



1st Regional Technical Consultation Workshop -

Smallholders and Family Farms 9 – 10 June 2015, Tbilisi, Georgia

Concept Note and Program

The **objective** of the Regional Technical Consultation is to explore the possibility of establishing a **Regional Technical or Standing Working Group** in the EaP countries **on smallholders and family farming related issues** with relevant stakeholders involved in this thematic area. The establishment of such a working group could facilitate the dialogue, particularly between the countries and could also provide the basis for the establishment of a permanent forum, a Regional Technical/Standing Working Group.

To this effect the main technical areas of agriculture and rural development – specifically related to smallholders and family farms – which are of regional importance and could be a basis for further intensified discussions and exchange of information are being identified and synthesised in a regional report to be presented at the 1st Regional Technical Consultation workshop. During the workshop the main technical areas of such a potential future forum will be selected upon the outcome of the discussion depending on its regional importance and to what extent it could build the basis for further intensified discussions and exchange of information in long term.

The **participants** will include representatives of Ministries of Agriculture and technical experts of the Regional Working Group in both regions. Bringing together **Ministry representatives** and **technical people** may provide a possibility to address specific technical issues at regional level, while taking into account the diversity of experiences and efforts in participating countries. Such a regional dialogue will also facilitate to **identify pilot actions**, where relevant.

As a good practice, the Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group (SWG)¹ in South Eastern Europe (SEE) will share its experience and lessons learnt on the establishment of a regional network in South-Eastern Europe². The SWG is an international intergovernmental organization that ensures linkages between representatives of governmental institutions responsible for rural development to exchange experience, information and to support each other in the common goal of EU integration. The representatives of SWG in their presentation will focus on the genesis of SWG, from an informal meeting of technical staff dealing with rural development and EU integration to an intergovernmental organization with its own structure and funding, implementing international projects.

In summary, the Regional Technical Consultation workshop aims at fostering the networking of participating countries to establish the Regional Working Group based on common interest for EaP countries.

¹ See the SWG website: <http://seerural.org/>

² SWG Member countries/territories are Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.



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Venue: Rooms Hotel Tbilisi, 14 Merab Kostava St, Tbilisi 0108, Georgia

Language of the workshop: English and Russian in simultaneous translation

Day 1: 09 June 2015 – Technical Focus	
08.30 - 09.00	Registration
09.00 - 09.15	<p>Official opening</p> <p>Konstantine Khutsaidze, Head of Agriculture Development Department of Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>Mamuka Meskhi, Assistant FAO Representative in Georgia</p>
09.15 - 09.30	<p>Objectives and structure of workshop and working groups;</p> <p>Richard Eberlin, Land Tenure and Rural Development Expert, FAO</p> <p>Dragan Angelovski, Facilitator, FAO</p> <p>Beka Dzadzamia, Facilitator, FAO</p>
09.30 - 10.30	<p>Main Issues affecting Smallholders and Family Farms in the EaP Region, a critical review;</p> <p>Bozhana Stoeva, International Policy Analysis and Rural Development Expert, FAO</p>
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 - 12.00	<p><u>Plenary discussion:</u></p> <p>Statements of representatives from countries on main issues affecting smallholders and family farms in your country and comments to the presented on regional report.</p> <p>Discussion, introduction to working group discussion, key-questions to be discussed, and sub-groups to be formed for the working groups, suggested division - Caucasus - European CIS</p>
12.00 - 13.30	Lunch
13.30 - 15.00	<p><u>Working groups (key question):</u></p> <p>What are the main common issues regarding smallholders and family farms in the EaP region?</p>
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break



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15.30 - 16.30	Reporting back and discussion of working group results
16.30 - 17.00	Wrap-up of first day, objectives of first day => technical priorities at regional/sub-regional level to be included in the “Recommendations by the Participants of the Regional Technical Consultation Workshop”
19.00	Dinner



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Day two: 10 June 2015 – Institutional Focus	
09.00 - 09.30	Summary of previous day
09.30 - 10.30	<p>Presentation of genesis of SWG, informal and formal set-up, institutions, funding, problems and bottlenecks encountered, political importance, etc.</p> <p>Boban Ilic, SWG Secretary General Irena Dzimrevska, Head of Operations, SWG</p>
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 - 12.00	<p><u>Plenary discussion:</u> Questions, discussions, introduction to working groups, key-questions to be discussed, two sub-groups to be formed - Caucasus - European CIS</p>
12.00 - 13.30	Lunch
13.30 - 15.00	<p><u>Working groups (key question):</u> If and how a future regional technical working group should be formed, e.g. role and responsibilities, TORs, informal/formal/institutional setup, etc.; Drafting the “Recommendations by the Participants of the Regional Technical Consultation Workshop”</p>
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 - 16.30	Reporting back, discussion of working group results, and consolidation of the two sets of recommendations
16.30 - 17.00	<p>Wrap-up of 2nd day, objectives of 2nd day => possible main topic and set-up of a regional technical working group</p> <p>Review and adoption of draft “Recommendations by the Participants of the Regional Technical Consultation Workshop”</p>
17.00 - 17.30	Formal closing