

# THE PROTEIN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

 Austrian  
Development  
Agency



**Ukraine's role and potential as a major European producer for sustainable non-GM soya**

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# Donau Soja office in Ukraine



# Directions of Donau Soja Organisation activities in Ukraine

- Improvement of sustainability practices for UA soya farmers;
- Protein Partnership Programme – to increase sustainably produced non-GM volumes;
- Quality Assurance (Donau Soja & Europe Soya Standards);
- Market Development – linking quality producers to Western European markets;
- Government Relation – support development of trade conditions and sustainability regulation.



# What is Protein Partnership Programme?



The Programme aimed to increase the volume of non-GM sustainable soya in Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina Moldova and Ukraine.



To reach a tipping point where segregation cost goes down and physical supply chains become economically feasible not only for niche markets and premium brands.



Protein Partnership is especially helpful for companies/retailers to compensate (big) soy volumes of non-sustainable or unclear origin – European alternative to credits from overseas.



Protein Partnership Programme focuses on Ukraine to have maximum impact in terms of volume and sustainability.



Protein Partnership is a valuable programme in cooperation with Austrian development agency.

# Implementation of Protein Partnership programme

## Donau Soja Organisation:



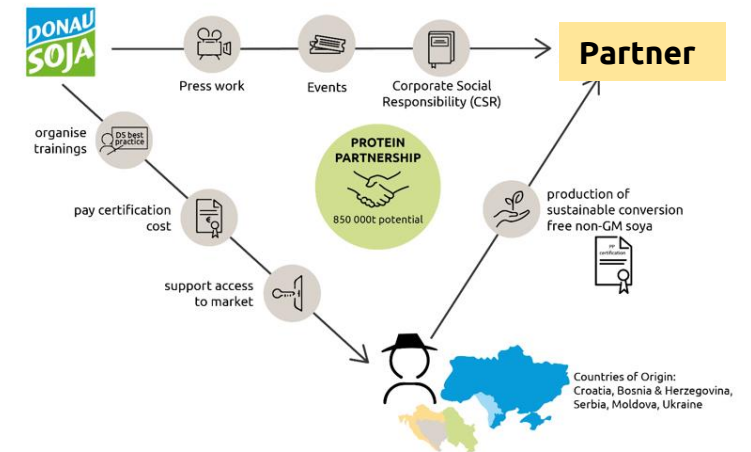
Conducts training for agricultural producers and farmers on sustainable agricultural production approaches and techniques.



Covers Donau Soja / Europe Soya certification costs (scope: farmer + collector), including laboratory GM and pesticides analyses.



Positioning the brand of Protein Partnership partners – as producers of «climate friendly soya» in Europe.

