

Food security and food sovereignty in the East-European- and the Western-Balkan-Countries

János Vas; Language of workshop: English

➤ The East-European and the Western-Balkan-Countries are part of the European Union or they are in a waiting position for accession to the European Union (the countries meant here are the following 13: SK, HU, RO, BG, MD, SLO, HR, BiH, SR, KS, MN, MC, AL).

In the Single Market of the European Union agriculture is the sector which is most regulated.

One of the pronunciations of the food security and food sovereignty feature in these countries is the enormous part (sometimes maybe 70-80 % of the food needs of the total population) of the direct household consumption of the produced agricultural products, the informal marketing, and the direct marketing to the consumers, which often forms the basis for the food security and food sovereignty. The market economy and the industrial processing of the produced agricultural products are often weak. There is a tension between the desire to establish an efficient market economy à la European Union with enormous inputs for production, processing and distribution of agricultural goods as a goal set by the European Agricultural Policy.

At the same time, on the other side of the coin the homely simple production of agricultural products in the so defined "agricultural, rural households" secure the survival of millions of inhabitants in these countries, which are under pressure of the globalisation and the market orientation required by the European Union. A great part of the inhabitants are not able to keep up the pace of the economic transformation, yet. Plenty of people earn minimal in these countries and have not abundant income; through the home, rural household-production they contribute with a huge percentage to the food sovereignty of the total country population.

During the accession process and behind, the countries experience increased imports of inputs and processed agricultural products, these countries will be more import dependant.

➤ *The overall objective of the workshop*

is the questioning of the food security and food sovereignty at present, during and behind the market oriented economic transformation and to gather information on the development of food security and food sovereignty, its present state and the assumed development in the next decades,

➤ *The specific objectives of the workshop are to determine the:*

Structure of agricultural production, the role of macro-scaled and micro-scaled agricultural production units, developments in the past and present, assumptions for the future during the process of the EU-alignment and further,

The level and resilience of food security and sovereignty of inputs, energy, seed, fertilizer, pesticide currently and in the future,

Development of the agricultural production towards market oriented economic transformation, the role of the market oriented economic transformation, benefits and costs of the transformation of agricultural production towards market orientation, Development of the food-processing industry, agricultural-mechanic-industry, storage facilities, packaging-industry, road-net, transportation equipment, rendering farms, dissemination of the fresh and processed agricultural goods to the consumers,

Development of the marketing channels for food, Competitive advantage/disadvantage of the local agricultural production in comparison with the import pressure on the own market,

Competitive advantage/disadvantage of the local agricultural production in comparison with the export possibilities of other Member-States countries on the EU-common internal market,

Consequences for the urban and rural population in the different socio-economic-sequences from the increased agricultural-industry production and from the enhancing of the quantity of the imported inputs and food-stuffs, SWOT and PESTEL-analysis.

➤ Each topic will be shortly introduced, possibly with a presentation and based on theory or evidence. Each introduction will be followed by a moderated group discussion with contributions from representatives of the participating countries.

➤ The main questions to be discussed in respect of the topics mentioned above will be the:

discrepancy between actual and desired developments,

progress or lack of progress toward EU-standards and their causes,

possibilities, evidence and best practice of how to meet local needs and pursue local objectives within the framework of EU and other donor organisations guidelines.