



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
AGRICULTURAL TRADE
EXPERT NETWORK
IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

REGIONAL WORKSHOP
"TRADE POLICY, WTO AND DEVELOPMENT
OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETS
IN THE POST-SOVIET COUNTRIES"

4-5 OCTOBER 2017

HOTEL HOLIDAY INN, 1, 26 MAY SQUARE, TBILISI, GEORGIA
CONFERENCE HALL "ADJARA HALL" (2ND FLOOR)

BACKGROUND

To support the countries in Europe and Central Asia the process of greater integration with global markets, FAO is carrying out a number of activities under the umbrella of the Regional Initiative "Improving Agrifood Trade and Market Integration 2016-2017". The Initiative aims to strengthen national and regional capacities to effectively address the challenges posed by trade integration. This is achieved by conducting analysis of agricultural trade policies, countries' participation in trade negotiations and facilitating forums for dialogues on trade. FAO also provides support for development and implementation of trade policies at country level.

The primary goal of the Regional Initiative is to support member countries in enhancing the agrifood trade policy environment for small and medium-sized enterprises. A better trade policy environment for modern agrifood markets requires the development of capacity for both trade agreements and domestic food safety and quality standards.

As part of the Regional Initiative, FAO supported creation of the Agricultural Trade Expert Network in Europe and Central Asia, which is a neutral and independent platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience on agricultural trade issues in Europe and Central Asia. The Network brings together experts who conduct research, carry out training programs and advise governments and private sector on issues related



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to agricultural trade and trade policy, including regional and multilateral trade agreements. The members of the Network also cooperate closely in various areas related to agricultural trade in Europe and Central Asia, from conducting new research to developing policy recommendations.

During the annual meeting of the Expert Network, which will be held on 4 October 2017, with the support of the Institute for Rural Development and Agricultural Policy, participants will be able to discuss the results achieved during the year and agree on future activities of the Network. Based on the discussions, the preliminary work plan of the Expert Network for 2018 will be finalized, which will be used to mobilize the resources for its implementation. In addition to work planning, the Network members will also present the draft country chapters that will form the joint publication “Review of Agricultural Trade Policies in former Soviet Union countries”. The publication includes a brief overview of each country’s agricultural sector, an assessment of the latest developments in agricultural trade, and an analysis of the main agricultural trade policy measures.

In addition, on 5 October Regional workshop “Agricultural trade policy, WTO and market development in Europe and Central” will take place. This workshop is a follow-up to the FAO e-learning course “WTO accession and implications for agriculture in the post-Soviet countries”. Ninety people took part in the course from 5 to 30 June 2017 through the platform of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). The participants who showed the best results in the course of this training have been invited to the workshop in order to built upon the knowledge obtained through e-learning. International and regional experts will make presentations on the current issues related to trade negotiations and developments in agricultural trade, within the region and globally. Follow-up discussions will help deepen the understanding of the issues covered in the e-learning using specific country examples and will facilitate the exchange of experience and knowledge among participants.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the end of the meeting of the Expert Group, the work plan for the period 2018 will be agreed upon with the members.

The authors of the chapters of the joint publication will receive feedback that they will use for the preparation of the final versions. The meeting will also facilitate the exchange of information among the members of the Network on the directions of trade-related activities in countries to promote further cooperation.

During the discussions of the regional workshop, participants will be able to:

- ✔ Improve their understanding of specific WTO trade rules related to agriculture, trade facilitation and ongoing negotiations in the WTO;
- ✔ Discuss issues related to trade and agricultural policies applied in the region as well as advantages and disadvantages of different approaches to trade and regional integration.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE EXPERT NETWORK IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

