



BS/AG/WG/R(2002)1

**REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY**

Istanbul, BSEC Headquarters, 26-27 September 2002

1. The Meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry was held at the BSEC Headquarters, Istanbul, Turkey on 26-27 September 2002.
2. The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Arben MOLLA, Director, Agriculture Programmes Directorate, Projects and Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Albania.
3. The Meeting was attended by the following BSEC Member States:
 - Republic of Albania
 - Republic of Armenia
 - Republic of Azerbaijan
 - Republic of Bulgaria
 - Georgia
 - Hellenic Republic
 - Romania
 - Russian Federation
 - Republic of Turkey
 - Ukraine
4. The representatives of Austria and Poland attended the Meeting as Observers.
5. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) and Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB), who addressed the Meeting and presented the current activities of the Bank in the Agrobusiness area.
6. The Meeting was also attended by the representative of the UN FAO as Guest.

The list of participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex I.

7. The draft agenda of the Meeting was discussed and adopted. The agenda, as adopted, is attached as Annex II.

PRESENTATION OF THE SCHEDULE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT ON “INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING TO FACILITATE INTRA- AND INTER-REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES”

8. In line with the relevant resolution of the Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Kyiv (25 April 2002), the participants of the Meeting held detailed discussion on the implementation of the Project on “Institutional Strengthening to Facilitate Intra- and Inter-Regional Agricultural Trade of the BSEC Member States”.

9. The representative of the UN FAO, Mr. Bernhard d’Avis, Chief of the Policy Assistance Branch of the Regional Office of Europe, who has been nominated by the UN FAO as Backstopping Officer of the Project presented to the participants of the Meeting a precise schedule of the implementation of the Project on “Institutional Strengthening to Facilitate Intra- and Inter-Regional Agricultural Trade of the BSEC Member States”.

10. The UN FAO representative informed the Meeting that the UN FAO will nominate the Project Team Leader in the forthcoming 10 days, who will proceed with Project activities and in line with the schedule of implementation will organize inception missions to the BSEC Member States, participating in the Project.

NOMINATION OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT ON “INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING TO FACILITATE INTRA- AND INTER-REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE OF THE BSEC MEMBER STATES”

11. The Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Albania and the Republic of Turkey informed the Meeting about their respective national coordinators responsible for the implementation of the Project.

12. The Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Bulgaria, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Romania will present decisions on the nomination of their respective national coordinators responsible for the implementation of the Project on “Institutional Strengthening to Facilitate Intra- and Inter-Regional Agricultural Trade of the BSEC Member States” at a later stage, and in line with the schedule of implementation of the Project.

DISCUSSIONS AND FINALIZATION OF THE BSEC REGIONAL STRATEGY AND PROGRAMME FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD SECURITY

13. The representatives of the UN FAO and the BSEC PERMIS presented to the participants of the Meeting the revised version of the Programme for the Agricultural Development and Food Security.

14. The distinguished delegates informed the Meeting about the ongoing activities and programmes dealing with Food Security in their respective countries.

15. They also exchanged views and expressed proposals concerning issues to be discussed with financial institutions with a view to ascertain possibilities of financial support.

16. They noted that the issues related to Food Safety for Trade Facilitation and Consumer Protection and Harmonization thereof within the BSEC region, among others, have also to be addressed in project outlines.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17. No issue was raised under this Agenda Item.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

18. The date and venue of the next Meeting of the Working Group on Agriculture and Agro-Industry will be communicated to the Member States at a later stage.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

19. The Delegations expressed thanks to the Chairman for his able and constructive chairing of the Meeting, the UN FAO Representative for his valuable contribution and to the PERMIS for the organization of the Meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

20. The Working Group adopted the present report for the submission to the Seventh Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.
