

# Enhancing efficiency and inclusiveness of agri-food chains in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

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Porec, Croatia, 17/06/2015 - 18/06/2015

## **FAO Workshop at AGRIMBA Network Congress**

In collaboration with the International MBA in Agribusiness Network (AGRIMBA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will hold a workshop on “Enhancing efficiency and inclusiveness of agri-food chains in Eastern Europe and Central Asia”. The workshop will be implemented as part of the programme of the International AgriMBA Congress, “Smart Agribusiness for the Society of Tomorrow”.

As the food and agricultural systems are changing in unprecedented ways, the issues of efficiency and inclusiveness of food and agriculture systems are becoming increasingly important. These changes are driven by, inter alia, increases in incomes, changing technologies, globalization, retailer demand for higher volumes of consistent and reliable products, bio-energy demand and changing demographics, including higher urbanization and the growing number of women in the workforce. This underscores the need for policies and strategies that, while promoting the desirable development outcomes, take into account issues of efficiency, equity, sustainability and inclusiveness.

The efficiency and inclusiveness of food systems is also closely linked with the levels of food losses and waste. For decades, the main focus of efforts to reduce food losses and waste was to improve postharvest operations. Only recently has it been recognized that reduction of food losses requires interventions to improve supply-utilization alignment and efficiency along the whole food supply chains. Conversely, actions that reduce food loss and waste will increase chain efficiency, while enhancing the inclusiveness and reducing pressure on natural resources.

Public and private sectors have a shared responsibility to ensure inclusive and efficient food and agricultural systems. The private sector is, increasingly, playing an important role in shaping policies, as well as trade and market structures through value chain development. Consequently, strengthening public-private dialogue and collaboration is essential for enhancing the inclusiveness and efficiency of food and agricultural systems.

### Objective

To address aforementioned and other issues pertinent to development of agri-food chains in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region, FAO workshop intends to bring together industry leaders, high level policy makers, top scientists and practitioners, as well as other stakeholders to discuss and exchange the views on the regional perspectives for efficient, equitable, sustainable and inclusive agri-food chains development.

The goal is to offer a platform whereby regional experiences in agri-food chains development can be discussed, lessons can be learned and recommendations can be made to improve the effectiveness of agri-food sector promotion initiatives by governments and development organizations. Areas and topics of special interest for discussion include:

- Value chain coordination and agri-food sector competitiveness
- Business models for improved inclusion of small family farms in value chains
- Public-private partnership and inclusiveness of agri-food chains
- Reduction of food losses and waste for improved agri-food chain efficiency
- Enabling environment and agro-industrial strategies development

Potential contributors are invited to send their proposals for papers addressing the listed topics in the form of an extended abstract. The theme and the topic of the papers should be directly related to or relevant for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries. An extended abstract (250 – 400 words) in English and a brief resume should be sent to Stjepan Tanić, Agri-food Economist, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia.

Link - <http://www.fao.org/europe/events/detail-events/en/c/275073/>

## Agenda

FAO workshop (room 3)

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3rd day, 18th of June Work in sessions, Morning session, 9:00-10:30 (15 minutes per paper)

Session one: Business models and inclusion into value chains

Jon Hanf, Geisenheim University, Geisenheim, Germany: Processor driven integration of small-scale farmers into value chains in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Erdenechuluun Tumur, Mongolian University of Life Sciences, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; A. Bakey, Vice-President, Mongolian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia: Inclusion of herding households in food value chain of Mongolia

Almasbek Dorombaev, Agribusiness Competitiveness Center, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan: Inclusion of woman self- help groups into value chains

Cornelia Alboiu, Institute of Agricultural Economics, Bucharest, Romania: Are the Romanian small semi-subsistence vegetable producers integrated into supply chain?

Olena Borodina, Institute for Economics and Forecasting National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine: Business model of attracting farming households to value chain: case studies in Ukraine

Chair: Stjepan Tanić

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10:30-11:00 Coffee break

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Morning session, 11:00-12:30

Session two: Value chain coordination and agri-food sector competitiveness

Karlheinz Knickel and Susanne von Münchhausen, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, Eberswalde, Germany; Vilija Girgždienė, and Virgilijus Skulskis, Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics (LAEI) Vilnius, Lithuania: Managing growth in higher value food chains

Blendi Gerdoci, Faculty of Economics, University of Tirana, Engjell Skreli and Drini Imami, Faculty of Economics and Agribusiness, Agriculture University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania: Analysis of the fruit value chain coordination in Albania

Marina Tomic, Željka Mesić and Marija Cerjak, University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture Department of Agricultural Marketing, Zagreb, Croatia: Analysis of olive oil supply chain in Croatia

Ales Kuhar and Hristo Hristov, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical faculty, Ljubljana, Slovenia: Quarter of a century in transition: the state of the red meat supply chain in Slovenia

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12:30-14:00 Lunch

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Session three: Enabling environment and agro-industrial strategies development

Drini Imami, Agricultural University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania, Edvin Zhllima, Faculty of Economics and Agribusiness, Agriculture University of Tirana: Small farm access to market- the case of olive sector in Albania

Hrabrin Bachev, Institute of Agricultural Economics, Sofia, Bulgaria: Improving farms' market inclusion through enhanced eco-management in Bulgaria

Oze Domonkos, Control Union Hungaria Ltd, Budapest, Hungary: Improving agri-food market access through smallholder group certification – Eastern European and Central Asian experiences

Umeda Nabieva, ISD Consulting, Dushanbe, Tajikistan: Food losses and waste in Tajikistan

Ekrem Gjokaj, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Pristina, Kosovo; Muje Gjonbalaj, University of Prishtina; Kapllan Halimi, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development; Anera Alishani, University of Prizren: Agri-food sector development challenges and prospective in Kosovo

Rade Popovic and Dalibor Panic, University of Novi Sad, The Faculty of Economics Subotica, Subotica, Serbia: Innovative strategies of SME food industry in Serbia

Chair: Stjepan Tanić

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Coffee break 17:00-17:30

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Wrap up session, 15:00-17:00

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Link - <http://www.agrimba-ava2015.hr/congress-agenda1/>

