



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

THE **RUSSIAN FEDERATION** AND **FAO**

PARTNERING FOR GLOBAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

The Russian Federation and FAO are engaged in cooperation supporting a wide array of development and humanitarian initiatives in the region and around the world. The spirit of increased collaboration between FAO and the Russian Federation was reinforced in 2015 with the opening of an FAO Liaison Office in Moscow, and in 2018 when the country hosted the FAO Regional Conference for Europe in Voronezh.

Food safety and antimicrobial resistance

The importance that the Russian Federation attaches to cooperation for food safety and combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in food and agriculture is reflected in the concrete support it provides to FAO's food and nutrition-related initiatives.

A Russian Federation-funded FAO project of nearly US\$3.3 million is helping national authorities of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan address the threats posed by antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms in agriculture and food systems. An international conference on "Food Safety and AMR" was held in Moscow in December 2019, in cooperation with the Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor).

The Conference aimed at gathering authorities representing animal health, public health and food safety sectors from project participating countries in Europe and Central Asia region to exchange experiences and best practices on how to reduce AMR, assess multifaceted food safety risks, enhance multilateral dialogue, expand international and interregional sectoral cooperation, and promote partnerships between different stakeholders.

FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC)

The city of Voronezh, in southern Russia, became the venue for the FAO's 31st ERC in May 2018. Located in the heart of Russia's world-famous "Black Soil" region, the city is an important agricultural and urban centre with more than 1 million inhabitants.

Forty-four FAO Members participated in the Conference, which debated challenges related to food, nutrition and agriculture in the region. The event included a Ministerial roundtable on sustainable agriculture and food systems in Europe and Central Asia in a changing climate. A second major topic covered at the Conference was e-agriculture. In plenary session, the Conference discussed the use of information and communication technologies for the development of sustainable and inclusive food facilities and trade integration.

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Food loss and waste reduction

FAO has been promoting SAVE FOOD, the Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste reduction in the Russian Federation, with a series of events to bring the FLW issue into the limelight of national debate in the country.

“The story of food system transformation only begins with stronger political commitment for collective synergy and a holistic design of agriculture and food chain.”

Qu Dongyu
FAO Director-General

Together with FAO’s corporate partner Messe Dusseldorf, the Liaison Office in the Russian Federation co-organized major sessions at “Upakovka” packaging industry fair in Moscow for three years in a row. Under the theme, “What does it cost to save

food?” the 2019 event highlighted successful local and international experience and best practices in reducing food loss and waste, particularly in the form of national strategies, government policies and legislative initiatives.

Also during FAO-organized sessions at the Global Fishery Forum, a key annual fisheries event held in St Petersburg, strong emphasis has been placed on reducing food loss and waste in fisheries and aquaculture.

Accessing major international agreements

The Russian Federation signed the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing PSMA on 29 April 2010 and has been gradually making progress towards ratification. Officials from relevant government agencies and experts from academic institutions and industry attended a seminar on the Agreement at the UN House in Moscow in March 2019.

The Russian Federation’s strategy for implementation of Port State Measures, and the prospects for the ratification of the Agreement were the crosscutting topics of the seminar. Ratification will allow the Russian Federation – without significant changes in its legislation – to assume more significant obligations for international cooperation to combat IUU fishing, including through a wider exchange of information at global level.

FAO has also been working to encourage the Russian Federation’s accession to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Partnering with academia

Partnerships continue to expand FAO’s visibility and impact in the Russian Federation. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FAO and Russian State Agrarian University – Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy – marked a major step in jointly promoting FAO’s agenda in the country through active engagement with leading academic institutions. The signing ceremony took place as part of the celebrations of World Food Day on 16 October 2017 in the Russian Federation.

In February 2019, FAO and Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide a framework for cooperation in areas of common interest with a focus, on knowledge and expertise sharing, and development of institutional capacities and technical competencies to support social and economic advancement of countries across Europe and Asia.

Cooperation with the Central Agricultural Library (CSAL)

Russian Federation’s CSAL is one of the largest agricultural libraries in the world. In December 2017, FAO and the CSAL jointly celebrated the ten-year anniversary of the Library’s status as depository library of FAO publications.

Since the opening of the FAO Liaison Office in Moscow, the Library has regularly hosted presentations of FAO flagships and other key publications; including *Global and Regional Overviews of Food Security and Nutrition*, *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook*, *the State of the World's Forests*, *the Review of Agricultural Trade Policies in post-Soviet countries*. All presentations are web streamed to FAO offices and partners across the region.

A regional workshop on “Strengthening the Accessibility and Visibility of Agricultural and Land Data through the Use of Semantics - AGRIS in Europe and Central Asia” was hosted by CSAL in June 2019. The Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRIS) is serving the information needs of developed and developing countries on a partnership basis. The Moscow workshop was aimed at clarifying how to enhance the accessibility and visibility of scientific publications in Europe and Central Asia using AGRIS. The workshop underlined CSAL’s major role nationally and regionally, given the fact that CSAL hosts more than three thousand titles of FAO publications, with the earliest document dating back to 1947. The seminar brought together AGRIS experts, as well as university academics and editors of scientific media outlets from many Russian Federation cities.