Regional Initiative on Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms for improved Rural Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction (RI-1)

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Some key issues

• In many countries in the region, one side effect of land reform is the agricultural structures with small holding and farm sizes and fragmentation of land parcels;

• After the land reforms of the 1990s, transition countries in the region often have dualistic farm structures characterized by a small number of large-scale corporate farms and a large number of small subsidence and semi-commercial family farms;

• The highly fragmented land ownership hinders the development of competitive agriculture production;

• Adjustments in the agro-rural sector are required at policy and local level:
  • Improve sustainable production technologies;
  • Create better access to value-chains for agro producers;
  • Develop new employment opportunities;
  • Increase the representation of rural people.
Objective of the Regional Initiative

• Excellent opportunity for creation of region-specific strategic approach building on regional priorities and development needs;

• focus on the key problems of rural people

• achieve improved livelihoods

• improve the resilience of rural population focusing on smallholders

• inclusive growth of rural economies based on the sustainable use of natural resources
Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms through the innovative practices for sustainable livestock production,
Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine 30-31 March 2016
EXAMPLES OF WORK UNDER REGIONAL INITIATIVE 1
Streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies of South-Eastern European (SEE) countries for EU accession

Common problem:
• The lack of dialogue between policy makers and academics, as well as the lack of a reliable and well systematized database;
• This generates a critical knowledge gap that hinders EU integration;

Result:
• Closer cooperation and stable relationship between policy makers and academics, and between the SEE countries;
• Book titled *Agricultural Policy and European Integration in South-Eastern Europe.*
More examples of results under the Regional Initiative

• National strategies for agriculture and rural development were supported in Albania, Georgia and Macedonia.

• Regional LANDNET Conference is organized every year to discuss technical issues related to land consolidation.

• Seven awareness raising workshops on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) in RI 1 focus countries in 2015.
FOCUS OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE 1 IN 2016-2017 – EXAMPLES

Empowering Smallholders and Family Farms through the innovative practices for sustainable livestock production, Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine 30-31 March 2016
Capacity Development of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia: Improved Policy Making and Effective Implementation of the Strategy for Agricultural Development

• Improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector through supporting the elaboration of the National Rural Development Strategy and facilitating the inter-ministerial discussion.

• Provide capacity development to the Ministry of Agriculture on specific topics on rural development, monitoring, land consolidation, etc.

• Local Development Strategies are planned to be elaborated in two pilots with participatory approaches and piloting some identified measures.

• Pilot measures were introduced in Racha area for modernization of agricultural holdings through construction and renovation of pig farms and smoking facility for ham production.
Innovative practices for sustainable agriculture production

• Promotion of good agriculture practices, e.g. on integrated pest management in the region.

• In Moldova training programmes on best irrigation practices through Farmer Field School.

• Promotion of sustainable forest management and wood energy utilization in the region.

• Knowledge sharing on innovative practices for sustainable livestock production and on genetic conservation.
Policy dialogue and capacity development to support agrarian reforms

- Economic empowerment of rural women through trainings in Kyrgyzstan.
- In FYR Macedonia support to preparation of national land consolidation programme.
- Support to the national programme for plant genetic resources in Armenia and Moldova.
- Regional policy dialogue for priority transboundary diseases prevention and control.
- Regional policy and technical dialogue for land use and land tenure through LandNet Conference.
Technical Assistance for Land Consolidation in Ukraine

In the Single and comprehensive Strategy and Action Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development in Ukraine for 2015-2020:

• Land Reform (Strategic Priority 2) incl. land market development, land consolidation and land administration.
• Rural Development (Strategic Priority 7) incl. community-led rural development.

Introduction of voluntary land consolidation and design of pilot projects:
  – Review of the draft Law on Land Consolidation and assess the current legal and institutional framework;
  – Conduct feasibility study of the options for land consultation through the participatory involvement of local stakeholders in two potential land consolidation pilots;
  – Capacity development on land consolidation.
Thank you

Contact us
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