Background

The primary goal of the Regional Initiative for Improving Agri-food Trade and Market Integration in Europe and Central Asia is to support member countries in enhancing the agricultural trade policy environment for small and medium-sized agribusiness enterprises. A better trade policy environment for modern agricultural markets requires the development of capacity for both trade agreements and domestic food safety and quality standards. The Initiative consists of three interrelated components:

1. Implementation of trade agreements to increase access to new markets
2. Increased capacity to implement global food quality standards
3. Supportive policy environment for export diversification

The first component foresees training of civil servants and private sector representatives on global trade issues, including market access, domestic support measures, sanitary and phytosanitary issues, technical barriers to trade, trade dispute resolution and trade facilitation.

Within the framework of the first component of the Regional Initiative, the Agricultural Trade Expert Network (ATEN) was created to facilitate formation and sharing of knowledge, as well as to make necessary decisions to develop the capacity of agricultural trade in Europe and Central Asia. The network aims to bring together experts who conduct economic research, carry out training programs and advise governments and private sector on issues related to agricultural trade and trade policy, including multilateral and regional trade agreements.

Event content

During the Annual Meeting of the Agricultural Trade Expert Network in Europe and Central Asia, which will be held on 5-6 June 2019, with support of the National Institute for Economic Research of the Republic of Moldova, participants will be able to discuss recent trade policy developments in twelve post-Soviet countries. In addition, the experts of the network will also present draft country chapters that will form the joint publication “Review of Agricultural Trade Policies in the post-Soviet countries”. The publication will include an analysis of the main measures of trade policy in regard to agricultural products and domestic support measures in agriculture.

Additionally, during the Annual Meeting of the Expert Network, the prospects for development of agricultural trade with China will be discussed. Experts from different countries will present results of their research on trade with China, analyze possible implications of economic development of China for agriculture in some countries of Central Asia and Eastern Europe.

China’s share of world agricultural imports has significantly increased over the past two decades, placing it third in the ranking of the top 20 importers after the United States of America and the European Union.
Imports of agricultural products in China have soared under the pressure of growing food demand and shift from the policy of self-sufficiency to the one that favors more open trade.

One of the sessions of the annual meeting will also be devoted to the discussion of the impact of climate change on agricultural trade in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The uneven impact of climate change on agricultural production across regions will heighten the role of trade in adaptation and in contributing to food security. To a large extent, this potential will depend on a well-functioning trading system and consequently on domestic policies and measures of foreign trade regulation for agricultural products. Research on this relevant topic is urgently needed to understand the regional impacts and in order to contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 and the implementation of the 2017 Paris Agreement.

**The main objectives of the event:**

- Analyzing recent trends in the development of trade policies in the twelve post-Soviet countries with regard to agricultural products;
- Discussing regional perspectives of agricultural trade with China;
- Assessing the impact of climate change on agricultural trade in Eastern Europe and Central Asia;
- Discussing the preparation of the forthcoming FAO publication on agricultural trade policy in the post-Soviet countries;
- Presenting the results of the FAO-UNITAR online courses on WTO agreements;
- Discussing the work program of the network for 2020–2021 and proposals for improving the work of the expert network.

**Expected outcomes**

The meeting will facilitate exchange of information between the participants of the network about the developments of the countries’ trade policy with respect to agricultural products, the perspectives of agricultural trade with China, the impact of climate change on agricultural trade, as well as contribute to strengthening further cooperation in the post-Soviet region. By the end of the meeting of the expert network, the work plan for the next years will be discussed and proposals for new directions of the ATEN work will be developed.

**Participants**

International and national experts in agricultural trade from the post-Soviet countries, representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of the Republic of Moldova and other agencies, research institutes and analytical centres of the Republic of Moldova.
## Concept note and Program

### The 5th of June, 2019 (the first day)
Venue: Chisinau, 37 Maria Cebotari str., “Jolly Alon” hotel, Conference Room, 1st floor

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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 9:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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| 9:00 – 9:30 | Opening and welcome address  
- Iurie Usurelu, General State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Republic of Moldova  
- Tudor Robu, FAO Assistant in the Republic of Moldova  
- Iryna Kobuta, FAO Representative, HQ, Rome, Italy  
- Alexandru Stratan, Director, National Institute for Economic Research, Chisinau, the Republic of Moldova |
| 9:30 – 11:00 | Session 1: Regional prospects of agricultural trade with China  
Moderator: Iryna Kobuta, Trade and Markets Division, FAO, Italy  
- Kateryna Schroeder, World Bank, Washington, USA  
  *China/Russia 2030 - Implications for Agriculture in Central Asia*  
- Natalia Karlova, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russian Federation  
  *China’s market for Russian agricultural goods: constrains and opportunities*  
- Vasilina Akhramovich, Institute of System Researches in Agroindustrial Complex of NAS of Belarus, Minsk, Belarus  
  *Increasing of dairy products trade with China as a strategic task for the Republic of Belarus*  
  Discussion |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee break |

