

TETYANA KASICH

ROLE MODEL IN FORESTRY SECTOR UKRAINE

Tetyana Kasich started her work in the forest sector in 2000. At one time, she made a choice in favor of a child who needed more care. Nevertheless, later, she returned to the sector and built a career. Since July 15, 2019, Mrs. Kasich is the Head of the Kherson Regional Forest and Hunting Administration. Kherson region is one of the least forested regions of Ukraine, but forests play a crucial role here and their preservation requires considerable efforts. The Kherson administration is also called "Women's Administration". Currently it employs 19 persons, 14 of them are women.

HER CAREER

In 2000 Tetyana Kasich graduated from the Lubny Forestry College with a degree in Forestry. Then in 2014 she graduated from the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine with the same degree. She also has pedagogical education and relevant experience. Total work experience in the field of forestry is 21 years. Having 3 educations, a year ago she entered postgraduate studies. In general, Mrs. Kasich reached everything independently. First working day of Mrs. Tetyana in the forest sector coincided with her father's birthday, so it is impossible to forget it. This day a young specialist realized that the significant baggage of theoretical knowledge have to be applied in practice. While becoming the head of Administration, Tetyana Kasich faced both challenges of financing and illegal logging, but gradually managed to stabilize the situation. Mrs. Tetyana introduces innovations into the forestry education of Kherson region and considers herself as a "forest doctor".

PERCEPTIVE ABOUT THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN FORESTRY

Firstly, role models are dedicated to their profession, know how to take responsibility, make clear decisions, because their consequences are visible in decades. Women in forestry need to be strong. If specialists were able to work 2-3 years, they will continue to work successfully in the sector. Recently men are more tolerant towards women leaders. Although, still not everyone likes strong women. Education plays an important role, especially for those who work in the sector and obtaining higher education, when they passed 30-35 years. National University of Life-Science is a good example of modern forestry education.

EXPERIENCES WITH WOMEN WORKING IN FORESTRY SECTOR

There are physically difficult types of work in forestry, clearly defined by law, where women are not allowed to work. But on all other positions women can work. Some women are making decisions much quicker than men. If hard physical work was not prohibited for women by law, they would be in strong competition with men. Usually bookkeepers, economists and foresters' assistants are mostly women. However, there are also women masters of the forest. Tetyana Kasich also started on such position, therefore she understands its importance. *"The reason for the low number of women in leadership positions in the forest sector is probably their desire to work in the sector and traditions",* says Mrs. Kasich. At the Kherson region it is easier to survive, for women in forestry, as they are more resilient to local conditions.



WHAT SHOULD BE DONE FOR BETTER INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN FORESTRY SECTOR?

If a person feels the support of both family and team, and is purposeful, she/he is integrated better into the sector. And it is especially important for women. For success, the leader also needs to have the strong support of the team.

Access to the education of women aged above 27 years should be improved.

It is necessary to advertise the forest sector, to promote the fact that women are working here, and that there is a prospect of work here. There must also be a decent financial provision, at least to meet basic own needs.

Examples of measures to promote women:

- Conduct trainings and invite successful women.
- Support for women's research initiatives and their legalization.
- Preparation of thematic publications for e.g. Forester Day, for Women's Day etc.



INTERESTING INITIATIVES WHICH HELPED WOMEN WITH THEIR CAREER

Khrystetska Mariya - Director of the Shatsk National Nature Park, having a basic environmental education, obtained a degree in forestry at the National Forestry and Wood-Technology University of Ukraine. She has been heading the Park for almost three years, having a six-month-old daughter. Mrs. Mariya is a generator of ideas, she has significantly changed the Park for better.

In our history we also have such outstanding women-foresters as Lidia Hryhorivna and Olha Moderuk.

KEY MESSAGES FOR YOUNG FEMALE IN EARLY CAREER

- You need to set goals and reach them! Otherwise nothing will happen!
- Support and focus will help you succeed!
- You can get a star from the sky when you have a ladder to it and rely only on yourself!
- If women are restricted of anything, they reach the goal even faster.
- While entering forestry, understand that you are coming with your soul, not for enrichment.
- Sometimes women are ahead of time by walking high heeled.
- Gender, height and age do not affect professionalism.



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