



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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FAO trade expert networks

Media Kit

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An integral part of food systems, trade can contribute to economic growth and to a more efficient allocation of natural resources. By moving food from surplus to deficit regions and countries, trade can address production shortfalls, stabilize markets, reduce prices for consumers, and increase the diversity of available foods.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supports Members with evidence-based analyses, capacity development programmes and facilitated policy dialogues on trade, agriculture, and food security at the global and regional levels.

FAO also supports regional trade expert networks that provide neutral and independent platforms for the exchange of knowledge and experience on agrifood trade issues.

Currently, four networks are active in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, Near East and North Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Members of all four networks include government trade experts, researchers from academia, and professionals from industry associations. They are specialists who conduct policy-relevant analysis, carry out training programmes, and advise government and the private sector on issues related to agrifood trade and trade policy.

This media kit introduces each of the four expert networks, including highlights of recent work and ways to get in touch.



Market transparency and policy coordination are critical to efficient and inclusive agrifood trade.





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Agricultural Trade Expert Network in Europe and Central Asia (ATEN)



In times of crisis, up-to-date information on trade policy in agriculture is not only useful for experts and businesses, but also for governments to make decisions.



-Kulbatyrov Nurlan, Kazakhstan, ATEN expert since 2017

To facilitate knowledge sharing in the region known as Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), and to support policy decisions in the development of trade potential, FAO helped establish the Agricultural Trade Expert Network in Europe and Central Asia (ATEN).¹

ATEN's work is carried out in a region that is increasingly important as a major supplier of agricultural commodities to world markets.

Since 2014 ATEN has been a "hub" for the exchange of timely information and mutual support for more transparent and predictable trade in the region.

The network publishes a biennial publication, *Review of agrifood trade policies in the EECCA countries*, that provides information about the trade policies in the region, country by country. Other activities include: publications; dissemination of a series of practical guides; e-learning courses; annual meetings of experts to discuss pressing agrifood trade issues; and webinars, seminars and e-learning courses to share experiences and to improve understanding of international trade rules.

With its dedicated support team, the active participation of all its members, and the backing and recognition of governments, over time ATEN has evolved from a learning community to an agile network that sets ambitious goals and works together to achieve them.

¹ FAO created the ATEN as part of the implementation of the Regional Initiative (RI) on Agrifood Trade and Market Integration in Europe and Central Asia (currently the RI on Transforming Food Systems and Facilitating Market Access).

ATEN brings together experts who conduct research, carry out training programmes, and advise governments and the private sector on issues related to agrifood trade and trade policy, including multilateral regional and trade agreements.



e-learning courses

Since 2016, FAO has delivered eight different online courses to nearly 600 participants from governments, academia, and the private sector of twelve countries in the EECCA region. The topics of courses are: *Resolving Agrifood Issues Through Agreements, Ensuring Agrifood Policy Transparency, Trade Food Security and Nutrition (TFSN), Agriculture in International Agreements (AITA), and Export Promotion.*

All courses were conducted in Russian.



Biennial publication 2019-2020

Review of agricultural trade policies in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia 2019-2020

A biennial publication offering in-depth analysis of agricultural trade and trade policies in EECCA countries. It reviews trends in agrifood foreign trade and monitors the latest policy changes in these countries.

Languages: English and Russian



Quarterly bulletin

Overview of trade policy in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

A bulletin tracking agricultural trade policy changes in the region. It provides current trade measures, agreements, statistics and articles by experts covering trade-related issues in their respective countries, and it is distributed to ATEN members.

Languages: English and Russian



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Africa Agricultural Trade Policy Practitioners Network (ATPPN)

“ An avenue for members finding new opportunities, ATPPN is also a tool for instilling best practices from fellow African countries. ”

-Fikiri Mboya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zanzibar

Africa Agricultural Trade Policy Practitioners Network (ATPPN) is a regional network of agricultural trade policy practitioners in sub-Saharan Africa that aims to boost intra-African trade.

