



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# TRADE POLICY REVIEW IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

QUARTERLY BULLETIN No.6



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APRIL-JUNE 2021

## TRADE AGREEMENTS

### UZBEKISTAN JOINS EU'S GSP+ ARRANGEMENT

The EU has accepted the Republic of Uzbekistan as the 9th beneficiary country of the special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance (GSP+) under the unilateral Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP). The EU began applying preferential tariffs for products imported from Uzbekistan under this arrangement on 10 April 2021.

When joining the GSP+ arrangement, low and lower-middle income countries commit to effective implementation of the 27 core international conventions on human and labour rights, environmental and climate protection and good governance. The GSP regulation provides for continuous monitoring of GSP+ beneficiaries' obligations.

As a beneficiary of GSP+, Uzbekistan enjoys further economic benefits compared to the current Standard GSP arrangement. The removal of import tariffs on two thirds of the product lines covered by GSP will create opportunities for export growth and attract further investment into the country. The sustainable development commitments under GSP+ will further Uzbekistan's position as a reliable, forward-looking economic partner.

Uzbekistan becoming a beneficiary of GSP+ reflects the recognition of reforms undertaken by the government, in particular to improve the business climate, the judicial system, security services, labour conditions, and administrative accountability and efficiency. It also testifies to consistent positive development in the socio-economic and labour sphere.

Despite the progress made by Uzbekistan in recent years, a number of concerns remain regarding the effective implementation of the 27 international conventions. The EU is paying close attention to two major legislative processes, in particular the revision of the Criminal Code and the Labour Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. These legislative acts need to reflect Uzbekistan's international commitments, including under GSP+.

Uzbekistan's GSP+ status is an opportunity to support the country in its economic development and in building a more sustainable future. GSP+ also gives the EU leverage and the obligation to continuously monitor the effective implementation of the 27 GSP+ relevant conventions. This monitoring will be based on an on-going dialogue with the Government of Uzbekistan and other relevant stakeholders, including in-person monitoring visits as soon as conditions allow, with specific focus on the identified shortcomings.

9 April 2021: Trade

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### FREE TRADE ZONE BETWEEN EAEU AND SERBIA STARTING 10 JULY

The creation of a free trade zone between the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and Serbia passed all official procedures and came into effect on 10 July 2021.

An agreement on free trade was signed between the EAEU and Serbia in 2019.

4 June 2021: Interfax

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## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### **MOU SIGNED BETWEEN UKRAINIAN COUNCIL OF EXPORTERS AND THE LATVIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

In order to develop the mutually beneficial cooperation and establish direct contacts between Ukrainian and Latvian business circles in Riga on 30 March 2021 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Council of Exporters and Investors under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (Council) and the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI).

On behalf of the Council the MoU was signed by the Ambassador of Ukraine to the Republic of Latvia, on behalf of the LCCI - the Chairman of the Council (President). The LCCI is the largest business association which unites about 6 000 members. The main areas of its activity are business, export promotion, and competitiveness of enterprises.

The provisions of the signed MoU provide, among other things, assistance for the participation of Ukrainian companies in exhibitions, fairs and trainings in Latvia; promote cooperation between business circles; and support bilateral visits, meetings and other cooperation between businessmen and business entities of the two countries.

30 March 2021: [Latvia.mfa.gov.ua](http://Latvia.mfa.gov.ua)

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### **UZBEKISTAN AND EEC SIGN MEMORANDUM ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

The government of Uzbekistan and the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) signed a memorandum of cooperation on 30 April 2021.

The memorandum is aimed at developing trade and economic ties between Uzbekistan, as an observer state, and the EEC.

The document also stipulates cooperation in the exchange of information in such areas as customs and technical regulation, consumer protection, circulation of medicines and medical devices, transport, energy, industry and the agro-industrial complex, intellectual property and other sectors of the economy.

In order to successfully implement the provisions of the memorandum, the parties also adopted an action plan for 2021 to 2023, including specific timelines for the organization of consultations and exchange of delegations.

4 May 2021: [Tashkenttimes](http://Tashkenttimes)

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## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

### **BELARUS EXPANDS COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE WITH AZERBAIJAN AND TAJIKISTAN**

Belarus is expanding cooperation in agriculture with Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.

Azerbaijan is interested in the restoration and development of its rural areas, production facilities, the development of a social environment, and the construction of social facilities in agro-towns.

