

# Item. 6 Country studies: Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova

Economic Commission for Europe Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Kyrgyzstan: Outline and Initial Findings

June | 2023



# UNECE Study on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade (RPBT)



## Project proposal Supporting agricultural exports of Kyrgyzstan

At the UNECE meeting of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards on 28 June 2022, the delegation of Kyrgyzstan requested capacity-building support for enhancing this country's agricultural export potential.\* The request was then reiterated at the meeting of UNECE's ExCom on 30 September 2022. In response to the request, UNECE has designed this project proposal for consideration by the Government.

This proposal outlines the rationale for and envisaged outcomes of the proposed project. This document provides:

- Provides a brief overview of the recent trends related to agricultural exports from Kyrgyzstan;
- Elaborates on a proposed multi-level approach under this project for enhancing the export competitiveness of agriculture producers;
- Proposes the roadmap under the project;
- Discusses the synergies with other UNECE work streams.

\*This request was discussed during the Minister of Economy and Commerce Daniyar Arangeldiyev meeting with UNECE Executive Secretary Diga Algayeva on 15 June 2022.



- Reflects the request of Kyrgyzstan at the 2022 SCTCS.
- Initial document available in 2023 SCTCS documents [here](#).
- Full-fledged Study to be ready by the end of 2023.
- Capacity-building seminar planned for September 2023.
- Builds on the earlier capacity-building activities of ECE, including RPBT Study of 2015 and National Trade Facilitation Roadmap of the Kyrgyz Republic 2021–2025

# Three-pillar approach



Current and potential  
export markets

- Detailed trade profile for each product with an overview of global exports and imports, trends and demand forecasts



Business Process Analysis

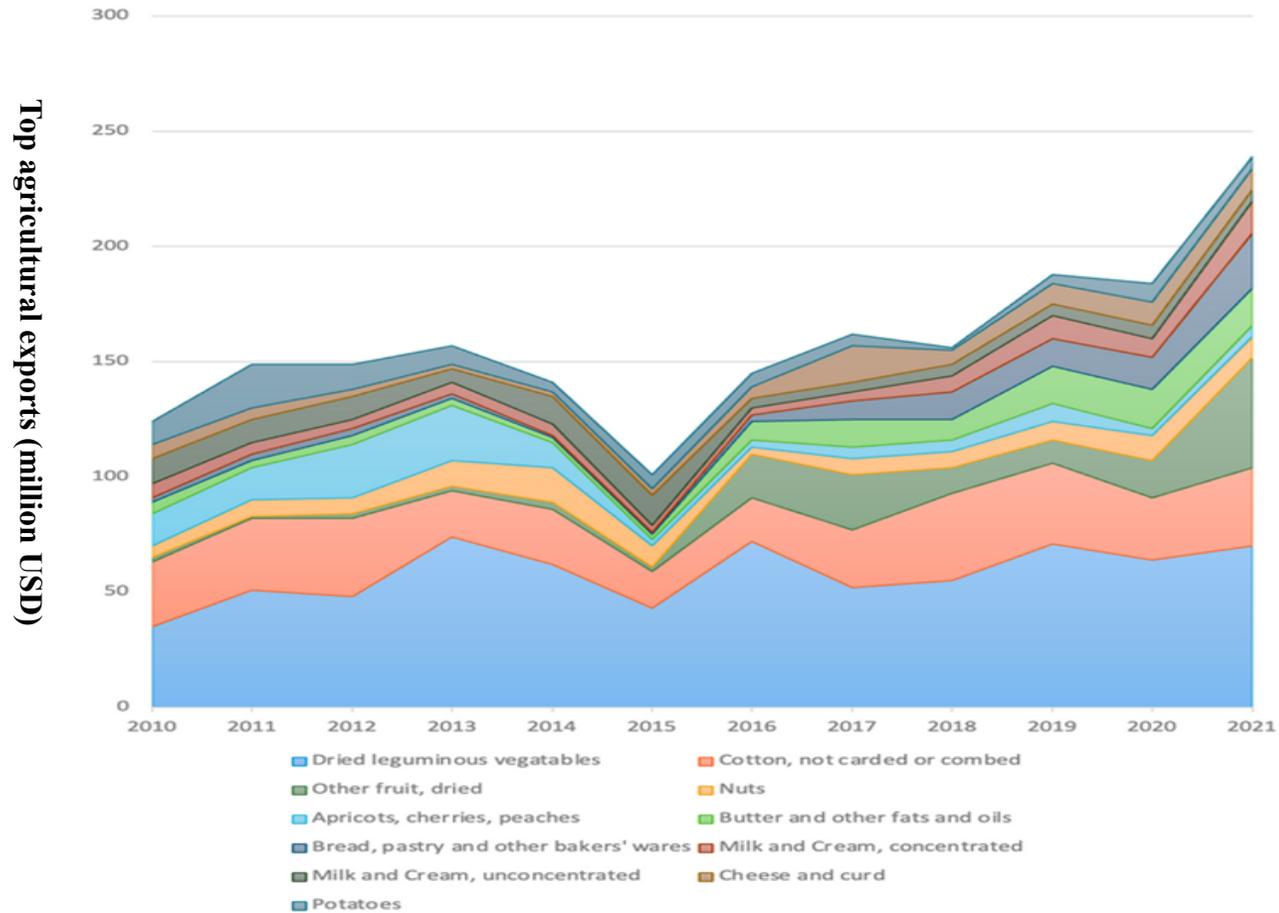
- BPA outlines the export steps, requirements and regulations in relation to selected products and identify the bottlenecks and time-consuming procedures.



