



Roundtable 4 - Part 1

Improving food safety and quality through partnerships for investment

Key Messages

- Public-private partnerships can be crucial drivers for increasing investments, ameliorating the business environment and building capacity to enhance food safety/quality standards in the Europe and Central Asia region.
- Countries' overall competitiveness can be increased through sound agricultural policies that have clear targets, benchmarks and priorities - around which key private and public stakeholders can align.
- Changes in agri-food systems disproportionately affect small farmers. Establishing linkages between processors and small producers remains key to building inclusive value chains, while upgrading food safety/quality standards.
- Experiences from outside the region show that cooperatives can play a main role in value chain development through aggregating and supporting smallholders, especially in the dairy sector.
- Associations can provide technical support to the government to strengthen its capacity and can be important partners to set the timeline for implementation and make sure results are achieved.
- Public-private policy dialogue platforms can target bottlenecks along the value chain. Working groups in the dairy sector in Ukraine can be replicated in Serbia, where upgrading food safety/quality standards is a must, in light of Serbia's proximity to the EU market and prospective accession. EastAgri can facilitate this process.



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Next Steps

- The EBRD, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Serbia (MoA) signed a Letter of Intent which launched a public-private platform in Serbia's dairy sector to enable specific policy reforms and increase competitiveness in the sector.
 - The public-private platform will support the upgrade to higher food safety and quality standards.
 - Both associations of producers and processors will be represented to enable the private sector to fully participate in policy dialogue.
- The EBRD-FAO Framework Agreement for the next 2 years will focus more on food safety and quality and will continue to implement key technical assistance projects in the region.
- The World Bank-IFC Global Food Safety Partnership will bring together public and private resources and will accumulate and disseminate knowledge through an open source platform.



Roundtable 4 - Part 2

Regulatory frameworks, policies and financing for food security: crop receipts, warehouse receipts and commodity financing

Key Messages

- Establishing successful CPR and WHR systems is a complex process and it requires the involvement of multiple stakeholders with different areas of expertise from both the public and private sectors (including technical experts, lawyers, ministers, finance specialists, banks and others). Appropriate infrastructure, capacity, availability of collateral and confidence in the system are essential for a working system.
- Other financial instruments such as “financing on green” for primary agriculture and value chain financing can increase access to credit and are equally important.
- Serbia’s experience demonstrates that continued awareness-raising of CPR and WHR systems as well as undertaking capacity-building to address sector needs are vital components of establishing successful CPR and WHR systems. It is essential for all stakeholders to support the CPR and WHR system throughout its lifespan, beyond passing the legislation.
- The private sector initiative to make CPRs and WHRs systems functional is critical to support public sector efforts. This includes commitment from both input suppliers and farmers.
- Institutional capacities need to be developed in the licensing, inspection and insurance of warehouses in order to minimise fraud risk. Warehouses need to be strong and financially sound to reduce risk and operational costs.
- Banks need to develop necessary internal policies and operational procedures to support CPR and WHR systems. For banks it is easier to work with one counterpart aggregating many actors - such as cooperatives.
- There is a need for a fully operational and well-capitalized indemnity fund to cover the potential risks.



Roundtable 4 - Part 2

Regulatory frameworks, policies and financing for food security: crop receipts, warehouse receipts and commodity financing

Next Steps

- The EBRD and FAO will continue to implement pre- and post-harvest financing instruments such as CPRs and WHRs in countries across the region together with governments and the private sector.
- Partner banks attending the meeting declared their willingness to engage and join the EBRD and FAO effort in supporting CPR and WHR systems development and implementation in Serbia. The prompt support of local banks through risk-sharing mechanisms (for lending against warehouse receipts) is of outmost importance.
- All stakeholders will encourage increased private sector involvement - from input suppliers to farmers - as a key driver for achieving results.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Serbia (MoA) has confirmed its commitment to present the CPR law for approval to the Serbian Parliament in the summer/autumn of 2014. The EBRD and FAO will continue supporting the MoA in developing a new registration system and providing training to key stakeholders to promote and facilitate implementation of the CPR system.
- A working session on GWR in Serbia will be held by EBRD, FAO and relevant public sector representatives in the following months to finalise amendments and further develop licensing capacities.
- The discussion amongst all stakeholders will continue to achieve the needed results in Serbia and across the region.