciduous plantations.

The Resolution comes into effect on the day of its official publication.

BELARUS, USA TO STEP UP COOPERATION IN LASER PHYSICS, BIOTECHNOLOGIES

Belarus and the United States of America intend to step up cooperation in laser physics and biotechnology. BelTA learnt from Vladimir Gusakov, Chairman of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB), that the Academy’s scientific research includes the development of pharmaceutical products, and other areas of interest.

According to Vladimir Gusakov, the development of materials for mechanical engineering and other advanced technologies, the development of pharmaceutical and other areas of interest are expected to discuss ways to assimilate scientific products into practice, into the real sector of the economy. Scientists of the two countries intend to establish personal relations for the sake of continuing further work. “We are convinced that the days to come will be very productive for us and we will do excellent work together,” said Matthew Hamill.

A delegation of scientists from the United States of America is expected to visit the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on 13-18 December. The delegation includes top officials of the National Association of College and University Business Officers, representatives of the Virtual Reality Applications Center of the Iowa State University of Science and Technology, representatives of Indiana University, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and other institutions.

The American colleagues will take part in the first Belarus-American seminar on the solution of urgent issues of science and technology. They will also hold negotiations with the administration of the Academy, by discussing avenues of Belarusian-American cooperation in the area of science and education. Mechanisms to implement this cooperation will be talked over as well. Members of the U.S. delegation will visit the B.I. Stepanov Physics Institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, the Laser Research and Production Center of the Academy, and the Academy’s history museum. Meetings have been planned with representatives of the State Science and Technology Committee, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Belarusian State University.

ANTARCTIC KITCHEN GARDEN

Belarusian scientists able to grow vegetables on continent

The Belarusian polar kitchen garden comprises two small greenhouses: around 1 square metre each. This high-tech biocomplex of enhanced productivity grows salads, pasta, and other herbs. The technology has been developed at the National Academy of Sciences’ Centre of Photodiode and Optic Electronic Technologies, and at the V. Kuprevich Institute of Botanical Garden. The establishments have provided arctic workers with seeds and special soil and instructed them on how greenhouses should be used.

“Antarctic kitchen garden has met our expectations, so we are thankful to its developers,” says the Head of the 7th Belarusian Antarctic expedition, Alexander Gaidashov. Having just returned from the ice continent, he explains, “It’s great that polar researchers can eat greens. This kitchen garden is experimental and no larger than 1 square metre, to increase its size.”

Russian colleagues appreciate the development, having provided the Vechernyaya Gora (Evening Mountain) base to Belarusians for free use. The station has been operational since Soviet times. “They are our dear guests and, each time, we treat them with fresh greens — even the new,” Mr. Gaidashov smiles.

Russian stations boast nothing of the kind as well, although the UK, France, Italy, China and the US run kitchen gardens at their arctic bases. Greenhouses for hydroponic cultures are envisaged within their station projects. “The secret to our high-tech kitchen garden is the lighting system; which uses a special spectrum to ensure a good harvest,” explains the acting head of the Laboratory at the Institute of Experimental Botany, Lyudmila Obuks and her colleagues.

Russian scientists overcame the problem of growing local varieties of vegetables, which had a limited term so the plants chosen for growth are of the same variety. But in our case, we have to apply their discoveries on a large scale, at industrial greenhouses. Special lamps for tomatoes are now ready, and Minsk’s Vegetable Factory is testing them under extreme conditions. Scientists hope to be able to apply them to their gardens as well.

For example, leafy salads and tomatoes needs different spectra. Each Belarusian greenhouse has its own. Leafy greens can be grown economically, as is expected, the new technologies will become widely used across Belarus.

Antarctic greenhouses allow us to apply new technologies, testing them under extreme conditions. Scientists hope to be able to apply their discoveries on a large scale, at industrial greenhouses. Special lamps for tomatoes are now ready, and Minsk’s Vegetable Factory is testing them under extreme conditions. Scientists hope to be able to apply them to their gardens as well.

These discoveries are helping scientists to develop light-emitting diodes, to respond to plants needs more accurately than traditional lamps. For example, leafy salads and tomatoes needs different spectra. Each Belarusian greenhouse has its own. Leafy greens can be grown economically, as is expected, the new technologies will become widely used across Belarus.

For example, leafy salads and tomatoes needs different spectra. Each Belarusian greenhouse has its own. Leafy greens can be grown economically, as is expected, the new technologies will become widely used across Belarus.
A CITY COMFORTABLE TO LIVE

National Academy of Sciences reveals which Belarusian cities are most comfortable for living and working.

Of 134 cities, Minsk is not ranked in the top 10. In fact, for more than 9,000 people, who do not live their life on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead.

The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

Small settlements offer geographical proximity to industrial and attractive centres, while being ecologically cleaner. Residents can work and study in the capital, taking advantage of its facilities, while enjoying a more relaxed lifestyle at home.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.

The Belarusian capital has been ranked second, missing out on first place perhaps due to high taxes and rental payments. Entrepreneurs prefer to register beyond the capital’s borders. Interestingly, when similar research was conducted in Poland, Warsaw also came second, while the small town of Sopot, near Warsaw, took the lead. The Belarussian ‘top ten’ features Paniplis, Logopo, Smolovichi and Dzerzhinsk: all situated not far from Minsk. These are followed by the regional centres of Brest and Grodno.
The Minsk Times

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION CENTER "ECO-INFO"
CENTRAL SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY NAS BELARUS
http://ECOINFO.BAS.NET.BY/

The room contains materials prepared by the news agency corresponding BELTA, Belarus-Magazine, The Minsk Times.

WORKED ON THE PRODUCTION OF: TARASEVICH A.A.
LAPTISKAIA G.I.
DOMENKO K.V.

SOLOVYOV: BELNPP IS ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE

The Belarusian nuclear power plant (BelNPP) which is currently being built in the country is environmentally safe, Yury Solovyov, the chairman of the board of the Belarusian public association "Ecological Initiative", said during an online press conference at BELTA.

"I can say that the ongoing environmental monitoring shows that the Belarusian nuclear power plant is environmentally safe," he said.

Yuri Solovyov recalled that the public center for environmental safety of the NPP construction and operation was launched in Belarus in 2012. Its main task is to provide the public in Belarus and other countries with the information on nuclear energy and security during the construction of the NPP in Belarus.

For the third year the center has conducted public monitoring of the process of the construction of the nuclear power plant: environmental activists of non-governmental organizations get acquainted with the course of construction, measure the radiation levels at the NPP construction site and its surroundings, study the impact of the object under construction on the environment. The monitoring results are made available in open access, on the BelNPP website, in the media, and are communicated to the public during the public information activities of the center.

According to Yury Solovyov, public monitoring will be carried out after the nuclear power plant is put into operation. "We will compare the current radiation environmental data on the site with the data that will be released if any deviations are registered, the relevant information will be immediately passed on to the competent authorities and the public," the ecologist said.

The Belarusian nuclear power plant is being built 18km away from the town of Ostrovets, Grodno Oblast. The BelNPP will have two power-generating units with the total output capacity of up to 2,400MW (2х1,200MW). The AEO-2006 design developed by the Saint Petersburg-based R&D company Atomenergostroy was chosen for designing Belarus's first nuclear power plant. The first power-generating unit of the nuclear power plant is scheduled for launch in 2018, the second one in 2020. 

BELTA
1.12.2015