



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

# **Agricultural Trade Expert Network in Europe and Central Asia**

## **Background**

The transformation of agricultural markets as a result of political and economic transition in the post-Soviet countries was accompanied by the process of globalization and deepening trade integration both within the region and with external trade partners. These countries are often engaged in multiple trade negotiation processes at the same time, each with their own challenges and benefits.

Many European and Central Asian countries joined the WTO that helped enhance their participation in global agricultural trade. Now the region plays an increasingly important role as a supplier of agricultural commodities to international markets.

To facilitate the formation and sharing of knowledge, as well as to make the necessary policy decisions in the development of trade potential, FAO has created the Agricultural Trade Expert Network in Europe and Central Asia as part of implementation the Regional Initiative on Agrifood Trade and Market Integration in Europe and Central Asia.

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

## **Objectives**

- Provide a neutral and independent platform for knowledge and experience exchange on agricultural trade issues affecting Europe and Central Asia;
- Enhance the quality and relevance of agricultural trade research and strengthen collaboration among experts for analysis, capacity development and other initiatives in the region;
- Strengthen the capacities to provide technical advice and policy recommendations to governments and the private sector;
- Improve communication and information sharing on trade policy issues with the wider community.

## **Expected Outcomes**

- A consolidated expert community actively involved in addressing the challenges associated with the promotion of agricultural trade in Europe and Central Asia;
- Improved quality of agricultural trade policy research and advisory services to governments on trade agreements and agricultural trade policy;
- Private sector and civil society more informed about the implications of trade policy changes on agriculture and engaged more effectively in dialogue with governments on agricultural trade issues.

## **Network Participants**

Today, the group includes 40 experts from leading academic institutions, government agencies and the private sector from most of the post-soviet countries as well as some EU countries.

## Activities

Workshops, seminars, conferences, online training courses, publications, technical assistance, exchanges among researchers and experts as well as support to public-private dialogue on directions of agricultural trade policy.

### Main Activities During 2018

#### Annual Meeting:

- The fourth annual meeting of the agricultural trade expert network in Europe and Central Asia  
Odessa, Ukraine | 12-13 September 2018

#### Workshops:

- Export diversification of agrifood products in the Kyrgyz Republic  
Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic | 14 March 2018
- Agricultural aspects of accession to WTO: the implications for agricultural and trade policy  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan | 21 - 22 June 2018
- Regional workshop on the WTO instruments in the interest of agribusiness  
Odessa, Ukraine | 11 September 2018

#### E-learning courses:

- FAO-UNITAR E-learning course on WTO accession issues in agriculture  
05 - 30 June 2017 | 5-29 September 2017
- FAO-UNITAR E-learning course: Trade, Food Security and Nutrition  
14 May 2018 - 15 June 2018

### Upcoming Events

- FAO-UNITAR E-learning course: "Agriculture in international trade agreements"  
13 May - 7 June 2019
- Annual meeting of the agricultural trade expert network in Europe and Central Asia  
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova  
5-6 June 2019

## Publications

#### ***National programs and strategies in support of agri-food exports in the post-Soviet countries***

This review focuses on the various aspects of post-Soviet countries' policies in support of agri-food products export. This includes the latest initiatives in the field of stimulating food supplies to the foreign market are considered, and the national legislation promoting exports is described.

#### ***Monthly Newsletter "Overview of trade policy Europe and Central Asia"***

The Newsletter covers agricultural trade policy changes in the region, such as various trade measures and trade agreements, and includes trade statistics and articles by experts on topical trade-related issues in their countries.

#### ***How to use the WTO instruments in the interests of agribusiness – A guide***

This guide provides an overview of instruments used in the WTO agreements, which can be used to improve market access opportunities.

#### ***Review of Agricultural Trade Policies in post-Soviet countries 2016-2017***

This review is the third in a series of publications devoted to the analysis of agricultural trade and trade policies in the post-Soviet countries. The purpose of the review is to study trends in the agri-food foreign trade and to monitor the latest trade policy changes in these countries that affect its dynamics and structure.

#### ***Review of Agricultural Trade Policies in the post-Soviet Countries, 2016-2017.***

Summary report of the above publication



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