

**INNOVATIVE POLICIES
AND INSTITUTIONS
TO SUPPORT
AGRO-INDUSTRIES
DEVELOPMENT**



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Edited by

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Preface

As part of its mandate to lead international efforts in achieving food security for the world's growing population, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) promotes the development of agro-industries through its technical programmes, including activities in the areas of policy advice, capacity building, advocacy, awareness raising, investment promotion, and resource mobilization. This work is spearheaded by FAO's Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division (AGS), which is engaged in field and normative activities in many developing countries worldwide.

Since 2008, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), FAO has organized a number of global and regional events focusing on promoting the development of agro-industries, the first of these being the *Global Agro-Industries Forum*, held in New Delhi, India, in April 2008. Subsequent events took place in China, Peru and Nigeria, focusing respectively on Asia, Latin America and Africa. These fora aimed to build up a shared vision about the drivers critical to the future development of agro-industries, the key factors affecting their competitiveness, and potential areas for priority action. Appropriate policies and institutions, as key elements of a business environment conducive to investments in agro-industries, emerged as priority action areas in the expert discussions held in these events.

Against this backdrop, FAO–AGS, in collaboration with the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE), convened a workshop on 'Innovative Policies and Institutions to Support Agro-Industries Development', as part of the technical programme of IAAE's 2009 Triennial Conference in Beijing, China. The workshop

gathered researchers, government officials, private sector representatives and development practitioners together, to discuss proven, innovative approaches to promote the development of competitive, equitable, and inclusive agro-industries.

This publication presents the papers commissioned by FAO from qualified researchers and development practitioners through a competitive process held internationally. Comprising 12 chapters and preceded by an editorial overview, the papers cover a wide range of country and regional experiences on the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and institution strengthening programmes and projects. It is hoped that collectively they can represent an important contribution to policy-makers and other professionals interested in promoting the development of agro-industries.

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