Standard Summary Project Fiche Project Number 2003.004-341.02.04

1. Basic Information Objective 2 --- Agriculture

1.1	CRIS number:	2003.004-341.02.04
1.2	<u>Title:</u>	Strengthening the implementation of policies and procedures on plant protection and plant variety identification
1.3	Sector:	Agriculture
1.4	Location:	Lithuania

2. Objectives

2.1 Overall Objective:

The overall objective of this **1.73 MEUR** institution building and investment project, of which **0.2575 MEUR** are provided as national co-financing, is the completion of the implementation of the Lithuanian phytosanitary inspection and control system in accordance with the *Acquis*, development of a fresh fruit and vegetables quality standards checking system and plant variety identification.

2.2 Project Purpose

The project purposes are as follows:

- 1. Plant protection: strengthen the implementation of policies and procedures;
- 2. Effective functioning of control systems:
 - overall phytosanitary inspection and control at place of production and at the border,
 - legal basis for post-registration control of plant protection products (PPPs),
 - verify mandatory quality standards for fruits and vegetables.
- 3. Quality assurance: introduce a Quality Assurance System at the Phytosanitary Research Laboratory (PRL) of State Plant Protection Service (SPPS) and field inspection functioning according to accreditation standards;
- 4. Capacity on plant variety: strengthen the administrative capacity of the Lithuanian State Plant Varieties Testing Centre (LSPVTC).

2.3. Accession Partnership and NPAA Priority

The requirement to align the Lithuanian phytosanitary surveillance systems with the *Acquis* has been identified as a medium-term priority in the 1999 Accession Partnership. EU Commission in the Accession Partnership 2001 indicates *the need for continuing alignment of (...) phytosanitary legislation and upgrade inspection arrangements*. In its Regular Report 2002 the Commission notes the need *for further upgrading of facilities* of PRL and setting up of plant passport system.

The National Program for the Adoption of the *Acquis* (hereinafter - NPAA) of 27th of February 2002 (Governmental Decision No. 300) foresees the developing and strengthening of the following main aspects of the phytosanitary surveillance systems:

• To improve *material and technical base of central laboratory of the SPPS* (3.7.2.-S12) and *renovate central laboratory of the SPPS* (3.7.4.2-S14);

• Introduce a plant passport system in accordance with EU requirements and following the experience of the Member States (3.7.4.2.2-T34);

• To transfer the accountability of chief agronomists of the regions – state plant protection inspectors (hereinafter - agronomists) in relation to the pest registration control of PPPs (3.7.4.2.4-T30);

• Expand the State Plant Protection Service functions to enable the Service to perform the monitoring of the quality of fruits, vegetables as well as floricultural and hop products according to EU requirements (3.7.2-S12).

• The NPAA also indicates that new staff will be engaged for these tasks and specialised training will be carried out in 2003. The new technical and administrative stuff of 21, in the field of fruits and vegetables quality system management; new administrative stuff of 2 for administration of plant passport system and 2 new person in legal system are foreseen to engage in the IV quarter of 2003.

The National Programme for the Adoption of the *Acquis* defines the upgrading of the Lithuanian State Plant Variety Testing Center under the chapter 3.7.4.2-S9 "Providing of the Lithuanian State Plant Variety Testing Center Stations with requested technical equipment enabling them to perform the testing of plant varieties" (2004-2006).

3. Description

3.1. Background and Justification

The Project will be co-ordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania, which is the recipient institution and responsible for formulating agriculture policy. This Project will support key elements of the current agricultural policy. The Project's direct beneficiaries are the State Plant Protection Service and the Lithuanian State Plant Varieties Testing Centre who are responsible for implementing policy. Each service has adopted a strategy to implement the relevant aspects of state policy. A brief description of each service is given in the following sub-sections.

SPPS component

The project is intended to strengthen the legislative alignment and implementation of three main policies nominated to the responsibility of Lithuanian SPPS: phytosanitary inspection and control system, plant protection policy, and inspect the quality standards of imported production of fresh fruits, vegetables, other plants and plant crop production.

Lithuania wishes to intensify the work on the implementation of the country's *phytosanitary inspection and control system* in accordance with the *Acquis*. Skilled Central Laboratory's, regional mini-laboratories' and border control posts' SPPS specialists will:

• Ensure full-scale phytosanitary inspection and control at the place of production and at the border;

• Implement detection, diagnosis and identification of harmful organisms, sampling procedures in line with EU standards;

- Perform in accordance with quality assurance system;
- Introduce an effectively functioning plant passport system.

The process of the development of the above activities is gradual and progressive. Realization was started by Phare program 1998 (part-facilities have been purchased and laboratory specialists have acquired primary training in the laboratories of the Member States in performing tests in accordance with EC requirements) and was continued by Phare programs 1999, 2000 and 2001. In the framework of the 1999 and 2000 Phare programs, the process to construct and equip external border control posts in line with EU requirements was started. Preparation of the necessary legislation and preliminary works essential for the introduction of plant passport system will be implemented in the framework of the 2001 Phare program.

The implementation of the policies on plant protection is an important function of the Lithuanian SPPS. *The supervising of distribution and use of PPPs* is the responsibility of the agronomists accountable to county governors. To strengthen the implementation of plant protection policies the agronomists (currently on temporary attachment to the SPPS) will be transferred to the SPPS at the middle of 2003 when the SPPS assumes the sole responsibilities for this area.

The improper application or use PPPs can seriously damage the environment, fauna and flora as well for human health. Therefore within the 2000 Phare program the capacity to analyse pesticides and carry out investigations will be set up at the Agrochemical Research Centre (thereinafter - ARC) by the beginning of 2003.

Seeking to act in accordance with EU standards and to implement the requirements of Article 17 of Council Directive 91/414/EEC, Lithuanian Government established the system according which the official plant protection inspectors must:

- Ensure observation of high standards of human health and environment protection via control over the marketing, storage and use of plant protection products;
- Advise users on the basics for the use of plant protection products;
- Communicate information on various plant protection products; and
- Collect and submit to data on the usage of plant protection products the SPPS.

The conformity to legal basis EU requirements must be provided.

On 11th of April 2001 by the Minister of Agriculture adopted the order No. 112 "On Quality Control for Imported Production of Agriculture", the Lithuanian SPPS was authorised to *inspect the quality standards of imported fresh fruits and vegetables*. Also the bilateral Lithuanian-Dutch project on 'Upgrading quality management of fruits and vegetables' is on going since 2001, under which 56 inspectors have been trained and equipped with part of the equipment needed for carrying out quality inspection. As a result of the project, the verification of quality standards of imports is started from the 1st January 2002. Although all basic legislation is adopted and in force, there is a lack of practical experience in the above-mentioned areas. The primary knowledge for the SPPS staff was provided in the framework of Phare program 2000 (4 specialist of SPPS were trained in Germany and one seminar on quality of fruits and vegetables for 30 SPPS inspectors was organised). However, the training and seminars, which took place, are insufficient to ensure that SPPS inspectors efficiently enforce quality control corresponding to EU standards for fruits and vegetables, floricultural and hop products at borders. There is a clear need to receive professional advice and EU experience in these matters. Thus, during the whole process professional advice should be provided on the basis of best practice in Member States.

