



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Ministry of Agriculture of
the Republic of Uzbekistan



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Agricultural aspects of accession to WTO: the implications for agricultural and trade policy

Experience sharing and Training workshop

21-22 June 2018

Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel

88, Amir Temur Street

Background and objectives

The Government of Uzbekistan is engaged in an important reform agenda aimed at progressively transforming its agriculture sector into a modern, diversified and sustainable production, processing and marketing system. As one of the activities, the Government is currently undertaking is the development of a medium-term strategy that will address in a comprehensive manner the approach to key reforms in the sector.

Contributing into the agricultural strategy development process, under cooperation programme FAO and the World Bank organize the training seminar “Agricultural aspects of accession to WTO: the implications for agricultural and trade policy” that will be held on 21-22 June, 2018 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Last year the renewal of work on the country's accession to the WTO was announced the President of Uzbekistan. Speeding up WTO accession negotiations and its finalization will open up wider opportunities for Uzbekistan in the global and regional trade system. The majority of countries on post-Soviet space have been actively pursuing WTO accession after becoming independent states, and eight of the twelve countries are now WTO members (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Tajikistan).

The training seminar will facilitate a greater understanding the multilateral trading rules for agriculture as well as the agricultural trade commitments assumed by some post-soviet countries in the context of the WTO accession. Invited speakers from a number of other WTO members will present how their countries have addressed agricultural issues in the WTO accession and have adapted their agricultural and trade policies to the WTO membership. It is also intended to foster a discussion on identifying key reform areas for agricultural trade policy and for support measures that would allow Uzbekistan to take greater advantage of WTO membership for the benefit of agricultural development and food security.

Understanding and applying the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and other relevant agreements is the first step in the transition to the new trading rules. But taking advantage of the opportunities that WTO membership provides also requires updating regulatory frameworks where necessary and adopting the measures accompanied to improve the overall competitiveness of the agricultural sector.

The workshop will discuss possible trade policy and domestic support policy reforms in Uzbek agricultural sector and necessary steps to maximize the benefits of more open trade in agricultural and food products and minimize the negative effects on producers engaged in less competitive sectors.

The **main objectives** of the training seminar are to:

- Improve the understanding of the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan and other relevant government agencies of the key WTO trade rules related to agriculture, mainly Agreement on Agriculture and the Agreement on the application of SPS measures;
- Discuss the country experiences and lessons learnt in the region with WTO accession process and implementation of accession commitments in agriculture;
- Identify and discuss the key areas of concern facing the agriculture sector in relation to the further commitments on accession to the WTO;
- Raise awareness among the participants of the relationship between the changes in trade policy and domestic policy reforms in the agricultural sector.

Expected outcomes

By the end of the workshop, participants will be better able to:

- Understand the WTO agreements and country-specific accession issues related to agriculture;
- Assess the challenges and opportunities that the WTO accession poses for the agricultural sector in Uzbekistan and the needs for developing and updating regulatory frameworks and adjusting agricultural policy, including new ways to support agriculture.

Participants

Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture; food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary authorities; the Ministry of Economy of Uzbekistan, the Strategy Development Centre, the Uzbek State Investment Committee, other public sector institutions with responsibility of implementing trade and agricultural policies and support programmes in Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of academia and agro-producer associations.