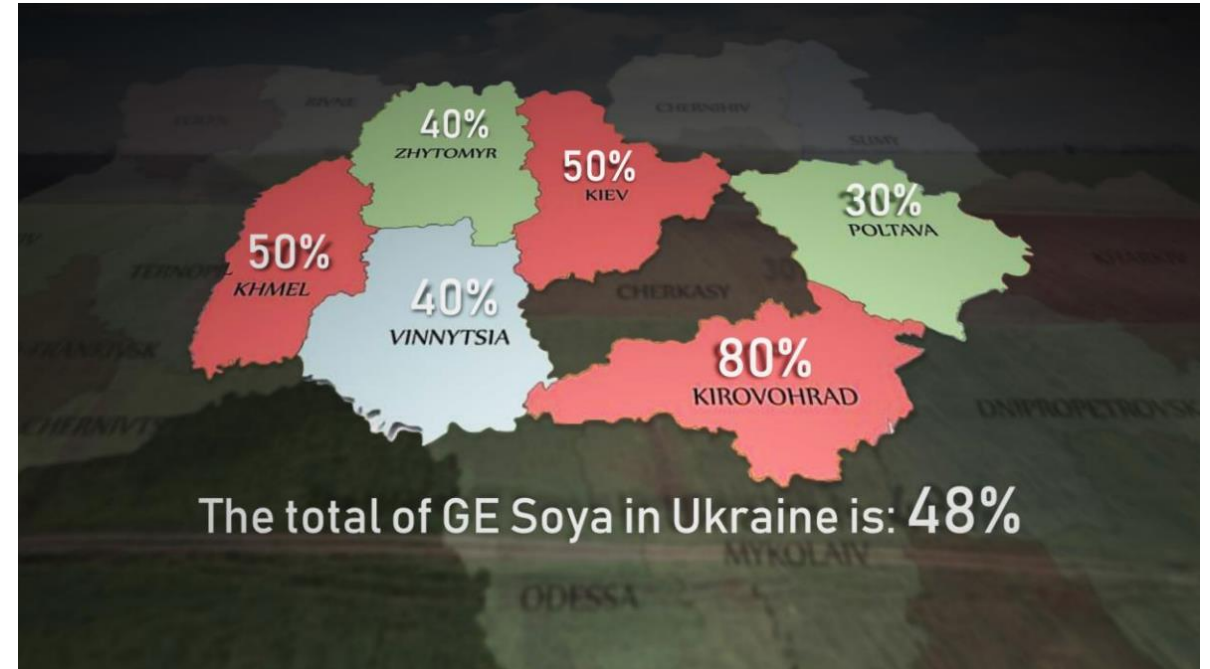


# Issues of sustainable soya cultivation in Ukraine (illegal GM)

As no GM varieties are registered for cultivation in Ukraine, thus growing of GMs is illegal.

Nevertheless, GM seeds and GM cultivation is widely spread in Ukraine. According to market rumours, near 50-65% of soybeans, 10-12% of rapeseeds, and near 1% of corn cultivated in Ukraine are GM.

Agent Green (Romania), with the support of Donau Soja Organisation conducted field investigation in 2018. There were 60 large soya fields sampled in 6 major regions for soya production. The share of GM soya accounted 48% in Ukraine.



# Issues of sustainable soya cultivation in Ukraine (widespread use of hazardous pesticides)

## Pesticides use in soya cultivation:

88 nationally registered active substances for use in plant protection products:

- 3 listed as highly hazardous by WHO (*Beta-Cyfluthrin, zeta-Cypermethrin, Tefluthrin*);
- 24 not approved in EU (*Acetochlor, Acifluorfen, Benomyl, Bifentrin, Glufosinate, Diquat, Dimethoate, Imazethapyr, Carbendazim, Chlorimuron-ethyl, Chlorpyrifos, Novaluron, Prometryn, Propargite, Propisochlor, Propiconazole, Tepraloxydim, Theflutrin, Thiram, Trifluralin, Fipronil, Flumetsulam, Phosalone, Quizalofop-p-tefuron*).

***Mentioned pesticides are actively used.***

# Issues of sustainable soya cultivation in Ukraine (widespread use of hazardous pesticides)

- Ukraine **applied for membership** of the European Union on 28th February 2022. The current Ukrainian government has agreed to implement EU legislation, including areas of food and feed safety, as well as EU regulation on sustainable use of pesticides.
- The European Commission noted the **high level of Ukraine's responses** to the questionnaire on the political and economic criteria for EU membership.