All the aforementioned control systems are being revamped resulting in a consolidation of responsibilities and a major increase in efficiency.

The proposed project will enlist the support of one or more EU public plant protection services to accelerate this work. It will help complete the legal basis of the phytosanitary inspection and control, plant protection and control of quality standards for fruits and vegetables systems in Lithuania, streamline the operations of the SPPS and its network of laboratories, and train a cadre of specialized staff for the tasks at hand. In addition, modern equipment for carrying out new testing and control methods at laboratory and necessary for effective operation of the plant protection and plant passport systems is required. PRL will be accredited and therefore must be equipped with the remaining lacking laboratory equipment. A part of equipment was already delivered as an investment during the Phare program 2000, mainly concentrating on long term border inspection posts. Therefore it is necessary to strengthen the facilities of regional phytosanitary laboratories by equipping them to ensure quality control of production. At regional posts of SPPS primary phytosanitary inspection is

taking place. On the basis of visual and technical analysis at regional PRLs, further analysis in the PRL is possible.

The project will catalyse a major Accession-driven programme of reforms. It will not overlap the activities of the previous Phare programs, moreover, it will proceed with the improvement of their results. Without the project, results of the intended reforms would be accomplished only much later.

LSPVTC component

The Lithuanian State Plant Variety Testing Center (LSPVTC) under the competence of the Ministry of Agriculture performs, similarly to analogous institutions in EU Member countries, maintaining the List of Plant Varieties Most Suitable for Growing in Lithuania (National List). The research to determine the economic value (productivity, quality of production of varieties bred in Lithuania and abroad, resistance to cold weather, diseases, pests, and other qualities) and assess their suitability to Lithuanian soil and climatic conditions (VCU - Value of cultivation and use) is performed at the nine plant variety testing stations belonging to the LSPVTC (each of them specializing in particular sorts of plants), located in three different soil-climatic zones and sub-zones. In each climatic zone there is one main station in which the trials of all agricultural plant species which are grown in this zone are carried out.

Results of the field tests are completed by quality analyses in the laboratory.

The Laboratory of the LSPVTC performs chemical analyses to evaluate the quality of plant varieties (cereals, potato, sugar beet, rapeseed, flax, perennial grasses, corn, vegetables etc.) in terms of feed and food value, chemical composition and suitability for processing.

Recently the plant testing stations of the LSPVTC have performed the tests for 550-650 national or foreign bred varieties of plants of more than 60 species of plants and established their Value of Cultivation and Use.

The test of all varieties is performed in four instalments, i.e. for every test there are 4 distinct plots, 25 sq. meters each, which are planted with the seeds of the tested variety. The total number of experimental plots planted by tested varieties is 2,000-2,500 plots per year. During the vegetation period experimental crops are observed and monitored under various aspects. After the maturity of experimental crops they are harvested and weighed, every plot separately, calculating later the average productivity for the tested variety. The quality of the harvested crops of the tested variety is assessed in the laboratory. The results of tests made during 2-3 year period are used to establish the VCU of a plant variety.

On the basis of test results, the National List of Lithuania is being set up, analogous to the national lists of plant varieties or catalogues of EU Member states. In Lithuania as in EU countries, only the seed plant varieties included in the List can be multiplied, certified and distributed to farmers and land users.

As Lithuania is preparing for the EU accession and this year is going join the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants [UPOV], (a Law on Plant Varieties Protection has been harmonized with the 1991 Convention it has to improve the administrative capacities of the Lithuania State Plant Variety Testing Center in order to enable it to perform the functions and comply with the requirements provided for in the Seed Breeding Act of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette 2001, No. 102-3625) and the new EU Council directive No. 2002/53/EC "On Common Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties" and be able to cooperate with EU member states in the area of variety testing and exchange of test results.

Therefore, the LSPVTC and plant varieties testing stations, must be better provided with technical equipment enabling it to duly perform the tests of varieties bred by Lithuanian and foreign breeders and establish their Value of Cultivation and Use together with performing DUS tests in the future and other functions. Efforts are made to modernise and specialise plant varieties testing stations and

to assist them in obtaining modern equipment. (In 2001 the LSPVTC acquired the specialized agricultural technique for Vilnius, Silute and Plunge plant varieties testing stations in total for 75 706 EUR.) For this reason, first of all, Kaunas, Pasvalys and Utena plant varieties testing stations, which are specialized in the testing of main agricultural crops grown in Lithuania (cereals, spring and winter rape, perennial grasses, sugar beet) should be re-equipped with specialized high quality universal technical equipment for trial purposes (small-size combine harvesters and sowing machines). It is very important that all three these stations receive the same equipment.

At the moment in these stations we use the harvesters, which are 15 - 18 year old, also the sowing machines that are produced more than 20 years ago in the Soviet Union (SN-16), they are worn out and we cannot sow trials precisely and ensure the high quality of testing. If we receive new sowing machines and small-size combine harvesters for all three stations, we will have possibility to receive precise test data from all the three locations and the data will be comparable between stations. (for the trials data to be comparable, the whole testing process from sowing to harvesting must be done under equal conditions as much as possible).

A considerable progress will be achieved in establishing VCU (value of cultivation and use) trials. The quality of plant varieties testing will be improved, because due to new sowing technologies, it will be possible to keep a precise sowing rate and an equal number of plants per plot, to maintain an equal depth of sowing and to keep uniform distances between the plants. The plants will germinate at the same time and every plant will have an equal nutrition plot. The new harvesters will allow to estimate a precise yield from every plot and the loses during the harvesting will be minimized, and at the same time the precision of calculation of test data will improve. The harvesting process for plant testing specialists will be easier.

3.2. Linked activities

The reforms of the phytosanitary surveillance systems benefited from Phare support and a range of bilateral assistance projects, since 1995:

• Phare project No. LI9803-0101-0001 strengthened the PRL's capacities and supported its modernisation as required by Commission Directive 98/22/EC.

• Phare project No. LI9909.01.01 has been implemented to help further in improving the administrative capacities of the SPPS. Emphasis has been placed on the improvement of inspection capacities of phytosanitary border control posts by providing investments for the constructions of long-term border posts and provision of needed equipment. The contracting process has already been successfully finished.

