



Trading Food for Sustainable Development

Update # 3 on Project Implementation in Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan

WHAT Is the Project All About?

The project's objective is to support integrated value chain development in four landlocked commodity dependent developing economies (Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan), two of which are Least Developed Countries (Ethiopia and Lao People's Democratic Republic). The project aims at enhancing the capacities of each beneficiary country to design and implement development policies and strategies to promote better integration into Regional and Global Value Chains (RVCs and GVCs), as well as creating multi-level development linkages.

In particular, the project is surveying, analyzing and evaluating for policy discussion the downstream value chains of roasted coffee in Ethiopia, maize in Lao People's Democratic Republic, meat in Mongolia and dried fruits in Uzbekistan. All these agricultural products are not only important for these countries, but also have important current or potential linkages to regional and global value chains that can be fostered.

WHAT Have We Done in Each Country?

During 2020 and early 2021, the project team has kept implementing project activities in all countries, despite the difficulties presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, by May 2021:

- national surveys of the maize value chain in Lao People's Democratic Republic, of the meat value chain in Mongolia and of the dried fruits value chain in Uzbekistan have been conducted and analysed.
- using this information, national studies have been produced and circulated in preliminary form or published.
- all national workshops have been held as hybrid events (Mongolia, Ethiopia and Lao People's Democratic Republic) or in online form (Uzbekistan).
- all applicable capacity-building/training activities in the countries have been implemented.

We now present some details of the activities undertaken by the project in each of the beneficiary countries.

Integrating Landlocked Commodity Dependent Developing Countries into Regional and Global Value Chains

Project code PDF-SDG-2017-04

Donor: UN PDF 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund

Implemented by UNCTAD

Beneficiary countries: Ethiopia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Uzbekistan

Duration: 2018-2021

Website: <https://unctad.org/project/integrating-landlocked-commodity-dependent-developing-countries-regional-and-global-value>

Project Update # 3, May 2021 ([UNCTAD/DITC/COM/INF/2021/2](#))

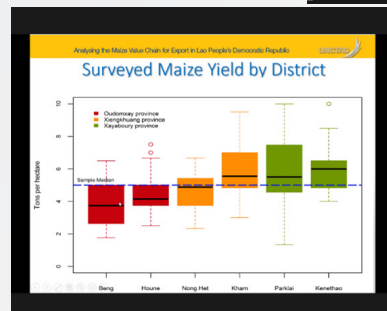
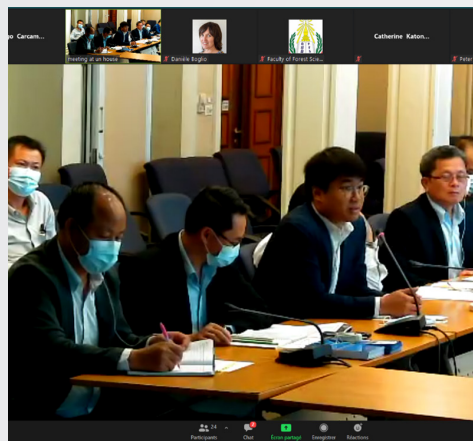
Fostering Integration of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Downstream Value Chain of Maize into Regional Value Chains

The findings of the project on the maize value chain for export are summarized in the study “Analysing the Maize Value Chain for Export in Lao People’s Democratic Republic”, published by UNCTAD in September 2020. This UNCTAD publication, elaborated by UNCTAD staff using original data gathered during the field survey implemented in Oudomxay, Xayaboury, and Xiengkhuang provinces, is available for download [here](#) in both English and Laotian.

The findings of this study were presented and discussed during the National Workshop on “Fostering Integration of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Downstream Value Chain of Maize into Regional Value Chains”, which took place on October 13th, in Vientiane, as a hybrid event.

This national workshop was co-organized by UNCTAD with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Lao People’s Democratic Republic, with the support of the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Lao People’s Democratic Republic. The programme and presentations of the workshop are available online [here](#).

