PROTOCOL OF INTENTIONS
DEVELOPMENT OF A PROGRAM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY (AMES, IOWA) AND NIZHNI NOVGOROD STATE AGRICULTURAL ACADEMY (NIZHNI NOVGOROD, RUSSIA).

The following points describe the intended areas of cooperation between the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies and Nizhni Novgorod State Agricultural Academy. The initiation of these activities will be dependent upon securing adequate funding, including salary savings for Iowa State University Agricultural Education faculty members, provided by outside sources to support these activities.

Cooperative Activities:

1. Development of an Agricultural Education curriculum focused on offering a Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Science (MS) program on the campus of Nizhni Novgorod State Agricultural Academy.

2. Share information available at both institutions to enhance the understanding between the faculty and staff members of both institutions that will facilitate the effective establishment of an Agricultural Education curriculum at Nizhni Novgorod State Agricultural Academy.

3. Integration of those pedagogical procedures into the curricula of Nizhni Novgorod State Agricultural Academy that will assist the institution in switching to a focus on preparing students to enter into a market economy and to prepare students to become teachers of agriculture.

4. Conduct training sessions for faculty members on the campus of Nizhni Novgorod State Agricultural Academy focusing on effective teaching methods and methods of presenting agricultural information.

5. Sponsor student and faculty exchanges between the Department of Agricultural Education and Studies at Iowa State University and Nizhni Novgorod State Agricultural Academy.

6. Assist Nizhni Novgorod State Agricultural Academy in establishing an effective outreach program of agricultural education to serve those people in the field currently engaged in teaching others about the market economy and how to become involved in it.

7. Establishment of academic programs in Agriculture for urban and rural high schools to assist students in preparation to study at the Nizhni Novgorod State Agricultural Academy.
8. Assist Nizhni Novgorod State Agricultural Academy in becoming an internationally accredited institution and a BS, MS degree granting institution.

Rationale:

An examination of the Nizhni Novgorod State Agricultural Academy agricultural curriculum reveals the use of instructional materials were developed around a context that focused on orthodox socialist systems. The NNSAA has been commissioned by the regional (local) government to assist in curriculum reforms in the area of agriculture and agribusiness conducted for students not only at the Academy itself but also in high schools of Nizhni Novgorod region.

Obviously, in urban and rural high schools there is a great need for a new curriculum to assist in the development of an understanding among students regarding today's highly technical agriculture, which is based on a market economy. There is a great need to assist faculty with the new pedagogical skills and knowledge required to meet the demands of a new agriculture curriculum.

The skills, knowledge and system of teaching technology needed for this historic transformation are not well formed and in many cases are non-existent. Iowa State University has been operating in the context appropriate to support such educational experience, and is uniquely qualified to assist in development of an Agricultural Education curriculum in Nizhni Novgorod Oblast.

Continuous cooperation between our institutions can be assured and fostered in the decades ahead, which in turn supports a need for knowledge enhancement people would receive through this mutual relationship.

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