• Phare project No. LT0004-02 has been started to reinforce the administrative capacities in the area of phytosanitary control; investment part of the Project will contribute to the further upgrading of border control posts and to the modernisation of the ARC for control of PPPs after authorization. According this project, 4 specialists of SPPS were trained in Germany and one seminar on quality of fruits and vegetables for 30 SPPS inspectors was organised. Also support for the above-mentioned agronomists is also being provided as well by the bilateral Danish–Lithuanian project *Development and Implementation of an Internet based Decision Support System for Integrated Pest Management in Lithuania 2000 – 2002.* It is also planed to deliver the further succeeding assistance in the field of post-registration control of PPPs in the framework of bilateral Danish–Lithuanian project in 2002. During this project ten days trainings will be also provided for the SPPS inspectors to carry out the checks of fresh fruits and vegetables mandatory quality requirements in the beginning of 2002.

• Phare project LT01.05.01 will continue to improve the capacities to perform phytosanitary inspection and control, with the special emphasis to potato control and wood control systems and establishment of protected zones. Administratively plant passport system will be ready for introduction and in line with EU regulations. Using investment part quarantine greenhouse will be constructed. In the field of developing plant passport system in line with the EU regulations and starting its introduction in Lithuania it is planned during the project to provide training for SPPS office stuff (2) and phytosanitary inspectors (150).

The Phare-assisted modernisation work was complemented by the support mainly received from the Nordic countries. This included the following:

• The Swedish project concerning the Implementation and Adoption of Swedish Forecasting and Warning Methods for Plant Protection in Lithuania;

• The *Development and Implementation of Decision Making Systems in Plant Protection* supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers;

• The Introduction of Test Procedures for Field Sprayers and Improvement of the Plant Protection Certificate in Lithuania 1999/2000 received bilateral Danish æsistance. The Danish Agricultural Advisory Centre is planning to continue the activities of the project.

This project will build on the results achieved under previous projects.

3.3 Results

In order to highlight the most important points of phytosanitary and plant variety control project parts and make project description transparent, two parts of the project proposed will be dealt with separately. Therefore the Project comprises two semi-independent parts:

SPPS component:

• National legislation concerning phytosanitary controls and inspection, control of PPPs, control of quality standards of fruit and vegetable analysed, tables of correspondence drafted; Lithuanian legislation revised and necessary amendments adopted (this result must be fully achieved by accession), and support given by STEs will promote further development of legal basis after accession;

• Operational guidelines for Quality Assurance System for the PRL ready for application; PRL of SPPS is ready for accreditation; Quality Manual drafted;

• Training packages for SPPS specialists covering legal matters, laboratory work, management of plant passport system, as well as fruits and vegetables quality standards control developed and implemented; approximately 60 persons of SPPS staff graduated the training programmes and civil consultations (for producers, traders); inspectors will be prepared by accession; training packages also can be used after accession for upgrading knowledge of inspectors;

• PRL and regional SPPS mini-laboratories fully equipped and facilitated with lacking laboratory instruments by accession;

• The functions of supervision of distribution and the use of PPPs is executed effectively and in line with EU requirements by accession;

• Equipment for passporting installed and the plant passport system ready to be in place and in operation immediately *after accession*.

LSPVTC component:

• The quality of the official examination of the plant varieties improved;

• The National List of plant varieties published;

• The staff of the Lithuanian State Plant Variety Testing Centre trained (10-12 specialists) and the stations at the regional level and laboratory at the centre upgraded.

3.4. Activities

The project will be implemented by one Twining Arrangement with the SPPS as Lithuanian partner organisation, and one open international supply contract as detailed in the following:

Twinning package

The following activities will be undertaken by a Twinning contract: Support from EU expertise to Lithuanian SPPS in:

- Revision, analysis and evaluation by EU experts (lawyers specialists of phytosanitary, plant protection products, and fruits and vegetables standard quality requirements *Acquis*) of national legislation.
- Revision of EU *Acquis* on phytosanitary, plant protection products, and for fruits and vegetables quality standards; drafting the necessary amendments to the national legislation as well as preparing tables of correspondence; improving the translation of national legislation into English.
- Analysis of institutional features and work processes of the PRL of SPPS and preparation of recommendations for quality control in line with the *Acquis*.

Training needs analysis, development and implementation of training packages for:

- Lithuanian SPPS legal staff to analyse and evaluate EU *Acquis*, to perform the approximation of national legislation to the EU phytosanitary, plant protection products and fruits and vegetables mandatory quality requirements *Acquis* (7 specialists);
- The PRL's of SPPS specialists on Quality Assurance System and other areas of their day-to-day laboratory work (10 specialists: 1 specialist on Quality Assurance System, 2 engineers, 2 technical assistants, 5 specialists for day-to-day laboratory work);
- The SPPS inspectors and other personnel to administer and manage plant passport system (18 specialists: 10 in the regional posts, 6 at the border posts, 2 for SPPS stuff);
- The SPPS inspectors to exercise fruits and vegetables mandatory quality requirements checks at the border (20 specialists: 18 at the border posts, 2 for SPPS stuff).

Draft technical specification and tender documents of:

- Equipment and facilities for PRL of the SPPS and regional mini-laboratories of the SPPS;
- Equipment and facilities for database management and implementation of plant passport system.

Upon the completion of Twinning contract, the SPPS will take full responsibility for the continued operation and maintenance of the effective phytosanitary, plant protection products, and fruits and vegetables mandatory quality requirements control systems. Further training and experience in relevant fields will be transmitted to the rest part of the SPPS staff to ensure sustainability of the system.

Activities supported by the STEs for LSPVTC:

- Providing assistance in the establishment of the technical examination system of new plant varieties;
- Preparing recommendations in the field of the publishing of The National List.
- Preparing training programmes and delivering training of the LSPVTC for the technical examination of the new plant varieties.

Scope of the Twinning (task of the Pre-accession Adviser)

One Pre-accession Adviser (thereinafter - PAA) with good administrative skills and good knowledge of written and spoken English for 18 months. The PAA will be responsible for the co-ordination of short-term experts (thereinafter - STEs) and all reports associated with the project. The PAA will possess the following qualifications:

• Basic knowledge of EU *Acquis* on phytosanitary and quality standards for fruit and vegetable (all regulations and requirements in these fields);

• Practical experience in approximation of national legislation to the EU *Acquis* in the each field of the Project; practical experience in drafting and applying legal acts in the national legal system;

• Practical experience in the determination of trainings needs, preparation and implementation of training packages.