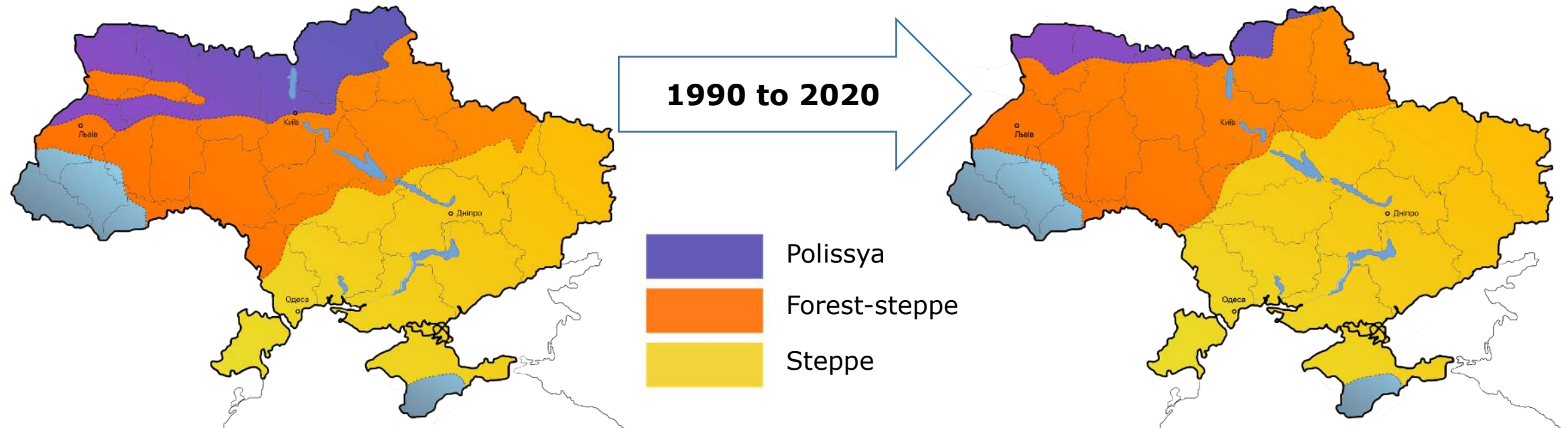


# Issues of sustainable soya cultivation in Ukraine (adaptation to climate change)

Addressing climate challenges requires **implementation of new agricultural practices and technologies.**

The climate conditions in Ukraine changed significantly for the last 30 years. For e.g. seasons 2020 and 2021 were especially untypical:

- dry season 2020 with scarcity of rain resulted in the **harvest loss of around 14%;**
- extra-rainy season 2021 was better for average soya yield in Ukraine, but **lead to partly loses** by certain farmers.



# Protein Partners from Ukraine

QR for brochure

# Support from the side of Donau Soja to the farmers in Ukraine

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To support UA producers DS is focusing on the following:

- trainings related to farming within **limited resources** availability (seeds, fertilisers, fuel etc.);
- training on **sustainable non-GM soya** cultivation practises and techniques
- activities to **overcome the bottleneck** with export routes from Ukraine caused by military blocking of the Black Sea ports.

E.g. Donau Soja co-organised and facilitated the EU-Ukraine Ministerial discussion on challenges and opportunities of current commodities exports from Ukraine at the **Prague Karlsbourse** on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

And discussion with Italian Government at the **Commodities Exchange in Milan** on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022.



 az+ Karlsbörse Prag

## Ukraine im Mittelpunkt der Debatten

Im Rahmen des Branchentreffens informierten hochrangige Vertreter der Ukraine und der osteuropäischen Nachbarn über Pläne, die Exporte des Landes auf dem Landweg zu intensivieren. [Mehr >](#)

# Improvement of sustainability practices for UA soya farmers

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- experience exchange within the framework of the Donau Soja field days in European countries;
- Donau Soja Study Program for farmers (inc. Protein Partnership trainings) & Soya Discussion Club – opinion leaders and experts discussion about best practices of sustainable soya cultivation online with translation on Facebook;
- cooperation with leading Ukrainian agricultural Universities – special programme on sustainable soya cultivation for students.



# Trainings in the framework of Protein Partnership

Training content is grouped into blocks related to soya cultivation issues/solutions in Ukraine:

- *Block 1 – related to the issue of illegal GM cultivation.*
- *Block 2 – related to the issue of Widespread use of hazardous pesticides.*
- *Block 3 – related to the issue of climate change*

Additional attention to the topics of social and labour rights and compliance with International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions – block 4.

