

Workshop: Increased efficiency and effectiveness of Kosovo agricultural policy to benefit the commercialisation of small and family farmers

10-11 September 2018, School of Economics, University of Kent, Canterbury, UK

Background and objectives

Kosovo is contemplating to accede to the EU. Looking at farming, the agricultural landscape in Kosovo is very different from the one of the EU. In stark contrast to the farm structure of the EU, an important characteristic of Kosovo is the overwhelming predominance of small-scale farming with low level of market integration. The Agricultural Census of the Republic of Kosovo carried out in 2014 (KAS, 2015) accounted for 130,436 agricultural households and individual businesses. The average size of agricultural holding is 3.2 ha, including nearly 60% of the holdings with a size up to 1 ha. Holdings with arable land between 0 and 0.5 ha are the most common – 35.3% of the total number of holdings. In the livestock sector, the average number of livestock units (LSU) per farm is 3. Thus, small farms/farm households are the prevailing producers in Kosovo which means that their productivity and sustainability are central to the performance of the overall Kosovo agriculture. Commercialisation of this group of farmers is hence crucial for rural economic growth, increased competitiveness of agriculture and improved quality of life of people in rural areas.

There is not enough evidence concerning policy measures which have reached small farmers and the policy absorption rate. Even if some of the measures have reached small and family farmers, there is no analysis of the effectiveness of these measures in the direction of small farmers' commercialization and increase in their incomes and financial sustainability.

Against this background, the workshop aims to review the first results of analysis of farm household survey and in-depth interviews as outcomes of the FAO project (TCP/KOS/: 3602) "Capacity development to MAFRD to improve commercialization between small farmers and family farmers" and to determine the facilitators of and barriers to commercialisation of small and family farmers in Kosovo. On this basis, the workshop participants will discuss with the project beneficiaries several policy implications and possible recommendations that can help Kosovo policy-makers to rebalance the policy facilitating the commercialisation of small and family farmers.

The major themes that will be discussed include:

- Ex-post assessment of Kosovo agricultural policy
- Insights from the quantitative part of the survey
- Insights from the qualitative statements
- The best practice in Kosovo as revealed by the in-depth interviews
- Land fragmentation and commercialisation of Kosovo farm households
- Policy recommendations
- Lessons from other parts of Europe and Central Asia region (Albania, Moldova, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine)

Participants:

The spirit of the workshop is to be a working forum that will help to provide comprehensive and politically feasible policy recommendations, thus the participants will be limited to 15.

They will include high level MAFRD civil servants, FAO representatives, IAMO experts, School of Economics experts, experts working for the World Bank on agricultural land issues.