Short - term experts

The short-term expert team, with the input of 19 person/months, should have an experience and assist in the following areas:

• Harmonization of legislation and analysis of EU *Acquis* on plant health as well as its application in the national legal system (the specialist legal inputs required, training and consultations);

• Harmonization of legislation and analysis of plant protection EU *Acquis* as well as its application in the national legal system (the specialist legal inputs required, training and consultations);

• Preparation of operational guidelines for the establishment of quality control system for PRL of the SPPS;

• Development and establishing of plant passport administration management system;

• Consultation and training need analysis and training programme provision for the SPPS staff accordingly in all the fields of the project;

• Preparation of need analysis, technical specifications, equipment procurement tender documents, the tender evaluation for equipment and facilities for PRL of SPPS and regional mini-laboratories, for database management and implementation of plant passport system.

• Assistance to the Lithuanian State Plant Varieties Testing Centre in the implementation of plant variety legislation, and establishing of the technical examination system of new plant varieties;

• Preparation of recommendations in the field of the publishing of National List.

• Consultation and training need analysis and training programme provision for the LSPVTC staff accordingly in all the fields of the project;

Operating environment of the twinning

The SPPS will be the main counterpart institution for the Twinning project. To ensure smooth operations, it will provide office accommodation and the usual office equipment to the project. It will also contribute to covering the expenses of training events in Lithuania and of local travel.

Supply Contract

The procurement and supply of equipment will be based on the review and needs analysis that will be performed during the implementation of Twinning project. As starting point a preliminary list of the SPPS and LSPVTC equipment needs would include equipment presented in *Annex* 6.

3.5. Lessons learned

During the Phare project No. LI98 "Assessment of needs on Veterinary and Phytosanitary border control in Lithuania" there was estimated that FRL management, as long term objective, needs to be improved in order to introduce a quality assurance system.

In the Final Report of the Phare project No. LI 9803.01.01 the team leader Mr. Hans van Riel has indicated the need for successive projects for further strengthening of the phytosanitary control: upgrading of regional laboratories, training of phytosanitary inspectors on inspection procedures and diagnosis of diseases and pests. In order to realize these objectives the team leader in the Final Report has proposed the following recommendations: equipment for regional laboratories and PRL ("*The Laboratory facilities do not seem to be adequate. They are too small for the work that has to be performed.*") should be procured, equipment for producing plant passports should be acquired, training for the phytosanitary inspectors on inspection and sampling, registration of producers, importers and traders of plants and plant products, issuing of plant passports should be provided,

training in the EU for the identification of harmful bacteria for the staff of the diagnostic laboratories for monitoring and surveying as well as study trip for the registration of producers and importers should be organised. In the Final Report there has been stressed the necessity for the access of phytosanitary inspectors to scientific information (data leaflets, books, periodical scientific publications, etc.) and for translation of some informational material.

4. Institutional Framework

The Project will be co-ordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania (thereinafter - MoA), which is the recipient institution and responsible for formulating agriculture policy. The Project will support key elements of the current agricultural policy. Direct beneficiaries are the SPPS and LSPVTC. SPPS will be authorized to co-ordinate and implement the Project (The detailed institutional framework is presented in *Annex 7*).

5. Budget (in MEUR)

Project	Investment	Institution	Total	National	Total
Components	Support	Building	Phare	Co-	
			(I + IB)	financing	
Twinning		0.70	0.70		0.70
SPPS supply	0.525		0.525	0.175	0.70
component					
LSPVTC	0.2475		0.2475	0.0825	0.33
supply					
component					
Total	0.7725	0.7	1.4725	0.2575	1.73

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency

The CFCU will be the Implementing Agency responsible for tendering, contracting, and accounting. PAO: Mr. Z. Pajarskas, CFCU Director,

J. Tumo-Vaizganto 8A/2, 2600 Vilnius, Lithuania

Tel: +370 2 791487, Fax: + 370 2 225335, e- mail: info@cfcu.lt.

The following officers of SPPS and LSPVTC will be responsible for technical preparation and control of the Project under the overall policy guidance by the Ministry of Agriculture:

Mr. Edmundas Morkevicius, Director of SPPS,

Pelesos 85, 2014 Vilnius, Lithuania,

Tel. +370 5 2624940, Fax: + 370 5 2624940, e-mail <u>vaat@vaat.lt</u>.

Mr. Jogaila Mackevicius, Head of European Integration Division, SPPS, Pelesos 85, 2014 Vilnius, Lithuania, Tel. +370 5 2312542, Fax: + 370 5 2624940, e-mail <u>vaates@vaat.lt</u>

Mr. Stanislovas Polikaitis, Head of State Plant Variety Testing Center, Smelio 8, 2055 Vilnius, Lithuania,

Tel. +370 5 2349296, Fax. +370 5 2341862, e-mail <u>lvavtc@takas.lt</u>

6.2 Twinning

The Twinning Team will primarily be located at the SPPS under the Ministry of Agriculture that will be the beneficiary of the Projects. The Counterpart of the PAA will be Mr. Edmundas Morkevicius, Director of SPPS, Pelesos 85, 2014 Vilnius, Lithuania, Tel. +370 5 2624940, Fax: + 370 5 2624940, e-mail vaat@vaat.lt.; the contact person - Mr. Jogaila Mackevicius, Head of European Integration

Division, SPPS, tel. 31 25 42, e-mail : Pelesos 85, 2014 Vilnius, Lithuania, Tel. +370 2 312542, Fax: + 370 2 624940, e-mail <u>vaates@vaat.lt</u>; the contact Person of the LSPVTC – Ms Danguole Kirvaitiene, e-mail kirvaitd@takas.lt Tel. +370 5 2344590, Fax. +370 5 2341862

6.3 Non-standard aspects

PRAG and Twinning Manual will be applied fully. The activities of the Twinning arrangement can be started after the completion of the on-going Phare 2001 project, which is foreseen to end in October 2003.

6.4 Contracts

There will be two contracting operations in this Project: Value of Twinning Covenant	0.7 MEUR
Value of Supply tender	1.03 MEUR
Value of Supply contract for SPPS component	0.70 MEUR, of which 0.175 MEUR is national co-financing
Value of Supply contract for LSPVTC component	0.33 MEUR, of which 0.0825 MEUR is national

7. Implementation Schedule

Component	Start of Tende ring	Start of Project Activity	Project completion
Twinning	2Q/03	4Q/03	1Q/05
Supply contract	1Q/04	3Q/04	4Q/04

co-financing

8. Equal Opportunity

Lithuanian Constitution, the Law on Equal Opportunities between Men and Women, and other legal acts explicitly forbid the discrimination on the basis of sex, nationality and religion. The Lithuanian Parliament appoints a Controller on equal opportunities between men and women. The beneficiary institutions guarantee equal opportunity participation in the Project.

9. Environment

All equipment supplies will respect the relevant environmental standards of the EU.

10. Rates of Return

The investment elements of the Project refer to institutional development activities for which rates of return are not calculated.

