Bilateral Screening

Overview of Serbia’s Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy
- General principles, strategy and future plans -
CONTENT

• Country profile
• Facts on Serbia’s Agrifood sector
• Trade of agricultural and food products
• Negotiation process
• Institutional framework
• Policy and legislation
• Capacity building
• International agreements and organisations
• Future plans
• Conclusion
COUNTRY PROFILE
Number of habitants: 7,2 mill.
Territory: 77,592 km²
Capital: Belgrade (1,7 mill. habitants)
Population density: 91,9 hab./km²
Population average age: 42,2 years

Source: SORS, Population Census 2011
FACTS ON SERBIA’S AGRIFOOD SECTOR
AGRICULTURE IN SERBIA AT GLANCE*

- GDP (current prices): 29,6 bill. EUR
- GDP per capita (current prices): 4.112 EUR
- GVA of agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing sector in total GVA: 9,7%
- Employment in agriculture: 21% in total
- Number of agricultural holdings: 631,552 (29,2% up to 1 ha)
- Family holdings: 99,5% in total
- Holders of family holdings: 17% are women
- Number of agricultural holdings in the Farm Register: 309,627**
- Rural population (population in non-town settlements): 40,6%

*Data refer to 2012 (Source: SORS)  **Data refer to 31st March 2014 (Source: MAEP)
Most of the agricultural production is achieved in plant production.

*Data refer to 2012 (Source: SORS)*
FARM STRUCTURE

- Average farm size (average UAA per holding) is 5.4 ha which is 2.7 times less than the EU average.
- In the livestock sector, small scale producers are prevailing.

Farms with 2-10 ha have a higher share in total number of farms (43%) and share in the UAA (35.3%) comparing with the EU average and the countries in the region.

Source: SORS, Census of Agriculture 2012
## FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of establishment</th>
<th>No of ESTs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food of animal origin</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food of non animal origin</td>
<td>5098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novel food, additives, enzymes, infant formula</td>
<td>7724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed</td>
<td>645</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRADE OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PRODUCTS
Serbian agricultural trade is based on primary products
Serbia’s main trading partner is the European Union (50% of trade).

Positive trade balance is with EU and CEFTA countries and negative with other countries.

Source: SORS
PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO THE MAIN MARKETS

**CEFTA**
*Central European Free Trade Agreement*

**EFTA**
*European Free Trade Agreement*

**European Union**
*Stabilization and Assessment Agreement (SAA)*

**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA**

**USA**
*General System of Preferences*

**Belorussia, Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan**
*Free Trade Agreement (FTA)*
NEGOTIATING PROCESS
SERBIAN NEGOTIATION STRUCTURE

RS GOVERNMENT

COORDINATION BODY

NEGOTIATING TEAM

NEGOTIATING GROUP 12

MAEP

MH

Relevant state institutions

Relevant scientific and research institutions

Civil society

Producers and producers’ associations
NEGOTIATING GROUP 12

The MAEP, as responsible body for negotiation regarding food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy, has established 9 subgroups within Negotiating Group 12:

1. Subgroup for food safety rules and veterinary medical products/residues
2. Subgroup for internal trade
3. Subgroup for external trade
4. Subgroup for animal health
5. Subgroup for animal welfare and zootechnics
6. Subgroup for plant health - plant protection products
7. Subgroup for plant health – harmful organisms
8. Subgroup for seed, propagating material and variety registration
9. Subgroup for plant breeders rights and genetically modified organisms

EU Unit – MAEP
HISTORY OF VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MATTERS
HISTORY OF VETERINARY MATTERS

- 1839 – Sanitary Departement (medicine and veterinary service) within Ministry of internal affairs
- 1879 – Department for field economy and veterinary matters establishing the “CVO” position
- 1881 – First law on veterinary matters
- 1938 – Rulebook on examination of animals intended for slaughter and veterinary control of foodstuffs
- 1955 – Rulebook on disposal of cadavers
- 1981 – Law on protection against cattle diseases
- 1989 – Rulebooks on veterinary sanitary condition for food establishment, Rulebook on veterinary sanitary controls... – Rulebooks on eradication of anima diseases (brucellosis, TBC)
HISTORY OF PHYTOSANITARY MATTERS

- 1869 – founded the first Serbian Field Society (Agriculture Society) and journal
- 1883 – Law on protective measures against *Phylloxera*
- 1884 – Serbia signed Bern Convention
- 1898 – Law on eradication of harmful animals and plants
- 1899 – Creation of Agricultural chemical and control stations
- 1919 – Creation of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry in Belgrade
- 1921 – Law on control deseases and pests of cultivated plants and Law on control of seed of cultivated plants
- 1929 – Serbia signed ICPP
- 1951 – Yugoslavia signed act on establishment of EPPO
- 1953 – Federal Directorate for Plant Protection
- 1953 – Open the first agriculture pharmacy
- 1959 – established Department for Plant Protection on Agriculture Faculty
INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP):

