

FAO WEBINAR ON

EXTENSION AND ADVISORY SERVICES:

On the frontlines of the COVID-19 response for resilient and sustainable food systems in Europe and Central Asia

Wednesday, 10 June 2020, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. CET

Speakers

Pedro Arias, Economist, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU), specializes in food value chains. Previously he worked in FAO's Trade and Markets Division for almost 20 years, where he engaged in all aspects of agricultural markets and trade, notably in monitoring and projecting agricultural commodity markets, foreign investment in agriculture, smallholder market integration, and responsible investment in agriculture. Arias is a native of Uruguay and he speaks English, French, and Spanish.

Nevena Alexandrova-Stefanova, Agricultural Extension Officer, FAO Research and Extension Unit (AGDR), PhD in Molecular Biology. She has 26 years of experience in agricultural research and biotechnologies, science-communication, extension services, agricultural innovation, digitalization, and agricultural innovation systems (AIS), 14 years of which have been in the intergovernmental organizations ICGEB, Trieste and FAO. From 2008–2018, she served at FAO-REU as AIS and Knowledge Sharing Officer to increase access to demand-driven research, education, and services to smallholder farmers, including through digital transformation. Since November 2018, Alexandrova-Stefanova joined AGDR at FAO Headquarters with the global mandate to support countries in transforming their agricultural extension and advisory systems to create, facilitate, and scale up innovations for enhanced livelihoods of rural communities.

Inge van Oost, Policy Officer, DG AGRI, European Commission (EC). She created and now supports the European Innovation Partnership "Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability" (EIP-AGRI). As a member of the DG AGRI Taskforce "Research and Innovation," van Oost was instrumental in shaping DG AGRI's research and innovation approach and Horizon 2020 work programmes, and developed two new concepts: "multi-actor approach" and "thematic networks." In her former post at EC, she was responsible for cross-compliance, the Farm Advisory System, and interlinking with the Rural Development policy.

Pascal Bergeret, Director CIHEAM IAMM, AKIS-SCAR Co-Chair, Doctor in agricultural economics, Montpellier University (1986). He has worked in agricultural research and development programmes in Nepal, Cameroon, and Vietnam. Mr Bergeret was Head, environment and sustainable Development, for GRET, a French NGO involved in international development work, and was later appointed as Director, Innovation Department, at the French Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest.

Aniko Juhász, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary, AKIS-SCAR Co-Chair. She has 18 years of experience in food supply chain and related policy research, especially the relevance of short food supply chains and quality schemes in Hungary. She was Chief Planner of the Short Supply Chain Thematic Sub-programme of 2014–2020 and was a member of the Traditional Food Group of the Hungarian National Committee of the European Organisation for Quality, in addition to Director General of Research Institute of Agricultural Economics, 2015–2017. Juhász was Co-chair of the EU's Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) Strategic Working Group on Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems in 2017.

Milan Husnjak, Head of SEASN main office. He has 40 years of work experience, with 32 years as a veterinarian with practical experience in pandemics of zoonoses, such as mad cow disease in the 1990s and bird flu 2005/2006, and eight years as an agricultural advisor in Croatia. Husnjak is the co-founder and first president of SEASN, GFRAS General Assembly member, and IALB Executive Board Member. He currently works on EU projects on the topic of digitalization of agriculture.

Josipa Arapović, SEASN volunteer and agronomist, specializing in Agribusiness and Rural Development. She was previously the President of the International Association of Students in Agricultural and related Sciences and is currently a SEASN volunteer. Her experience covers a broad range of areas, some of which are smart farming, digitalisation of agriculture, climate smart agriculture, and youth involvement in agrifood business

Botir Dosov, Chairperson CAC-FRAS, Vice-Chair of APIRAS, GFRAS Board Member. He has experience in institutional development, particularly in agricultural extension and rural advisory services, agricultural innovation systems and public-private partnership platforms, digital agriculture, networking, and facilitation. Dosov has worked in project analysis and management, proposal development, monitoring and evaluation, food security/nutrition studies, socio-economic surveys, experience capitalization, and knowledge sharing. Funding for his various projects and programs included GFRAS, FAO, CTA, World Bank, ADB, SDC, UNDP, CFS, GFAR, CGIAR/ICARDA, IFPRI, GIZ, JICA, ECFS, USAID, public and private sectors, and CSOs. He is currently Head of the AKIS Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Uzbekistan.

Melek Çakmak, Head of the FAO Partnership and liaison office/FAO representative, Azerbaijan. She has a Master degree in Agricultural Economics from Stanford University, USA. Çakmak has worked as Researcher/Economist, Marcus and Millichap Real Estate Company, USA and in the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries, Ankara, Turkey. She served as Secretary General of the NGO Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants, Turkey. She joined FAO in 2003 as Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) in the FAO Representation in Turkey. From 2008–2016, Çakmak worked as FAO-SEC Field Programme Support and Monitoring Officer, FAO Subregional Office for Central Asia, Ankara, Turkey. In 2016, she became FAO Representative in Azerbaijan.

Tahmina Sayfullaeva, Programme manager, Sarob cooperative, Tajikistan. She is a value chain expert with 12 years of experience in rural development in Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. She has worked in the projects funded by the CIDA, SDC, EU, DFID, BMZ, and USAID. Since 2011, Sayfullaeva has been working in the extension service cooperative in Sarob, Tajikistan. In 2016 she was granted the “Best women extension agent” award for the Caucasus and Central Asia region.

Yuriy Bakun, Director of the National Association of Agricultural Advisory Services, Ukraine. He has 20 years of experience in agricultural extension and advisory services, research, rural community support, and agricultural projects, such as on sustainable integrated community development and access to markets for small producers, creating new or improving existing value-added chains, supporting the creation and development of family farms, non-rural business, communities mobilization, partnerships with international donor organizations, government and business, education, participation in improving the regulatory framework for agriculture and rural development, methodological provision of small and medium-sized agricultural producers in rural areas, their associations, businesses, among others.

Aleksandar Musalevski, Head of Unit Agriculture Policy Analyses , Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, North Macedonia. Aleksandar has an agricultural economics background and strong experience in farm data accountancy and funding agricultural development.

Botir Dosov, Chairperson CAC-FRAS, Vice-Chair of APIRAS, GFRAS Board Member. He has experience in institutional development, particularly in agricultural extension and rural advisory services, agricultural innovation systems and public-private partnership platforms, digital agriculture, networking, and facilitation. Dosov has worked in project analysis and management, proposal development, monitoring and evaluation, food security/nutrition studies, socio-economic surveys, experience capitalization, and knowledge sharing. Funding for his various projects and programs included GFRAS, FAO, CTA, World Bank, ADB, SDC, UNDP, CFS, GFAR, CGIAR/ICARDA, IFPRI, GIZ, JICA, ECFS, USAID, public and private sectors, and CSOs. He is currently Head of the AKIS Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Uzbekistan.

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