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11.1. Catalytic effect:	The project will finance activities that will help the beneficiary institution to comply with EU standards and other international requirements. Without Phare support, full compliance could be achieved only much later. The project is also catalytic in that it will stimulate the relevant agricultural sub-sectors into being prepared for accession.
11.2. Co-financing:	Lithuanian government institutions will contribute with 0.26 MEUR to the investment component of the project.
11.3. Additionality:	No other financiers will be displaced by the Phare intervention.
11.4. Project readiness and size:	The Project is based on the need analysis made in the framework of the previous Phare programs (1998 and 2000). The activities of this Project are foreseen as to continue the development of capacities of the SPPS started by the Phare programs 1998, 2000, and 2001. Preparation for Phare tendering and contracting can commence immediately.
11.5. Sustainability:	Relevant government policies ensure sustainability. Beneficiary institution is in a position to operate the Project and the procured equipment effectively in the long run. Funds for the operation will be provided by the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture. All acquired equipment will respect the standards applicable after Lithuania's accession to the Union.
11.6. Compliance with state aids provisions:	The state aids provisions of the Europe Agreement will be respected.
11.7. Contribution to National Development Plan:	Not applicable

12. Conditionality and sequencing

The project is conditional to the availability of local co-financing.

The activities of the Twinning arrangement can be started after the completion of the on-going Phare 2001 project, which is foreseen to end in October 2003.

The project will be build on the basis of the results of the earlier projects in this area.

Tendering for the Supply Component will start after the Twinning component has been launched.

Annexes to Project Fiche

1.	Logframe Matrix.
2.	Detailed Implementation Chart.
3.	Cumulative Contracting and Disbursement Schedule for the Project (MEUR).
4.	List of Relevant EU Legislation (Optional)
5.	List of Relevant Laws and Regulations (Optional).
6.	Relation with parallel on-going projects
7.	Preliminary List of Required Equipment
8.	Institutional Framework.

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX Strengthening the implementation of policies and proce identificatio	edures on plant protection and plant variety on Objectively Verifiable Indicators:	Programme Name and Number: Contracting Period Expires: 2Q/05 Total Budget: €1.73 Million	SPPS LT02xx Disbursement Period Expires: 2Q/06 Phare Budget: €1.4725 Million		
Complete alignment of the Lithuanian phytosanitary inspection and control system with the <i>Acquis</i> , develop the fruits and vegetables quality standards checking system and ensuring of the plant variety legal protection and testing quality according to EU requirements.	Performance indicators defined in Council Directives 2000/29/EC, 91/414/EEC, 79/117/EEC, Commission Directive 92/105/EEC, Commission Regulation 2251/92/EEC, and Council Regulation 2200/96/EC equal or better than in comparable Member States.	Regular Government reports Annual reports of the beneficiary institutions			
 Project Purpose 1. Plant protection: strengthen the implementation of policies and procedures; 2. Effective functioning of control systems: overall phytosanitary inspection and control at place of production and at the border, legal basis for post-registration control of plant protection products (PPPs), verify mandatory quality standards for fruits and vegetables. 3. Quality assurance: introduce a Quality Assurance System at the Phytosanitary Research Laboratory (PRL) of State Plant Protection Service (SPPS) and field inspection functioning according to accreditation standards; 4. Capacity on plant variety: strengthen the administrative capacity of the Lithuanian State Plant Varieties Testing Centre (LSPVTC). 	Objectively Verifiable Indicators: Enacted Lithuanian national legislation; Plant passport system ready to be in place under accession, Fruits and vegetables in the Lithuanian market meet standard quality requirements; SPPS PRL accredited; The Lithuanian State Plant Variety Testing Center in the area of plant variety testing quality functions as in comparable EU member states.	Source of Verification Official Journal and international reports; SPPS statistics and reports; Reports of the Lithuanian National Nutrition Centre; Accreditation report (Quality Manual); Annual assessments by independent evaluators and Ministry of Agriculture; Regular project reports.	Assumptions Continued Government commitment to the process of reform in the pre-accession period; Full cooperation between staff in the Ministry and its associated bodies as well as experts carrying out the project.		

Results	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Source of Verification	Assumptions
National and EU legislation concerning the phytosanitary, plant protection.	Articles of correspondence, and legal texts accepted by the	Reports by CECU, PAA.	Governmental
and fruit and vegetables quality standard requirements <i>Acquis</i> analysed, tables	MoA and other competent institutions:	and SPPS project leaders:	support and finance for
of correspondence drafted and Lithuanian legislation revised as needed:	Operational guidelines accented by SPPS	SPPS annual reports:	implementation of the
Operational guidelines for guality control for the PRL ready for	60 SPPS graduates of the training programmes and civil	Manuals and training	strategy:
application:	consultations programs.	programmes.	Successful
Training packages for SPPS specialists covering legal matters laboratory	All supplies delivered in time and at the right levels of	Handing-over notes:	implementation of
work, management of plant passport system, and fruits and vegetables quality	quality as planned:	Project reports:	linked Phare and bi-
standards control developed and implemented:	National Plant Variety List approved and included into the	Equipment delivery	lateral projects;
PRL and regional mini-laboratories of SPPS fully equipped and facilitated	Common Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties:	documents	Trained officers
with laboratory instruments'	The catalogue of plant varieties as well as any amendment	documents.	can be retained within
The stoff of the Lithuanian State Plant Variaty Testing Canton	thereto notified for with to the other Member States and the		the sy stem;
trained and laboratory ungraded:	Commission.		Adequate staff
The quality of the official examination of the plant variaties improved:	12 persons of the Lithuanian State Plant Variety Testing		recruited;
The National List of plant variation published	Center (LSPVTC) trained		Successful start
The reactional List of plant varieties published.	Considerable progress achieved in establishing VCU (value		and smooth
	of cultivation and use) trials and in the precision of calculation of		implementation of the
	test data of Lithuanian and EU breeders for more than 350		project.
	agricultural plant species which every year are tested in LSPVTC		
	trials		
Activities	Means		Assumptions
Analysis, evaluation of tables of correspondence, revision, and translation	1 Twinning arrangement for 1 PAA for 18 p/m and 17 STE p/n	n of training and advice;	Local co-financing
of national and EU legislation concerning the phytosanitary Acquis;	1 Supply tender for laboratory equipment and facilities, databa	ase management, passporting	available
Analysis of institutional features and work processes of the PRL of SPPS	equipment and equipment for variety testing.		
and preparation of recommendations for quality control in line with the Acquis;			
Training needs analysis and development and implementation of training			
packages;			
Specification and procurement of equipment and facilities for the SPPS			
laboratories, database management and passporting;			
To conduct review and develop recommendations linked to the			
identification of plant varieties;			
To develop recommendations in the field of the publishing the National			
List of plant varieties.			
	Preconditions		
	Qualified Twinning partner institution can be found.		