Farming within limited resources availability (seeds, fertilisers, fuel etc.) – **new!**

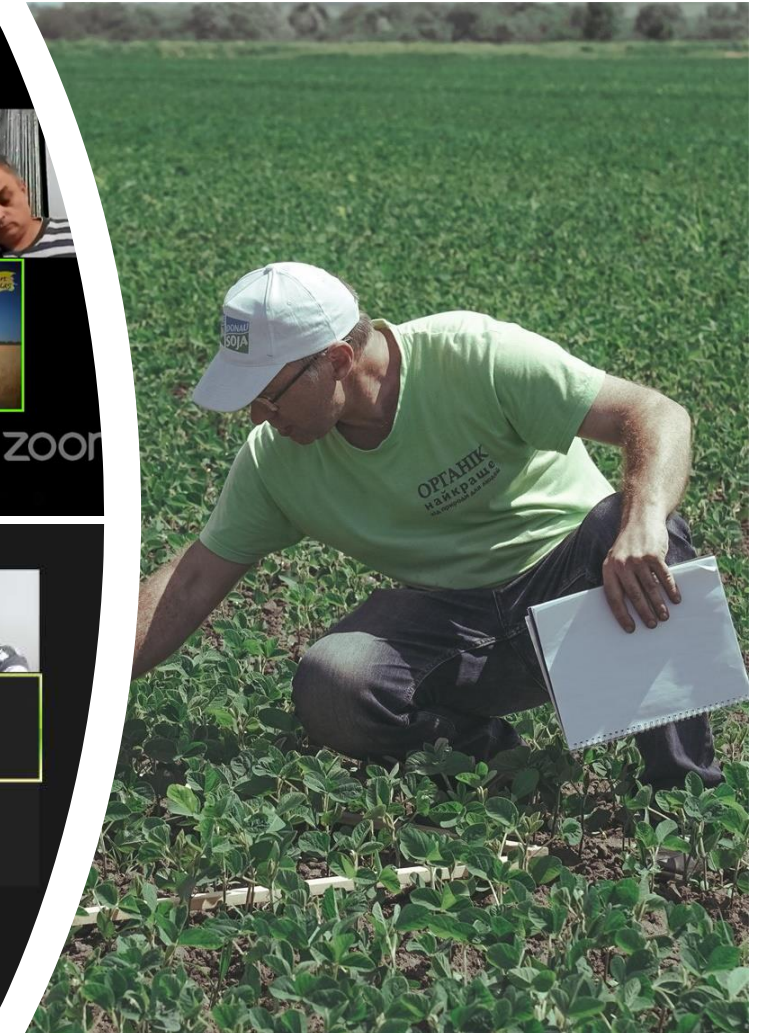
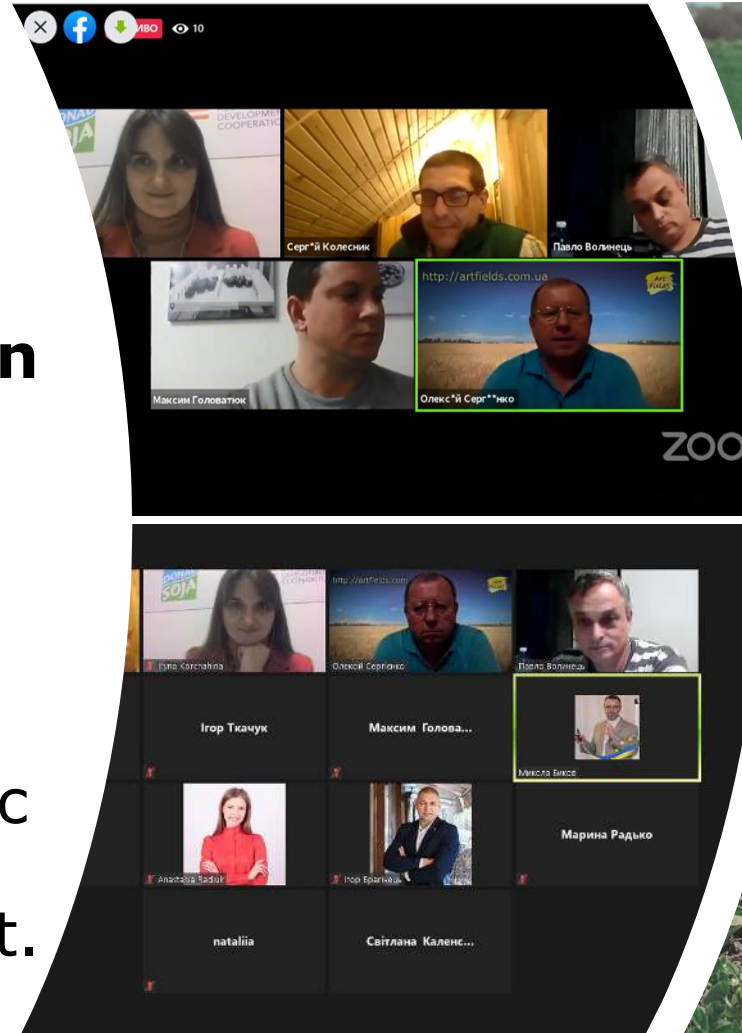


