



Regional Workshop

Consolidating School Food and Nutrition Approaches in Europe and Central Asia

Minsk, Republic of Belarus
11–13 December 2019

Annotated Agenda

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is organizing a Regional Workshop “*Consolidating School Food and Nutrition Approaches in Europe and Central Asia*” under the FAO project “[Developing Capacity for Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Selected Countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia](#)”, which is funded by the Russian Federation.

The aim of this Regional Workshop is to contribute to the production of a conceptual approach, a broad framework, to guide the implementation of School Food and Nutrition approaches in the region as a whole. Based on current country experiences, the workshop will discuss innovative ideas and future directions (targets) for governments, development partners and donor agencies in the region to support the progress of school food and nutrition approaches. The framework will identify realistic actions that could be implemented within 3 to 5 years at countries level. This will serve to guide FAO and Donor interventions for countries in the region. The backbone of the resulting framework will be how to increase the institutional, social, economic and environmental sustainability of the school food and nutrition programmes.

The main objectives of the Regional Workshop are to:

- Share experiences of implementation of various school food and nutrition approaches through highlighting the main obstacles and the enabling environment in the region for an efficient implementation.
- Exchange lessons learned and make recommendations to increase the sustainability of school food and nutrition approaches in the region.
- Illustrate good practices of linking the school feeding programmes with local economic development: agriculture, sustainable value chains, social protection, education, trade, and sustainable food systems.

This workshop will follow the FAO approach for school food and nutrition that is based on four elements: i) enabling policy, legal and institutional environment; ii) food and nutrition education; iii) healthy food environment and school food; and iv) inclusive procurement and value chains. An additional element of coordination government, civil society and private sector is added.



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The workshop will consist of the following:

- Keynote presentations on country experiences in the thematic areas of the workshop.
- Working groups and panel of experts to compile lessons learned and to produce recommendations.
- School and school meals production unit visits with practical examples of good practices.
- Plenary discussion moderated by rapporteurs to present the conclusions.

Expected deliverables at the end and after the workshop:

- Participants will share their views and recommendations during the panel discussions and the working groups, and present good practices from their countries.
- The outputs of the working groups will be summarized, analysed and included into the regional workshop proceedings.
- Draft recommendations for a framework for effective multisectoral, cross-ministerial and inter-regional cooperation in the field of school food and nutrition will be presented by the end of the third day.
- The workshop proceedings / detailed report of discussions and lessons learned will be shared with the participants in January 2020. All information will be posted on the FAO project's webpage: <http://www.fao.org/in-action/fsn-caucasus-asia/en/>
- The final framework for recommended actions that could be implemented within 3 to 5 years in countries of the region will be shared by March 2020. This document will be based on the results of the project's pilots, the regional workshop, the regional and country policy research papers, the countries case studies and the regional consultations.

This regional workshop will host around 85 practitioners and decision makers from the region, including representatives from governments/line ministries and national experts in nutrition, food security, agriculture, food safety and social protection. The participants represent local/municipality authorities, schools, NGOs, private sector, parents associations, UN organizations such as UNICEF, WHO and WFP, other international organizations and regional initiatives. A few participants are invited from outside the Eurasian region to share their experiences and good practices in the development and implementation of the school food and nutrition programmes.

This three-day regional workshop will take place from 11 to 13 December 2019 in Minsk, Republic of Belarus. The venue is held at the Beijing Hotel.

Market place: participants can bring and share relevant dissemination materials and publications in both hard copies and electronic form. A special place is organized for this display.



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Workshop programme

DATE / TIME	ACTIVITY / TITLES	WHO / WHERE
10 December Various time	Arrival of participants to Minsk, the Republic of Belarus	Hotel offers transfers from / to the Minsk airport to the Beijing hotel
1st Day: Wednesday, 11 December 2019		
8:15 – 9:00	Registration of participants	Ms Iryna Vaitko, logistics, and Ms Natallia Kireyenka, facilitator. A front of the Conference hall "Orchid"
9:00 – 9:40 5 minutes for each speaker	<p>Opening ceremony / Welcoming</p> <p>Chairperson welcome the participants</p> <p>Seven welcome speeches by representatives of the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) from key institutions/organizations, which are generally involved in the school food and nutrition sector:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Embassy of Russia in Belarus 2. the FAO-Headquarters in Italy 3. the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) in Hungary 4. the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of Belarus 5. the Ministry of Health of Belarus 6. the Ministry of Education of Russia 7. the Ministry of Finance of Russia 	<p><u>Conference hall "Orchid"</u></p> <p><u>Chairperson:</u> Mr Mauricio Rosales, Senior Project Coordinator, Capacity Development Officer in the Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA) of FAO-HQ, Italy</p> <p>The welcoming speakers are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Maxim Chkhan, Second Secretary; • Mr Marco Sanchez Cantillo, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA); • Mr Raimund Jehle, Regional Programme Leader; • Ms Alla Lamakina, Deputy Minister; • Ms Natallia Joukava, Deputy Minister; • Ms Galina Skvortsova, Deputy Director of the Department of State Policy in the Field of General Education; • Ms Anna Valkova, Deputy Director of the International Financial Relations Department.
9:40 – 10:10	Presenting the achievements of the FAO project "Developing Capacity for Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Selected Countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia", funded by the Russian Federation	Mr Mauricio Rosales, Senior Project Coordinator, Capacity Development Officer in ESA of FAO-HQ, Italy Video in Russian and English will be presented
10:10 – 10:30	Coffee break	



