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Eurasian Center for Food Security

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Photo credit: Photo: LLC "Agro", Tomsk region, member of the Union of Organic Farming

After the summer break, we are delighted to be back again with our monthly newsletter!

First, we are glad to inform you that our experts are finalizing the report on the production of organic products and regulation of their market in the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union. You can find a brief overview of the report in the newsletter. The report will be presented online on October 13.

Follow the website for updates!

Second, we invite you to contribute to the further development of the Center by completing a survey about our performance.

And, as usual, an updated calendar of events concludes this release.

The Report on the Development of Organic Agriculture in the Eurasian Economic Union Will Be Presented on October 13, 2020

By Roman Romashkin and Sergey Lomanov

The World Bank and the Eurasian Center for Food Security (ECFS) are finalizing the preparation of a report on the production of organic products and the regulation of their market in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). The report focuses on a comparative assessment of the production and markets of organic products in the EAEU countries (Armenia, Belarus,

Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Russia) and investigates the institutional landscape, main constraints, and challenges for the development of organic agriculture in the region. It also identifies promising areas for integrating the interactions of the member states to build the potential for cooperation and to form a common market for organic products.

The report is based on country studies conducted in 2019 by World Bank experts from the EAEU member states. Studies have shown that EAEU countries define terms and basic concepts differently; as a result, the countries' approaches to the development of organic production differ significantly.

Furthermore, the presence of several certification systems is confusing to the consumer, complicates the traceability of organic products, and creates obstacles for their circulation in the internal EAEU market. In order to ensure smooth circulation, increase mutual trade, and develop a common market for organic products, the report recommends that EAEU countries unify national requirements for organic products and their production processes, as well as form equivalent accreditation and certification systems.

Currently, total sales of organic products in the EAEU market are likely to be worth less than €200 million, or 0.2 percent of global sales, and the bulk of organic products are imported rather than produced in EAEU countries. The paradox of the situation is that it is impossible to estimate these volumes with acceptable accuracy, since no statistical accounting of the production and export of organic products in EAEU countries is available. At the same time, the land resources that can be involved in the agricultural sector make it possible to multiply production volumes. In this regard, implementing an adequate system of accounting

and forecasting the volume of production and export of organic products is another important task that can be undertaken within the framework of integrated collaboration of the member states.

As a result of cooperation among EAEU member states, an integrated Eurasian digital platform can unite all stakeholders and provide an innovative eco-environment for the effective functioning of organic agriculture in the Eurasian region. In the absence of integrated collaboration in the medium-term development of the agricultural sector in the EAEU, it is likely that inertia will result, with the consequence of unstable production at rates below the world average.

The report is aimed at a wide audience. Authors believe that it will be useful to all stakeholders of the developing the organic agriculture sector in the EAEU: producers and consumers of organic products, government regulatory bodies, development institutions supporting organic agriculture, supranational institutions of the EAEU, public associations, and thematic media.

The presentation of the report will take place on October 13 at 14:30 Moscow time and will be held online. The presentation will be hosted by the authors of the report as well as experts in the field of organic agriculture. The full text of the report as well as the detailed information and the agenda of the online launch event will be published on [the ECFS website](#) soon.

Invitation to Stakeholders: Take Part in a Survey to Improve ECFS Performance

The World Bank and the ECFS are asking stakeholders and all who are interested in ECFS activities to take a few minutes to [complete our online survey](#). This will help both organizations understand where ECFS can improve performance to boost collaboration and knowledge sharing. The survey is a part of a World Bank regular bi-annual evaluation. It is focused on ECFS and the existing experience of respondents and is undertaken in cooperation with the Center. It also identifies opportunities for further collaboration.

This is the third time the survey has been conducted since 2016. (A big "thank you" to those who completed the survey in previous years!) The answers

will inform recommendations for the further institutional development of ECFS.

Respondents should be as objective as possible in assessing ECFS. This is an anonymous survey, and the World Bank assures complete confidentiality of responses.

The results of the survey will be presented to the stakeholders and the general public during upcoming ECFS events and on the website. **The survey is open until September 29.** If you have any questions, please contact Anna Buyvolova at abuyvolova@worldbank.org.

Event Calendar 2020/21

Date	City, Country	Event
September 16– December 16	ONLINE	Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar hosted by Marc Bellemare and Jeffrey Bloem
September 22	ONLINE	International Scientific and Practical Conference Dedicated to the 200th Anniversary of the Moscow Agricultural Society In Russian only
October 13	ONLINE	Organic Agriculture in the Countries of the Eurasian Economic Community: Current State and Prospects – Report Launch Event (website is not available yet, see updates on ECFS website)
October 7– November 25	ONLINE	Westminster Development Policy Network Virtual Seminars . 8 Sessions; 17:00–18:00 (Tashkent time) Every WEDNESDAY.
October 19–20	Moscow, Russia	International Scientific and Practical Conference "Poverty of the Rural Population of Russia: Genesis, Overcoming Ways, Forecast" (website is not available yet, send questions by email to nikonovskie-chtenia@mail.ru)
November 2–4	ONLINE	FAO Regional Conference for Europe (ERC 32)
November 11–13	ONLINE	4th GLOSOLAN meeting: Global Soil Partnership Event
December 5	Worldwide	World Soil Day (WSD)
December 6–9	Montpellier, France	4th International Conference on Global Food Security Achieving Local and Global Food Security: At What Costs?

Date	City, Country	Event
February 2–4, 2021	Rome, Italy	FAO Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity (GSOBI20)
July 19–24, 2021	Syktyvkar, Russia	VIII Dokuchaev Congress of the Society of Soil Scientists. and the School of Young Scientists on Soil Morphology and Classification (in Russian only).
August 23–27, 2021	Geneva, Switzerland	EUROSOIL 2020
September 13–16, 2021	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	Global Symposium on Salt-Affected Soils: FAO event