

IAMO Samarkand Conference

Regional and International Cooperation in Central Asia and South Caucasus: Recent Developments in Agricultural Trade

2-4 November 2016 | Samarkand (Uzbekistan) | www.samarkand.iamo.de



Agricultural trade in the Caucasus and Central Asian (CCA) countries is highly dependent on regional markets, and particularly on Russia. Close trade relations within the CIS countries are mainly explained by historical ties, common borders and languages, as well as agricultural specialization inherited from the Soviet Union. However, substantial changes have occurred in trade policies of the CCA countries during the last 2-3 years. Expansion of the Eurasian Economic Union, accession of several countries to the WTO and trade tensions between Russia and the western countries play an important role in determining the directions of agricultural trade in the region. The trade-offs emerging from these developments and the implications for the CCA economies are not yet fully understood because evidence is limited. The aim of the three-day conference is to mobilize the research capacities in the CCA through the exchange of knowledge and research findings among regional and international experts.

Conference Structure

The conference provides an opportunity for knowledge exchange to junior and senior researchers, as well as policy makers from the Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA). Researchers from Europe and other countries are also invited to participate at the conference.

Research results and project findings related to the following topics will be discussed:

- Russian import restrictions and their effects on the agricultural sectors of the CCA countries
- Impact of global and regional crises on commodity prices
- Options for facilitating intra-regional and international trade of agricultural commodities
- Impact of market integration on food consumption patterns
- Food security and availability under conditions of supply chain disruptions
- Policy regulation and trade distortions
- Transformation of supply chains under global and regional integration policies
- Effect of regional cooperation on productivity and efficiency of agricultural production
- Effect of climate change on agricultural production and rural livelihoods
- The role of using agricultural insurance to increase food security
- Impact of production technologies on agricultural production
- Nutrition transition, household welfare and food security.

Field Trip

Several field trip options will be offered including a visit of household producers and large scale commercial export farms. Furthermore, a guided tour of the historical city of Samarkand, featuring a detailed focus on the role of the Great Silk Road in trade and regional cooperation will be provided as one tour option.

Registration and Funding Opportunities

Registration for the IAMO Samarkand Conference is possible **by September, 27**. Please send your completed registration form (www.samarkand.iamo.de) via e-mail to: samarkand@iamo.de.

The conference fee, travel and accommodation costs of selected participants from the Caucasus and Central Asia (CCA) will be covered by IAMO. Limited support towards the conference fee, travel and accommodation costs of researchers from other countries is also possible. Applications for the travel/accommodation grants should be sent to samarkand@iamo.de with a short CV and a cover letter explaining your motivation for applying for funding.

The participants of the conference will receive an official visa support letter from Samarkand Agricultural Institute which is one of the main organizers in Uzbekistan.

The conference language is English. Simultaneous translation from/to Russian will be provided.

Organizers

The IAMO Samarkand Conference is organized in close cooperation with Samarkand Agricultural Institute in Uzbekistan and with financial support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC) in Kazakhstan and Coordinating Committee for Science and Technology Development under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan are further organizational partners of the conference.

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