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DATE / TIME	ACTIVITY / TITLES	WHO / WHERE
10:30 – 13:00	<p>Panel discussion of organizations operating in the field of School Food and Nutrition Programs in Europe and Central Asia Region</p> <p>The panellist present their expertise in the sector of the region, discuss and answer questions of participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>FAO School Food and Nutrition Framework</i> 2. <i>WFP Contribution to the Sustainability of National School Feeding Programmes in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan</i> 3. <i>WHO Nutrition Recommendations and Strategies to Promote Health within Schools</i> 4. <i>UNICEF Programing on School nutrition in Europe & Central Asia</i> 5. <i>Creating Human Capital: Rethinking Investment in Child and Adolescent Health and Development</i> 	<p><u>Panel Discussion Moderator:</u> Ms Boitshepo Bibi Giyose, Senior Officer in FAO, Nutrition and Food System Advisor to the CEO in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD) in South Africa</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Siemon Hollema, Senior Programme Advisor in the Regional Bureau for MENA, Central Asia & Eastern Europe of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Egypt; • Mr Romeu Mendes, Consultant in the European Office for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Russia; • Mr Amirhossein Yarpavar, Health and Nutrition Specialist in the Europe and Central Asia Regional Office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Kazakhstan; • Mr Donald Bundy, Professor of Epidemiology and Development at the Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases in the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, U.K.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
<p>Groups work 14:00 – 15:30, including coffee break 15:00 – 15:30</p> <p>Groups presentation 15:30 – 16:30</p>	<p>Working groups: Enabling policy, legal and institutional environment</p> <p>Four guided working groups discuss and present key recommendations for successful programs on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policies and regulatory frameworks relevant to food safety and quality, 2. Developing institutional capacities; 3. Political commitment, regular funding, public procurement and monitoring 4. Alignment with other related programmes and policies in the areas of social protection, nutrition, health, education, agriculture, rural development and strengthening coordination between different stakeholders. 	<p><u>Conference hall "Orchid"</u></p> <p><u>Overall moderator of this session is:</u> Ms Boitshepo Bibi Giyose, Senior Officer in FAO, Nutrition and Food System Advisor to the CEO in AUDA-NEPAD, in South Africa</p> <p><u>Co-facilitators of the working groups</u> will introduce to the group a case study that may highlight some existing models, achievements, successful practices and lessons learned and facilitate the groups discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Elena Morgunova, Deputy Director of Scientific Practical Center of the National Academy of Science on food • TBD • Ms Maria Tsvetkova, Programme Advisor in the Regional Bureau for MENA, Central Asia & Eastern Europe of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Egypt; • Ms Zaruhi Beglaryan, National Project Coordinator of the FAO Project "Developing Capacity for Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Selected Countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia" in Armenia.



