



Trip Report: Constraints to Growth in Russian Agriculture

Russia: 25-26 April 2003

By Bruce Gardner, Gregory Brock, Zvi Lerman, and Glenn Pederson

On April 25-26, 2003 an interim BASIS researchers conference was held in Golitzino, Russia to present preliminary findings from the project. This report summarizes the workshop that was held.

Presentations were made on progress on all six ongoing sub-projects: land market, finance and capital, labor, purchased inputs, farm management and organization, and newly emerging vertically integrated enterprises. The centerpiece of substantive presentation and discussion was preliminary findings from the survey of 548 farms (136 large-farm descendants of former collective farms, 222 private farms, and 190 household-plot farms). The conference was organized by Eugenia Serova and her colleagues. Only about 15 people participated (see attached list of participants), but the activity was organized formally at a relatively remote location in the Moscow suburbs in order to maximize the sustained participation of all. In addition to ten Russians directly involved in paper writing, three others from Russian team attended. Preliminary and in most cases partial drafts of 10 papers in English on various aspects of these topics were distributed, as well as several pieces of commentary and preliminary data analysis; and 7 papers were distributed in Russian.

The agenda (rearranged on the spot as contingencies required) was:

April 25

9:00–9:20 **B. Gardner, E. Serova**
Opening of the conference

9:20 13:30 *First section*
 Moderator - E. Serova

9:20-10:20 **Z. Lerman, M. Grazhdaninova**
Farm-Level Production Functions Estimated Using Survey Data

10:20-11:00 *Questions, discussion*

11:00-11:30 coffee-break

11:30-13:30 *Discussion (continuation)*

13:30-15:00 Lunch

15:00-19:00 *Second section*

	<i>Moderator – Z. Lerman</i>
15:00-16:30	V. Uzun, D. Rylko, I. Khramova <i>Farm structure in Russia</i>
16:30-17:00	coffee-break
17:00–19:00	<i>Questions, discussion</i>
19:00-20:00	Dinner

April 26

9:00—11:30	<u><i>Third section.</i></u>	<i>Moderator – V. Uzun</i>
9:00-10:00	N.Shagaida, Z. Lerman <i>Land Market</i>	
10:00-11:30	<i>Questions, discussion</i>	
11:00-11:30	coffee-break	
11:30-14:00	<u><i>Fourth section</i></u>	<i>Moderator – B. Gardner</i>
11:30-12:00	O. Yastrebova <i>Capital market</i>	
12:00-13:30	<i>Questions, discussion</i>	
13:30-15:00	coffee-break	
15:00-16:30	<u><i>Fifth section</i></u>	<i>Moderator – D. Rylko</i>
15:00-15:30	W. Bogdanovsky <i>Labour market</i>	
15:30-16:30	<i>Questions, discussion</i>	
16:30-17:00	coffee-break	
17:00-19:00	<u><i>Sixth section</i></u>	<i>Moderator – G. Brock</i>
17:00-18:00	E. Serova, O. Shick, B. Gardner <i>Inputs market</i>	
18:00-19:00	<i>Questions, discussion</i>	
19:30	Departure to Moscow	

Presenters were each asked to cover: main factual findings so far, preliminary results of analysis using survey data, and plans for further research. Some of the papers are attached. About half the presentation and discussion was held in Russian and half in English, with interpretation as needed, which enabled substantially quicker and more fluent presentation and discussion than one sees with formally organized simultaneous translation.

Assessment of progress: The papers most directly related to the survey completed in November-December 2002 are furthest advanced. Cleaned data, requiring going back

to farms surveyed for clarification of responses in some cases, have been distributed to all members of the BASIS research team as Excel files. Grazhdaninova and Lerman both presented extensive and detailed preliminary work estimating production functions and efficiency analysis using data envelopment analysis, stochastic frontier analysis, and other evaluative tools. Indications are that we have a quite high-quality set of data that will tell us a lot about the situation in Russian agriculture. All the papers provided relevant descriptive material and discussion of hypotheses, but the bulk of analytical work remains to be carried out.

It was decided to convene a larger conference at approximately the end of September 2003, at Golitzino. This conference would center on completed versions of papers on the six main topic areas, and some cases joint Russian/U.S. authored papers, in others separate papers by Russian and U.S. authors, and in still others papers by Russian authors only. We will have commentaries by Russians and foreigners who have not been directly involved with the BASIS research group. The discussants will be drawn from the business and policy-making communities as well as academics. The papers and discussants will be encouraged to carry their conclusions as far as possible in the direction of policy implications. Each author will be asked to prepare short, lay-accessible summaries of their findings, suitable as material for a BASIS Brief.

List of Participants:

1. Bruce Gardner, University of Maryland-College Park
2. Eugenia Serova, Analytical Centre AFE
3. Zvi Lerman, Hebrew University
4. M. Grazhdaninova
5. Vasili Uzun, All-Russia Institute of Agrarian Problems and Information
6. Dmitri Rylko, Agribusiness Center
7. I. Khramova
8. Natalya Shagaida, VIAPI
9. Olga Yastrebova, Netherlands Economic Institute
10. W. Bogdanovsky
11. O. Shick
12. Greg Brock, Georgia Southern University
13. Glenn Pederson, University of Minnesota

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