08.30	REGISTRATION
09.00	<p>OPENING AND WELCOME ADDRESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mamuka Mekshi, Assistant FAO Representative for Georgia <p>REPORT OF ACTIVITIES IN 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iryna Kobuta, FAO-REU • Ekaterina Krivonos, FAO-HQ
09.30	<p>SESSION 1: PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY CHAPTERS PREPARED FOR THE ANNUAL PUBLICATION</p> <p><i>Moderator: Alfinura Sharafeyeva, FAO</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azerbaijan (Elchin Atabayev, Projects and Credits Management State Service) • Armenia (Anna Yeritsyan, ICARE Fund in Armenia) • Belarus (Natalia Kireyenka, The Institute of System Research in Agroindustrial Complex of NAS of Belarus)
10.30	Coffee break
11.00	<p>SESSION 2: PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY CHAPTERS PREPARED FOR THE ANNUAL PUBLICATION (CONT'D)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Iryna Kobuta, FAO</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia (Shalva Pipia, Institute for Rural Development and Agricultural Policy, RAPDI) • Kazakhstan (Ademi Yerassylova, Kazakh Research Institute of Agricultural Economics and Rural Land Development) • Kyrgyzstan (Roman Mogilevskii, University of Central Asia)
12.30	Lunch break
13.30	<p>SESSION 3: PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY CHAPTERS PREPARED FOR THE ANNUAL PUBLICATION (CONT'D)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ekaterina Krivonos, FAO</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republic of Moldova (Eugenia Lucasenco, National Institute of Economic Research) • Russian Federation (Renata Yanbykh, All-Russian Institute of Agrarian Problems and Informatics, named after A.A. Nikonov) • Tajikistan (Mavzuna Karimova, Institute of Economics and Demography of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan)
15.00	Coffee break
15.30	<p>SESSION 4: PRESENTATION OF COUNTRY CHAPTERS PREPARED FOR THE ANNUAL PUBLICATION (CONT'D)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Alfinura Sharafeyeva, FAO</i></p> <p>Turkmenistan (Yuri Aronsky, Union of Economists of Turkmenistan)</p> <p>Uzbekistan (Abduholik Muhtorov, Research Institute of Agricultural Economics)</p> <p>Ukraine (Tamara Ostashko, Institute of Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)</p>
17.00	<p>SESSION 5: DEFINING THE TASKS AND WORK PLAN FOR 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iryna Kobuta: Discussion of the publication theme for the next year • Ekaterina Krivonos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations for improving the work of the Expert Network - Work planning 2018
18.00	MEETING WRAP-UP

REGIONAL WORKSHOP

“TRADE POLICY, WTO AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETS IN THE POST-SOVIET COUNTRIES”

08.30	REGISTRATION
09.00	OPENING AND WELCOME ADDRESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lasha Dolidze, FAO-GE • Ekaterina Krivonos, FAO-HQ • Iryna Kobuta, FAO-REU
09.15	SESSION 1: WTO AGREEMENTS <i>Moderator: Shalva Pipia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ekaterina Krivonos (FAO): Ongoing WTO negotiations on agriculture and the Eleventh Ministerial Conference of the WTO • Iryna Kobuta (FAO): WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation-implications for agri-food trade in the region • Lars Brink (Expert Advisor, Canada): Issues related to domestic support to agriculture, examples of India and China
11.00	Coffee break
11.20	SESSION 2: REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS <i>Moderator: Iryna Kobuta, FAO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ekaterina Krivonos (FAO): Agriculture and regional trade agreements • Valeriy Pyatnitskyi (Professor): Trade agreements with the EU: The experience of Ukraine
12.20	PANEL DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maksim Golovin (Russian Grain Union) • Ksenia Meleshko (Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus) • Natalia Virchenko (Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine) • Arman Abenov (JCS Center for trade policy development Ministry of national economy of Republic Kazakhstan)
13.00	Lunch break
14.00	SESSION 3: COUNTRIES EXPERIENCE IN APPLICATION OF THE TRADE AGREEMENTS <i>Moderator: Ekaterina Krivonos, FAO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viacheslav Evseev (Center for the Study of Customs Tariff and Non-Tariff Regulation): WTO dispute over Russia's ban on pork imports from the EU • Vitalii Bashynskyi (Consultant, FAO): Application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and bilateral negotiations
15.00	Coffee break
15.30	SESSION 4: AGRIFOOD EXPORT PROMOTION POLICY <i>Moderator: Iryna Kobuta, FAO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Livney (International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University (ISET), Georgia): Georgia's traditional smallholder agriculture: to be or not to be? • Dmitry Bulatov (National Union of Food Exporters, Russian Federation): Main findings from the Review of the national programmes and strategies for agrifood export promotion in the post-Soviet countries • Goran Živkov (Consulting firm SEEDEV, Serbia): Export-driven competitiveness in Europe and Central Asia
17.00	PANEL DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evgeniya Kolchanova (The Eurasian Economic Commission) • Erken Naurzbekov (National chamber of entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan «Atameken») • Olga Vitriak (Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine) • Nuritdin Dzhamankulov (Office of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic)
18.00	WORKSHOP WRAP-UP
18.30	Reception