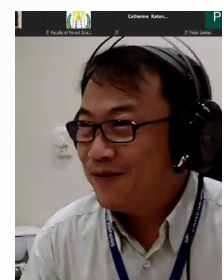
During the workshop, the findings of the project for the maize value chain for export were presented to national and provincial-level authorities, the private sector and development partners. Given the importance of the role played by subnational authorities in the regulation and monitoring of the maize value chain in the country, senior authorities from the Provincial Industry and Commerce and Provincial Agriculture and Forestry of the three most important maize-producing provinces participated as speakers in the national workshop. They joined national authorities and other stakeholders in a comprehensive discussion of the existing policies in the key areas identified in the project, and how the findings of the project can support strengthening such policies in Lao People’s Democratic Republic.



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LAO AGRICULTURE COMPETITIVENESS PROJECT

Approach and Activities to improve the Maize Value Chain

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 November, 13th, 2020

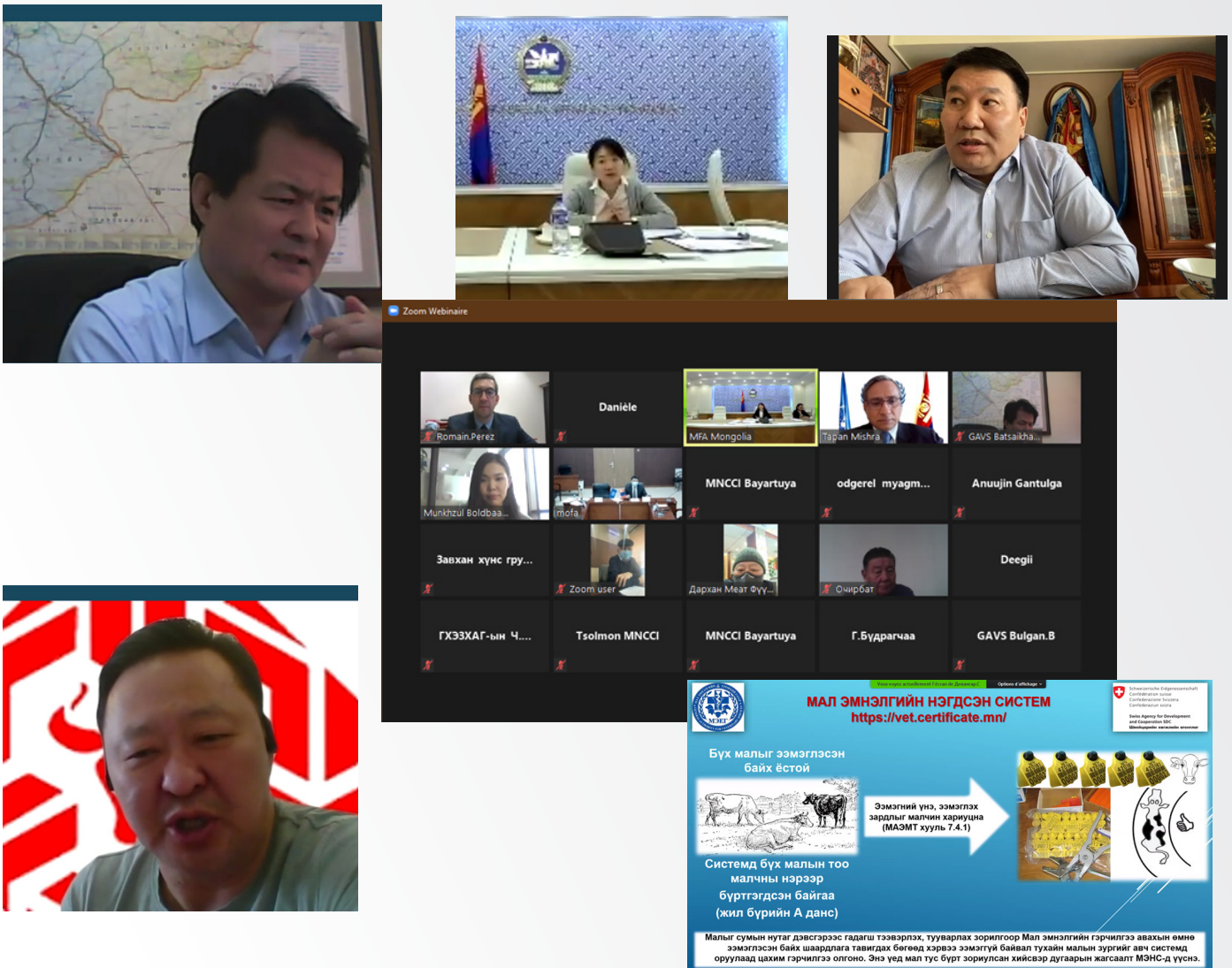


Fostering Integration of the Mongolia Downstream Value Chain of Meat into Regional Value Chains

The consultant team completed the analysis of the meat value chain in Mongolia for export at the end of 2020. The market analysis of key export markets identified China, the Russian Federation, Japan, Viet Nam, and Kazakhstan as top destinations for Mongolian exporters and provided insightful directions on the opportunities and challenges related to these markets. The analysis of the domestic meat value chain in Mongolia reviewed the main impediments and best practices in the meat export sector. These findings, rooted in the data obtained during the national survey of the meat value chain implemented in Mongolia in 2020 by UNCTAD, were presented and discussed during the National Workshop that took place on 28-29 January 2021 (“Fostering Integration of the Mongolia Downstream Value Chain of Meat into Regional Value Chains”).