On 7 June 2021 the minister met with Tajikistan Deputy Minister of Agriculture. The parties discussed ways to expand cooperation in livestock breeding, crop production, science and education. Belarus is interested in further expanding mutually beneficial trade in agricultural products and food, increasing the volume of mutual supplies, and enhancing cooperation in livestock breeding and agricultural education.

7 June 2021: Belta

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## TRADE POLICY MEASURES

### UKRAINIAN DRAFT LAW ON IMPROVING INSURANCE REGULATION FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WITH STATE SUPPORT

Recently, a meeting of the Committee on Finance, Taxation and Customs Policy was held, at which the draft Law No. 5104 “On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine to Improve the Legal Regulation of Insurance of Agricultural Products with State Support” was considered in the first reading. The bill introduces state support for agricultural producers in terms of insurance of agricultural products.

The draft law, in particular, proposes to amend the Tax Code in terms of increasing the income tax rate on agricultural insurance contracts by 0.5 percent.

Amendments are also being made to the Law “On Peculiarities of Insurance of Agricultural Products with State Support”, which defines:

- how state support may be provided to agricultural producers for insurance on agricultural products;
- requirements, rights and obligations of participants in the state-supported market for insurance of agricultural products; and
- objects of insurance, insurance products, insurance risks, insured events, and requirements for insurance contracts with state support, etc.

According to the draft law, the amount of partial compensation to agricultural producers of insurance payments (premiums) is proposed to be set at 60 percent. The specific amount of compensation will be determined based on the capabilities of the state budget in the appropriate order of use of budget funds.

The Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture noted that there have been repeated attempts to resolve the issue of support for agricultural producers, in particular, the creation of an artificial association Agrarian Insurance Pool. However, this association did not fulfil its function. Moreover, confidence in agricultural insurance has been undermined by non-payment by insurance companies.

In order to boost confidence, it has been proposed to introduce a clear system of accreditation of insurance companies that have the right to participate in state insurance programs.

The Committee decided to recommend to the Verkhovna Rada to include the bill in the agenda of the session and to adopt it as a basis.

## TRADE POLICY MEASURES

### GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE EXTENDS STATE SUPPORT FOR FARMERS IN 2021

On 7 April 2021 the Government of Ukraine endorsed a resolution that expands state support for agricultural producers to 2021, supplementing it with six new programs. This decision was made in the framework of the implementation of the Law of Ukraine on the functioning of the State Agrarian Register and the improvement of state support for farmers.

Among the new programs to support agriculture are:

- state support for insurance of agricultural products;
- compensation for losses from damage to crops due to man-made and natural emergencies;
- state support for agricultural producers who use reclaimed lands;
- state support for producers of organic agricultural products;
- state support for potato producers; and
- state support for agricultural producers by allocating budget subsidies per unit of cultivated land (buckwheat).

The state shall compensate farmers for the losses suffered last year due to extreme weather conditions. Agricultural insurance was introduced to further protect producers against possible financial losses. Programs were added that aim to strengthen industry production, in particular, of buckwheat and potatoes, to saturate the domestic market with products of domestic origin and stabilize the price situation in the country.

7 April 2021: Gov.ua

### RUSSIAN FEDERATION LIFTS TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS FROM UZBEKISTAN

An official statement about this was published on the Rosselkhoznadzor website. It announces that in connection with the information received from the State Plant Quarantine Inspection of Uzbekistan on strengthening control over phytosanitary certification when exporting regulated products to the Russian Federation, the department considers it possible, under the guarantees of the Uzbek side, to allow the import of all plant products from Fergana areas from 7 April 2021, with the exception of tomatoes and peppers.

The import of tomatoes and peppers from the Fergana region of Uzbekistan to the territory of the Russian Federation was banned from 26 November 2020. The Rosselkhoznadzor explained this step, referring to the fact that the tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) was detected in tomatoes. The agency introduced this restriction in order to prevent the introduction and spread of this virus in Russian Federation, guided by paragraph 1 Article VII of the International Plant Protection Convention. Viruses of brown wrinkling of tomato fruits, spotted wilting of tomatoes and pepino mosaic are not included in the EAEU Unified List of Quarantine Objects. As a temporary quarantine phytosanitary measure, on 27 July 2020, a requirement was introduced to ensure their absence in seeds, seedlings and fruits of tomato and pepper, coming into the Russian Federation from exporting countries.

