



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Kancelarija za održivi razvoj  
nedovoljno razvijenih područja

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 26, 2011

Hal Lipper, +381-11 306-4919, +381-65 504-6308

E-mail: [hlipper@usaid.gov](mailto:hlipper@usaid.gov)

Mirjana Vuksa, +381-11 306-4841, +381-65 316-4530

E-mail: [mvuksa@usaid.gov](mailto:mvuksa@usaid.gov)

## USAID AND SERBIAN MINISTRY UNITE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO WOMEN IN AGRIBUSINESS

**BELGRADE (July 26)** – A memorandum of understanding to provide assistance to women in agribusiness was jointly signed today by USAID’s Agribusiness Project, headed by Chief of Party Louis Faoro, and the Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Areas, headed by Minister Sulejman Ugljanin.

This alliance combines the expertise and resources of USAID and the Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Areas to promote entrepreneurship among women living in rural areas through self-employment in agribusiness.

USAID is allocating funds to support 10 business plans through the Women Entrepreneurs in Agribusiness Project. The Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Areas is supporting another three plans.

Minister Ugljanin said he was proud to be helping three women entrepreneurs from Knic, Lebane, and Gadzin Han, undeveloped municipalities within his office’s area of responsibility. “We shall continue with this practice in future,” he said.

In 2010, the USAID Agribusiness Project launched the Women Entrepreneurs in Agribusiness Project to enable equal participation of women in agribusiness and, ultimately, increase Serbia’s competitiveness in agriculture. Through this project, 300 women learned basic concepts about entrepreneurship. These classes resulted in 235 business plans for funding by institutions and development organizations. USAID selected 10 plans for financing; the Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Areas is supporting three more.

Women from the less-developed regions of southwestern and southeastern Serbia will soon be able to take classes in agribusiness planning. The Office for Sustainable Development of Underdeveloped Areas will provide funding for the best agribusiness plans from these courses. USAID’s Agribusiness Project will continue to support women who have participated in the program and will provide technical and advisory assistance to selected business strategies.

USAID’s Agribusiness Project is part of several activities aimed at generating rapid, sustained, broad-based economic growth in Serbia. The project works to increase the sales of agricultural products, stimulate additional agricultural employment, improve efficiency and competitiveness, and develop the agribusiness-enabling environment.

**For additional information about the USAID Agribusiness Project**, contact Ana Martinovic, Communications Advisor, at +381-11 242-6611 or [ana\\_martinovic@agrobiznis.net](mailto:ana_martinovic@agrobiznis.net).

**For additional information about the Office for Suitable Development of Underdeveloped Areas**, contact Edib Kajvic at [ekajvic@kornrp.gov.rs](mailto:ekajvic@kornrp.gov.rs).