



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA

Ministarstvo vanjske trgovine i ekonomskih odnosa
Sektor za poljoprivredu, šumarstvo, prehranu i ruralni razvoj

БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА

Министарство спољне трговине и економских односа
Сектор за пољопривреду, шумарство, прехрану и рурални развој

Prague 2008 Regional Workshop on
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BiH AGRICULTURAL SECTOR An Overview

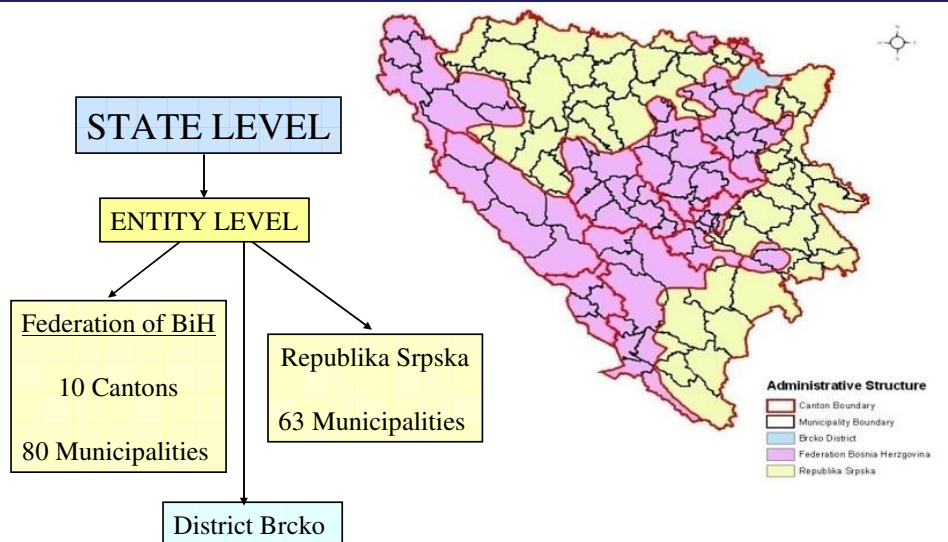
Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic
Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dušan Nešković - Assistant Minister

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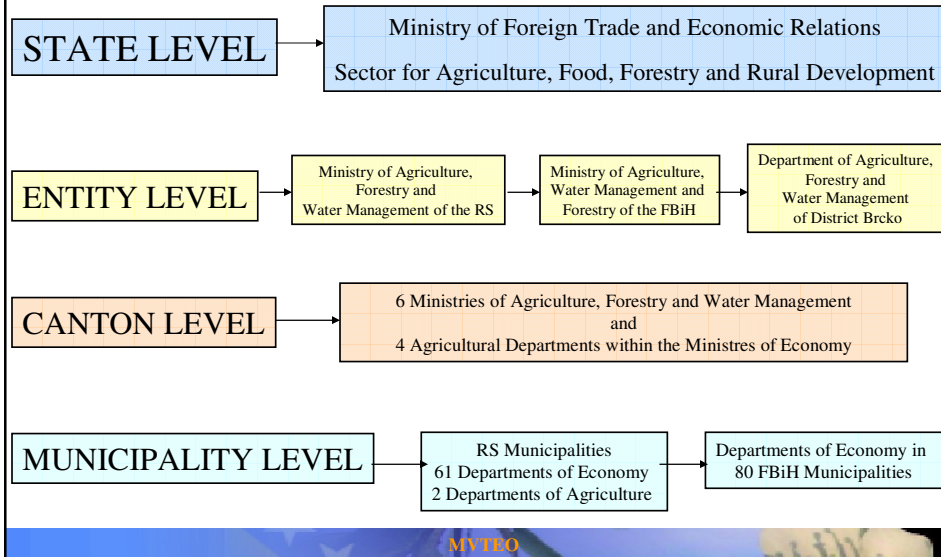
General administrative structure



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The key agricultural administration of B&H



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3



Legal framework

I. State Laws in B&H

Constitution of BiH Article III.1.b. defines the responsibility of state for *foreign trade policy*

Law on foreign trade policy (Official Gazette BiH, no. 07/98; 35/04), article 3. (multilateral and bilateral agreements, membership in WTO and EU)

Decision of negotiation to join the WTO and EU by the Council of Ministers (03/99) – as a result of political commitment

Law on Ministries (Official Gazette BiH, no. 5/03), article 9. responsibilities, which defines responsibilities of MOFTER in coordination and harmonization of policies of main principles and legislation in:

-Agriculture

-Ecology

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4



Legal framework

State level

Law on Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (2008)
B&H Strategic Plan for Harmonization of Agriculture, Food and Rural development (2008-2010)
Rural development programme (in process of preparation)

II. Federation of B&H

Law on Agriculture (2007)
Law on Agricultural Land (2007)
FBiH Agricultural Development Strategy (2007)

III. Republic of Srpska

Law on Agriculture (2006)
Law on Agricultural Land (2007)
RS Agricultural Development Strategy (2006)

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5



Agricultural and arable land

- The total area of B&H is 5,113,000 ha of which 50.3% is agricultural land (2,572,000 ha) and 48.3% is forestry area (2,470,000 ha)
- Total arable land in B&H amounts to 1,585,000 ha (or 62% of agricultural land):
- 765,000 ha in Federation B&H and 820,000 ha in the Republika Srpska.
- The cultivatable (ploughable) land area amounts to 1,018,000 ha or 19.9% of the total land
- There are about 0.59 hectares of agricultural land per capita, of which 0.36 ha are fields and gardens.