9 April 2021: Tridge

## **BELARUS SUSPENDS EXPORT OF GRAIN**

Belarus has introduced a temporary ban on the export of wheat, meslin, rye, barley, oats, corn, buckwheat, millet, triticale, and other types of grain. The decision was formalized by the Council of Ministers' Resolution No. 221 as of 14 April 2021, the Belarusian Telegraph Agency (BelTA) learned from the National Legal Internet Portal.

The temporary ban will apply to the export of these goods to EAEU member states, regardless of their country of origin, as well as to export outside the EAEU customs territory when these goods are placed under the customs procedures of export, temporary export, processing outside the customs territory and re-export.

The temporary ban will not apply when these products are exported as international humanitarian aid on the basis of government decisions and as food reserves. The exception also applies to international transit when the starting point and the destination are outside the EAEU customs territory. The exception also applies to the movement of goods between the EAEU member states through third countries. The temporary ban does not apply when these goods are placed under customs procedures in other EAEU member countries and go in transit through the territory of Belarus.

15 April 2021: Belta

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## **UZBEKISTAN PLANS TO EXEMPT IMPORT AND SALE OF VEGETABLE OIL FROM VAT**

From May 1 to 31 December 2021, Uzbekistan exempts the import and sale of cooking oil from value-added tax (VAT).

It is planned to exempt imports of the following products from VAT: vegetable oil, sunflower, flax and soybean seeds.

In addition, seed importers will be able to export to foreign countries no more than 50 percent of the vegetable oil produced as a result of processing sunflower seeds, flax and soybeans.

Customs officers will monitor the above export limits.

23 April 2021: Kun.uz

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## TRADE POLICY MEASURES

### EU LIFTS BAN ON ARGENTINE CITRUS

Lemons and oranges were allowed to re-enter the European Union market from 1 May 2021.

The European Commission has given the green light for citrus imports from Argentina to resume after suspending trade last August following a high level of interceptions of shipments carrying Citrus Black Spot.

Argentina's plant health authority, Senasa, said the new measure came into effect on 1 May 2021.

The ban followed concerted efforts by the public and private sectors to strengthen control measures in the field and pack house and increase the number of staff on its regional teams in order to improve the monitoring and supervision of citrus exports.

Citrus accounts for four out of every ten fruits that Argentina exports and the European Union is one of its biggest markets, importing around 200 000 tonnes of citrus over the last five years.

The measures and conditions for the re-entry of citrus fruit into the European Union include additional actions that must be carried out by different actors in both the private and public sectors.

These include mandatory field application of phytosanitary treatments against Black Spot; official verification of the application of these treatments; laboratory analysis of the fruit sampled both in the field and in packaging when suspicious symptoms of the disease are detected; and official communication to the European Union of the lists of production units and names of the companies responsible for the units, as well as updates to these lists.

29 April 2021: Fruitnet

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### RESTRICTIONS LIFTED ON SUPPLIES OF LIVE POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FROM GERMANY AND SLOVAKIA

Based on the analysis of materials provided by the veterinary services of Germany and Slovakia, the Rosselkhoznadzor lifted earlier imposed restrictions and resumed import certification for live poultry and poultry products to the Russian Federation from a number of avian influenza free areas in the abovementioned countries.

Detailed information about the terms of supplies is available on the official website of the Rosselkhoznadzor in the sections "Import. Export. Transit / Germany / Import" and "Import. Export. Transit / Slovakia / Import".

30 April 2021: Rosselkhoznadzor

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**A TEMPORARY BAN ON THE EXPORT OF BUCKWHEAT APPROVED IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

The Government of Russian Federation has established a temporary ban on the export of buckwheat and a number of its processed products from the country from June 5 to 31 August 2021.

Thus, buckwheat, buckwheat groats, and husked buckwheat grain are among the list of goods that are essential for the domestic market of the Russian Federation.

In relation to such products, according to the current legislation, in exceptional cases, temporary restrictions or export prohibitions may be introduced.

At the same time, the imposed ban does not apply to several cases, including the transfer of international humanitarian aid, for which the decision was made by the Government, as well as if the product is intended for the military who serve in other countries, or for employees in Baikonur and Svalbard.

As part of the work of the subcommittee on customs and tariff regulation, the department came up with an initiative to temporarily restrict the export of buckwheat and buckwheat groats.

