



Lomonosov Moscow State University

Eurasian Center for Food Security

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Photo credit: Anna Kontoboytseva, ECFS. Ripe pumpkins in the local market in Tashkent, December 2019.

This newsletter discusses a teacher training program held at the end of January. Fourteen university teachers from Eurasia participated in the food and nutrition policy training program designed to prepare them to use case studies and other active learning methodologies in their university teaching. The course was based around the existing set of case studies published by ECFS.

*With the February issue, ECFS also announces the new publication *Prospects for Russian Agri-Food Exports in the Chinese Market*. The study identifies promising segments for growth in the Chinese agri-food market, considers issues of competitiveness for Russian agri-industrial products, and looks at the national agrarian and export promotion policy.*

The newsletter concludes with an updated Event Calendar.

Our Students Are Just Like Us: Food and Nutrition Policy Training

By Derrill D. Watson II, James Gentry and Anna Buyvolova

The Eurasian Center for Food Security (ECFS) and the World Bank case studies in food and nutrition policy for Eurasia make up a unique publication that gives university teachers the chance to put their students into the role of people who face the real challenges of their country and region. Using ECFS case studies to teach is a technique that is expanding considerably. Teachers who have the skills and knowledge of modern teaching methods and tools are needed to engage and motivate students to work with case studies.

Considering this need, ECFS and the World Bank organized [a train-the-teacher workshop](#) at ECFS at Lomonosov Moscow State University on January 27–31, 2020. The workshop was given by Derrill Watson and James Gentry. Watson is an Associate Professor of Economics at [Tarleton State University](#) and [worked with ECFS on the case studies in 2016](#); Gentry is a Professor of Education and Curriculum Design at Tarleton State University. Each has many years of experience in faculty development. The training was designed to prepare

participants to use case studies and other active learning methodologies in their university teaching. The 14 participants were selected by a committee of ECFS and World Bank representatives from a pool of 82 candidates.

Candidates were selected on the basis of the relevance of their teaching to food security case studies, their statements of interest in using the case study methodology after the training, the strength of their CV and application letter, and their ability to communicate verbally in both English and Russian. A short list of 21 participants were selected to participate in online phone calls to assess their verbal communication abilities. This short list included multiple candidates from all participating countries. Of the 15 candidates selected, one was unable to attend because of visa issues. The 14 participants—Naira Harutyunyan, Meri Manucharyan, Sergey Meloyan, Lusine Poghosyan, Zalina Enikeeva, Nazira Esenalieva, Nurila Ibraeva, Akylai Muktarbek Kyzy, Nurlan Tokobaev, Natalia Nesterenko, Tanzila Ergasheva, Fotima Saydullaeva, Marina Li, and Inna



Discussing the BDA-R learning process

Rudenko—came from the following countries: Kyrgyzstan (five participants), Armenia (four), Uzbekistan (three), Russia (one), and Tajikistan (one).

Training sessions were based on current research in faculty development best principles and designed after the Professional Development Community and Course Re-Design programs at Tarleton State University's Center for Instructional Innovation. The program used [BDA-R](#) (Before, During, After, and Reflection) as scaffolding to help participants think

critically about their lesson plans and organize the active learning experiences that were showcased in the training. Case studies were introduced as an example of problem-based learning. Participants explored [12 of the cases published by ECFS](#). Trainings consisted of alternating participatory lectures and practice sessions. Lectures on nutrition and food safety challenges in the Eurasian region were given by ECFS researchers [Roman Romashkin](#) (in Russian), [Alexei Belugin](#) (in Russian), [Evgeny Tsvetnov](#) (in Russian), and [Maria Konyushkova](#) (In English). Participants also received two books by Elizabeth



Training participants, teachers, and organizers

Barkley, *Student Engagement Techniques and Learning Assessment Techniques*, as reference materials.

Among the active learning methods showcased in the training were:

- **Role play:** Students play the roles of the various stakeholders in the case studies.
- **Role, Audience, Format, Topic (RAFT) technique:** Students write from the viewpoint of a stakeholder in the case study.
- **Gallery walk:** Students summarize and compare multiple cases using both written and graphic analysis.
- **Team work:** Students employ think-aloud problem solving in teams.
- **Quotation commentaries:** Students receive a handout with a set of quotations from a recent reading assignment and then comment on them.

- **Technology:** Students are encouraged to interact and engage through the use of technology, including alternative presentation applications (e.g., [Prezi](#), [Google slides](#), and [Nearpod](#)); gamification (e.g., [Kahoot](#)); and student response applications (e.g., [Poll Everywhere](#), [Google forms](#), and Nearpod).