# "Soya Discussion Club"

**Online format** of knowledge dissemination in Ukraine since 2020.

Opinion leaders and **experts in farming** share their vision for the most important cultivation topics on a monthly basis.

Soya Discussion Club is **available for the wide public** via the official Donau Soja Organisation Facebook account.





**Donau Soja Organisation owns the quality standards for soya cultivation and processing**

**Donau Soja and Europe Soya**  
that guarantee sustainability, non-GM and European origin



# Donau Soja quality assurance approaches in Ukraine

Individual certification of each farm – Donau Soja knows and assure reputation and quality of DS/ES producers in Ukraine.

Sustainable cultivation checklist for farmers – 102 questions to guarantee responsible farm management and community relations.

Exact locations of DS/ES fields are mapped – 2008 cut-off date may be assured.

Support for each individual farmer in DS/ES certification process.

Local Ukrainian CBs are approved by Donau Soja for audits.





# Donau Soja quality assurance approaches in Ukraine (2)

Regularly basic and update training on DS/ES standard requirement, audit approaches for CBs.

Strip-tests of GM contamination for soybeans in the fields (field audits by CBs).

Laboratory analysis of pesticides residues and PCR analysis of soybeans at the stage of collector – strict compliance with EU feed & food regulation, therefore soybeans ready for export.

Integrity audits during cultivation season by Donau Soja Organisation with pesticides testing of green soya plants – strict assurance what exact substances were applied.



# Donau Soja Integrity Programme

- witness audits of farmers and collectors;
- coordination of sampling and control on laboratory results for GM and pesticides residues;
- office audits of Certification Bodies;
- supervisory audits of farmers and collectors;
- Land Use Research project.