The proposal was to introduce the restriction "in order to maintain the necessary volumes of buckwheat and buckwheat groats on the domestic market and to prevent sharp price fluctuations."

30 April 2021: Rosselkhoznadzor

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**THE ROSSELKHOZNADZOR PARTIALLY LIFTS TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT OF TOMATOES AND PEPPERS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance of the Russian Federation (Rosselkhoznadzor) lifts temporary restrictions on tomato and pepper export from 13 establishments located in the Armavir Oblast, Republic of Armenia, where no specific evidence of Pepino mosaic virus presence has been detected since 5 February 2021. The decision was made based on the information about the results of quarantine phytosanitary monitoring of greenhouse establishments producing tomatoes and peppers for the said disease provided by the Food Safety Inspection Body of the Republic of Armenia.

Export of tomatoes and peppers from the Armavir Oblast of the Republic of Armenia was banned from 14 December 2020 due to detection of Pepino mosaic virus in the exported products subjected to the temporary quarantine phytosanitary restriction imposed by the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance.

5 May 2021: Tellerreport

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## TRADE POLICY MEASURES

### **AZERBAIJAN SUSPENDS IMPORT OF POULTRY PRODUCTS FROM SEVERAL REGIONS**

25 May 2021 Azerbaijan's Food and Safety Agency has suspended the import of poultry, live birds and animal products from some regions of Mali and Israel over bird flu concerns.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) reported that a highly pathogenic disease "bird flu" has been found in Mali's Koulikoro administrative-territorial units. In addition, a "Newcastle" disease has been found in Israeli cities of Tel Aviv, Judea and Samaria, Haifa and Jerusalem.

Azerbaijan's Food and Safety Agency is taking relevant measures in line with the OIE's warning against infectious animal diseases that may enter the country's territory from other countries.

In this regard, the agency has imposed temporary import restrictions on all types of live birds, poultry and animal products from the above-mentioned territories.

25 May 2021: Azernews

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### **RUSSIAN FEDERATION INCREASES IMPORT QUOTA FOR TOMATOES**

The Russian Federation decided on 1 June 2021 to raise the upper limit for tomato imports from Turkey.

The country's Ministry of Agriculture had decided to increase the quota on the import of Turkish tomatoes by 20 percent. Turkey will be allowed to export up to 300 000 tons of tomatoes to the Russian Federation with the newly announced limit.

1 June 2021: Dailysabah

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### **MANDATORY LABELLING OF ICE CREAM AND CHEESE BEGINS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mandatory labelling of ice cream and cheese began in the Russian Federation on 1 June 2021. The corresponding government decree was signed on 15 December 2020.

85 percent of ice cream producers and 100 percent of cheese producers passed registration and accounting of products in the state labelling system "Honest Sign". Since 20 January 2021, when the labelling of dairy products began on a voluntary basis, 85 percent of ice cream producers and 100 percent of cheese producers have joined.

1 June 2021: Foreignaffairs.co.nz

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## A FLOATING EXPORT DUTY ON GRAIN IS INTRODUCED IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The introduction of a floating export duty on wheat, meslin, barley and corn, which started working on 2 June 2021, will prevent the impact of world prices on the domestic market.

The main goal of the damper mechanism is to prevent the transfer of fluctuations in external prices for products to the domestic market. It will allow for prompt and automatically adjusting export duty rates depending on fluctuations in world prices. It is important that the funds received in the form of income from export duties be returned to agriculture in the form of subsidies, which will be calculated depending on the volume of production.

A tariff quota for the export of grain in the amount of 17.5 million tons was applied (its validity period ended on 30 June 2021). If the quota is exceeded, the export duty rate is 50 percent, but not less than EUR 100 per ton. At the same time, until 1 June 2021, "intra-quota" rates for wheat and meslin were set at EUR 50 per ton, for barley – EUR 10 per tonne, and for corn – EUR 25 per tonne.

The measures taken by the Government have already led to the stabilization of prices on the domestic food market. Thus, with growing world prices for wheat (average futures prices in Chicago from January to May of this year increased by 8 percent, to USD 260 per tonne), the domestic price has decreased since the beginning of the year by 10 percent and in April-May amounted to 13.3 thousand rubles per ton (USD 181 at the exchange rate as of 1 June).