At the conclusion of the training, participants presented simulations based on one or more of the active teaching methodologies to demonstrate their mastery of the BDA-R framework and practice applications in a low-stakes setting. All participants successfully demonstrated mastery of this framework.

Overall, the trainers were satisfied that the students had gained new skills and understood concepts that they will be able to successfully deploy in their respective classrooms. Putting participants in students' shoes was an important part of the training that allows participants to understand students better so they can make each lesson engaging and



*Certificate ceremony
From left to right: Dr. Derrill Watson, Aylai Muktarbek, Dr. James Gentry*

meaningful for everyone involved. Initial feedback from participants has been enthusiastic and positive.

Additional anonymous formal feedback will be sought following the training.

ECFS and the World Bank are looking forward to continuing the case study project. The new round of collaborative research on food security in Eurasia will be announced shortly, and will be made available in the ECFS Newsletter and on the [ECFS website](#).

New ECFS Publication *Prospects for Russian Agri-Food Exports in the Chinese Market*

The new joint ECFS and the World Bank study [Prospects for Russian Agri-Food Exports in the Chinese Market](#) is now available online (in Russian only). The study identifies promising segments for growth in the Chinese agri-food market, considers issues of competitiveness of Russian agri-industrial products, and looks at national agrarian and export promotion policy.

The publication is composed of four chapters. In chapter one, the authors discuss the dynamics of demand and import of agri-food products in China. The Chinese market is very attractive to Russian suppliers of agri-food products. According to forecasts from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, China's imports of feed grain will grow between 1.2 and 3.0 percent per year, its imports of soybeans will increase between 2.0 and 3.5 percent per year, its imports of beef will increase up to 5.6 percent per year, and its imports of dairy products up to 5.3

percent per year every year until 2024. The ability of Russian agriculture to take advantage of the Chinese market opportunities by increasing exports is driven by the competitiveness of the industry.

The second chapter presents Russian exports' main competitors for the agri-food market of China and discusses the groups of goods supplied from Russia to China. The analysis shows that Russia has achieved visible success in the production and export of cereals, oilseeds, vegetable oils, and frozen fish. However, Russia's export of value-added food products remains limited.

Will Russian agricultural producers seize the opportunity to increase their market share of the Chinese market? What are the main factors affecting the competitiveness of Russian agri-food exports? The third chapter answers these questions and analyzes trade through both indicators of competitiveness and indicators of productivity of the Russian agri-food sector. It concludes by looking at the barriers to ensuring export competitiveness—such as high domestic prices for major agricultural products, high

veterinary and phytosanitary risks, and transport and infrastructure challenges.

The final chapter assesses Russia's policies for stimulating agricultural exports, and also considers the negative effects of existing policies. Forms of state subsidization of agriculture and the level of investment in public goods are analyzed in detail, the factors that determine the preservation of Russia's current export profile in the trade in agricultural products with China in the medium term are substantiated, and promising niches for export development are identified. The book concludes that the elements needed to strengthen trade relations and give them a solid foundation are integrating domestic companies into regional and global value chains and expanding equal investment cooperation with China; these would transfer technologies and

transform Russian domestic companies into global players.

The authors hope that this book will be a useful study of the competitiveness of Russian agricultural products and a valuable analysis of national agricultural policy and export promotion policies.

The publication is available online on the [ECFS website](#). The study was conducted with the support of the World Bank and authored by ECFS economics division researchers Roman Romashkin, Mikhail Avdeev, and Olga Cherkasova and World Bank food policy expert David Sedik. The study was published under the scientific editorship of Sergey Shoba.

Event Calendar 2020

Date	City. Country	Event
February 17	Moscow, Russia	International Cooperation Forum "Sustainable Development Goals. Tools for Business Practices" (in Russian only)
March 5–6	Halle (Saale), Germany	Workshop "Political Economy of Agricultural Policies and Land Relations"
March 10–20	Rome, Italy	FAO Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity (GSOBI20)
March 24–26	Krasnodar, Russia	International Scientific Ecological Conference "Agricultural Landscapes, Their Sustainability and Features of Development" (in Russian only)
May (TBD)	Moscow, Russia	International Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition in Eurasia Featuring IFPRI's 2019 <i>Global Food Policy Report</i> (website is not available yet)
May 5–7	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC 32)
May 26–27	Moscow, Russia	Second Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (website is not available yet)

Date	City. Country	Event
May 28–30	Alanya, Turkey	4th International Conference on Food and Agricultural Economics
June 16–19	Montpellier, France	4th International Conference on Global Food Security
June 24–26	Halle (Saale), Germany	IAMO Forum 2020 Digital Transformation: Towards Sustainable Food Value Chains in Eurasia Note: The deadline for submission of extended abstracts and organized session proposals extended to February 24