

AGRICULTURAL POLICY FORUM

Promoting Sustainable Rural Development through
Agriculture in South Eastern Europe

Kopaonik, Serbia, 14th – 17th October, 2014

MAIN ISSUES

- Discussions on the follow up to the sustainability of the project on streamlining of agriculture and rural development policies of SEE countries for EU accession;
- Debate on trade and trade policy in agricultural goods among the CEFTA countries;
- Discussions on the economic development of SEE rural cross-border areas implementing the Area Based Development (ABD) approach.



HIGHLIGHTS

- The report on "Agricultural Policy and Integration in SEE" be closely studied by all governments in order to explore the opportunities for monitoring of policies and fine-tuning these policies where necessary. It also recommends that means should be found to continue the collaboration between governments and faculties within the framework of SWG, with the help of international experts and support of Rural Development Networks.
- The Forum sees particular urgency in clarifying issues and policies related to small-farming communities, with special attention to those in Less Favored Areas.
- Harmonisation of national procedures, operations and documents with the EU acquis, and other international conventions, standards and practices contributes most effectively to facilitation of regional trade;
- Identification of opportunities to strengthen regional supply chain and improvement of business cooperation by exchange of information and enhanced promotion of traditional and organic production.
- The ABD closely meets the needs of local stakeholders, who in the past four years were empowered to define development needs of their regions in a way that other approaches have not been able to achieve;
- The Forum recommends that the SEE Ministries of Agriculture and local authorities explore the inclusion of the ABD principles in national rural development policies.

