



Regional Training Workshop for CIS countries WTO ACCESSION AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Kiev, Ukraine

12 – 13 November 2013

Hotel Alfavito, Predslavinskaya 35, Kiev

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Background and objectives

The majority of the CIS countries¹ have been actively pursuing WTO accession after becoming independent states, and seven of the twelve countries are now WTO members (Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine and Tajikistan). Russia's accession to the WTO, the biggest market in the region, brought into focus the potential implications of trade liberalization on agriculture and food systems not only for Russia but also in other countries in the region which trade extensively with Russia and may also act as a catalyst for the WTO accession among the remaining countries.

The accession to WTO by itself does not guarantee that the CIS countries will participate more effectively in global agricultural trade. The appropriate mainstreaming of trade policy into the overall agricultural development strategy can help 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. Understanding and applying the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), 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 accompanying measures to improve the overall competitiveness of the agricultural sector.

The training workshop will facilitate a greater understanding and implementation of the multilateral trading rules for agriculture as well as the agricultural trade commitments assumed by the CIS countries in the context of the WTO accession. It is also intended to foster a discussion on options for trade-related reforms and support measures that would allow the countries to take greater advantage of the WTO membership for the benefit of agricultural development and food security.

Expected outcomes

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

- Understand and apply more consistently the WTO agreements and country-specific accession commitments related to agriculture;
- Assess the challenges and opportunities that the WTO membership poses for the agricultural sector in their country and the needs for developing and updating regulatory frameworks and adjusting agricultural policy, including new ways to support agriculture while minimizing distortions and fulfilling the obligations on domestic support.

The workshop will also facilitate information sharing among the current and future WTO members in the CIS. This will allow the countries to exchange experiences in facing the implementation challenges and reforming agricultural policies.

Participants

Representatives of Ministries of Agriculture; food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary authorities; other public sector institutions with responsibility of implementing trade and agricultural policies and

¹ Throughout the text of this document "CIS" is used in brief for "CIS and Georgia"

support programmes in the CIS countries, as well as representatives of exporters, importers, producer associations and agro-industry.

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Morning Session

- 8:30 **Participant registration**
- 9:00 **Opening and welcome address**
- Ivan Bisiuk, First Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine
 - David Sedik, Senior Agricultural Policy Officer FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
- 9:40 **Session 1: Introduction to WTO's Agreement on Agriculture**
- AoA: Market access and export subsidies (Ekaterina Krivonos, FAO)
 - AoA: Domestic support to agriculture (Lars Brink, FAO)
- 10:45 **Coffee break**
- 11:15 **Session 2: Lessons from country experiences: Reforms of agricultural policies in the context of the AoA**
- United States (William Meyers, University of Missouri)
 - EU (Stephan von Cramon-Taubadel, University Göttingen)
 - Canada (Lars Brink, FAO)

12:30 **Lunch**

Afternoon Session

- 14:00 **Session 3: SPS measures**
- The SPS Agreement (Rolando Alcala, WTO)
 - International phytosanitary standards - IPPC (Ana Peralta, FAO)
 - Internationally agreed science-based food safety norms - Codex Alimentarius (Eleonora Dupouy, FAO)
- 15:30 **Coffee break**
- 16:00 **Session 4: Trade rules and national standards and norms**
- Moderator: Rolando Alcala, WTO**
- Amendments to national legislation to comply with WTO agreements (Lalaina Ravelomanantsoa, FAO)
 - Agricultural quality standards (Virginia Cram-Martos, UNECE)
- 17:00 **Day 1 wrap-up**

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- 8:30 **Session 5: Implications of WTO accession for the agricultural sector**
- Domestic support commitments and agricultural policy in the CIS (Lars Brink, FAO)
 - Competitiveness issues in key agricultural sectors (Dmitry Prikhodko, FAO)
 - Smallholder farmers and export opportunities (Joern Rieken, UNDP)
- 09:45 **Coffee break**
- 10:15 **Session 6: Agricultural issues in the WTO accession: Country experiences**
Moderator: David Sedik, FAO
- Ukraine (Iryna Kobouta, UNDP Aid for Trade in Ukraine)
 - Tajikistan (Mizrob Dekhonov, Ministry of Agriculture)
 - Azerbaijan (Mushvig Mahmudov, Azerbaijan Research Institute for Agricultural Economics)
 - Kazakhstan (Dauren Oshakbaev, The National Economic Chamber “Atameken Union”)
- 11:45 **Discussion: WTO accession roadmap for agriculture**
- 12:30 **Final remarks and closing**
- Representative of Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine
 - David Sedik, Senior Agricultural Policy Officer FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
- 15:00 – **SIGHTSEEING TOUR**
21:00 **FIELD VISIT TO NIBULON GRAIN EXPORT TERMINAL**