

FAO Regional Workshop
On
Recent Development in the WTO Negotiations on Agriculture and in Regional Trade
Agreements and their Implications for Trade, Agriculture and Food Security in the Near
East

INFORMATION NOTE

Date and Objectives

Date: 15 – 17 November 2005

Organizing Institutions:

- FAO (Regional Office for the Near East, Trade Division, Rome; and Sub-Regional Office for the Near East)
- The Near East and North Africa Regional Network for Agricultural Policies (NENARNAP)
- The Institute of National Planning (INP), Cairo, Egypt

Objectives: the major objectives of the workshop are:

- 1) To clarify the recent issues that have emerged in the on-going WTO negotiations on agriculture based on facts and analyses so that the participating countries from the Near East may have a good basis for negotiations. The workshop will address features and challenges of the recent WTO proposals for establishing modalities in agriculture, assessing their likely implications for agriculture, trade and food security of the Near East countries; and
- 2) To understand the agriculture-related aspects of recent developments in regional integration agreements, including the new European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

Participants

The invited participants include senior/middle level Officers at Ministries of Agriculture and Trade and other related Government Institutions responsible for agricultural trade policy and/or agricultural marketing from 26 countries in the Region. These countries include Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. In addition, representatives from interested agencies and relevant international and/or regional organizations will be invited.

Resource Persons

Resource persons of the workshop include the following experts:

- Mr. Alexandre Asbil, the European Commission (Deputy Head Unit-1, Directorate General Agriculture of the EC, with particular responsibility for Latin America, Mediterranean countries and the Gulf countries);
- Mr. Hansdeep Khaira, FAO Trade Policy Consultant; Commodities and Trade Division, Rome;
- Mr. Harald Grethe, Professor of Economics, Berlin University, Specialist on Euro-Mediterranean Agreements;
- Mr. Jamie Morrison, Trade Economist, Trade and Commodities Division, FAO, Rome
- Mr. Magdi Farahat, Chief Office for Africa, International Trade Centre (ITC) Geneva, and former Chairman of the WTO Committee on Agriculture;
- Mr. Suffyan Koroma, Economist, Trade and Commodities Division, FAO, Rome

Interpretation

Arrangement is made for interpretation in Arabic, English and French.