Annex 2

Detailed Implementation Chart for the Project

Year	 2002						2003								2004							2005														
Month					ſ	[]		1	2	3 4	1	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	12	2	34	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4
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Twinning	 L	L	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	l	<u> </u>	<u> </u>]												: :										:	:					
Supply																																				



Design Tendering Implementation

CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (Phare Contribution only - €1.61 Million)

		Date											
		2002			2	003			20	2005			
	30/06	30/09	31/12	31/03	31/06	30/09	31/12	31/03	30/06	30/09	31/12	31/03	30/06
Contracting													
Twinning							0.7						
Investment										0.77			
Total contracting (cumulative)							0.7			1.47			
Disbursement													
Twinning							0.23	0.308	0.1238	0.464	0.542	0.62	0.7
Investment									0.462	0.693	0.693	0.77	0.77
Total disbursement (cumulative)							0.23	0.308	0.6698	1.283	1.361	1.53	1.61

Annex 3

Annex 4

List of the Main Relevant EU Legislation (Optional)

All EU legislation concerning phytosanitary controls and inspection, control of plant protection products, control of quality standards of fruit and vegetable, with special regard to:

Council Directive 2000/29/EC	On protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community
Commission Directive 92/105/EEC	Establishing a degree of standardization for plant passports to be used for the Community, and establishing the detailed procedures related to the issuing of such plant passports and the conditions and detailed procedures for their replacement
Council Directive 91/414/EEC	On plant protection products placing on the market
Council Directive 79/117/EEC	On prohibition placing on marked and using plant protection products, containing certain active substances
Commission Regulation 2251/92/ EEC	On quality inspection of fresh fruit and vegetables
Council Regulation 2200/96/EC	On the common organisation of the market of fruit and vegetables
Council Directive 2002/53/EC of 13 June 2002	On the Common Catalogue of Varieties of Agricultural Plant Species

List of Relevant Laws and Regulations

All EU legislation concerning phytosanitary controls and inspection, control of plant protection products, control of quality standards of fruits and vegetables, with special regard to:

1. Law No. VIII - 1481 On Phytosanitary of the Republic of Lithuania, adopted on 16 December 1999;

2. Law No. VIII - 740 On Ratification Convention on Establishment of European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation, adopted on 14 May 1998;

3. Law No. VIII – 1437 On Ratification International Plant Protection Convention, adopted on 23 November 1999;

4. Order No. 315 On the Approval of the Lists of the Quarantine Organisms for Plants, Plant Products and Other Objects and Repealing the Order No. 321, adopted on 20 November 2000 by the Minister of Agriculture;

4. Law No. VIII – 769 On the Amendment of the Republic of Lithuania Law on Plant Protection, adopted on 4 June 1998;

5. Order No. 196/134/225 On Approval Regulations of Registration of Plant Protection Products and On Approval Rules for Handling Plant Protection Products, adopted on 7 May 1999 by the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Healthcare, Minister of Environment;

6. Order No. 409 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Melons, adopted on 21 November 2001 by the Minister of Agriculture;

7. Order No. 375 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Watermelons, adopted on 05 November 2001 by the Minister of Agriculture;

6. Order No. 340 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Raisins, adopted on 28 September 2001 by the Minister of Agriculture;

7. Order No. 296 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Sweet Paprika, Peaches, and Nectarines, adopted on 28 August 2001 by the Minister of Agriculture;

8. Order No. 257 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Plums, Cauliflower, and Artichokes, adopted on 25 July 2001 by the Minister of Agriculture;

9. Order No. 221 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Strawberries, Wild Strawberries, Cherries, and Sweet Cherries, adopted on 29 June 2001 by the Minister of Agriculture;

10. Order No. 112 On Quality Control for Imported Production of Agriculture, adopted on 11 April 2001 by the Minister of Agriculture;

11. Order No. 37 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Apples, Pears, and Cucumber, adopted on 23 February 2001 by the Minister of Agriculture;

12. Order No. 27 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Onion, Cabbage, and Carrots, adopted on 13 February 2001 by the Minister of Agriculture;

13. Order No. 328 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Garlic, Snap-beans, Spinaches, and Leafstalk Celeries, adopted on 27 November 2000 by the Minister of Agriculture;

14. Order No. 326 On Quality Inspection Methodology for Vegetables, Fruits, Berries, and Mushrooms, adopted on 27 November 2000 by the Minister of Agriculture;

15. Order No. 306 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Brussels, Peas, and Asparaguses, adopted on 02 November 2000 by the Minister of Agriculture;

16. Order No. 176 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Leeks, Courgettes, Aubergines, and Tomatoes, adopted on 06 June 2000 by the Minister of Agriculture;

17. Order No. 476 On Mandatory Quality Requirements for Apricots, Salad, and Salad Chicory, adopted on 31 December 1999 by the Minister of Agriculture;

18. Law No IX-602 On Seed Cultivation, November 15, 2001.

Relation with parallel projects*

Strengthening the capacity to implement EU Acquis for Agriculture (CAP) 2002	Strengthening the implementation of policies and procedures on plant
<i>1</i>	protection and plant variety
	identification 2003
Project purpose	
Quality evaluation of fruits and vegetables	Verifying quality standards for fruits and vegetables
Results	
 Finalised implementation of food quality evaluation and control system: 1) The main objective of the activities in the fields of quality evaluation of fruit and vegetables is to increase the capacity to ensure full implementation of national legislation in accordance with the EU <i>Acquis</i> in this field. 2) Creation of all necessary methodological basis (training materials, special vademecums for all fruits and vegetables and etc.) for the carrying out the quality control in line with the EU regulations. 3) Supply of quality control equipment for inspectors* (this equipment can be used only in case of quality check and will not be suitable for other purposes). 	 Training packages for SPPS specialists covering fruits and vegetables quality standards: 1) The main objective of the activities in the fields of quality control for fruits and vegetables is the training of the implementing agency (SPPS) personnel to carry out the check according to the EU good practice. 2) The new staff will be engaged for quality control; 3) The equipment, which will be obtained by this project, can be used only for phytosanitary purposes and in cases to detect harmful pests, weeds and diseases.
* - Because the MoA assigned the function of fruit and vegetable quality control to SPPS by the order of the Minister of Agriculture No. 112 "On Quality control for Imported Production of Agriculture" on 11 th of April 2001. The MoA must support all required equipment, because SPPS is only implementing institution.	