Quality assessment

- Assessment of compliance with international quality standards, which is among key obstacles to expanding exports. ECE will assess the quality infrastructure of the country and the efficiency of processes.

# Importance of agricultural sector in Kyrgyzstan



Source: ECE, based on ITC Trade Map Statistics

# Snapshot to main trends: exporting dried fruits, beans and bottled water\*



- In recent years, there has been a strong trend towards increased consumption of so-called naturally produced food.
- Steadily growing consumer demand (especially in the EU) for dried fruits, nuts and edible nut-fruit blends.
- The study shows a steady upward trend in exports of dried fruits from Kyrgyzstan to its export destinations. Kyrgyz manufacturers/exporters have opportunities to increase exports of dried fruits, beans and bottled water.
- Compliance with global quality standards for bottled water is critical.

\*Some information presented at this and the following slides indicate novel findings which were developed by the secretariat over the recent weeks and were not mentioned in the initial document of the Secretariat.

# Identified barriers: snapshot to the preliminary findings (1)

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## ***PROCEDURAL BARRIERS***

Lack of information from government agencies about procedures, documentary and administrative requirements

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The need for traders' representatives to personally visit government agencies to affix stamps on trade documents

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Slow reorganization of business processes in institutions participating in the "single window" system and limited capacity

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System of electronic documents and electronic signatures still under development

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The existing risk management system is not fully consolidated

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Limited interagency coordination at the border and between Kyrgyzstan and its immediate neighbors

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# Identified barriers: snapshot to the preliminary findings (2)

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## ***REGULATORY BARRIERS***

Limited knowledge and skills in the field of technical regulations and standards at the national level

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Low institutional capacity for quality control and assurance; gaps in legislation

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Underdeveloped system of food and phytosanitary testing laboratories

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Lack of market surveillance strategy

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## ***OTHER NON- TARIFF BARRIERS***

Limited dialogue and consultation between the public and private sector

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Lack of regional insurance guarantee system for cargo in transit

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Poor variety and quality of railway transportation services

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# Initial horizontal recommendations



Further implementation of the national trade facilitation road map of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2025 developed with the UNECE support



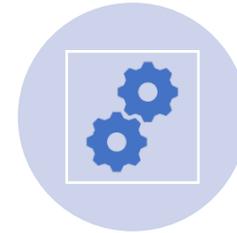
Improving the understanding and application of quality management and certification



Improve understanding of the standards used in international trade, such as CODEX ALIMENTARIUS, UNECE standards, ISO standards, FSSC, GLOBAL GAP, HACCP,



Establishment and application of mechanisms that facilitate removal of technical barriers to trade and foster mutual recognition of conformity assessment results



Further implementation of UN/CEFACT recommendation 33 to improve the “Single Window” mechanism