The first day of the seminar, 21 June 2018

Morning Session	
8:30	Participant registration
9:00	Opening and welcome address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representative of the Government of Uzbekistan</i> • <i>Representative of the World Bank</i> • <i>Representative of the UN Food and Agricultural Organization</i>
9:30	Session I: WTO Agreements on Agriculture and SPS measures <i>Moderator: Viacheslav Evseev, Center for Customs Tariff and Non-tariff Regulation Research, Russian Federation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on Agriculture: main provisions Market access, export subsidies and domestic support to agriculture <i>Iryna Kobuta, Trade and Markets Division, FAO</i> • Trade policy measures and domestic support of agricultural producers in Uzbekistan <i>Azizulla Khamdamov-Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture</i> <p>Questions and answers</p>
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Session I (continuation): <i>Moderator: Viacheslav Evseev, Center for Customs Tariff and Non-tariff Regulation Research, Russian Federation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on the application of SPS measures <i>Ahmad Mukhtar, FAO Liaison Office in Geneva</i> • Principles of applying SPS measures in Uzbekistan <i>Ms. Dilafruz Arifkhanova- Representative of the State Phytosanitary Service in Uzbekistan</i> <p>Questions and answers</p>
13:00	Lunch
Afternoon Session	
14:00	Session II: Agricultural issues in the WTO accession and adaptation to the membership: Country experiences <i>Moderator: Iryna Kobuta, Trade and Markets Division, FAO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kazakhstan <i>Nurlan Kulbatyrov, Deputy Director, JCS Center for trade policy development, the Ministry of National economy of Republik Kazakhstan)</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyrgystan <i>Nuritdin Djamankulov, Expert on technical regulations and SPS</i> • Russian Federation <i>Viacheslav Evseev, Director, Center for Customs Tariff and Non-tariff Regulation Research, Russia</i> <p>Questions and answers</p>
15:30	Coffee break
16:00	<p>Session II (continuation): Agricultural issues in the WTO accession and adaptation to the membership: Country experiences <i>Moderator: Iryna Kobuta, Trade and Markets Division, FAO</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ukraine's experience <i>Valeriy Piatnytskiy, Expert on WTO issues, FAO consultant</i> • Negotiations on SPS issues on accession to the WTO Особенности переговоров по СФС вопросам при вступлении в ВТО <i>Vitaliy Bashynskiy, Advisor to the Head of the State Service for Food Safety and Consumer Protection in Ukraine, FAO consultant</i> • Undersanding of Dispute Settlements and examples of SPS cases <i>Viacheslav Evseev, Director, Center for Customs Tariff and Non-tariff Regulation Research, Russian Federation</i> <p>Questions and answers</p>
17:30	Day 1 wrap-up
18:00	Cocktail

The second day of the seminar, 22 June 2018

	Morning Session
8:30	Participant registration
9:00	Session III: Global trends and issues in agricultural trade <i>Moderator: Valeriy Piatnytskiy, Expert on WTO issues</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global market developments of agricultural products of interest to Uzbekistan <i>Andrea Zimmermann, Trade and Markets Division, FAO</i> • State of Affairs in the WTO negotiations on Agriculture <i>Ahmad Mukhtar, FAO Liaison Office in Geneva</i> <p>Questions and answers</p>
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Session IV: Trade policy and domestic support policy reforms in Uzbek agricultural sector <i>Moderator: Iryna Kobuta, Trade and Markets Division, FAO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-food trade policy reforms for strengthening of trade <i>Darya Illina, Senior Fellow, Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research, Uzbekistan</i> • How to improve access to key export markets for Uzbek agri-food products: recommendations to the Government <i>Valeriy Pyatnytskiy, Expert on WTO issues, FAO consultant</i> • Adoption and enforcement of national SPs measures: necessary reforms in connection with accession to the WTO <i>Vitaliy Bashynskiy, Advisor to the Head of the State Service for Food Safety and Consumer Protection in Ukraine, FAO consultant</i>
13:00	Lunch
	Afternoon Session
14:00	Session IV: Trade policy and domestic support policy reforms in Uzbek agricultural sector (continuation) <i>Moderator: Iryna Kobuta, Trade and Markets Division, FAO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further steps towards the reforms in agricultural trade and domestic support policies in Uzbekistan <i>Speaker (Uzbekistan): tbd</i> • FAO projects and experiences of different countries in policy making on developing the export of agricultural products <i>Andrea Zimmermann, Trade and Markets Division, FAO</i>

14:40

Session V. WTO accession roadmap for agriculture

Moderator: tbd

Discussion

All experts and participants

15:40

Final remarks and closing

- *Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan*
- *Representative of the World Bank*
- *Iryna Kobuta, Trade and Markets Division, FAO*

Handing certificates to the participants

16:00

Coffee