

## **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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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): Regional smallholder synthesis report with a focus on Western Balkans*

*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*

*Iiriana 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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)*