



Background, scope and objectives

Recently, Kyrgyzstan has developed a new Export Development Plan (EDP) for the period of 2015-2017. The main goal of the EDP is to develop the competitive export potential for sustainable economic growth. This is expected to be realized by creating basic conditions for achieving a more attractive foreign trade regime and improving competitiveness of goods and the liability of producers for their goods. The main EDP tools are access to the trade information; improvement of capacity of entities and institutes; trade promotion; export support and promotion; trade facilitation; development and support of a quality infrastructure; decreasing the tax burden; providing exporters with access to financial resources.

The Prime minister of Kyrgyzstan highlighted on various occasions that developing and promoting exports is one of the top priorities for the economy. A number of development partners such as FAO, EU Commission, EBRD and IFC are contributing to this area in support of the government's efforts and initiatives.

In May 2016 FAO organized an Expert Round Table "Best practices in export promotion: Experiences in Latin America, Europe and Central Asia" to exchange experience and lessons learned from the implementation of various export promotion programs in Latin America, Europe and Central Asia. Among the challenges to developing agricultural exports, the participants mentioned lack of specialized expertise in the food producing sectors and the need to strengthen sanitary and phytosanitary systems and certification that would help obtain market access. Greater attention to trade facilitation, in particular simplification of customs procedures and border crossing, was also mentioned as a priority area for action.

Considering the strong interest from the Kyrgyz government in these topics, a dialogue event on export promotion will be held in Bishkek on 18-19th of October 2016 with participation of international experts and support from FAO under the Regional Initiative on Agri-food trade and market integration.

The objective of the workshop is to contribute to the operationalizing the EDP for the agricultural and food exports from Kyrgyzstan through knowledge sharing in this area among national and international experts and authorities.

This workshop will be organized as a two day event with plenary and group sessions, where the following key questions will be explored and evaluated:

1. Market diversification for Kyrgyz agrifood export (Eurasian Economic Union, European Union and others);
2. Experience of the trade promotion organizations in supporting agrifood exports in various countries;
3. Analysis of the competitiveness of agrifood products in Kyrgyzstan (value chains, the issues in providing financial support to farmers).

Expected outcomes

The workshop will provide inputs for refining and developing further the instruments of the Export Development Plan with specific focus on the agri-food sector. The workshop will facilitate the exchange of information between national and international experts, government agencies and the private sector with a view to further cooperation and joint actions targeting expansion and diversification of Kyrgyzstan's agri-food exports.

Participants

Representatives of the ministries, academia and private sector (producers, processors and exporters) involved in agricultural sector development and trade, as well as invited international and national experts with experience in designing, implementing or analysing export promotion policies and programs.