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DATE / TIME	ACTIVITY / TITLES	WHO / WHERE
16:30 – 17:00	Forming the Experts' Group of 5–7 members for drafting a framework for a regional multistakeholders cooperation in the field of school food and nutrition to be presented on the third day of the Workshop	
17:00 – 17:30	Workshop participants photo	
2nd Day: Thursday, 12 December 2019		
8:00 – 9:00 9:00 – 10:15	<p>Field visits: scientific institute, complex for school food production, school</p> <p><u>Meeting point; transportation by buses</u></p> <p>Scientific and Production Republican Subsidiary Unitary Enterprise "Institute of Meat and Dairy Industry" of the Republican Unitary Enterprise "Scientific and Practical Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus on Foodstuffs"</p> <p>Learning how the organized scientific support could contribute to the school food menu development, including food production;</p> <p>Studying the experience of planning and organizing the provision, preparation and delivery of hot meals to school-age students.</p>	<p>All participants meet in the lobby of the Beijing Hotel and transported by buses for two field visits, including lunch</p> <p><u>Hosting team:</u> Mr Aliaksei Meliashchenia, Director of the Institute; Ms Natalia Furik, Deputy Director for Research Ms Tatiana Smolyak, head of the production and testing laboratory; Ms Natalya Zhabanos, head of the department of biotechnology; Ms Svetlana Gordynets, head of the department of technology of meat products</p>
10:15 – 11:00 11:00 – 12:00	<p><u>Transportation</u></p> <p>Gymnasium No. 14: Observing the organization of school meals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning "How local authorities contribute to education and nutrition processes in schools and preschools"; • Learning "How to plan, organize, procure and provide hot-meals to school students". 	<p>The visit of the research institute will include a number of presentations, observation of food production for children of different ages, including baby food production; and introduction to scientific developments. This visit will also include tasting products/degustation with a coffee break.</p> <p><u>Hosting team:</u> Ms Maria Gorokhova, School Principal Ms Elena Zelenko, Deputy Head of Administration of the Zavodsky district of Minsk Ms Tatyana Labusheva, head of the technological department.</p> <p>Dissemination materials on the field visit will be shared.</p>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	Lunch will take place in the Gymnasium No. 14, participants will taste the food of school students
13:00 – 14:00	Transportation to the Beijing Hotel	by buses and free time in the hotel



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Regional Workshop: Consolidating School Food and Nutrition Approaches in Europe and Central Asia

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<p>Groups work 14:00 – 15:30, including coffee break 15:00 – 15:30</p> <p>Groups presentation 15:30 – 16:30</p>	<p>Working groups: Inclusive procurement and value chains</p> <p>Five guided working groups discussing and present key recommendations focussing on value chain of main commodity groups important for schoolchildren diet:</p> <p><i>Group 1: Milk and Dairy Products</i></p> <p><i>Group 2: Fruits and Vegetables</i></p> <p><i>Group 3: Pulses and Cereals</i></p> <p><i>Group 4: Meat and livestock products (excluding dairy products)</i></p> <p><i>Group 5: Fish and fish products</i></p>	<p><u>Conference hall “Orchid”</u></p> <p><u>Overall moderator of this session is:</u> <i>Ms Andrea PoloGalante</i>, Senior Nutrition Consultant of the Nutrition and Food Systems Division (ESN) in FAO-HQ</p> <p><u>Co-facilitators of the working groups are</u> will introduce to the group a case study that may highlight some existing models, achievements, successful practices and lessons learned and facilitate the groups discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms Katarina Eriksson</i>, Project and Partnership Development Director, ECA Cluster in Tetra Laval AB of the Food for Development Office in Sweden; • <i>Mr Anatoly Maksimov</i>, Senior Economic & Finance Adviser in the Social and Industrial Foodservice Institute (SIFI) in Russia; • <i>Ms Eleonora Dupouy</i>, Food Safety and Quality Officer in AGFF of FAO-HQ; • <i>Mr Aliaksei Meliashchenia</i>, Director of the Research institute of dairy and meat industry in Belarus
16:30 – 17:30	<p>Panel Discussion: Involvement of civil society and private sector</p> <p>Panelists discuss and present key recommendations on the place and role of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents in system of school meals 2. Law of Progressive insertion of organic food and its plan of action in São Paulo. State policy built by civil society, legislative and executive 3. Role of private sector in school food and nutrition programmes 4. Government commitments and integrated inter-sectorial actions 	<p><u>Panel Discussion Moderator:</u> <i>Mr Mauricio Rosales</i>, Senior Project Coordinator, Capacity Development Officer in the Agricultural Development Economics Division (ESA) of FAO-HQ</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u> <i>Mr Vladimir Kalugin</i>, Executive Director of the NGO “The School Meals Movement” in Russia <i>Ms Ana Flavia Borges Badue</i>, Chairperson at Managing Committee of the Organic Food School Law of São Paulo chairman in Brazil; <i>Ms Katarina Eriksson</i>, Project and Partnership Development Director, ECA Cluster in Tetra Laval AB in Sweden; <i>Mr İlhami Şahin</i>, Coordinator in the Department of Food Establishments and Codex of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Turkey</p>
17:30 – 17:45	Wrap up of the day	
19:00 – 22:00	Official Dinner for all participants in the Beijing Hotel	



Regional Workshop: Consolidating School Food and Nutrition Approaches in Europe and Central Asia

