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Latvian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union



Ministry of Agriculture
Republic of Latvia



Ltd "Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre"

"Rural and Agricultural Advisory Systems: examples of good governance for sustainable development"

24.03.2015, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

International Hotel Tashkent, 107A, Amir Temur Street, Tashkent, 100084, Uzbekistan

Cooperation with Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) is one of the priorities for the Latvian presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU). In the EU Multiannual Indicative Programme for Central Asia 2014 – 2020, sustainable regional development is highlighted as one of priority areas. Specifically, support for the regulatory framework for market access, enabling a business framework stemming from international practices in the development of a sustainable private sector, and an easy setup and management of small and medium-sized enterprises are earmarked as areas of cooperation.

During its presidency at the Council of the EU, Latvia will further promote its successful bilateral ties with Central Asian countries with the aim of the introduction of its experience in the areas of rural and agricultural advisory systems and boosting of agricultural production. Furthermore, Latvia is one of the founders of the European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services (EUFRAS), an EU-wide network with the headquarters based in Latvia. EUFRAS seeks to improve the advisors' qualification standards as well as supporting advisory services in their efforts to promote innovation and knowledge transfer in rural areas and agriculture.

Advisory systems are set up as a consultation mechanism focused on the improvement of productivity in various sectors of agriculture – crop farming, animal husbandry, forestry etc., as well as the introduction of good governance mechanisms in order to increase productivity of small and medium enterprises. High quality policy planning and fruitful cooperation between public actors and farmers is crucial to ensure sustainability of agriculture.

When setting up its rural and agricultural advisory system, Latvia learned from Denmark – and now both have a countrywide network of experts and consultants providing advice to farmers. For several years, Latvia and its partners in the European Forum for Agricultural and Rural Advisory Services have been active in sharing their best practices with the Central Asian countries. A number of delegations comprised of policy planners, representatives from municipalities and agricultural managers representing EU countries and Central Asian countries have visited EU farms and enterprises.

The conference will build up on the results achieved so far and offer a forum for discussions among policy planners and agriculture managers from various EU member states, EU institutions and representatives from Central Asia.

The main objective of the conference is to share the EU's lessons learned on establishment and governance of agriculture and advisory systems as well as share best practices towards the improvement of agricultural production. More specifically, the event will cover:

- Necessary preconditions for successful development of rural advisory systems: legal and policy framework;
- Setting up of rural advisory systems after the collapse of planned economy;
- Introduction of good governance and management principles in various sectors of agriculture and fisheries;
- Methods for practical guidance and mentoring of small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises (dairy, beef, fruit production, fisheries etc.).

The conference will provide an opportunity to share experience on various advisory and extension systems and to initiate discussions on the organisational structures, sources of funding and best practices in improving the efficiency of various governance models in agriculture focused on improving both agricultural production and management systems. As the **result** of the practical conference:

- practical support and policy advice will be ensured for small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises;
- cooperation will be strengthened between the decision makers and stakeholders involved in rural and agricultural advisory in EU Member states and Central Asian countries.

Participants: representatives from ministries, state agencies, professional organizations representing advisory systems active in agricultural sector in the EU Member States and Central Asian countries, as well as representatives from EU institutions – the European Commission and the EU Delegation.

The main outcome of the conference will be the identification of future possibilities for international cooperation in the development of rural advisory and extension services in Central Asian countries.

Working languages of the conference will be Russian and English (interpretation provided).

The conference will take place on Wednesday, 24 March 2015, in Tashkent, at **International Hotel Tashkent**, 107A, Amir Temur Street, Tashkent, 100084, Uzbekistan
Front Desk: + 998 (71) 120 70 00 • Fax: + 998 (71) 120 64 59 <http://www.ihthotel.com/>

The conference is organized by the Latvian Embassy in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, the European Union Delegation in Tashkent, the Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre, the Latvian Rural Network, the Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia, the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan.

The conference expenses – travel costs and accommodation (in double rooms) – will be covered for a limited number of participants from Central Asian countries.

For registration, please, contact:

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On visa-related matters, please, contact the advisor on consular issues at the Embassy, Ms. Sandra Papiņa sandra.papina@mfa.gov.lv. (+998) 90 349 62 72.

Participants of the conference are invited to participate at the agriculture exhibition "AgroWorld Uzbekistan", 25 – 27 March 2015, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, which takes place at NEC "UzExpoCentre". More information: <http://www.ite-uzbekistan.uz/vis/agro/eng/index.php>.

