

International Forum on Eurasian Food Security and Nutrition Network and Eurasian Soil Partnership

[International Forum on Eurasian Food Security and Nutrition Network and Eurasian Soil Partnership](#) jointly organized by the Eurasian Center for Food Security (ECFS), the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) successfully concluded on March 2nd, 2016, after two and a half days of highly interesting discussions focused on key aspects of food security: from the development of the effective food systems and markets to climate change and to empowerment of women.

The Forum was organized in an effort to bring together experts and policy-makers working in the Eurasian region to discuss food security and nutrition challenges and to identify major avenues for regional cooperation through the Eurasian Network for Food Security and Nutrition.

The total number of registered participants was over 180 representing countries of the Eurasian Region, and international and regional organizations. Sergey Shoba, the chair of the Forum and the Director of ECFS, opened the Forum noting the benefits of international collaboration of food security experts and policy makers. Dr. Shoba invited the participants to become active members of the Eurasian Network for Food Security and Nutrition. Such Network will be hosted by the Eurasian Center for Food Security and will encompass experts from the countries of the focus region and international organizations. ECFS – institution established by the Russian Government initiative to respond to the Global Food Prices crises of 2008– is aiming to solidify relationships with the partners in the region to expand and strengthen the joint efforts to combat food security and nutrition challenges in the region.



To better

understand how to strengthen cooperation, participants during the Forum discussed in great details current state of food security systems, the role and place of nutrition in such systems, and current global governance and cooperation trends aimed to address food security and nutrition challenges. Shenggen Fan, Director General, IFPRI, and Forum keynote speaker, discussed with the participants about “*Reshaping Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition*” challenging the audience to rethink current

food security risks and trends while explaining how Eurasian region fits in into the current and future global food systems. He concluded by proposing to combine global and regional efforts to drive the comprehensive approach in redesigning modern food systems to have them better address Sustainable (Global) Development Goals (SDGs); respond to various shocks (such as climate change, water stresses, despises) and battle the “triple burden” of food insecurity the World is currently facing.



The Forum concluded with two field trips to the Bishkek region Farms, where the participants were able to observe implementation of new agricultural technologies to the farming practices and to hear directly from the farmers about their experience with and the need for systematic knowledge sharing and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

At the end of the two-and-a-half days event, participants identified pathways for cooperation and collaboration through the Eurasian Network for Food Security and

Nutrition. Working together to improve regional data collection, applying comprehensive knowledge, and set-up strong information systems members of the Network would aim to improve food security and nutrition in the Eurasian region.

According to the final communique, supported by the Forum participants, the FSNN would be based on the following thematic components identified for the purposes of the network's operations efficiency:

- Balanced nutrition;
- Sustainable use of natural resources;
- Social and economic aspects of food security;
- Climate change;
- The role of women and women's empowerment.

Eurasian Centre for Food Security agreed to "further serve as a platform for cooperation and information exchange to progressively develop the Eurasian Network on Food Security and Nutrition".

Finally, the Forum participants agreed that for the benefit of the Network and to strengthen collaboration in the region, the Forum is to be held annually.