



## Background

The FAO's Europe and Central Asia Regional Initiative for [Transforming food systems and facilitating market access and integration](#) supports FAO member countries in improving agricultural trade policies for small and medium-sized enterprises, taking into account the development of more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems. Ensuring more favourable trade policies for modern agrifood markets requires developing the capacity to implement trade agreements and comply with national, regional and international sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. Knowing the requirements of trading partners is important.

As part of this regional initiative, the **Ninth Annual Meeting of Agricultural Trade Experts** will be held on 23 November 2023, which will discuss current aspects of agricultural trade, including trade policies adopted by countries in the region to overcome the negative impacts on agrifood trade and food security from growing instability in world markets, including the consequences associated with the war in Ukraine, which also has a significant impact on global and regional trade in Europe and Central Asia.

The transition to sustainable agriculture and food systems requires careful policies and innovative solutions to maximize the cumulative impact of achieving these goals. To support this process, FAO has adapted a strategic framework for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of this program, the meeting will focus on discussing the consequences of climate change on agricultural food system and trade; supporting the transformation of agrifood systems and trade to ensure food security; new approaches to the application and implementation of digital technologies in international trade; discussing the best experiences of countries in developing gender policies and their connection with agricultural trade in Europe and Central Asia.

The directions of work of the Trade Experts' Network in 2024 will also be discussed during the event.

## Main goals of the event:

Discuss the effectiveness of agrifood trade policy measures in the context of growing instability in global and regional markets.

Provide an opportunity for ATEN experts to briefly share their ongoing or prospective work on the following themes related to Europe and Central Asia:

- The impact of climate change on the agrifood system and agricultural trade.
- Development of gender policies and their connection with agricultural trade.
- New approaches to the use of digital technologies in international trade of agricultural products.

## Participants

National experts on agricultural trade in Europe and Central Asia, representatives of research institutes and think tanks in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

**Working languages:** Russian

## Virtual Zoom meeting

Please join the ATEN meeting by at the following Zoom link: <https://fao.zoom.us/j/3858258685>

**Meeting ID:** 385 825 8685

**Passcode:** 098765432

**23 November 2023**

<p><b>9:45 – 10:00</b>          10.45 (+1 h) Ukraine, Moldova          11.45 (+2 h) Belarus, Russian Federation          12.45 (+3 h) Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia          13.45 (+4 h) - Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan          14.45 (+5 h) - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan</p>	<p>Time to connect to the ATEN meeting in Zoom <sup>1</sup></p>
<p><b>10:00 – 10:15</b></p>	<p><b>Opening and welcome address</b>  <b>Iryna Kobuta</b>, Trade Team Leader, a.i., Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO, Italy</p>
<p><b>10:15 – 11:15</b></p>	<p><b>Session 1: Impact of the growing uncertainties on agricultural markets and trade and countries' policy responses in ECCA region</b>          Moderator: <b>Alla Saranina</b>, Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO</p> <p><b><i>Agrifood trade in the Central Asian countries in the context of growing market uncertainties, Iryna Kobuta</i></b>, Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO HQ, Italy</p> <p><b><i>The South Caucasus countries' agrifood trade and policy measures in response to market uncertainties, Alfinura Sharafeyeva</i></b>, Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> all participants          Share your opinion on the effectiveness of trade policy measures that were introduced in your country because of the growing uncertainties on agricultural markets.</p>
<p><b>11:15-11:30</b></p>	<p><b>Break</b></p>
<p><b>11:30- 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>Session 2: Discussion of the ATEN experts' ongoing or prospective work on the following themes</b>          Moderator: <b>Iryna Kobuta</b>, Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the gender policies and their connection with agricultural trade</li> <li>• Climate change impacts on the agrifood system and trade</li> <li>• Country experience in Implementation of digital technologies for international trade</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion:</b> all participants</p> <p><b>Concluding remarks:</b> <b>Iryna Kobuta</b>, Trade Team Leader, a.i., Markets and Trade Division (EST), FAO</p>

<sup>1</sup> Session times are Central European Time: local time in Rome, Italy