DATE / TIME	ACTIVITY / TITLES	WHO / WHERE
3rd Day: Friday, 13 December 2019		
<p>Groups work 9:00 – 10:30, including coffee break 10:00 – 10:30</p> <p>Groups presentations 10:30 – 11:30</p>	<p>Working groups: Healthy food environment and school food</p> <p>Five guided working groups discuss and present key recommendations focussing on the following:</p> <p><i>Group 1: setting and enforcing nutrition standards for school food, meals;</i></p> <p><i>Group 2: making nutritious foods more affordable;</i></p> <p><i>Group 3: restricting the sale and advertisement of food products rich in fat, sugar or salt;</i></p> <p><i>Group 4: infrastructure and conditions in school premises;</i></p> <p><i>Group 5: strengthening linkages with local and smallholder food production</i></p>	<p><u>Conference hall "Style"</u></p> <p><u>Overall moderator of this session is:</u> <i>Ms Eleonora Dupouy</i>, Food Safety and Quality Officer of the Food Safety and Quality Unit (AGFF) in FAO-HQ</p> <p><u>Co-facilitators of the working groups</u> will introduce to the group a case study that may highlight some existing models, achievements, successful practices and lessons learned and facilitate the groups discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr Romeu Mendes</i>, Consultant in the European Office for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases of WHO in Russia; • <i>Mr Amirhossein Yarpavar</i>, Health and Nutrition Specialist in the Europe and Central Asia Regional Office of UNICEF in Kazakhstan; • <i>Ms Mirjana Gurinovic</i>, Scientific Research Advisor and Coordinator of CAPNUTRA in the Centre of Research Excellence in Nutrition and Metabolism of the Institute for Medical Research in Serbia; • <i>Mr Serhii Kolesnyk</i>, Head of International Regulatory Science of Food and Chemical Safety Sector in the Research Center of Preventive Toxicology in Ukraine; • <i>Mr Marlen Tynaliyev</i>, National Project Coordinator of the FAO Project "Developing Capacity for Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Selected Countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia" in Kyrgyzstan.



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Regional Workshop: Consolidating School Food and Nutrition Approaches in Europe and Central Asia

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11:30 – 12:30	<p>Panel Discussion: School-based food and nutrition education</p> <p>Panelists discuss and present key recommendations on nutrition education, innovative educational strategies and learning activities, linkages with school food environment, local food system, school gardens, and hygiene.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nigerian home-grown school feeding programme. An investment in human capital development 2. Experience of Tajikistan in enhancing school feeding and nutrition education curriculum 3. Laying the basis for healthy eating by schoolchildren themselves 4. Food waste, consumer attitudes and behaviour 	<p><u>Panel Discussion Moderator:</u> Ms Boitshepo Bibi Giyose, Senior Officer in FAO, Nutrition and Food System Advisor to the CEO in AUDA-NEPAD in South Africa</p> <p><u>Panelists:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Abimbola Adesanmi, Senior Special Assistant to the President and Manager to the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme in the Office of the Vice President State House Abuja in Nigeria; • Mr Sherali Rahmatulloev, Nutrition Specialist, FAO consultant to the Russian-funded project in Tajikistan • Ms Olga Panova, President of the Union «Health of Our Children» in Russia • Ms Elena Sturchio, Researcher in the Department of Technological Innovation of the Italian Workers' Compensation Authority (Inail)
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:00	<p>Plenary Discussion: How to measure impact and efficiency of school food and nutrition programs</p> <p>Panel moderator: Mr Donald Bundy, Professor of Epidemiology and Development at the Faculty of Infectious and Tropical Diseases in the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine</p>	
15:00 – 15:40	Four workshop moderators will present the conclusions and recommendations of conducted panel discussions and working groups: Ms Boitshepo Bibi Giyose, Ms Eleonora Dupouy, Ms Andrea PoloGalante, Mr Mauricio Rosales	
15:40 – 16:10	<u>Conclusions:</u> Drafted recommendations of the experts' group to increase the sustainability of school food and nutrition programs and better coordination among key partners in the region	
16:10 – 16:30	Closure of the FAO Regional Workshop	
16:30 – 17:00	Coffee	
14 December 2019		
Various time	Departure of participants	



Russian Federation Funding

FAO-Russian cooperation comprises support to a wide array of development initiatives in the region and around the world as well as FAO assistance within the Russian Federation. FAO's Project "Developing Capacity for Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition in Selected Countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia" (funded by the Russian Federation), is timely to strategically mediate the challenges in the region and promote cross-sectoral collaboration by providing adequate capacity to effectively pursue and manage coherence between agriculture, nutrition, health, education and social protection sectors.