Through in-depth analysis, capacity development, technical assistance, and focused trade policy dialogue events, ATPPN provides countries with an opportunity to exchange ideas and foster partnerships in areas of mutual interest.

A joint initiative between FAO and TRAPCA (the Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa), the ATPPN seeks to foster ownership of African trade and agriculture issues by practitioners and stakeholders involved in actual work in these areas.

One key objective of the network is to improve cross-sectoral and cross-country collaboration on emerging policy issues and to support implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), as well as other regional trade initiatives.

AfCFTA promises greater market opportunities, which can trigger more trade and investment, and allow greater value addition and productivity growth. This, in turn, can lead to more and better jobs with expected improvements in social inclusion, and thus to further enlarged markets.

Upcoming ATPPN activities centered around AfCFTA include webinars on: trade facilitation and harmonization of food control and food safety legislation; leveraging digital opportunities for promoting intra-African agricultural trade; and tariff and non-tariff issues for the successful implementation of AfCFTA.

Africa is emerging as a strategic investment destination and a key market for goods and services. The working population of 600 million is set to double by 2040.

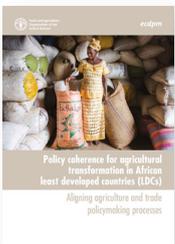


e-learning courses

Since 2017, FAO has delivered several online courses in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2022, FAO facilitated a course on *Trade, Food Security and Nutrition (TFSN)* to benefit countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. The course, which received over 900 applications, engaged more than 100 government officials and agrifood sector stakeholders in interactive learning and regional knowledge exchange through the provision of webinars. The course was conducted in English.

Likewise, in 2020, a TFSN course was facilitated in West Africa, in French. Seventy participants from 17 countries took part in the course, and 62 received a Certificate of Completion. A survey showed that 100 percent of the participants found the course useful, 88 percent indicated that it was relevant to their work, and 100 percent said they intend to use the knowledge and skills acquired during the course.



Publication

Policy coherence for agricultural transformation in African least developed countries (LDCs)

This report presents the main findings of four country studies conducted under FAO's Multi-partner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM) Project on Trade. The studies, carried out in Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia during 2017, analysed the alignment of agriculture and trade policies and the coordination between agriculture and trade policymaking processes in these four countries.

Language: English



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Regional Network of Experts in Agricultural Trade in the NENA region (RNE-AT)



The RNE-AT Network's approach is to offer analytical support to the policy makers and other stakeholders in understanding the role of trade in food security in an objective manner.



-Mona Elsholkamy, Assistant Professor, Muhammad Bin Rashid School of Government, Dubai, UAE

The objectives and activities of the Regional Network of Experts in Agricultural Trade in the NENA region (RNE-AT) are to: 1) strengthen the capacities of the expert community to provide high-quality technical advice and policy recommendations to governments and the private sector; and 2) improve communication, information sharing and collaboration on trade policy issues across countries in the region.

Trade is key to food security policy in the NENA region. Agrifood trade is of particular importance since the region depends on imports for its food security, while at the same time exports provide an important opportunity to improve incomes.

The core business of the RNE-AT network is to facilitate generation and exchange of knowledge and to ensure that appropriate capacity development solutions on issues related to agricultural trade in the NENA region are identified and applied.

A new network, RNE-AT plans to carry out activities including workshops, conferences, online training courses, joint publications, and capacity development and support to public-private dialogue on agricultural trade policy.

Members of RNE-AT are professionals from trade ministries, academia, and industry associations who carry out analysis, training, as well as advise government and the private sector on agrifood trade and trade policy issues.

RNE-AT held its first in person meeting at the margin of the regional training course *Facilitation Trade for Food Security* held in Rabat, Morocco, from 30 May to 2 June 2022. Members discussed regional priorities for agrifood trade and the future work programme of the Network.

Trade is key to food security in the region - by 2030, the NENA region is projected to meet more than 60% of its caloric demand through imported food.





