Trading Food
For Sustainable Development

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

Programme of the workshop
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 sectoral 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:
Mr. Rodrigo Carcamo, Project Coordinator, Commodities Branch, DITC, UNCTAD, commodities@unctad.org, +41 22 917 2408

Commodities Branch Secretariat:
Ms. Danièle Boglio, daniele.boglio@unctad.org, + 41 22 917 6286

Website: https://unctad.org/project/integrating-landlocked-commodity-dependent-developing-countries-regional-and-global-value
Preliminary Programme of the Workshop

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

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 –12:30</td>
<td><strong>Fostering Trade in Land-locked Commodity-Dependent Developing Countries: Trade Costs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:40</td>
<td>Presentation of the study “Trade costs and barriers for Landlocked Commodity Dependent Developing Countries”</td>
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<td>9:40 – 11:00</td>
<td><strong>3rd Session: Fostering Trade in Land-locked Commodity-Dependent Developing Countries: Transport Costs and Logistics</strong></td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:00</td>
<td>General discussion with participants</td>
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<td>11:00 – 11:10</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:10 – 12:30</td>
<td><strong>4th Session: Fostering Trade in Land-locked Commodity-Dependent Developing Countries: Market Access and Trade Facilitation</strong></td>
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<td>11:10 – 12:00</td>
<td>Presenters/Discussants</td>
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<td>12:00 – 12:30</td>
<td>General discussion with participants</td>
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<td>12:30 –12:50</td>
<td>Closing session</td>
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