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**WTO Virtual regional workshop on Agriculture**

**for Arab countries**

***Tentative programme (30.09.2020)***

**WTO Lecturer**

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**Dates:**  **14-16 December 2020**

**Objective:** To enhance the understanding of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, the ongoing WTO agriculture negotiations, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agricultural trade, and ongoing discussions on international trade in the context of preparations for the United Nations World Food Systems Summit of 2021.

**Target audience:** capital-based officials, basic level, that have a substantive interest/responsibility in WTO matters.

**Course Description:**

The WTO Regional Workshop on Agriculture organized by the Agriculture and Commodities Division (AGCD) will offer specialized training to governmental officials involved in different aspects of trade in agriculture. This workshop will be tailored to the specific characteristics and needs of the region, covering inter alia the provisions of the Agreement on Agriculture; the work of the Committee on Agriculture, and the WTO agriculture negotiations. The Workshop will also address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agricultural trade, and ongoing discussions on international trade in the context of the United Nations World Food Systems Summit of 2021.

**Programme: 11-13.30 am Kuwait Time**

* **Session 1 (14 December) – Overview of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, and its Relevance to the Arab Region**

This session will provide participants with an overview of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, its various pillars, and its contribution to a more open, transparent, non-discriminatory and predictable agricultural trading system, and to a more level playing field. The session will focus on the relevance of the Agreement to the Arab region, examining recent commercial disputes that been brought to the WTO under the Agreement.

* **Session 2 (15 December) – Overview of Ongoing Agriculture Negotiations in the WTO, and their Relevance to the Arab Region**

This session will explore the different issues under negotiation in the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session. It will walk participants through the main proposals made by Members under the different pillars of the Agreement, and the overall progress that has been achieved in recent Ministerial Conferences and Decisions.

* **Session 3 (16 December)** 
  + - **The Impact of COVID-19 on Agricultural Trade**

This session will examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on international trade, and the trade policy response taken by WTO Members. It will engage participants in a discussion of the key lessons to be learned from the pandemic.

* + - **Topical Issues in Agriculture and Ongoing Preparations for the United Nations Food Systems Summit of 2021**

This session will examine the role of the Agreement on Agriculture in addressing many of the themes that will be taken up in the United Nations World Food Systems Summit of 2021, which has been called for by the United Nations Secretary General. These include trade and food security, trade and nutrition, trade and sustainable development and more. It will engage participants in a discussion of the contribution that the WTO can make towards these various themes.

**Core Background Material:**

[Additional readings, statistics, and audio-visual material will be shared during the actual course]

* 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)*)*

* 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
* Elements and Processes for a Possible Outcome in Agriculture at MC12, Report by the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session to the Trade Negotiation Committee – JOB/AG/180
* Report by the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session to the Trade Negotiation Committee – JOB/AG/183
* Implications of COVID-19 and Continuity of the COA-SS Negotiations, Assessment by the Chairman, Ambassador John Ronald Dipchandra Ford, JOB/AG/187
* WTO ELearning: Agriculture in the WTO

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