This national workshop, implemented as a hybrid event, was co-organized by UNCTAD with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia, and had the support of the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mongolia. The national workshop was followed by a training session delivered by the MICC consultant agency and the World Organization for Animal Health. This workshop included a session on the ways to meet the international standards for meat exports and a session on the options to overcome the challenges to access Chinese and Russian markets. The programme and meeting material are available online [here](#).

Given the importance of the meat export sector for Mongolia, several high-level representatives attended the workshop, including the State Secretary of the MOFALI, the Chairman of the Mongolian Meat Association as well as the UN Resident Coordinator for Mongolia. The strengths and weaknesses of the meat value chain were debated, leading participants to propose a common vision for the sector with the adoption of road map for the meat export sector in Mongolia. The road map was endorsed at the end of the workshop and shared with the local authority.



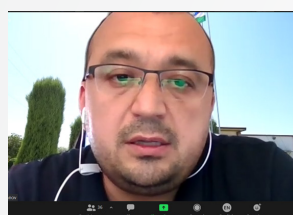
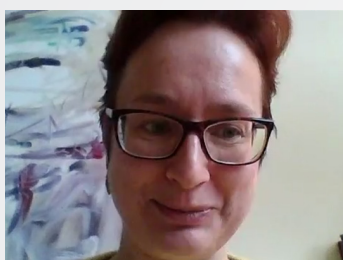
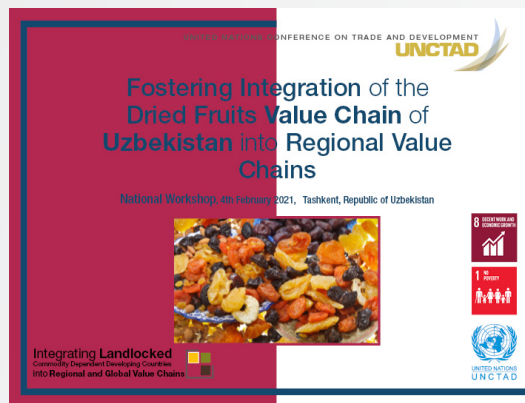
Fostering Integration of the Dried Fruits Value Chain of Uzbekistan into Regional and Global Value Chains

A technical study on the dried fruit value chain for export, entitled “Uzbek Dried Fruit Exports: Prospects, Problems and Potential” was produced by UNCTAD staff and consultants using original survey data gathered from five fruit-producing regions in Uzbekistan and the latest trade data available. This study brings together in a consistent way the findings along different dimensions (existing market size, penetration, prices, quality issues, certification, logistics, branding and others) of the project on different dimensions of the dried fruit value chain for export, including specific policy proposals. The final version of this study will be published shortly by UNCTAD and it will also be available in the project’s website.

