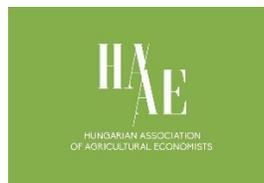




Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem
Corvinus University of Budapest



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“Agricultural sector development and policies in Western Balkans –
challenges and prospective in the light of EU integration”

Budapest, 5 - 6 September 2019

Corvinus University of Budapest

‘New’ Building (1 Czuczor utca, 1093-Budapest)

Background

There is growing consensus that diversified and agriculture-based economic growth addresses the array of multi-dimensional developmental and transitional problems associated with underdevelopment in rural areas. This is particularly the case in the countries where a large share of population still lives in rural areas highly dependent on the agriculture sector, for example, Western Balkan Countries (WBC). EU integration implies more opportunities (eg. in term of access to market and support) but also greater challenges in terms of regulations, competition etc., posing a growing risk for small holdings to stay out of the market.

The organized session will discuss trends and transformation of the agriculture sector with emphasis on common features and differences in the institutional reforms, agricultural policies, value chain and market developments in the WBCs. Coordination/governance structure and end-market driven are crucial in the development of agri-food value chain. Thus obtaining insight into food market developments and consumer preferences is important for improved decision making, especially in the case of transition countries like WBCs, commonly known for rapid social and economic changes. One contribution will address consumer perceptions and preferences in WBCs based on recent consumer studies, addressing also food safety and quality.

On the other hand, the understanding of the governance structure for sustainable value chains. The other contribution focuses on institutional framework, drivers of the behaviour of economic agents in their transactions and public interactions, farmers access to the input and consumer markets. This contribution will analyse the agri-food value chain developments with respect to the existing governance (eg. institutional setting, formal and informal contracting), relations between VC actors and implications in terms of farm performance and access to market focusing on WBCs.

Finally, as WBCs are designing and adjusting constantly its agriculture and rural development policies in the situation of the rapid sectoral, socio-economic, demographic changes as well as in the context of EU integration. It is desirable that agricultural policies are designed based on sound understanding of the long term competitiveness of the agriculture and food sector.

This conference is hosted by the Hungarian Association of Agricultural Economists and Corvinus University. Selected papers will be considered for publications (in form of conference proceedings and/or as special issue of selected international journals).

PROGRAMME

5 September (2nd floor, Room 201)

13.00-14.00 Registration

14.00-14.10 Welcome speeches

Attila Jambor, HAAE President and Department Head (CUB)

Drini Imami, Co-organiser, Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT)

14.10-15.30 Plenary session

Raimund Jehle (FAO REUT): FAO's role and work in Western Balkans

Morten Hartvigsen (FAO REUT): FAO support to smallholders and family farms in Europe and Central Asia

Philip Kostov, Sophia Davidova, Ekrem Gjokaj and Kapllan Halimi (University of Pristina): Can direct payment facilitate agricultural commercialisation: Evidence from Kosovo

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-18.00 Agriculture and rural development policies

Natalija Bogdanov (University of Belgrade): Agriculture policies in WBCs

Iliriana Miftari and Ekrem Gjokaj (University of Pristina): Total factor productivity analysis of agriculture sector in Kosovo

Edvin Zhllima (AUT): Analysis of agriculture and rural development policies in Albania

Vesna Mrdalj, Nataša Tomić, Željko Vaško (University of Banja Luka): Evaluation of CEFTA Trade Agreement Effects on Development of Agriculture and Food Sector in Republic of Srpska

18.00-19.00 Welcome drink and reception

6 September (2nd floor, Room 201)

8.30-10.00 Cooperation possibilities - discussion

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

10.30-12.00 Smallholdings and value chain organisation

Natalija Bogdanov (University of Belgrade): Small and family farms in Serbia

Vlade Zaric (University of Belgrade): The Balkan millennium consumers' attitudes towards fresh fruit and vegetable as challenge for the supply chain

Orjon Xhoxhi (AUT): Agrifood value chain organization in Albania

12.00-13.00 Lunch break

13.00-15.30 Agrifood market and consumer behavior

Rainer Haas (BOKU): Consumer perception of quality and safety standards in the dairy sector – the case of Albania, Kosovo and Serbia

Alban Cela and Ina Pagria (Albanian Institute of Statistics/AUT): Consumer preferences for goatkid in Albania

Alban Cela and Edmira Ozuni (Albanian Institute of Statistics/AUT): Consumer preferences for honey in Albania

Aida Gjika (University of Tirana): Tobacco consumption and fiscal policies in high smoking prevalence transition economies

15.30-16.00 Coffee break

16.00-17.00 Climate change and risk in the agriculture sector

Bitila Zhuli, Edvin Zhllima and Orjon Xhoxhi (AUT): Factors affecting risk perception and demand for insurance among farmers in Albania

Drini Imami (AUT): Climate change implications for agriculture sector in Albania

17.00-17.30 Farewell and closure

Attila Jambor, HAAE President and Department Head (CUB)

Drini Imami, Co-organiser, Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT)