



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

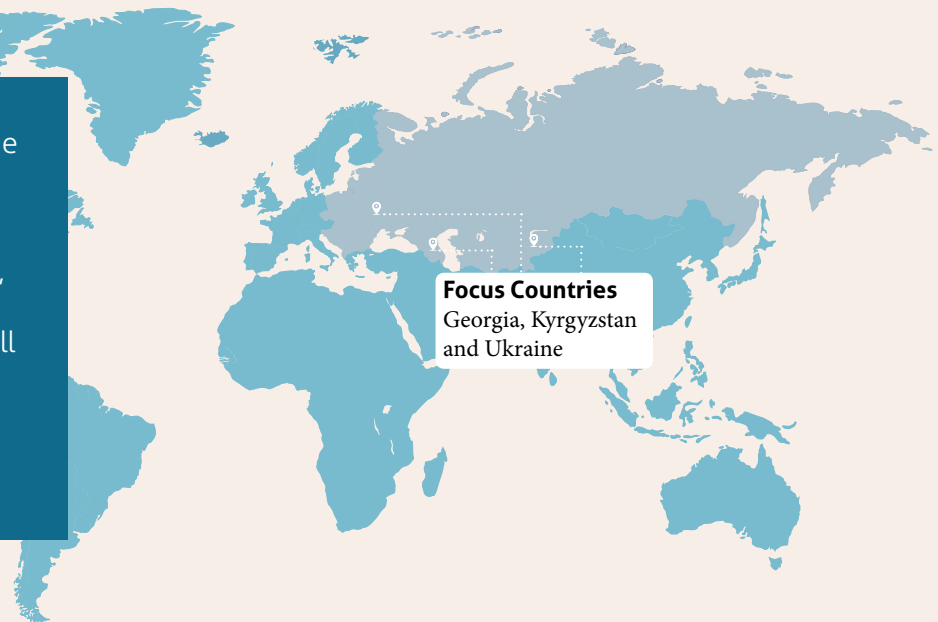
BOOSTING AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

At a glance



Employees working at the Skvyrskyi grain processing factory.
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- ▶ **WORKING TO** Increase access to new markets and boost trade by improving agri-food policy environment
- ▶ **WORKING WITH** Civil servants, private sector, scientists and industries with a focus on small and medium sized enterprises
- ▶ **WORKING THANKS TO** FAO Multipartner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM)



Focus Countries
Georgia, Kyrgyzstan
and Ukraine

BACKGROUND

Agri-food systems in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are still adjusting to the political and economic effects of globalization and deepening trade integration, both within the region and worldwide. The region is more engaged in global agri-food trade and increasingly supplies agricultural commodities and food products to international markets. However, most countries are yet to reach their full trade potential. To benefit from trade, the countries are stepping up their efforts to implement trade agreements, align their regulation with international standards and diversify exports.

The project benefits stakeholders in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, with specific activities in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine to strengthen the policy environment for multilateral trade agreements and export development, in line with the FAO Regional Initiative for Improving Agri-food Trade and Market Integration in Europe and Central Asia.

WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

- ▶ Improved access to new markets by delivering training, policy guidance and technical support in the beneficiary countries and strengthening the capacities of ministries and stakeholders on World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements.
- ▶ Better information for developing export promotion strategies, and improved government systems to monitor and analyse trade prices and data.

As part of the project FAO continued to support the Agricultural Trade Expert Network in Europe and Central Asia (ATEN), established in 2014. ATEN brings together experts who conduct research and training and advise governments and private sector on agricultural trade issues in the region, including participation in regional and multilateral trade agreements.



Kyrgyzstan
A local woman selling fruits and vegetables near Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
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IMPACT

In collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), two editions of the online course - “WTO accession and implications for agriculture in the post-Soviet countries” - were offered in 2017. More than 350 applicants - ranging from governmental representatives and agencies involved in formulating agricultural policies and programs for private sector and academia - competed for a limited number of slots.

New partnerships were also formed with private sector organizations such as the National Union of Food Exporters of Russia, the Ukrainian Association of Honey Exporters and Processors of Honey (UAHEP), and the Union of Millers of Ukraine.



Azerbaijan
Local inspection of honeycomb with bees.
©FAO/Tofik Babayev

IN PRACTICE

Specific activities include:

Capacity development for WTO Agreements

- Prepared guidelines for agribusiness on using WTO instruments.
- Published a series of analytical materials on trade policy developments (i.e. Agricultural Trade Policies in the post-Soviet countries 2016-17, monthly bulletins with contributions from ATEN network members).
- Held regional and national workshops and dialogues on trade policy issues in various locations with over 100 participants.
- Facilitated two e-learning training courses on “WTO accession and implications for agriculture in the post-Soviet countries”, with 130 participants successfully completing the training.

Export promotion strategies

- Hosted regional workshops on agri-food export promotion strategies in various locations with over 85 participants.
- Reviewed national programmes and prepared strategies for agri-food export promotion.
- The Ukrainian Association of Honey Exporters and Processors of Honey (UAHEP) participated in the 45th APIMONDIA International Apicultural Congress in Istanbul, Turkey with its own booth, directly benefiting its 18 member companies; the Association organized training sessions on export market development with six other exporters from Europe and Central Asia.
- Developed honey traceability, market review and export strategy for UAHEP.

- Facilitated training sessions on modern processing technologies, export market demand and quality standards for flour exporters and producers.
- Developed wheat flour market review and export strategy.

Food Price Monitoring and Analysis

- Launched web-based application - Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool – in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Georgia for the dissemination and analysis of up to date domestic agricultural market price data.
- Facilitated workshops in all three countries on the use of the FPMA Tool for market analysis and price monitoring, supported by online training resources and user manuals prepared in local languages.

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Project Code
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Trade Related Capacity Development in Eastern Europe and Central Asia



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