

FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Seed systems in the time of COVID-19: *What are the challenges and opportunities for Europe and Central Asia?*

November 18th 2020, 10:00-12:00 CET

What: Virtual meeting (Zoom Webinar)

When: November 18th 2020, 10:00-12:00 (Budapest time)

Language: English-Russian (simultaneous translation provided)

Registration:

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected food systems around the world. Nowadays, governments, international agencies, and organizations of the UN System are taking many efforts to assess the impact and identify the response to tackle challenges of the pandemic.

The regional webinar series have already addressed topics as food security and nutrition, small farmers, trade and markets, social protection, migrant workers, currently we are focusing on specific area: the impact on seed systems.

Crop production depends on the availability, accessibility, and quality of seeds used. The effects of this unique situation on seed systems could not appear immediately, however for the future situation it is crucial to analyze what are the strengths of the seed system in the region and its role in food insecurity situations. With the current webinar, we would like to focus on the following important questions about the effects of the pandemic on seed systems, such as:

How is the seed supply chain affected?

Is there any change in the seed sources for small farmers?

How did the financial liquidity of small farmers change to buy seeds?

Are there any mechanisms or programs in place in the countries of Europe and Asia Central on seed security, which could contribute to mitigating the effects on the seed supply chain?

Which are the main risks that might threaten the seed systems soon?

Which measures were taken by governments to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on seed systems?

The main objective of the Webinar is to exchange information and experiences on the impacts and risks of COVID-19 on seed systems and its possible measures to mitigate it.

Speakers

Moderator: Tania Santivanez, FAO REU

Speaker 1: Wilson Hugo, Agricultural Officer, NSP FAO HQ

Speaker 2: Andreas Melikyan Director of "Agrobiotechnology Scientific Center" Branch of ANAU Foundation; Professor of Chair Plant Production and Soil Science in Armenian National Agrarian University

Speaker 3: Aida Jamangulova, "Agency of Development Initiatives"

Speaker 4: Szabolcs Ruthner Ph.D. Regulatory Affairs Manager, International Seed Federation

Panel discussion

Moderator: Zsuzsanna Keresztes, FAO REU

The Representative of Armenia

The representative of the Kyrgyz Republic

The Representative of North Macedonia

The Representative of Tajikistan

Target audiences

The staff and experts of national seed authorities, policymakers, national and international cooperation agencies. NGOs, promoting food systems development, and other practitioners interested in a better understanding of effective seed delivery systems.

Agenda

Time	Title	Speaker
10:00 – 10:10 h	Opening remarks	Raimund Jehle REU-RPL
10:10 – 11:00 h	<p><i>FAO's approach on sustainable seed systems</i></p> <p><i>Status of the research and breeding in the region</i></p> <p><i>"Community seeds" Farmers perspective on seed systems</i></p> <p><i>"International Seed Trade POST COVID"</i></p>	<p>Speakers:</p> <p>Wilson Hugo, Agricultural Officer, FAO</p> <p>Andreas Melikyan Director of "Agrobiotechnology Scientific Center" Branch of ANAU Foundation; Professor of Chair Plant Production and Soil Science in Armenian National Agrarian University</p> <p>Aida Jamangulova, "Agency of Development Initiatives"</p> <p>Szabolcs Ruthner Ph.D. Regulatory Affairs Manager, International Seed Federation</p> <p><i>Time: 8 minutes for each speaker</i></p>
11:00 – 11:50 h	<p><u>Panel discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panelist 1 • Panelist 2 • Panelist 3 • Panelist 4 • Panelist 5 	<p>Armenia</p> <p>Tajikistan</p> <p>North-Macedonia</p> <p>Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Turkey</p> <p><i>Time: 10 minutes for each panelist</i></p>
11:50 – 12:00 h	Wrap up and closing remarks	Chikelu Mba FAO