# Protein Partnership programme – increased interest from the side of the farmers

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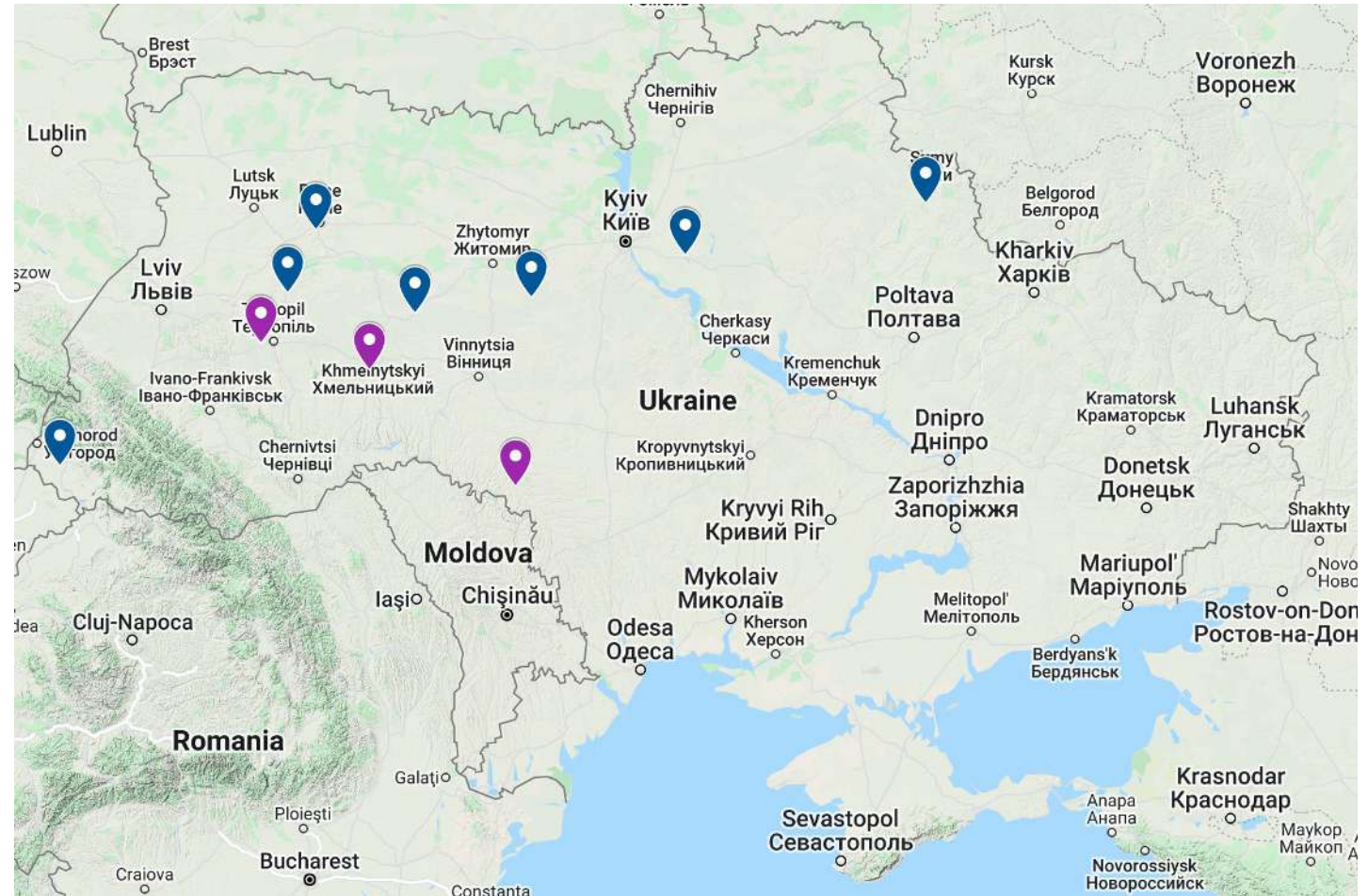


Non-GM sustainable soya volumes are developing via the Protein Partnership programme.

Participation in the Programme:

- provides additional opportunities while exporting soya to the EU;
- helps Ukrainian companies to **adapt to EU** (and beyond) sustainability requirements.

**Increased volume** of non-GM sustainable soya (certified) in Ukraine – harvest 2022 and 2021.



# Meet our marvellous UA Team



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Executive Director,  
Regional Director

**Volodymyr Pugachov, PhD.**  
Quality manager  
Eastern Europe

**Iryna Korchahina**  
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**Anastasiya Radiuk**  
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Partnership Manager

**Mykola Bykov**  
Agriculture projects  
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**Thank you for the attention!**