**“Rural and Agricultural Advisory Systems:
examples of good governance for sustainable development”**

24.03.2015 draft AGENDA

8:30-9:00	Registration. Tea and coffee break	
9:00–9:30	Opening remarks: Mr Jānis Dūklavs , Minister of Agriculture of Latvia. H.E. Edgars Bondars , Ambassador of Latvia to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Representative of the EU Delegation in Uzbekistan (tbc) Representative of Uzbekistan (tbc)	
Rural and agricultural advisory systems in the EU: role, support, transformation		
9:30-9:50 (20 min.)	The role of rural and agricultural advisory services in rural development and promotion of agriculture – the perspective of European Commission.	Mr Aivars Lapiņš , Head of unit Agriculture, Food, Veterinary, Forestry and Fisheries Division, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the European Union. Brussels.
9:30-09:50 (20 min)	Oportunities of Latvia’s cooperation with Central Asian countries.	Mr Mārtiņš Cimermanis , Chairman of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
09:50–10:00 (10 min.)	Discussions (questions and answers)	Moderated by Mr Edgars Linde , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre r
10:00-10:20 (20 min.)	Tea and coffee break	
Prerequisites for successful set up of advisory systems in the market economy		
10:20 – 10:50 (30 min)	The sustainability of advisory services - experience, instruments and approaches.	Mr Torben Huus-Bruuna , Senior Consultant, SEGES, Denmark.
10:50–11:10 (20 min)	The role of state and municipalities in development of advisory services.	Lecturer from Poland , Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Poland
11:10 – 11:30 (20 min)	Development of rural advisory system in Latvia: challenges and lessons learned.	Mr Kaspars Žūriņš , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
11:30 – 11:50 (20 min.)	Shaping of the advisory services based on the needs of the farmers	Mr Rimtautas Petraitis , Deputy director, Lithuanian Agricultural Advisory Service
11:50-12:00 (10 min.)	Discussions (questions and answers)	Moderated by Mr Edgars Linde , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training

		Centre
12:00-13:00 (60 min.)	Lunch	
13:00–13:25 (25 min.)	Agricultural advisory services or knowledge support systems development for agricultural enterprises in Uzbekistan.	Speaker from UZB Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan
13:25–13:35 (10 min.)	Discussions (questions and answers)	Moderated by Mr Edgars Linde , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
13:35–14:00 (25 min.)	Agricultural advisory services or knowledge support systems development for agricultural enterprises in Kazakhstan.	Speaker from Kazakhstan
14:00-14:10 (10min.)	Discussions (questions and answers)	Moderated by Mr Edgars Linde , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
14:10-14:30 (20min.)	Tea and coffee break	
14:30–15:05 (25 min.)	Agricultural advisory services or knowledge support systems development for agricultural enterprises in Turkmenistan	Speaker from Turkmenistan
15:05-15:15 (10min.)	Discussions (questions and answers)	Moderated by Mr Edgars Linde , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
15:15–15:40 (25 min.)	Agricultural advisory services or knowledge support systems development for agricultural enterprises in Tajikistan	Speaker from Tajikistan
15:40-15:50 (10 min.)	Discussions (questions and answers)	Moderated by Mr Edgars Linde , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
15:50–16:15 (25 min.)	Agricultural advisory services or knowledge support systems development for agricultural enterprises in Kyrgyzstan	Speaker from Kyrgyzstan
16:15-16:25 (10min.)	Discussions (questions and answers)	Moderated by Mr Edgars Linde , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
16:25-17:00	Conclusions of a conference	Moderated by Mr Edgars Linde , Member of the Board, Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre
19:00	Dinner, hosted by	

Registration for the Conference:

Registration for conference participants is open till 25th of February, 2015 by sending e-mail with completed registration form to: Uldis.Lielauss@mfa.gov.lv and majja.sirvide@llkc.lv

Registration form

“Rural and Agricultural Advisory Systems: Examples of good governance for sustainable development” 24 March 2015, Tashkent

Name, Surname	
Position	
Organization	
Address (organization)	
Country	
Email:	
Mobile phone (and code):	
Your arrival date, time and place. Flight No.	
Your departure date, time and place. Flight No.	
Any additional information:	

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