



# SUPPORT TO RUSSIAN AGRICULTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF WTO MEMBERSHIP: ISSUES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Belgorod, Russia

20 – 21 November 2013

## DRAFT WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

### **Background and objectives**

The recent accession of Russia to the WTO has brought into focus the potential implications of the changes in border measures and domestic support for Russian agriculture and food systems. In order to assist the Russian government in analyzing and coping with these changes, FAO is conducting a workshop “WTO commitments and support to Russian agriculture: issues and possible solutions”. This is the second workshop of this kind, the first one was held in Kazan in January 2013.

The main objectives of the workshop are to identify and discuss the key areas of concern facing the agriculture sector in relation to the commitments on agricultural subsidies made on accession to the WTO and to draw on lessons from international experience in fulfilling commitments on subsidies while providing the necessary government support to the development of agriculture. Invited speakers from a number of other WTO members will present and discuss how their countries have, in adapting agricultural and trade policies, addressed similar concerns and issues to those facing Russia.

The target audience is approximately 100 representatives of regional authorities within the Ministry of Agriculture. The workshop will serve as a basis for future FAO training activities in Russia and other CIS countries, identifying key capacity development and analytical support requirements.

Session 1 of the workshop will briefly recap the key areas of change required to bring agricultural and trade policy in line with the UR AoA and in particular with Russia’s specific commitments. Session 2 will identify the main issues of concern to agriculture sector stakeholders. Sessions 3 and 4 will then seek to identify how other WTO members, including recently acceded countries, have, in adapting their agricultural and trade policies, addressed similar concerns and issues. A special session will discuss the experience of other countries with providing fertilizer subsidies, their pros and cons and applicability to Russia. In Session 5, participants will work to “map” experience from other countries to the issues facing Russian agriculture. Finally, Session 6 will identify possible solutions and steps that need to be taken to ensure that implementation is in line with commitments, while recognizing national objectives.

**20 November 2013**  
**Morning Session**

- 8:30 **Participant registration**
- 9:00 **Opening and welcome address**
- *Ilya Shestakov, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Russian Federation*
  - *Stanislav Aleinik, Deputy Chairman of the Government of Belgorod oblast, Head of Agro-industry Department*
  - *Ekaterina Krivonos, Economist, Trade and Markets Division, FAO*
  - *Larisa Inozemtseva, Head of Marketing Department of Uralkali*
- 9:30 **Session I: Introduction to WTO Disciplines and Russia's Accession Commitments**
- Moderator: Ekaterina Krivonos, Economist, FAO**
- *WTO Agreement on Agriculture: Diwakar Dixit, Agriculture and Commodities Division, WTO*
  - *Russian WTO accession commitments in agriculture: tbd*
  - *Questions and answers*
- 10:30 **Coffee break**
- 11:00 **Session II: Agricultural policy in Russia and WTO membership**
- Moderator: tbd**
- *Russia's agricultural policy: Adaptation to the membership in WTO: Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia*
  - *Domestic support commitments and agricultural policy: Lars Brink, expert, Canada*
  - *The results of survey "WTO rules for agriculture and the development of Russia's agricultural sector: Viacheslav Evseev, Director, Center for Customs Tariff and Non-tariff Regulation Research*
  - *Questions and answers*
- 12:30 **Lunch**
- Afternoon Session**
- 13:30 **Session III: Reforms of agricultural policies and commitments on domestic support in the WTO**
- Moderator: Diwakar Dixit, Agriculture and Commodities Division, WTO**
- *United States: William Meyers, University of Missouri*
  - *European Union: Alan Matthews, Trinity College Dublin*
  - *Canada: Lars Brink, expert, Canada*
  - *Questions and answers*
- 15:30 **Coffee break**

- 15:50 **Special session: Domestic support to agriculture in the WTO: Country experiences with fertilizer subsidies**
- Fertilizer subsidies: What do we know from international experience? *William Foster, Professor, Catholic University, Chile*
  - Fertilizer subsidies in India and the implications for agricultural markets and food security: *Arvind Chawla, expert, India*
  - Discussion

17:20 **Day 1 wrap-up**

18:00 **Cocktail**

## **21 November 2013 Morning Session**

8:30 **Participant registration**

9:00 **Session IV: The experience of recently acceded WTO member countries with adaptation of the agricultural sector to the WTO membership**

**Moderator: Viacheslav Evseev, Director, Center for Customs Tariff and Non-tariff Regulation Research**

- Ukraine: *Irina Kobouta, Project Manager, UNDP*
- China: *Jikun Huang, Director, Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, IGSNRR, CAS*
- Questions and answers

11:00 **Coffee break**

11:30 **Session V: Practical exercise: WTO accession issues in agriculture (Work in groups)**

**Moderators: tbd**

- Domestic support to agriculture
- Import competition

13:00 **Lunch**

## **Afternoon Session**

14:00 **Session VI. WTO accession: main issues, possible solutions and next steps**

**Moderator: tbd**

**Experts**

15:30 **Final remarks and closing**

- Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federation
- Representative of the Government of Belgorod oblast
- Ekaterina Krivonos, Economist, Trade and Markets Division, FAO
- Larisa Inozemtseva, Head of Marketing Department of Uralkali

**Handing certificates to the participants**