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Regional Network of Experts in Agrifood Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)



Supporting the network of experts in partnership with specialized international agencies contributes to the mission of improving lives in the region



-Paolo Giordano, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

The Regional Network of Experts in Agrifood Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) aims to bring together specialists and experts with extensive experience in conducting research and carrying out training programmes on issues related to agricultural trade and trade policy, including regional and multilateral trade agreements.

The main activity of the network is to facilitate the generation and exchange of knowledge and to ensure that solutions are identified for a more equitable distribution of the benefits of open trade.

When the LAC countries joined the World Trade Organization (WTO), their participation in world agricultural trade increased. At the same time, their capacities to participate effectively in negotiation and to implement trade agreements remained generally dissimilar.

The Regional Network of Experts in Agrifood Trade in LAC was established based on the experience FAO, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The network helps fill the gap in governments' resources and institutional capacities to undertake the necessary reforms. In this way, the network allows countries to fulfill their obligations and implement measures that enable the agricultural sector to take better advantage of the opportunities generated by international integration.

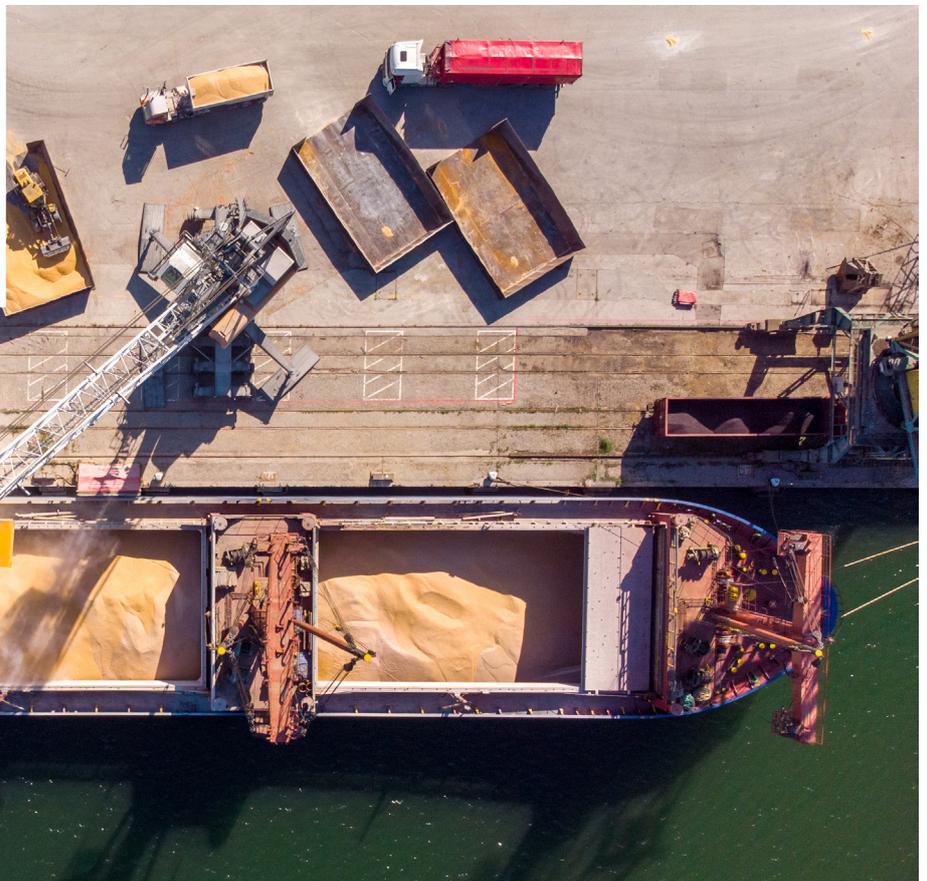
Related links

[FAO, BID e IICA realizan encuentro de expertos para fortalecer la agenda comercial internacional agroalimentaria](#)
[IICA, BID y FAO impulsan comercio agroalimentario en América Latina y el Caribe](#)

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and FAO joined forces to create the Regional Network of Experts in Agrifood Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean.



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