

Taking care of Turov land

During his working trip to the Gomel Region, the President of Belarus announced that he urges complete fulfilment of 2011-2015 state programme for socio-economic development and complex use of natural resources of the Pripyat Polesie area. Alexander Lukashenko was interested to learn what has been done so far.

By Veniamin Khmelevsky

The Chairman of the Board of the Development Bank of the Republic of Belarus Sergei Rumas said that a lot is being done now: the construction of several facilities is underway, farms are being reconstructed, and money is being invested in tourism development. Meanwhile, some projects have been removed from the programme, e.g., plans to build a factory to freeze vegetables in Turov were scrapped. Yet Mr. Rumas believes that the enterprise could give a boost to the development of the raw materials supply. In his words, it is necessary to make 'a vegetable garden to feed the nation' out of Turov. "The land is good here and everything grows well. You can grow vegetables here, freeze, combine all the steps into a production cycle," he said adding that the factory has to work for at least eight months per year starting with freezing broccoli, then berries, mushrooms, other vegetables while potato freezing has to be done all year round. "If we have to build a factory like that somewhere, Turov is the best



The technology found at the Turov Dairy Plant is comparable to that found at other modern factories

place," Mr. Rumas is convinced.

"If the enterprise supplies promising products to the market, an endless one at that, then the enterprise will encourage farmers to grow these crops — from broccoli to potatoes," said the President. Mr. Lukashenko underlined that he is interested in results and earnings while smooth production and sales are vital for this.

The Head of State also tackled the situation with marble meat production. Belarus' Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Rusy said that eight enterprises had mastered the technology. At present, everything is being done to reduce production costs. Unrestricted grazing is used as much as possible; however, weather conditions keep cattle in their pens for half a year.

Mr. Lukashenko warned officials that all the promises they had given

to the Head of State must be fulfilled. "Stop making promises. I need results. If you've made a promise, act upon it. I'm not going to travel all over the country and do your work for you," said the Head of State.

fulfil the presidential instruction for now. Mr. Lukashenko reminded officials about responsibility for lying.

"Some think: I'll just wait for someone to bring money and invest in farm reconstruction. I saw photos

programme, heads will roll," stressed Mr. Lukashenko while addressing towards members of the government. He also instructed First Deputy Chairman of the State Control Committee Leonid Anfimov and Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration Valery Ivanov to verify the fulfilment of the programme as a whole and at every facility. "I don't want to hear fairytales and see 'museums' that have been prepped for my visit," said the President.

"We cannot afford losing Turov land! There are top quality lands over there. They are rare even on the global scale! We've agreed that the land will not be a vegetable garden only, it will be an example to follow," emphasised Mr. Lukashenko. "I need a beacon of tomorrow here, not a beacon of today," he added.

"There are top quality lands over there. They are rare even on the global scale! We've agreed that the land will not be a vegetable garden only, it will be an example to follow. I need a beacon of tomorrow here, not a beacon of today."

In this respect, Mr. Lukashenko reminded about the instruction to build and reconstruct 1,200 farms across Belarus. The Head of State was informed that as many as 1,000 farms will be completed this year. Vitebsk, Brest and Mogilev regions have been unable to

of some old farms yesterday. This is something out of the Stone Age! Don't show me these pretty farms today, I want to know about those old farms. Your efforts are needed there, too," said the Head of State.

"If you fail to accomplish the pro-

Accommodation — the figures

On average, each Belarusian family has 60 square metres of habitation

By Maria Dmitrovskaya

According to data from the National Statistical Committee, following the results of the selective inspection of households on the standard of living in 2013, the majority of Belarusian citizens, around 64 percent, live in separate apartments, 31 percent of families live in private houses and about 5 percent of households live in hostels or rent accommodation.

Obviously these figures differ depending on the area. In cities and urban settlements, 77 percent of households live in apartments, 15 percent live in private houses, 5

percent live in hostels and 2 percent rent their homes, whereas in rural settlements, 70 percent of households live in private dwellings.

According to the statistics, an average household has 60 square metres of living space. In Minsk however, a family more often lives in a 55 square metres property. The residents of the Grodno Region, where the average space available to the owners is 63 square metres, feel more comfortable. This indicator is higher still in villages and settlements. There, each household has 67 square metres on average.

Regarding the number of occupied rooms, more than 70 per-



New buildings in Vitebsk's Bilevo micro-district

cent of families live in two or three roomed premises, with every seventh household consisting of four, or more, rooms. That is not to say that in the provinces everyone has a mansion! Frequently, in many spacious houses where numerous children's voices were once heard, only the elderly now reside.

More than 90 percent of town

houses have central heating, water pipes, sewerage, hot water and a bath or shower. However, these blessings of civilisation are still not available for everyone across the country.

According to the inspection, the majority of households (72 percent) appeared to be satisfied with their living conditions. 19 per-

cent were dissatisfied, and 9 percent were absolutely dissatisfied. Among the latter group, 32 percent of those stated the insufficient living space as the main cause of dissatisfaction. 31 percent mentioned the absence of separate habitation and 21 percent, the absence of amenities.

The results of this investigation have shown that 42 percent of households which were dissatisfied with living conditions will be improving them in the future. Among city households this indicator rose to 47 percent, and among rural areas, 30 percent. This means that almost 62 percent of respondents plan to construct an apartment or house, more than 13 percent will be moving into more comfortable accommodation and 19 percent, to improve their living conditions and to make major repairs or reconstruct the premises. Apart from this, about 5 percent of Belarusians expect to come into money, or to receive social housing, and thus to improve their living conditions in that way.