



FIRST MEETING OF THE CIS AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE POLICY EXPERT NETWORK

FAO, ROME, 15-16 DECEMBER 2014

PROGRAMME

Background and objectives

Although the CIS countries have been very active in negotiating WTO membership, their experience in negotiating and implementing trade agreements is limited compared to other regions. Many of the countries lack knowledge on the rules and procedures governing international trade and evidence on the implications of these trade rules for agriculture. The region's governments have limited capacity to address the concerns that arise during negotiations and the implementation of trade commitments. Moreover, poor understanding of international trade rules and of the relationship between trade policy and agricultural development issues prevents the countries from maximizing the gains from expanding trade.

For effective participation in international trade, continuous training of officials and other stakeholders in international rules and procedures for agricultural trade is needed. Moreover, it requires improving regulatory frameworks in areas that affect trade (sanitary and phytosanitary standards; trade facilitation; market information etc.). This, in turn, requires strengthening capacities of national experts and institutions, in particular for providing training and advisory services on trade-related issues to agricultural sector stakeholders.

The limited understanding of WTO rules is to a large extent explained by insufficient availability of educational and training materials on the topic. For example, 83 percent of the participants in a survey conducted with FAO in 2013 among Russia's regional government agencies, agro-industries and associations stated that they do not have access to relevant materials.

It is in this context that the creation of a neutral and independent platform in the CIS to promote exchange of knowledge and experiences on agricultural trade issues was conceptualized. This platform, established with FAO assistance, will serve to enhance the quality and relevance of agricultural trade research and strengthen the collaboration among experts in the region for analysis, capacity development, generating recommendations and policy advice.

The network is intended to bring together experts who conduct research, carry out training programmes and advise governments and private sector on issues related to agricultural trade and trade policy, including regional and multilateral trade agreements. The core business of the network will be to facilitate generation and exchange of knowledge and to ensure that appropriate capacity development solutions on issues related to agricultural trade in the CIS region are identified and applied.

During the initial meeting of the Expert Network, invited experts from the CIS countries will be asked to present their ongoing or future work programme related to agricultural trade issues, focusing in particular on the topic of agricultural policy developments as a result of WTO accession. The meeting will serve to identify the main directions of work and scope of activities of the Network. On the basis of the discussions, a work plan for 2015-16 will be prepared and used to mobilize the resources needed to implement it.

Expected outcomes

By the end of the meeting, priority actions of the Expert Network will be defined, the work plan for 2015-2016 will be adopted, and a Coordinating Committee for the work of the Expert Group will be established. The meeting will also facilitate the exchange of information among the members of the Network to encourage cooperation and knowledge exchange.

Meeting participants

This meeting will bring together experts (economists, lawyers and others) from universities, research institutes and the private sector of the CIS countries, involved in research and capacity development in the area of agricultural trade policy. Trade experts from FAO Headquarters and the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) will participate.

- 09.00-09.30 Opening and welcome address
- **EUGENIA SEROVA**, Director of Rural Infrastructure and Agro- Industries Division, FAO
 - **DAVID HALLAM**, Director of Trade and Markets Division, FAO

09.30 COFFEE BREAK

10.00-11.30 Session 1:
Introductory

Moderator: Alfinura Sharafeyeva, Consultant, Trade and Markets Division, FAO

- FAO's work on trade policy and trade related agreements – **JAMIE MORRISON**, Senior Economist, Trade and Markets Division, FAO
- FAO Regional initiative “Agricultural trade and regional integration” – **IRYNA KOBUTA**, Economist, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
- Background on creation of the Expert Group – **EKATERINA KRIVONOS**, Economist, Trade and Markets Division, FAO

11.30-13.00 Session 2:
Presentation of national work programmes on agricultural trade

Moderator: Mischa Tripoli, Economist, Trade and Markets Division, FAO

- **VIACHESLAV EVSEEV**, Director of the Center of the customs tariff and non-tariff regulation, Russian Federation
- **VOLODYMYR PUGACHOV**, Ukrainian Institute of Agrarian Economics, Ukraine
- Tamara Ostashko, Senior research fellow of the Institute of Economics and Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine
- **DARIYA ILLINA**, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan
- **ROMAN MOGILEVSKII**, Senior Research Fellow and Head of Research Institute of Public Policy and Administration University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan
- **NATALIA KIREYENKA**, The Head of Department of the Institute of the System Studies in Agribusiness of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Belorussia

13.00 LUNCH BREAK

14.30-15.30 Session 3:
Presentation of national work programmes on agricultural trade (continued)

Moderator: Ekaterina Krivonos, Economist, Trade and Markets Division, FAO

- **RENATA YANBYKH**, Head of the department of sustainable rural development and agricultural cooperation of Russian Institute of Agrarian Problems and Informatics named after A.A. Nikonov, Russian Federation
- **NATALIA SHAGAIDA**, Director of the Center of Agrifood policy of the Russian Academy of state household, Russian Federation
- **VLADIMIR MATENCHUK**, Lawyer at the international law firm “Guide Luaeret Nouel” (Kiev Office), Ukraine
- **IVAN DJURIC** and **IHTIYOR BOBOJONOV**, Marketing and World Agricultural Trade, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Germany
- **GEORGETA MINCU**, Trade and Development Consultant, Centre for Development and Management (CDM), Moldova
- **ELENA ZHIRIAEVA**, Associate Professor, North-West Institute of Management of the Russian Academy of state household, Russian Federation

15.30 COFFEE BREAK

16.00-17.00 Session 4:
Capacity development needs in the region – discussion

Moderator: Cecilia DeRosa, Capacity Development Officer, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, FAO

- Interventions needed to develop capacities for trade policy analysis
- Discussion of the main areas of work for the Expert Group

17.00 Wrap-up day 1



08.30-10.30	<u>Session 5:</u> Defining the objectives and work plan	<i>Moderator: Vyacheslav Evseev, Director of the Center of Customs Tariff and non-Tariff Studies</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the main elements of the draft work programme of the Expert Group - ALFINURA SHARAFEYEVA, Consultant, Trade and Markets Division, FAO• Discussion and adoption of the work programme for 2015-16• Discussion of technical options for information exchange• Date and place of the upcoming meetings
10.30	COFFEE BREAK	
10.45-12.45	<u>Session 6:</u> Establishment of the Coordinating Committee	<i>Moderator: Alfinura Sharafeyeva, Consultant, Trade and Markets Division, FAO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The main responsibilities of the Coordinating Committee• Election of members of the Coordinating Committee• Next steps
12.45	Final remarks and closing	

