**WTO-IMF-CEF Regional Workshop on the Agreement on Agriculture  
for Arab and Middle East Countries  
(in English\*)**

26 to 28 May 2025, Kuwait City, Kuwait

**Trainers**

1. **Marième Fall, Senior Counsellor, WTO**
2. **Javier Ocampo, Economic Affairs Officer, WTO**
3. **Ahmad Mukhtar, Senior Economist, FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa**

**Objective(s), including objective(s) for the regional dimension**

**Objective 1:** Participants should gain a better understanding of the provisions of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA);

**Objective 2:** Participants should gain a better understanding of the work and the role of the Committee on Agriculture, including the relevant transparency requirements and notification obligations;

**Objective 3:** Participants should enhance their understanding of the ongoing negotiations on agriculture as well as of key regional agricultural trade topics.

**Programme**

**26 May 2025**

| **Session** | **Outline** | **Delivered by** |
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| 08:00 - 08:30 | Welcome and registration | Course administrator |
| 08:30 – 08:45 | Administrative briefing | Course administrator |
| 08:45 - 09:15 | Opening session and tour de table | CEF Director  &  Marième Fall |
| 09:15 – 09:45 | Group photo & coffee break |  |
| 09:45 – 10:00 | Self-assessment Quiz |  |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | Introduction to the AoA   * Brief historical perspective, * Legal framework, * Negotiating process | Marième Fall |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | The role of agriculture, trade and development in the Arab and middle East countries | Regional expert |
| *12:00 - 12:15* | *Noon Prayer Break* |  |
| *12:15 – 13:45* | Food Security   * WTO rules * Work Programme pursuant to Paragraph 8 of the Declaration of Ministerial Declaration on the emergency response to food insecurity. * The experience of Arab and middle East countries | Regional Expert |
| *13:45 – 14:15* | Lunch Break |  |
| 14:15 - 15:30 | Market Access   * current rules * Transparency * Negotiations | Javier Ocampo |

**27 May 2025**

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| **Session** | **Outline** | **Delivered by** |
| 08:30 - 10:15 | Domestic support:   * Current rules and negotiations * Classification Exercise | Javier Ocampo |
| *10:15 - 10:30* | *Coffee break* |  |
| 10:15 – 11:30 | Domestic support (Continuation)   * Transparency requirements | Javier Ocampo |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | Public stockholding for food security purposes | Marième Fall |
| *12:00 - 12:15* | *Noon Prayer Break* |  |
| 12:15 - 13:45 | * Export Competition: Export Subsidies * Export Restrictions and Prohibitions * NFDIC Decision | Marième Fall |
| *13:45 - 14:15* | *Lunch Break* |  |
| 14:15 - 15:30 | Trade Negotiations and Regional Interests | Regional expert |

**28 May 2025**

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| **Session** | **Outline** | **Delivered by** |
| 08:30 - 10:15 | Trasparency and the work of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA)   * The review process * Participation of the region in the COA * Members' compliance with transparency obligations | Marième Fall |
| *10:15 - 10:30* | *Coffee break* |  |
| 10:30 - 12:00 | Information tools:   * CoA Website * The Agriculture Information Management System (AG IMS) * Exercise | Javier Ocampo |
| *12:00 - 12:15* | *Noon Prayer Break* |  |
| 12:15 – 13:15 | Country experiences: Accession process and implementation of the Agreement | Selected participants |
| 13:15 – 13:45 | Recap of the Agreement on Agriculture   * exercise | Javier Ocampo |
| *13:45 - 14:15* | *Lunch Break* |  |
| *14:15 – 15:30* | Closing workshop   * Quiz correction   Closing remarks | Marième Fall |

**Recommended reading(s):**

* WTO Agreement on Agriculture, *WTO Agreement Series*

*(*[*https://www.wto.org/english/res\_e/booksp\_e/agric\_agreement\_series\_3\_e.pdf*](https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/agric_agreement_series_3_e.pdf)*)*

* Decision on Measures concerning the possible negative effects of the reform programme on least-developed and net food importing developing countries

*(*[*https://www.wto.org/english/docs\_e/legal\_e/35-dag\_e.htm*](https://www.wto.org/english/docs_e/legal_e/35-dag_e.htm)*)*

* Members' transparency toolkit

*(*[*https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\_e/agric\_e/transparency\_toolkit\_e.htm*](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/transparency_toolkit_e.htm)*)*

* Handbook on notification requirements

*(*[*https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\_e/agric\_e/ag\_notif\_e.pdf*](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/agric_e/ag_notif_e.pdf)*)*

* Agriculture Information management system

*(*[*http://agims.wto.org/*](http://agims.wto.org/)*)*

* Bali Ministerial Decisions on agriculture:
  + General Services - WT/MIN(13)/37
  + Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes - WT/MIN(13)/38
  + Tariff Rate Quota Administration - WT/MIN(13)/39
  + Export Competition - WT/MIN(13)/40
  + Cotton - WT/MIN(13)/41
* General Council Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes – WT/L/939
* Nairobi Ministerial Decisions on agriculture:
  + Special Safeguard Mechanism for developing country Members – WT/MIN(15)/43
  + Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes - WT/MIN(15)/44
  + Export Competition - WT/MIN(15)/45
  + Cotton - WT/MIN(15)/46
* Geneva/Kazakhstan Ministerial Decisions on agriculture:
  + Ministerial Declaration on the Emergency Response to Food Insecurity - WT/MIN(22)/28
  + Ministerial Decision on World Food Programme (WFP) Food Purchases Exemptions from Export Prohibitions or Restrictions - WT/MIN(22)/29

**Teaching methodology:**

Pure lectures

Exercises

Interactive Discussion

Quizzes

Computer hands-on