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Annual meeting of the Agricultural Trade Expert Network in Europe and Central Asia

5-6 June 2019
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

Concept note and Program
### Session 2: The Impact of Climate Change on Agricultural Trade in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

**Moderator:** Alexandru Stratan, NIER, Chisinau, Moldova

- **Andrea Zimmermann**, FAO, Rome, Italy  
  *Interlinkages between climate change and agri-food trade in Eastern Europe and Central Asia*

- **Iurie Usurelu**, General State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, Republic of Moldova  
  *Impact of climate changes on agricultural trade in the Republic of Moldova*

- **Nikolay Svetlov**, All-Russian Institute of Agrarian Problems and Informatics named after A.A. Nikonov, Moscow, Russian Federation  
  *Impact of climate change on agricultural trade in Russia*

- **Ihtiyor Bobojonov**, The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies, Halle, Germany  
  *Impact of climate change on agricultural income in Central Asia*

**Discussion**

### 13:00 – 14:00  
**Lunch**

### Session 3: Recent developments in agri-food trade policies: Azerbaijan, Armenia and Belarus

**Moderator:** Iryna Kobuta, Trade and Markets Division, FAO, Italy

- **Azerbaijan** (Elchin Atababayev, Projects and Credits management State Service)
- **Armenia** (Hasmik Hovhanesian, Yerevan State University)
- **Belarus** (Natallia Kiriyenko, The Institute of System Research in Agroindustrial Complex of NAS of Belarus)

**Q&A**

### 15:00 – 15:30  
**Coffee break**
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<tr>
<td>15:30-16:30</td>
<td>Moderator: Eugenia Lukashenko, NIER, Chisinau, Moldova</td>
<td>Moderator: Adkham Akbarov, FAO, Rome, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30-16:30</td>
<td>• Georgia (Shalva Pipia, Institute for Rural Development and Agricultural Policy, RAPDI)</td>
<td>• Republic of Moldova (Anatolie Ignat, National Institute for Economic Research of Moldova)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:30-16:30</td>
<td>• Kazakhstan (Nurlan Kulbatyrov, JSC Center for trade policy development Ministry of national economy of Republic Kazakhstan)</td>
<td>• Russian Federation (Renata Yanbykh, the Institute of Agrarian Studies, Higher School of Economics; Elena Zhiriaeva, North-West Institute of Management under RANEPA)</td>
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<td>15:30-16:30</td>
<td>• Kyrgyzstan (Zalina Enikeeva, University of Central Asia)</td>
<td>• Tajikistan (Mavzuna Karimova, Institute of Economics and Demography of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30-18:00</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>18:00-18:30</td>
<td>Meeting wrap-up</td>
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<td>19:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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## Concept note and Program

### The 6th of June, 2019 (the first day)

**Venue:** Chisinau, 37 Maria Cebotari str., “Jolly Alon” hotel, Conference Room, 1st floor

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<td>Registration</td>
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| 9:00 – 10:30| **Session 6: Recent developments in agri-food trade policies: Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine**  
**Moderator:** Iryna Kobuta, Trade and Markets Division, FAO, Italy  
- Turkmenistan (Yuri Aronsky, Union of Economists of Turkmenistan)  
- Uzbekistan (Darya Ilina, Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research)  
- Ukraine (Tamara Ostashko, Institute of Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) |
| 10:30 – 11:00| Coffee-break                                                             |
| 11:00 – 12:30| **Session 7: Agricultural Trade Expert Network (ATEN): achievements, evaluation and future directions, 2020-2021**  
**Moderator:** Alla Saranina, FAO, Rome, Italy  
- Iryna Kobuta, Trade and Markets Division, FAO, Italy. Results and future directions of the ATEN work  
- Viacheslav Evseev, Center for Customs Tariff and Non-tariff Regulation Research, Russian Federation  
  Presentation of the online courses results  
- General discussion  
  Discussion of the ATEN work plan  
  Discussion on the next publication and its thematic focus  
  Suggestions of new directions for the ATEN work  
  Summing-up of the meeting  
  Closing speeches |
| 12:30 – 13:30| Lunch                                                                    |
| 14:30 – 15:00| **Transfer for technical visit to agricultural company**                |
| 15:00 – 16:30| **Technical visit to agricultural company**                             |
| 17:00 – 18:00| Dinner                                                                  |
| 18:00 – 18:30| **Transfer to Chisinau**                                                 |