



24 & 25 November 2021

9:00 – 13:00

Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva and online

Trading Food

For Sustainable Development

**Fostering the Integration of
Agricultural Value Chains of
Commodity-Dependent Landlocked
Developing Countries into Regional
and Global Value Chains**

Mongolia



Programme of the workshop

Uzbekistan



Lao

People's Democratic Republic



Ethiopia



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

Project Background

The four beneficiary countries of this project (Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Uzbekistan) are commodity-dependent land-locked developing countries, two of which (Ethiopia and Lao PDR) are Least Developed Countries. Previous research has repeatedly shown that commodity-dependent countries face significant development hurdles and that diversification of their economies is an important condition for fostering sustainable development. Additionally, landlocked developing countries suffer from high transport costs when exporting goods to foreign markets, making access to new markets for existing and new exports also key. For these reasons, developing the food and agricultural sector can be particularly attractive in terms of generating new exports. Developing this sector would also present the advantage of providing decent income opportunities for rural populations. In addition, in many developing countries, women are predominantly engaged in the food and agricultural sector. Fostering agricultural value chains can then boost incomes for rural women, improving their livelihoods.

The overall objective of this project is to support integrated value chain development in four landlocked commodity dependent developing economies (Ethiopia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan) through enhancing their capacities in development policies and strategies to promote better integration into Regional and Global Value Chains (RVCs and GVCs). Specifically, this project aims to attain two targets. First, to improve the statistical and analytical capacity of beneficiary countries in effective policy formulation to promote RVCs and GVCs integration and enhance development linkages. Second, to improve the capacity of the private sector in beneficiary countries to assess market prospects, identify market opportunities and overcome market barriers to better integrate into RVCs and GVCs.

In consultation with the national authorities of beneficiary countries, four different value chains for export were targeted in the project: roasted coffee in Ethiopia, maize in Lao PDR, meat in Mongolia and dried fruit in Uzbekistan.

For each of these value chains, national surveys of the existing situation of key components of these value chains were implemented and analysed, and these empirically-based sectorial diagnostics were presented and discussed with national private and public sector stakeholders in each country between late 2020 and early 2021, as well as with other development partners and other key stakeholders.

Objectives of the Workshop

The objective of this workshop is to share lessons learnt from the Project and identify follow-up activities in promoting integration into regional and global value chains.

During the workshop, new empirical and analytical findings in relation to agricultural value chains and trade costs will be presented. Moreover, the empirical and analytical findings of the project at country level will be shared and discussed. Furthermore, the workshop will discuss possible ways in which the current and future policy frameworks in beneficiary countries and other commodity-dependent developing countries can be strengthened in order to foster better integration of agricultural value chains of these countries in regional and global value chains.

Contacts



For more information on the project and workshop, please contact the Commodities Branch:

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Preliminary Programme of the Workshop¹

Wednesday 24 November 2021

9:00 – 9:20 **Opening session**

9:20 – 11:05 **1st Session: Strengthening Export-Oriented Agricultural Value Chains in Developing Countries: The Role of Cooperatives**

The first link in the export-oriented agricultural value chain of developing countries comprises predominantly of smallholder producers, who face a number of challenges, such as remoteness and market power downstream in the value chain. In this session we discuss the roles that cooperatives can play in delivering assistance tailored to smallholder producers.

9:20 – 10:05 *Presentation of the study “Farmer Prices and Producer Cooperatives: a cross-country, multi-product analysis”*

10:05 – 10:50 *Presenters*

10:50 – 11:20 *General discussion with participants*

11:20 – 11:30 *Break*

11:30–12:50 **2nd Session: Strengthening Export-Oriented Agricultural Value Chains in Developing Countries: Quality and Certification Issues**

Price premia are commonly offered by high-value agricultural markets, in return for quality-certified products. These price premia represent an attractive export opportunity to commodity-dependent developing countries. However, obtaining such price premia requires addressing difficulties associated with ensuring quality over value chains characterized by informal relationships and dominated by smallholder producers. In this session we discuss findings from the project in the quality and certification area and discuss possible ways forward.

11:30 – 12:20 *Presenters/Discussants*

12:20 – 12:50 *General discussion with participants*

¹ Geneva time.



Preliminary Programme of the Workshop

Thursday 25 November 2021

9:00 – 12:30 Fostering Trade in Land-locked Commodity-Dependent Developing Countries: Trade Costs

9:00 – 9:40 *Presentation of the study “Trade costs and barriers for Landlocked Commodity Dependent Developing Countries”*

9:40 – 11:00 3rd Session: Fostering Trade in Land-locked Commodity-Dependent Developing Countries: Transport Costs and Logistics

Transport and logistics are important factors influencing the export competitiveness of countries in general. For land-locked developing countries, transport and logistics are even more important, given the special challenges faced by this group of countries, including remoteness and higher transport costs. This session will discuss how the fact of being landlocked affects trade costs and current initiatives aimed at addressing this challenge and its effect on the capacity of LLDCs to integrate into agricultural regional and global value chains.

9:40 – 10:30 *Discussants/Presenters*

10:30 – 11:00 *General discussion with participants*

11:00 – 11:10 *Break*

11:10 – 12:30 4th Session: Fostering Trade in Land-locked Commodity-Dependent Developing Countries: Market Access and Trade Facilitation

In addition to the role played by transport costs, trade costs include several other components that have been widely documented, like tariffs, non-tariff barriers (including phytosanitary restrictions), and administrative costs. All these elements, together with transport costs, can severely affect the capacity of land-locked CDDCs to successfully integrate into international value chains. This session will discuss how these other trade barriers reinforce the negative effects associated with the fact of being landlocked, and possible remedies for addressing them in order to foster integration into regional and global value chains.

11:10 – 12:00 *Presenters/Discussants*

12:00 – 12:30 *General discussion with participants*

12:30 – 12:50 Closing session