



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

**РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ СЕМИНАР «ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЕ ИНСТРУМЕНТОВ  
ВТО В ИНТЕРЕСАХ АГРОБИЗНЕСА»**

**ЕЖЕГОДНОЕ ЗАСЕДАНИЕ ГРУППЫ ЭКСПЕРТОВ  
ПО ВОПРОСАМ СЕЛЬСКОХОЗЯЙСТВЕННОЙ ТОРГОВЛИ  
В ЕВРОПЕ И ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ**

## C O N C E P T

The FAO Regional Initiative on Improving Agrifood Trade and Market Integration focuses on strengthening national and regional capacities in Europe and Central Asia to deal effectively with the challenges posed by greater trade integration. It does this by developing better evidence on trade implications, improving the capacity of the countries to use this evidence, facilitating neutral forums and dialogues on implementation of trade agreements, and supporting design and implementation of appropriate trade policy at the country level. Within the framework of the regional initiative, two regional events will take place during September 11-13, 2018, in Odessa, Ukraine.

The FAO regional workshop on the WTO instruments in the interests of agribusiness will bring together agribusiness representatives and international trade experts from the post-soviet countries to enhance the understanding of the WTO instruments for agribusiness and support broader capacity development in this area.

The WTO Members can greatly benefit from the application of the WTO instruments that facilitate trade and protect from discrimination. Moreover, agribusinesses can also directly use some of these instruments for better market access, in particular transparency instruments, or in cooperation with governments get treatment for their goods or services as provided in WTO agreements. The guide “How to use WTO instruments in the interests of agribusiness” prepared by FAO provides a review of some WTO instruments, which apply to trade in agricultural goods such as Agreement on Agriculture, Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Facilitation Agreement, Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, Agreement on Antidumping, Agreement on Safeguard Measures, Agreement on Import Licensing, and Understanding on Dispute Settlement, that can be useful for agribusinesses in expanding their domestic and foreign agrifood markets.

Transparency instruments aim to ensure access to information about import/export regulatory environment and its changes on particular goods and products. Trade remedies are used to safeguard producers from trade distorting practices such as dumping or subsidies. Trade facilitation instruments improve significantly administrative and customs procedures for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, and reducing the delivery time and costs for importers.

The regional workshop will consist of several presentations by international experts and researchers based on the guide and facilitate discussions with agribusiness.

Furthermore, the regional workshop will also launch an export promotion guide prepared by the International Trade Centre (ITC, Geneva, Switzerland). The guide provides a practical approach to strengthen the public and private sector's capacities to access new markets for agricultural products. The guide is prepared for export promotion agencies, policymakers, support institutions and private sector actors. ITC will facilitate a dialogue with its potential users on the guide's findings and recommendations.

The second event, the 4th annual network meeting 2018, will be held during September 11-13 and include presentations on trade policy developments in the twelve post-Soviet countries and presentations of the policy indicators calculated by the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (AIS). Through the regional initiative, FAO is supporting the work of the agricultural trade expert network in Europe and Central Asia (ATEN), which serves as a neutral and independent platform to promote exchange of knowledge and experiences on agricultural trade issues in the region. The network is intended to bring together experts from governments, private sector and academia in the European and Central Asian countries in order to promote dialogue on agricultural trade policy issues and to support broader capacity development in this area.



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Additionally, the annual network meeting will also include presentations of the policy indicators, calculated by the AIS, for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova. For each of the countries Nominal Rates of Protection and Nominal Rates of Assistance for 7-10 key commodities have been developed based on the FAO MAFAP methodology through collaboration of the AIS with experts from the counties in data collection and country expertise.

At the end of the regional workshop, the Port Community Association will organize a technical visit to agricultural company in Odessa region, where the participants will study an example of best practice in agribusiness.

**The main objectives of the events on 11-13 September are to:**

- Launch of the guide “How to use WTO instruments in the interests of agribusiness” and present the WTO instruments to benefit agribusiness;
- During the annual meeting 2018, present agrifood trade policy developments in the twelve post-soviet countries and discuss the work program of the network for the following year;
- Present the policy indicators by the AIS and discuss them among the participants;
- Present the FAO-ITC export promotion guide and facilitate a dialogue with its potential users on the main findings and recommendations.

**Expected outcomes:**

- Participants will learn WTO instruments that will be useful for agribusiness in facilitating business development on domestic and foreign agrifood markets;
- The work plan for the period of 2019 will be agreed upon with the members of the network and the exchange of information facilitated among the members of the network on the directions of trade-related activities in countries to promote further cooperation;
- The calculated policy indicators by the AIS presented and agreed among the trade experts and the policy indicator country experts;
- Better understand the process to promote exports and access new markets for agricultural products.

**Participants**

The two events are intended for representatives of agribusinesses in post-Soviet countries, international and country trade experts, members of ATEN, policymakers, representatives of export promotion agencies and support institutions.