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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2011

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USAID LAUNCHES THE YOUTH BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

BELGRADE (August 4, 2011) – The USAID Agribusiness Project today launched the third round of its Business Plan Competition, which has high school and agricultural university students competing for the authorship of the best agribusiness plan. The 20 best business plans will be awarded up to US\$15,000 each.

Students who completed the USAID Agribusiness Project's Business Entrepreneurship Training program earlier this summer may compete in the contest. The classes were offered at universities in Belgrade, Cacak and Novi Sad. Students must formulate agribusiness plans for the production or processing of vegetables, fruits, mushrooms, herbs, dairy products or meat products (excluding fish and poultry).

USAID is using the Youth Business Plan Competition and other activities to create a new class of young agricultural entrepreneurs who will help generate new jobs and improve livelihoods throughout Serbia. The competition requires students to conceive, plan, and initiate new agricultural businesses.

Partners in this activity are the Schools of Agriculture at the University of Belgrade, Novi Sad and Cacak, the Krusevac Small- and Medium- Enterprise (SME) Agency, the Economic Institute, Junior Achievement Serbia, and the Creation of Enterprises by Formation of Entrepreneurs (CEFE) Serbia.

USAID's Agribusiness Project is one of several USAID 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.

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For further information on the USAID Agribusiness Project Business Plan Competition contact Ana Martinovic, Communications Advisor / ana_martinovic@agrobiznis.net / +381 11 243 66 11/ www.agrobiznis.net

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