



# 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



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?



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## OBJECTIVE OF THE WEBINAR

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.

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## TARGET AUDIENCES

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



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## AGENDA

NOVEMBER 18TH 2020, 10:00-12:00 CET

Moderator: Tania Santivanez, FAO REU



### 10:00 - 10:10 OPENING REMARKS

Raimund Jehle

### 10:10 - 11:00

#### FAO'S APPROACH ON SUSTAINABLE SEED SYSTEMS

**Wilson Hugo**

Agricultural Officer, NSP FAO HQ

#### STATUS OF THE RESEARCH AND BREEDING IN THE REGION

**Andreas Melikyan**

Director of "Agrobiotechnology Scientific Center" Branch of ANAU Foundation

Professor of Chair Plant Production and Soil Science in Armenian National Agrarian University

#### "COMMUNITY SEEDS" FARMERS PERSPECTIVE ON SEED SYSTEMS

**Aida Jamangulova**

Agency of Development Initiatives

#### "INTERNATIONAL SEED TRADE POST COVID"

**Szabolcs Ruthner**

Ph.D. Regulatory Affairs Manager, International Seed Federation

### 11:00 - 11:50 PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Moderator: Zsuzsanna Keresztes, FAO REU

Representatives of:

Armenia

Tajikistan

North-Macedonia

Kyrgyz Republic

Turkey

### 11:50 - 12:00 CLOSING REMARKS

Chikelu Mba



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