*These projects are not implementing yet

Preliminary List of Required Equipment*

SPPS component:

No	Equipment	Quantity,	Supposi-	Supposi-
		Units	tional	tional
			Unit	Price, EUR
			Price,	
		<u> </u>	EUR	
-	For Central Laboratory of SPPS and region	onal mini-lat	oratories	<0.000
1.	Routine stereozoom binoscopes	20	3 400	68 000
	10 for regional posts;			
	9 lor border posts (2 lor Kalvarija, 2 lor vilnius, 1 for Vaidatai, 1 for Sastakai, 1 for Klaipada, 1 for			
	Denomune 1 for Selecici):			
	1 for Central Laboratory			
2	Routine microscopes	5	2 800	14 000
4.	5 for regional posts	5	2 000	11000
3.	Homogenisator (leaf juice press) – for pressing	1	7 500	7 500
	leave samples for ELISA and other methods in the			
	Central laboratory.			
4.	Digital cameras:	20	840	16 800
	10 for regional posts;			
	9 for border posts (2 for Kalvarija, 2 for Vilnius, 1			
	for Vaidotai, 1 for Sestokai, 1 for Klaipeda, 1 for			
	Panemune, 1 for Salociai)			
	1 for Central Laboratory			
5.	Microscope with immunofluorescence – for	1	17 000	17 000
<u> </u>	bacteria examination in the Central laboratory		16000	16000
6.	Freezing room $(10 - 15 \text{ m}^2)$ for storing samples in	1	16 800	16 800
7	the required temperature at the Central laboratory	1	5000	5000
/.	incubator with cooling (up to + 90) for	1	5000	5000
8	Plant growing chamber for entomologist (insect	1	29,000	29.000
0.	growing) in the Central Laboratory	1	27 000	27 000
9.	Refrigerators:	10	420	4 200
	5 for regional posts and			
	5 for Central Laboratory			
10.	Scales (16 kg-18 kg):	20	340	6 800
	10 for regional posts			
	9 for border inspection posts			
	1 for Central Laboratory			
11.	Incubator with cooling (from + 5 - +40)	3	5000	15 000
	For tests of bacteriologist and virologist			
12.	Set of knifes (of 5 different sizes):	32	28	896
	10 for inland inspection			
12	20 for border inspection			
13.	Probes:	17	290	4.760
	- for sampling from wagons and trucks:	1/	280	4 /60
	10 for regional posts,			

	5 for border inspection			
	2 for Central laboratory			
	- for sampling from sacks:	26	<mark>145</mark>	<mark>3 770</mark>
	15 regional posts,			
	9 border inspection			
	2 for Central laboratory			
	- for soil sampling:	12	<mark>50</mark>	<mark>600</mark>
	10 for regional posts			
	2 for Central Laboratory			
15.	High quality microscope with pro-image analysis	1	40000	40000
	software, digital camera with computer and with			
	colour laser printer for identification, measuring			
	and saving of tested samples in the Central			
	laboratory			
16.	Electrophoresis with accessories – for Liriomyza,	1	4 200	4 200
	Bemisia and other quarantine insect species			
	identification in the Central laboratory			
17.	Oostenbrink elutriator with accessories – for	1	9000	9000
	extraction of free living nematodes from the soil			
10	samples in the Central laboratory	1	17.000	17.000
18.	High quality stereobinoscope – for mycologist	1	17000	17000
10	routine work in the Central laboratory	1	17000	17000
19.	High quality microscope – for entomologist routine	1	17000	17000
20	Baturn algebrankorgsig for testing of viroid in the	1	4 200	4 200
20.	Central laboratory	1	4 200	4 200
21	Silver staining system for electrophoresis with	1	15000	15000
21.	accessories – testing of viroid in the Central	1	10000	12000
	laboratory			
22.	Sample sawing (mill) - for woody samples sawing	1	10 000	10 000
	in the Central laboratory			
23.	Lift for loading samples from the first flour to the	1	18 000	18 000
	ground flour in the Central laboratory.			
24.	Laboratory tables for Central Laboratory	28	1 700	47 600
25.	Laboratory stools for Central Laboratory	22	420	9 240
26.	Computer program for recognizing of harmful	1	18 000	18 000
	organisms			
	For plant passport system database manager	nent and imp	olementation	
31.	Specialized printing machines of three kinds for	13	14 000	182 000
	printing the determined form labels with required			
	information recorder on them: for saplings, for			
L	boxes, and labels for sacks			
32.	Computers with software and printers	30	3 100	93 000
		TOTAL:		<mark>694 366 EUR</mark>

During previous projects investment regarding PRL was mainly concentrated on long term border inspection posts, so regional mini-laboratories are still lacking modern equipment. Therefore PRL facilities would be upgraded with the procurement of specific analytical equipment

Routine stereozoom binoscopes (10 pieces were already delivered to 6 BIPs according Phare 2000 program) 20 sets will be delivered for 10 regional PRL, 9 rest border inspection posts and 1 for Central Laboratory; and 5 **routine microscopes** for 5 regional PRL. **Homogenisator** (leaf juice

press) is used for pressing leave samples for ELISA and other methods and will be located in the Central laboratory. 19 **Digital cameras** (10 pieces were already delivered according Phare 2000 program) will be delivered: for 10 regional PRL, 9 for border inspection posts (2 for Kalvarija, 2 for Vilnius, 1 for Vaidotai, 1 for Sestokai, 1 for Klaipeda, 1 for Panemune, 1 for Salociai – regarding amount of production) and 1 piece for Central laboratory. Special equipment like: **freezing room** $(10 - 15 \text{ m}^2)$ for storing samples in the required temperature; incubator with cooling (up to + 90°), **plant growing chamber** (or insect growing) used by entomologist, **2 incubators for cooling (from** +**5** - +**40**) for bacteriology and virology needs will be constructed at the Central Laboratory (5 pieces) and the biggest regional laboratories (5). **Scales (16 kg-18 kg) for weighting of samples** (5 sets are already delivered to BIPs) 10 for regional laboratories and 9 for border inspection and 1 for Central PRL. 32 **sets of knifes** of 5 different sizes will be delivered for: regional laboratories – 20 sets, border inspection – 9 (2 for Kalvarija, 2 for Vilnius, 1 for Klaipeda, 1 for Vaidotai, 1 for Sestokai, 1 for Salociai – regarding amount of production) and 3 sets for Central Laboratory.

For phytosanitary laboratory analysis 3 kind of **probes** are used: for taking samples from wagons and trucks, for taking samples from sucks, for taking soil samples. Regarding amount of production, size of laboratory stuff and already received equipment, new sets of knifes will be distributed as follows: for taking samples from wagons and trucks – 10 sets for regional laboratories, 5 for border inspection posts and 2 for central Laboratory; for taking samples from sacks – 15 sets for regional laboratories, 9 for border inspection, 2 for Central Laboratory; for taking soil samples – 1 for each regional laboratory, 2 for central laboratory.

