

Chandler Mazour is Monsanto technology development lead for Ukraine, Russia.

As events have unfolded in Ukraine and Russia, the former manager of the Monsanto Learning Center in Gothenburg has been working for Monsanto in Ukraine.

Actually, Chandler Mazour is the technology development lead for both Ukraine and Russia.

He started his new job in mid-January.

Although Mazour declined to talk about the politics between Ukraine and Russia, he was open to sharing about his new job that entails bringing new hybrids to market, marketing and selling them.

"We also teach our customers the best way to use them," he said.

Based out of Kiev, Ukraine, Mazour works with teams to accomplish these objectives.

Monsanto has been in Ukraine for several years but recently brought a focus to the country.

In fact, he said the company is becoming more integrated throughout Eastern Europe and also has a presence in the Middle East and Africa.

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Business in these areas is growing rapidly, he said, because of the demand for global food production.

Arable land in Ukraine and Russia is being converted into food production but it might not be efficient, Mazour said.

"It may be 75 bushels to the acre today and we can work with them so they can learn how to produce 150 bushels," he explained. "Ag companies, like Monsanto, are going to invest in that and provide farmers resources to improve output."

The chance for Mazour to work in Eastern Europe came about last August.

"Ten months ago, I could have never have predicted this," he said. "It's such an opportunity to work with farmers in Ukraine and Russia and live and work in a wonderful country."

Mazour said the new position has been good and described his colleagues as "amazing," noting that the people he works with are Ukrainians and Russians who mostly make up the 150 Monsanto employees in the country.

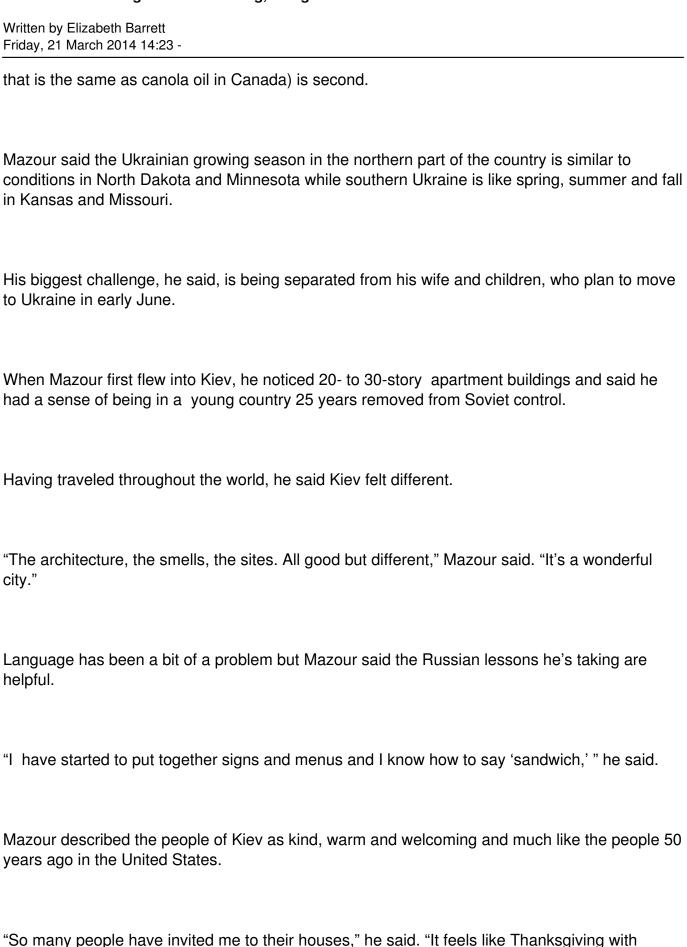
"There are three of us expatriates here," he said.

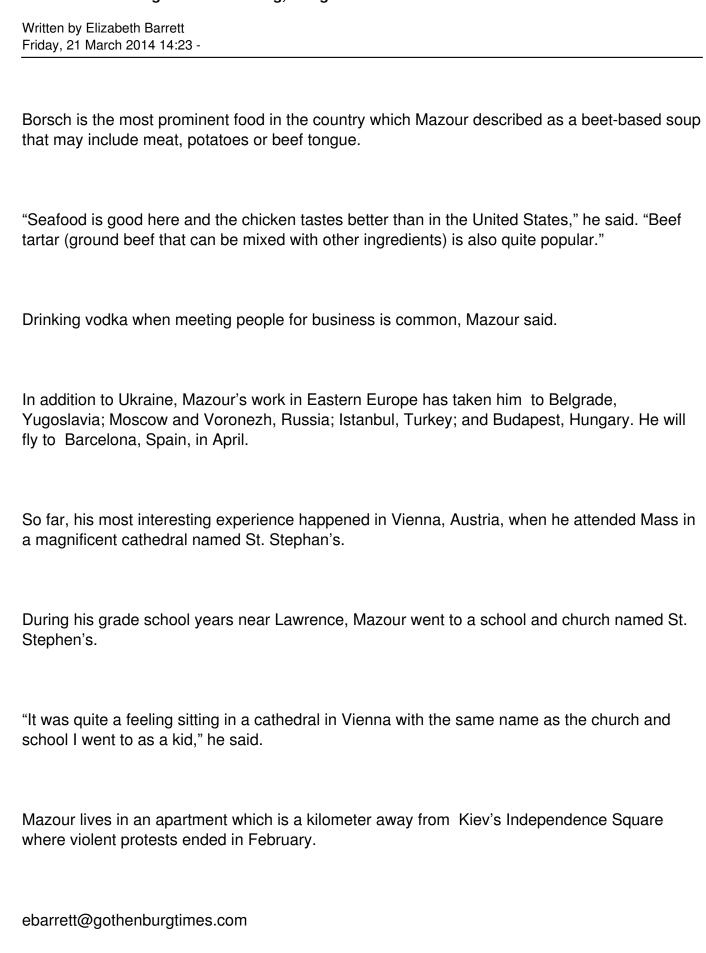
The most surprising aspect of his job, Mazour said, is the eagerness of Ukrainian farmers to learn new agricultural technologies and partner with Monsanto.



Corn is the largest crop grown in Ukraine and oil-seed rape (from a plant of the cabbage family

Grandpa and Grandma. They are so gracious and amazing."





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