The measures introduced had a positive effect on consumer prices: the monthly growth rate of flour prices slowed down four times – from an average 1.6 percent from November 2020 to January 2021 to 0.4 percent from February to May 2021. According to Rosstat, producer prices for wheat fell by 0.9 percent in April compared to March 2021.

## TRADE POLICY MEASURES

### **RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO IMPORT AZERBAIJANI APPLES AND TOMATOES BY RAILWAY**

The Russian Federation's phytosanitary service Rosselkhoznadzor authorizes the import of Azerbaijani tomatoes and apples by railway starting from 15 June 2021. The shipment of apples and tomatoes by railway was authorized following the negotiations held on 10-11 June 2021 between the Russian Federation Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Control Head and the Azerbaijani Food Safety Agency.

Thirty-one tomato and 24 apple-producing companies operating in Azerbaijan will be allowed to export their products via railway with only one type of product from each producer to be transported in each wagon. Transportation of goods will be carried out with full traceability, accompanied by phytosanitary certificates.

Moreover, transportation of apples and tomatoes from Azerbaijan to the Russian Federation via container will start as of 1 October 2021. Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency and relevant agencies are taking joint measures to lift restrictions on the tomatoes and apple export from Azerbaijan to the Russian Federation.

15 June 2021: Hortidaily

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### **AZERBAIJAN BANS POULTRY IMPORT FROM 40 COUNTRIES**

Azerbaijan has banned the import of poultry from over 40 countries.

The restriction in poultry import has to do with the bird flu that is present in 55 countries and is in line with recommendations from the OIE.

When imports of both meat and chicken are restricted, there is a waiting period after the threat has been eliminated, which can range from three months to three years. This restriction does not apply to the whole country, but to the area where the disease occurred.

25 June 2021: Azernews

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## EXPERT OPINION

Photo Credit: © FAO/N. Kulbatyrov



### FROM WORDS TO DEEDS: THE FIRST PRACTICE-ORIENTED PROGRAM OF EXPORT ACCELERATION OF THE FOOD SECTOR IN KAZAKHSTAN

**N. Kulbatyrov,**

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The acceleration system is known worldwide as one of the most important tools for supporting and developing exports. It is a measure of service support for export-oriented enterprises, aimed at the intensive promotion of enterprises that do business with foreign firms, providing diagnostics of their export potential, training, and support throughout the process, including the signing of export contracts with foreign partners.

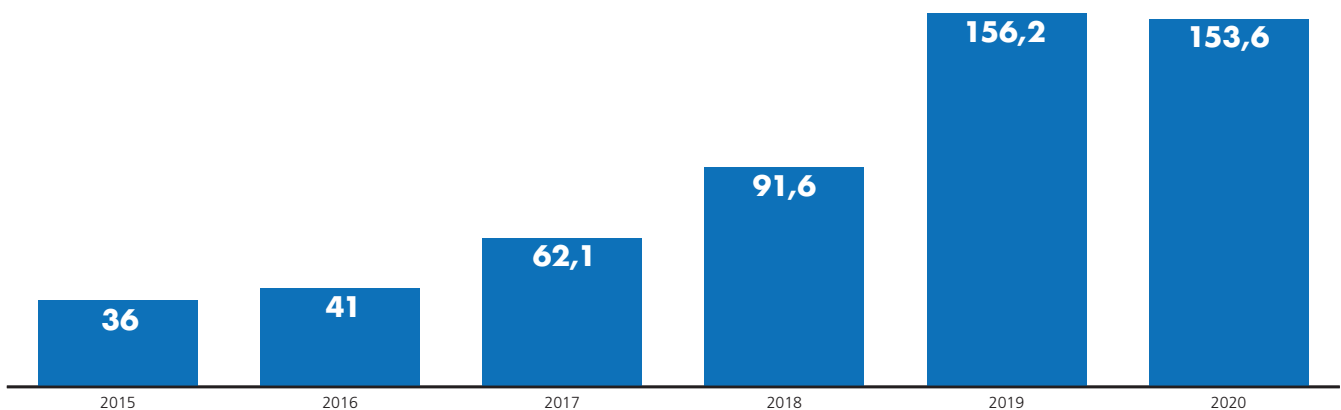
One of the goals of Kazakhstan’s trade policy is comprehensive support and stimulation of the export of non-primary goods and services. To accomplish this, there is a need for an individual approach to each export-oriented enterprise in order to increase the export potential of the domestic processing industry. In this regard, in March 2020, the Ministry of Trade and Integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan launched its first practice-oriented acceleration program, providing full support for enterprises, from the production of goods to getting them on retail shelves in foreign markets. The operator of the export acceleration program is the institute for the development and promotion of the export of non-primary goods and services, Joint Stock Company “Center for Trade Policy Development “QazTrade” (hereinafter - QazTrade).