For upgrading Central PRL must be equipped by modern specialised high quality equipment: **High quality microscope with pro-image analysis software, digital camera with computer and with colour laser printer** for identification, measuring and saving of tested samples, **electrophoresis with accessories** – for Liriomyza, Bemisia and other quarantine insect species identification, **ostenbrink elutriator with accessories** – for extraction of free living nematodes from the soil samples, **High quality stereoscopic microscope** – for mycologist routine work, **high quality microscope** – for entomologist routine work, **return electrophoresis** – for testing of viroid, **silver staining system for electrophoresis with accessories** – testing of viroid, **sample sawing (mill)** - for woody samples sawing and office equipment as well as required office equipment like lift for **lift for loading samples** from the first flour to the ground flour of the building, **laboratory tables** and **laboratory stools**.

Specialized printing machines will be provided for printing the determined form labels of three kinds with required information recorder on them: for saplings, for boxes, and labels for sacks. 3 printing machines will be located at Central office of SPPS and 10 pieces will be distributed to each regional Plant Quarantine post of SPPS for a better organisation of plant passport administration. Also computers and printers will be distributed for central office of SPPS, regional posts and border inspection posts for implementation of management of plant passport system.

Procurement	Quantity	Suppositional	Suppositional
		Unit Price, EUR	Price, EUR
Small-size universal combine harvesters with 2m	3	62 000	186 000
header and			
weighing funnel for cereals, rape and perennial			
grasses varieties, harvested on small trial plots			
Special sowing machines,	3	45 000	135 000
Universal, 15-2 m width			
precision drills for small plot			

LSPVTC component:

trial sowing (cereals, rape,			
perennial grasses and			
maize varieties)			
Automatic polarimeter AG 2001 for analysing sugar	1	10 500	10 500
and starch content of malting barley, potato, sugar			
beet, vegetables, berries and fruits			
Homogenizer 2094 for more	1	680	680
precise preparation of			
samples for analysing sugar beet, potato, vegetables, f			
and			
berries.			
Special wages SCALTEC SPO-51 for very precise	1	800	800
weighing of examples of different samples for			
laboratory analyses.			
Total:			332.980

Small-size universal combines and Special **sowing machines** will be allotted (assigned) for the Kaunas, Pasvalys and Utena specialized plant varieties testing stations, for the cereals, rapeseed, corn, flax, sugar beet, perennial grasses varieties trials sowing and harvesting. Every year in these stations are tested 400 – 500 varieties of different agricultural species. The test of all varieties is performed in four instalments, i.e. for every test there are 4 distinct plots, 25 sq. meters each, which are planted with the seeds of the tested variety. The total number of experimental plots planted by tested varieties is 2,000-2,500 plots per year. The aim of this officially accepted system is to select and recommend the best locally adapted varieties of different crops for including into Lithuanian National List, analogous to the national lists of plant varieties from the National List of Lithuania could be included into Common Catalogue of Agricultural Plant Varieties").

Automatic polarimeter AG 2001, Homogenizer 2094 and Special wages SCALTEC SPO 51 will be allotted for the Laboratory of the LSPVTC for analysing sugar and starch content of malting barley, potato, sugar beet, vegetables, berries and fruits, for more precise preparation of samples and for very precise weighing of different samples for laboratory analyses.

During the vegetation period experimental crops are observed and monitored under various aspects. After the maturity of experimental crops they are harvested and weighed, and the production samples from each station of each variety are dispatched for the quality examination at the Laboratory of the Center.

* The final and comprehensive list of needed equipment and its costs will be elaborated after needs analysis performed during the implementation of Twinning project.

Institutional Framework

SPPS component:

The SPPS under the MoA is the official authority responsible for plant health control at import and export and national surveillance of domestic products as well as plant protection products authorisation and handling control. This is the official plant protection organisation within the meaning of the International Plant Protection Convention. SPPS is responsible for plant health control (control at import, export and national surveillance) and for the control and handling of PPPs. The organisation is similar to other European countries' organisation of Plant Protection Organisation. SPPS' organisational structure covers 10 Regional Plant Protection Service in the country. RPPS are responsible for national surveillance, plant quarantine control at import as well as agricultural forecasting and warning. The SPPS, including regional plant quarantine posts, agronomists and phytosanitary border inspection posts, has 200 staff members.

The PRL of SPPS makes identification of harmful organisms in follows areas: entomology, bacteriology, mycology, nematology, virology, herbology. The PRL of the SPPS is undergoing modernisation. Modernisation of PRL will enable to use for identification of harmful organisms more modern, quicker and more reliable methods. The PRL of SPPS is a backbone of phytosanitary system and requires for accreditation at the same time together with the network of regional mini-laboratories for further modernisation. The establishment of operational guidelines for quality control for the PRL will enable the SPPS to carry out inspections and checks using methods recognized in the EU. In addition to detection and identification of relevant harmful organisms, the PRL carries out training for inspectors from regional and border posts.

The implementation of the policies on plant protection is an important function of the Lithuanian SPPS. The SPPS is now responsible for the authorization of PPPs. The supervising of distribution and use of PPPs is the responsibility of agronomists-official plant protection inspectors accountable to county governors. To strengthen the implementation of plant protection policies the plant protection inspectors (currently on temporary attachment to the SPPS) will be transferred to the SPPS at the middle of 2003 when the SPPS assumes the sole responsibilities for this area. (Decision of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania No. 206 "On the partial adjustment of the decision No. 92 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania adopted on 26th January 1998 "On the transfer of some powers of ministries and governmental institutions as well as corresponding objects, material and financial resources to administration of county governors" was approved on 11th February, 2002).



LSPVTC component:

Lithuanian State Plant Varieties Testing Centre is the national variety office responsible for:

- Official variety testing
- Variety listing (NL)
- Plant variety protection

The main tasks of the Lithuanian State Plant Varieties Testing Centre are:

- Maintaining the List of Varieties Most Suetable for Growing in Lithuania (National List)
- Maintaining the List of Protected Plant Varieties
- Ensure the plant variety identification and testing quality according to EU requirements (; 2002/53)
- Testing for distinctness, uniformity and stability of cultivars (DUS tests)
- Assessment of cultivars value for cultivation and use (VCU assessment)
- Preparation of official descriptions of varieties included into NL
- Preparation official variety testing reports
- Cooperation with national and international institutions, dealing with variety testing, listing and protection, as well as other institutions from seed sector



COOPERATION IN VARIETY LISTING AND PROTECTION

The staff of the LSPVTC including all plant varieties testing stations totals 81 (see chart).

The National List is an official list of varieties, whose seed material can be legally marketed in Lithuania. In order to be listed/registered, a variety must be distinct, uniform and stable, designated by a denomination and of adequate value for cultivation and use (VCU). The VCU is evaluated under different cultivation conditions throught Lithuania at the nine plant varieties testing stations (see chart), and information from these trials is used for the recommendation of varieties in each climate zone and it facilitaties farmers to make an accurate choice of the most suitable varieties for their farming conditions.