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6



The Agricultural land quality/quantity

- The land base for agriculture is very limited in both quantity and quality.
- 45% of agricultural land is hilly (300-700 m), of medium quality and well suited to semi-intensive livestock production.
- 35 % of agricultural land is mountain areas (over 700 m). However, high altitude, steep slopes and low fertility soils limit the use of this land to livestock grazing during the spring and summer.
- 20% percent of agricultural land (half of all arable land) is suited to intensive agriculture, most of it in lowland river valleys.

(B&H Statistics Agency data)

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7



Land ownership

- About 95% of the agricultural land is privately owned and is farmed privately.
- Previous legislation allowed individual holdings only up to a total size of 10 hectares of flat land and up to 15 hectares of hilly land. This legal limit has now been abandoned but it created small, fragmented land holdings throughout the country.
- Today, less than 5% of arable land remains in state ownership. B&H has a complex land ownership recording system (Land registry and cadastre) which is in urgent need of harmonization and modernizing. The main aspects of the system are outlined below:

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8



Land registry

- The land registry and registration of the real estate and real estate rights are still maintained on the basis of the Austro-Hungarian survey, in the period 1886-1910, which rules are still valid, except a smaller part of the territory where the real estate cadastre (katastar nekretnina) has been established, based on the new cadastral survey.
- The keeping, maintenance and establishment of the land registry, and registration of the real estate and real estate rights is regulated by separate, harmonized, entity legislation.

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9



The Cadastre

- New mutually harmonized Laws on Survey and Real Estate Cadastre, were drafted in both Entities in 2006/7. (Law is adopted in RS in 2007, while in FB&H is still in adoption procedure)
- The main purpose of this new law is to introduce a new division of tasks and promote the use of more modern technologies, ensuring harmonization of the legislation of both entities.
- According to the new legislative framework, the cadastre will provide a clear reference to the description of the real estate in terms of its form, location and size. This information will provide an element for the land registry office to register ownership rights to real estate.
- The new legal framework therefore introduces a new division of tasks between the cadastre system and the land registry, which can now be practically achieved through the introduction of modern ICT systems, based on this fully harmonized legislative framework in both entities.

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10



The farm structure

- The last published official data regarding the structure of farms were from the 1981 agricultural census
- The agricultural census of 1991 collected information on total number of farms (569,581 farms) but did not sub-divide this by size of farm. Given the impact of the conflict on rural areas this data is not considered reliable.
- It is estimated that there are over 500,000 agricultural holdings in B&H
- Over 50% of these agricultural holdings are estimated to be less than 2 ha and over 80% are less than 5 ha .
- Small private farms are often further compartmentalised into 7-9 smaller parcels creating major problems for productivity and overall efficiency.

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11



B&H STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HARMONIZATION OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2008-2010)

Priority area and Measures

1. Priority Area:

Establish the required institutional capacity and implementation mechanism at all levels

2. Priority Area:

Enhance the quality and safety of domestic products with a competitive advantage in production, processing and trade

3. Priority Area:

Support primary production with direct farm support measures to align with EU mechanism

4. Priority Area:

Increase competitiveness of agri-food sector through indirect support measures

5. Priority Area:

Protect rural environment through support of agri-environmental programmes

6. Priority Area:

Diversify rural activities&improve quality of life in rural areas

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12



B&H STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HARMONIZATION OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2008-2010)

3. Priority Area: Support primary production with direct farm support measures to align with EU mechanism
3.7. Harmonization of the Laws on Survey and Cadastre in entities and their implementation

4. Priority Area: Increase competitiveness of agri-food sector through indirect support measures

- 4.1. Develop framework measure for investment in agricultural holdings
- 4.3. Develop framework measures for support of commercial and semi-commercial agricultural holdings
- 4.4. Develop framework measure for support for Farmers Groups
- 4.5. Develop framework measure to provide incentives for young farmers
- 4.7. Plan and schemes to increase irrigated areas of arable land

5. Priority Area: Protect rural environment through support of agri-environmental programmes

- 5.1. Develop framework measures for piloting of agri-environmental initiatives
- 5.3. Develop framework measures for sustainable development of land and forests in mountainous areas
- 5.6. Develop effective system for agricultural land protection/zoning

6. Priority Area: Diversify rural activities&improve quality of life in rural areas

- 6.2. Develop framework measure for investment in rural infrastructure

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13



B&H STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HARMONIZATION OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2008-2010)

WE NEED A SYSTEM

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14



THANK YOU!

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15