The program assumes the participation of export-oriented enterprises on a grant basis. At the same time, experience around the world has shown that ongoing acceleration programs provide for co-financing from business in exchange for their participation.

China has been selected as the target market for 2020 with a focus on food processing enterprises. And while China is the second country in the world in terms of import volume, the share of agri-food trade in it is only 3 percent. Over the past five years, import of food products to the Chinese market have grown by 11 percent.

We see the same positive trend in the growth in exports of Kazakhstan food products to the Chinese market (over the past six years, exports have grown 4.3 times) from USD 36 million to USD 153.6 million. These products include sunflower oil, rapeseed oil, flour, confectionery and others which the program has focused on promoting to the Chinese market.

**Figure 1.** Export of food products from Kazakhstan to China, USD millions



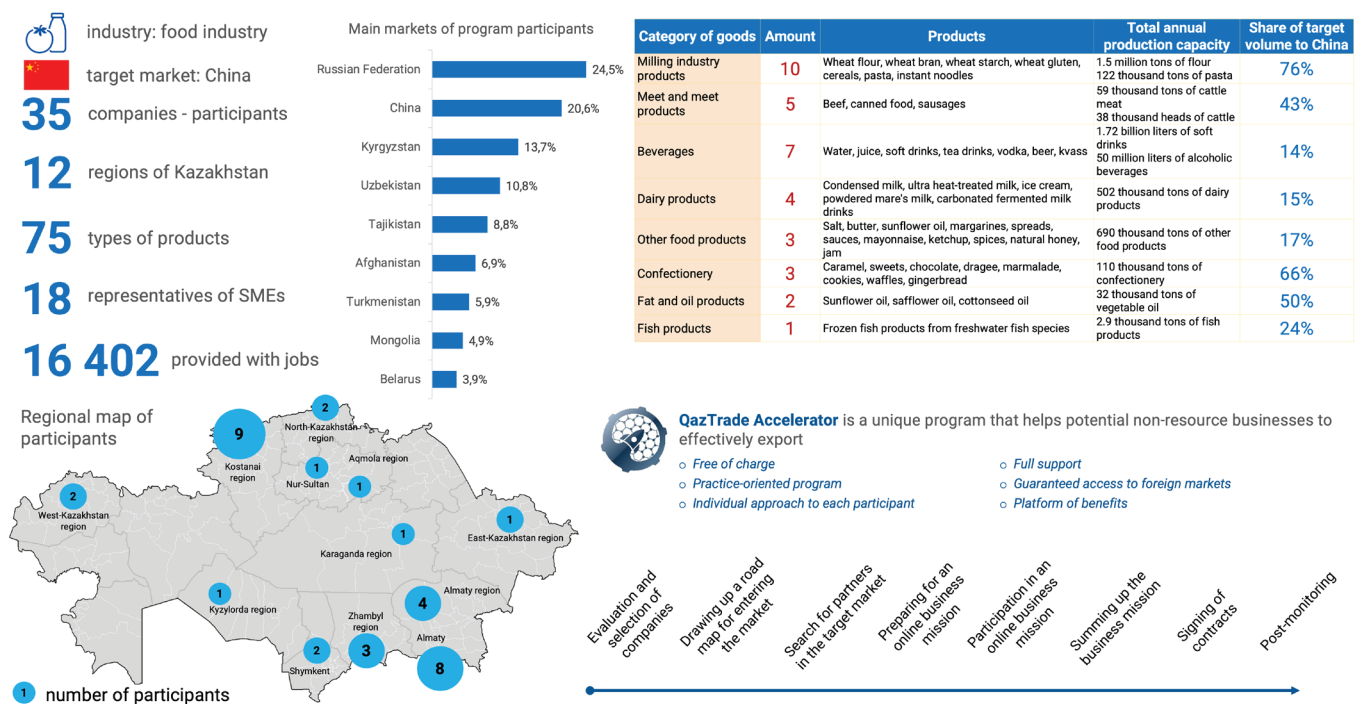
Source: Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The program includes diagnostics of the export potential of enterprises, training, and support right up to the signing of export contracts with Chinese buyers.

