

Investment in agriculture for a better future

FAO Press Club discussion in Kyrgyzstan

«Investment in agriculture for a better future» was the theme of the FAO Press Club session held on 15th April 2013 in Bishkek.



«We hope the policy in agriculture area will be improved in the Kyrgyz Republic and it will bring more investment into the sector, - said FAO Representative in the Kyrgyz Republic Dorjee Kinlay at the meeting.

In the centre of the discussion was flagship FAO Report “The State of Food and Agriculture” 2012, devoted to investment into agriculture for a better future.

Members of the FAO Press club – representatives of leading Kyrgyz and international media as well as invited by FAO National experts actively participated in the debate. They discussed current problems and shortcomings in agriculture, suggested ways to solve problems which accumulated in the sector and expand investment in agriculture. Strategy of development of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2017 approved by the Kyrgyz government in the end of 2012 was laid into basement of the discussion.

Complex market transition period, society transformation, governance systems reforms as well as two revolutions in 2005 and 2010 lead to the fact agriculture production has fallen from 40% of GDP in 2000 to 18% currently and continue to decrease. Instead of 400 large-scale farms (kolkhozes and state farms) more than 330 thousand small farms were created in the result of land reform. Most of them do not possess either experience in agro business or contemporary agro-technologies nor modern agro-mechanisms and means for production.



There is a number of issues to be solved in irrigation, seed production, stock rising and veterinary, so shaping a favorable climate in the country for investment would contribute into the progress in these areas, marked participants of the debate. Moreover media representatives repeatedly were saying state investment in the Kyrgyz Republic should be focused on post production area, not on producers of agriculture. From the point of view of

journalists and this opinion was shared by the National experts it will create favorable environment and demand in agriculture market both for rising efficiency among producers as well as processing of agriculture.

Taking into consideration important role mass media play in Kyrgyzstan, often impacting decision making process, FAO in the Kyrgyz Republic decided to create a platform for debate with the media

most important aspects of food security and agriculture sector development. Another factor for taking this decision was the fact Kyrgyzstan is agriculture country where more that 60% of population lives in rural areas. Currently 25 prominent Kyrgyz journalists became members of the FAO Press Club.

Launch of the Press Club took place in Bishkek on 13 March 2013 and Cattle Development in the Kyrgyz Republic was in the focus of the first meeting. Next meeting of the FAO Press club is planned for June 2013. The topic will be fish and aquaculture development.

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