



Background

Agricultural, market and trade policies affect trade flows, farm income and food prices at the national and international level. The pattern of incentives to agriculture is continuously changing, with support to agriculture provided by a wide range of measures, and protection rates varying not only in response to explicit changes in policy, but also reflecting the movements in world agricultural prices.

To date, no comparable and continuous time series of agricultural policy distortion estimates are available for the post-Soviet countries, except for those countries covered by the OECD Producer and Consumer Support Estimates (Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine).

Since 2014, the Markets and Trade Division (EST) of FAO has been monitoring agricultural and trade policy changes in post-Soviet countries on an annual basis¹. In 2018, EST conducted a pilot study on quantitative agricultural policy monitoring in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in collaboration with the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (AIS). The countries involved in the 2018 pilot study were the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, Georgia, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Moldova. For each of the six countries, Nominal Rates of Protection (NRPs), as well as estimates of budgetary and other support measures, covering six to eight key agricultural commodities for the period 2005–2016, were delivered.

At a workshop held in Minsk in October 2019, focal points of the six pilot study countries indicated a strong interest of their respective governments for a continuation of quantitative policy monitoring in support of evidence-based decision-making processes at country level. Therefore, FAO decided to further support these efforts in the direction of institutionalizing agricultural policy monitoring in the region by scaling-up the pilot study.

The data and indicators in the new (2020) study were updated and the commodity and country coverage expanded. The policy indicators have been calculated for a set of six to ten key agricultural commodities per country for the period 2005–2018/19 (subject to data availability). The budgetary and other support to agriculture have been analysed in line with the OECD producer support estimate (PSE)/consumer support estimate (CSE) classification scheme. Two countries, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, were added to the current study.

¹

- FAO. 2016. Agricultural Trade Policies in the post-Soviet Countries 2014/15 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6160e.pdf>);
- FAO. 2017. Review of Agricultural Trade Policies in post-Soviet Countries 2015–16 (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i8083e.pdf>);
- FAO. 2018. Review of Agricultural Trade Policies in the post-Soviet Countries 2016–17 (<http://www.fao.org/3/CA0879EN/ca0879en.pdf>).
- FAO. 2020. Review of agricultural trade policies in the post-Soviet countries 2017–2018. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7674en>
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Study team

- FAO Markets and Trade Division (EST)– Management and methodological support
- Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (AIS) – Implementation
- Country experts – Country expertise and data collection
- Focal points from governments/ministries – Peer-review

Objectives and the expected outcome of the workshop

Key objective: The workshop will present the preliminary results of the study and discuss them among the participants.

Expected outcome: The policy indicators, calculated by AIS, will be presented by AIS and FAO, then commented and approved by the participants.

Participants

The workshop is intended for the government focal points and country experts in the studied post-Soviet countries and other interested parties (e.g. international and national trade and agricultural policy experts, policymakers, academia, representatives of international organizations).

Form of the workshop

The workshop will be organized by AIS in the form of the web (audio/video) conference.

The working language at the workshop is English with simultaneous interpretation into Russian.

Zoom link to the online workshop:

<https://zoom.us/j/8975167949?pwd=OWVtdjNvaHh0SIFscFNMbTVxYThoUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 516 7949

Passcode: 156980

Recording and broadcasting of the workshop

The workshop will be audio, video and photography recorded, and may be broadcasted live or subsequently via website. If you do not agree with your image or voice being recorded and published, please inform AIS and/or explicitly specifying your request when registering for the workshop.

Agenda

| 7 October 2020 (1 st day) | |
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| Workshop of the FAO Study <i>'Quantitative agricultural policy monitoring in eight post-Soviet countries'</i> | |
| 8.15 – 8:30 CEST* | Registration to the online workshop |
| 8:30 – 8:45 CEST | Opening and welcome address - Iryna Kobuta , Markets and Trade Division, EST, FAO - Maja Kožar , AIS: <i>Workshop agenda and technical instructions</i> |
| 8:45 – 9:45 CEST | Session 1: Policy indicators for the eight post-Soviet countries: preliminary results of the new study Sara Bele, Tanja Travnikar, Luka Ložar, Maja Kožar, AIS - <i>Data collection and methodology: new countries, new key commodities</i> - <i>Cross country analysis of budgetary and other transfers to agriculture</i> - <i>Cross country analysis of price incentives and dis-incentives to agriculture</i> - <i>Conclusions and recommendations</i> - Discussion (max. 15 min) |
| 9:45 – 11:00 CEST | Session 2: Country results of the analysis of agricultural price distortions and budget transfers Moderator: AIS - Armenia: Policy indicators at country level (Hasmik Hovhanesian, Yerevan State University) - Azerbaijan: Policy indicators at country level (Rashad Huseynov, Khazar University) Country results review by governmental representatives and discussion** |
| 11:00 – 11:30 CEST | Break |
| 11:30-12:45 CEST | Session 3: Country results of the analysis of agricultural price distortions and budget transfers Moderator: AIS - Belarus: Policy indicators at country level (Vasilina Akhramovich, country expert) - Georgia: Policy indicators at country level (Ketevan Gachechiladze, The Fund Georgian Center for Agribusiness Development) Country results review by governmental representatives and discussion** |

* Session timings are in Central European Summer Time (CEST): local time in Ljubljana, Slovenia (European Union).

** Sessions 2 and 3: Presentation of country results by the country expert (max. 20 minutes), review by national focal point/representative of the national agrarian ministry (max. 10 minutes), general discussion (remaining time)

| 8 October 2020 (2 nd day) | |
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| Workshop of the FAO Study <i>'Quantitative agricultural policy monitoring in eight post-Soviet countries'</i> | |
| 8:15 – 8:30 CEST | Registration to the online workshop |
| 8:30 – 9:45 CEST | <p>Session 4: Country results of the analysis of agricultural price distortions and budget transfers</p> <p>Moderator: AIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kyrgyzstan: <i>Policy indicators at country level</i> (Zalina Enikeeva, Institute of Public Policy and Administration, University of Central Asia) - Moldova: <i>Policy indicators at country level</i> (Eugenia Lucasenco, National Institute of Economic Research) <p>Country results review by governmental representatives and discussion**</p> |
| 9:45 – 11.00 CEST | <p>Session 5: Country results of the analysis of agricultural price distortions and budget transfers</p> <p>Moderator: AIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tajikistan: <i>Policy indicators at country level</i> (Parviz Khakimov, country expert) - Uzbekistan: <i>Policy indicators at country level</i> (Darya Iliina, country expert) <p>Country results review by governmental representatives and discussion**</p> |
| 11:00 – 11:30 CEST | Break |
| 11:30 – 12:30 CEST | <p>Session 6: Plenary discussion and wrap-up</p> <p>Moderator: Emil Erjavec, University of Ljubljana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signe Nelgen, Trade Policy Specialist, FAO: <i>AgIncentives Consortium overview and inclusion of study results into the database</i> - Dmitry Zvyagintsev, REU Policy Officer, FAO <i>"Overview and plans for new biennium in supporting REU countries in policy monitoring"</i> - Short summary of the presented preliminary results of the study (AIS) - Remaining open questions for discussion - Country engagement (country needs and way forward) - Concluding remarks and closing of the workshop (Iryna Kobuta, FAO) |

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** Sessions 4 and 5: Presentation of country results by the country expert (max. 20 minutes), review by national focal point/representative of the national agrarian ministry (max. 10 minutes), general discussion (remaining time)

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