Since the launch of the program, the program operator has done a tremendous amount of work to form a base of potential participants. The base includes more than 500 food industry companies in Kazakhstan. In order to form the final list of participants, applications from interested companies were processed and an information and consultation seminar was held with potential program participants. The seminar provided detailed information on export procedures for food products in China and an analysis of demand in China's agri-food market. In addition, companies were provided with feedback, supported by analytical reports from leading international experts.

QazTrade, in partnership with the international consulting company Price Waterhouse Coopers, selected 35 companies in Kazakhstan. For each participating company that passed to the second stage of the program, a detailed profile with an expert assessment was created. This profile includes an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the exporting company, the level of potential in each of the studied areas using a scoring model, i.e. analysis of the market, financial resources, products, competence, organizational structure and the degree of readiness of export supplies to China. On the basis of the analysis, individual roadmaps for entering the market and commercial proposals were drawn up.

**Figure 2. Current export acceleration results: food industry 2020**



Source: JSC CTPD "QazTrade" analysis.

As a result of the work on selection of participants, a short-list of the QazTrade 2020 export acceleration program was formed, which includes 17 large, 14 medium, and four small food industry enterprises. Information and consulting seminars for the selected companies were held on the following topics: "Main sales channels in China"; "Promotion of products in the Chinese market"; "Recommendations on work with Chinese partners"; and "Government measures to support exporters"; as well as coaching sessions on how to find partners.

For the 35 selected participating companies, product merits and presentation videos were developed. A marketing campaign was carried out, including telemarketing, e-mailing, advertising on relevant social networks, and a search for at least five Chinese trading partners.

Over the course of the program, 160 online meetings were held for 35 participants with potential Chinese buyers, all with varying degrees of probability to conclude export contracts.

On the side-lines of the largest international exhibition in China, China International Import Expo 2020, the key business mission was held, during which Kazakhstan products were exhibited by 27 program participants.

To date, there are already export contracts in place. It is expected that by participating in the acceleration program, companies will receive an increase in production and sales, an increase in production capacity, and a social effect in the form of creating new jobs, developing the level of communication and qualifications of company employees, and increasing the recognition of companies and brands abroad.

Finally, the launch of this program in Kazakhstan is a solid example of stimulating non-primary exports through practical application and comprehensive support from the Government of Kazakhstan, which will significantly increase and strengthen the presence of Kazakhstan goods in foreign markets. More detailed information about the program is available at: <https://export.gov.kz/kazakhstan-export-accelerator?lang=en>. The implementation of the program will continue in 2021 with an expansion of coverage of different sectors and countries.

#### **Annual flagship report: State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021**

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 report presents the first global assessment of food insecurity and malnutrition for 2020 and offers some indication of what hunger might look like by 2030 in a scenario further complicated by the enduring effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also includes new estimates of the cost and affordability of healthy diets, which provide an important link between the food security and nutrition indicators and the analysis of their trends. Altogether, the report highlights the need for a deeper reflection on how to better address the global food security and nutrition situation.

More information here: <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofi/2021/en/>

## PAST EVENTS

### SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE EXPERT NETWORK IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

24-25 JUNE 2021 (ONLINE)

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Agricultural Trade Expert Network in Europe and Central Asia was held online on 24-25 June 2021. At the meeting the members of the Agricultural Trade Expert Network in Europe and Central Asia discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agricultural trade, changes in agri-food 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. Network experts made presentations on recent changes in agri-food trade policies in post-Soviet countries and discussed the preparation of the upcoming joint publication "Review of Agricultural Trade Policies in the post-Soviet countries 2019-2020".

The meeting facilitated the exchange of information between the ATEN members on trade and economic measures adopted by different countries to overcome the negative economic consequences caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; and provided 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 direction for the development of agri-food trade policies in the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

A detailed report about the annual meeting will be posted soon.



[www.fao.org/economic/est/international-trade/europe-and-central-asia/cismetings/en/](http://www.fao.org/economic/est/international-trade/europe-and-central-asia/cismetings/en/)

#### Additional information

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Required citation:

FAO. 2021. *Trade Policy Review in Europe and Central Asia*. Quarterly Bulletin No.6. Rome.

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