Based on the empirical findings and policy implications of the study, a fully online workshop was held on February 2nd, 2021, with support from the office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan. The programme and presentations of the workshop are available online [here](#).

During the workshop, the findings of the study on the dried fruit value chain were presented and discussed with public and private sector stakeholders in Uzbekistan, as well as with development partners with projects in the fruit sector in Uzbekistan. During the fruitful exchanges and discussion, UNCTAD’s study’s findings were validated and reinforced, especially concerning the need to boost quality all along the value chain, and to strengthen certification in Uzbekistan in order to tap into high-price and growth markets for dried fruit. One session of the workshop was also dedicated to discussing current policies in place by the authorities for the dried fruit sector, as well as how the findings of the project could strengthen the policy framework.

Finally, UNCTAD has hired a team of national experts to conduct a training in Uzbekistan of public and private sector stakeholders, on certification for export and on boosting dried fruit quality along the value chain. This builds on the findings of the study and on the fruitful discussions during the national workshop in February 2021. The two-day training activity, will take place fully online due to restrictions placed by the Covid-19 pandemic, on May 25th and 26th, 2021.



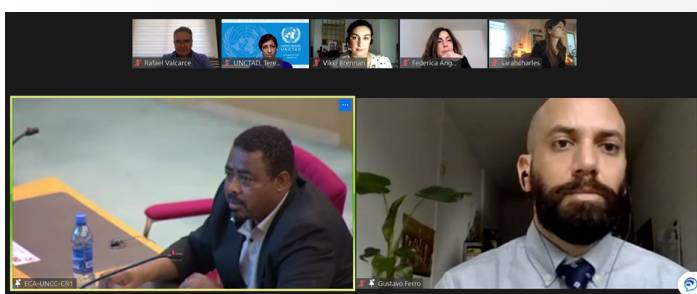
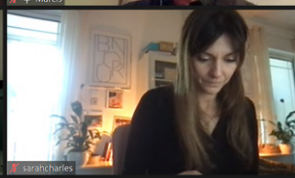
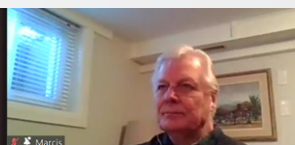
Fostering Integration of the Ethiopian Roasted Coffee Value Chain into Regional Value Chains

UNCTAD consultants have completed their analysis of the roasted coffee industry, focused on the challenges and opportunities existing for local roasters, and of existing opportunities for Ethiopian exporters of roasted coffee.

A national workshop and training activity took place on March 11th in hybrid form at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Conference Centre. The meeting material and programme are available online [here](#).

During the workshop, the findings of the study on the roasted coffee value chain were presented and discussed with public and private sector stakeholders, as well as development partners involved in this sector, such as UNIDO. This led participants to review the key policy options available to strengthen the Ethiopian capacity to export roasted coffee.

The training session that followed, was focused on the best practices coming from Colombia, the top exporter of roasted coffees, showing how synergies amongst key policies addressing the coffee sector, adequate institutional mechanisms, relevant sector stakeholders, successful promotional instruments and strategic marketing were mixed to improve Colombian export capacities. Finally, the International Trade Centre (ITC) delivered a session on the required policy framework at the national and subnational levels to strengthen the roasted coffee value chain for export, as well as on the best practices among Ethiopian roasters to access foreign markets.



WHAT Are The Next Steps ?

Following up on the completion of the national dialogue and policy discussions in individual project countries, UNCTAD will bring all countries together for the joint sharing of experiences and policy dialogue among all beneficiary landlocked commodity-dependent developing countries. Such policy dialogue will include not only the research findings and policy discussions of national-level research and analysis mentioned above, but also will include the presentation of two research studies that UNCTAD is elaborating, aiming at identifying common lessons to be learned, opportunities and challenges for the countries in the project.



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