



## Background

The primary goal of the FAO Regional Initiative on Transforming food systems and facilitating market access and integration in Europe and Central Asia is to support member countries in enhancing the agrifood trade policy environment for small- and medium-sized agricultural enterprises in pursuit of more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems. This initiative consists of three main interrelated components:

1. Implementation of trade agreements to increase access to new markets
2. Increased capacity to implement global standards
3. Supportive policy environment for domestic agrifood markets and export promotion

The first component of the Regional Initiative foresees capacity building on international trade and trade agreements, including markets access, domestic support measures, sanitary and phytosanitary aspects, technical barriers to trade, trade dispute resolution, and trade facilitation. Under this component, the **Agricultural Trade Expert Network** was established to facilitate the generation and exchange of knowledge, and to ensure that appropriate capacity building solutions on issues related to agricultural trade are identified and applied in the countries of Europe and Central Asia.

**The Expert Network** brings together professionals who conduct research in economics, carry out training programs and advise governments and private sector on issues related to agricultural trade and trade policy, including regional and multilateral trade agreements.

The Expert Network's outputs are seminars, e-learning programs, conferences and forums, research, newsletters and publications on current trade and economic topics. One of the Expert Network's outputs is the joint publication "Review of Agricultural Trade Policies in the post-Soviet countries". After preparation of the country chapters, the authors and FAO representatives that work on this publication are meeting to discuss the preparations of this publication at the annual meeting, which will be held for the seventh time in 2021.

## Event Content

At the Seventh annual meeting the members of the Agricultural Trade Expert Network in Europe and Central Asia will discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agricultural trade, changes in agrifood trade policies, as well as trade and economic measures and ways to overcome the negative impact of the pandemic on the economies and agriculture of countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The experts of the Network will present and discuss the main findings of the country chapters prepared for the upcoming joint publication "Review of Agricultural Trade Policies in the post-Soviet countries 2019-2020".

**The main objectives of the event:**

- Provide an overview of trade and economic measures taken by countries during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Analyze the changes in trade policies and agricultural support policies in 2019 (before the pandemic) and during the 2020 pandemic;
- Discuss the possible ways to overcome the negative consequences of the pandemic on agriculture and agricultural trade in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia;
- Approve the plan for the completion of the joint ATEN publication, as well as other activities related to the Expert Network's activities.

**Expected outcomes**

The meeting will facilitate the exchange of information between the participants on trade and economic measures adopted by different countries to overcome the negative economic consequences caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and will provide an opportunity to exchange expert opinions on the effectiveness of the adopted measures to support agricultural producers and consumers during the crisis and on further directions for the development of agrifood trade policies in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

**Participants**

Employees of international organizations, representatives of national ministries and agencies, scientific fellows of research institutes and analytical centers in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, independent experts on agrifood trade from post-Soviet countries, specialists of agrifood trade promotion agencies.

24 June 2021 (Day 1)	
8:45 – 9:00 <sup>1</sup>	Time to connect to the ATEN meeting in Zoom
9:00 – 10:00	<p><b>Session 1. Opening of the Annual meeting of the Experts Network</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Iryna Kobuta</b>, Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO, Italy Welcome and opening remarks</li> <li>• <b>Roman Mogilevskii</b>, University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan The changes to agricultural trade policies during the COVID-19 pandemic in the post-Soviet countries</li> <li>• <b>Alfinura Sharafeyeva</b>, Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO Brief overview of agricultural trade in the countries of the region in 2019-2020</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
10:00 – 11:30	<p><b>Session 2. Recent changes in agri-food trade policies: Azerbaijan, Armenia and Belarus.</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Iryna Kobuta</b>, Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO, Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Azerbaijan (Elchin Atababayev</b>, State Service on Management of Agricultural Projects and Credits)</li> <li>• <b>Armenia (Hasmik Hovhanesian</b>, Yerevan State University)</li> <li>• <b>Belarus (Natalia Kireyenka</b>, Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Agro-Industrial Complex Personnel of the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
11:30 – 11:45	Break
11:45 – 12:50	<p><b>Session 3. Recent changes in agri-food trade policies: Georgia, Kazakhstan и Kyrgyzstan.</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Roman Mogilevskii</b>, University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Georgia (Shalva Pipia</b>, Rural and Agricultural Policy and Development Institute (RAPDI))</li> <li>• <b>Kazakhstan (Nurlan Kulbatyrov</b>, JSC “Center for Trade Policy Development”, Ministry of Trade and Integration)</li> <li>• <b>Kyrgyzstan (Roman Mogilevskii</b>, University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
12:50-13:00	Day one wrap-up

<sup>1</sup> Central European Time Zone (CET): local time in Rome, Italy

**25 June 2021 (Day 2)**

<b>8:45 – 9:00</b>	<b>Time to connect to the ATEN meeting in Zoom</b>
<b>9:00 – 10:30</b>	<p><b>Session 4. Recent changes in agri-food trade policies: Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation and Tajikistan.</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Iryna Kobuta</b>, Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO, Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Republic of Moldova (Alexandru Stratan</b>, National Institute for Economic Research)</li> <li>• <b>Russian Federation (Renata Yanbykh</b>, Institute for Agrarian Studies, Higher School of Economics)</li> <li>• <b>Tajikistan (Mavzuna Karimova</b>, Institute of Economics and Demography of the Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan)</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>10:30 – 10:45</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:45 – 12:15</b>	<p><b>Session 5. Recent changes in agri-food trade policies: Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Alfinura Sharafeyeva</b>, Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO, Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Turkmenistan (Yuri Aronsky</b>, The Economists Union of Turkmenistan)</li> <li>• <b>Uzbekistan (Daria Ilina</b>, Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research under the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction)</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine (Tamara Ostashko</b>, Institute of Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>12:15 – 12:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>12:30 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>Session 6. Questions and future activities of the Expert Network</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Alla Saranina</b>, Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO, Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Iryna Kobuta</b>, Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO, Italy Work outcomes in 2020-2021</li> <li>• <b>Discussion</b> Discussion of the work plan of the Expert Network</li> </ul> <p><b>Meeting wrap-up</b></p>