

It is with great pleasure that I join you again this year, during this very special occasion.

It seems not that long ago that I stood before you, thanking you for giving me the opportunity and the privilege of being your honorary member. However, exactly a year has passed since, and looking back, quite a successful one too, for agribusiness development in Serbia.

The USAID Agribusiness Project and AGROPRESS have implemented a number of very important and successful projects and activities over the last twelve months. The first phase of the Women Entrepreneurs in Agribusiness Project has been completed and the National Agribusiness Conference that was held in September marked the beginning of a series of events dedicated to helping Serbian agribusinesses - which we aim to organize in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and AGROPRESS in the coming months.

I cannot stress enough how very pleased we are to be working in such a close partnership with such an active and dedicated group of individuals. It is very encouraging to see this degree of dedication to the success and progress of agriculture from a journalists' association. Your support has been and continues to be of paramount importance in ensuring that agriculture and agribusiness remain among the highest priorities on the Serbian policy agenda.

I thank you for all that you have accomplished thus far, and wish you all full success in the future. We remain eager to continue to assist Serbia become a prosperous and democratic society.