- Veterinary Directorate (VD)
- Plant Protection Directorate (PPD)
- Sector for Agricultural Inspection (SAI), and
- Directorate for National Reference Laboratories

Ministry of Health (MH):

- Sector for inspection affairs
COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- **Veterinary Directorate (372)**
  - Animal Health, Welfare, I& R of animals
  - Veterinary Public Health
  - International Trade and Certification
  - Veterinary Services
  - Border Veterinary Inspection
  - Veterinary Inspection

- **Plant Protection Directorate (152)**
  - Plant Health and Plant Quarantine
  - PPP's and PNP's
  - Plant Variety Registration
  - Seed and Planting Material
  - Plant Variety Rights and Biological Safety
  - Border Phytosanitary inspection
  - Phytosanitary inspection

- **Sector for Agricultural Inspection (97)**
  - Safety of food of plant origin and composite food
  - Vine, Spirit and other alcoholic beverages
  - Agriculture land
  - Subsidies in agriculture, husbandry and organic production

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- **Sector for Inspection Affairs**
  - Sanitary Inspection (215)
  - Health Inspection
  - Drugs and Precursors
  - Medicines and non-medicinal products

- **Secretariat for Health, Social Policy and Demography Province of Vojvodina**
  - Sanitary Surveillance and Public Health Sector (57)
COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Veterinary Directorate
- Food of Animal Origin
- Feed
- Animal Health & Welfare
- Use of VMPs
- Composite Food Products

Plant Protection Directorate
- Plant, plant prod., reg. object
- Seed and planting material
- Plant primary products
- Composite food - import
- Feed of plant origin - import

Sector for Agricultural Inspection
- Food of plant origin
- Composite food - export
- Wines
- Spirit
- Land
- Subsidies

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Sector for Inspection Affairs
- Infant formula, Dietetic products
- Novel food
- Salt
- Additives
- Aromas
- Enzimes
- Water
- Food contact material

VENERAL INSTITUTIONS

Secretariat for Health, Social Policy and Demography Province of Vojvodina
- Veterinary Institutes
- Laboratories
- Faculties
- Veterinary Practice
- Laboratories
- Faculties of Agriculture
- Agriculture Institutes
- Laboratories
- Agricultural Services
- Public Health Institutes
- Laboratories
- Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy
LABORATORIES

Legal basis:
• Laws which regulate food safety, veterinary, sanitary&health and phytosanitary areas

❖ Directorate for National Reference Laboratories – not yet operational
❖ Official laboratories are selected through competition procedure or authorised by the Ministries
❖ Reference and official laboratories must be accredited by the Accreditation Board of Serbia (ATS) according to the Standard EN ISO/IEC 17025 (SRPS)
❖ 45 official laboratories for food safety and quality have been designated in 2009

State of play:
• **MAEP/VD**: Labs for animal health, food&feed safety&quality - all 17025
• **MAEP/SAI**: Labs for food quality&safety – all 17025
• **MAEP/PPD**: Labs for plant health – partly 17025; seed quality; GMO; food&feed safety and quality - all 17025
• **MH/SPHSI**: Labs for food quality&safety – all 17025
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Negotiating Group 12 - Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary Policy

GOVERNMENT

ACREDITATION BOARD
OF SERBIA

MAEP

NRL for phytosanitary
(To be established)

- Designated phyto labs
- Designated seed labs
- Designated GMO labs

NRLs for animal health:
Veterinary scientific institutes

- Designated labs for official testing:
  food of plant origin (safety and quality)
  (45, 2009)

NRL for milk testing (to be established)

- Designated veterinary laboratories for official testing:
  food testing & animal health (veterinary specialist institutes)

NRL for residues of VMPs,
pesticides and other contaminants in food and food microbiology

- Authorized laboratories for official testing of food (Public Health Institutes)
POLICY AND LEGISLATION
STRATEGY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT 2014-2024

Adopted in July 2014 with following main objectives:

1. Growth of production and income stability;

2. Growth of competitiveness with adjustments to domestic and foreign markets requirements and technical-technological promotion of the sector;

3. Sustainable management of resources and environment protection;

4. Promotion of quality of life in rural areas and poverty reduction;

5. Efficient management of public policies and promotion of institutional frame for development of agriculture and rural development.

❖ One of the priority areas for intervention is
- Permanent improvement of food safety and food quality
LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Law on Food Safety (OG RS No 41/2009)
- Law on Veterinary Matters (OG RS No 91/05, 30/10, 93/12)
- Animal Welfare Law (OG RS No 41/09)
- Law on medicines and medical devices (OG RS No 30/10, 107/12)
- Law on Plant Health (OG RS No 41/09)
- Law on Plant Protection Products (OG RS No 41/09)
- Law on Genetically Modified Organisms (OG RS No 41/09)
- Law on Seed (OG RS No 45/05)
- Law on Plant Varieties Registration (OG RS Non30/10)
- Law on Protection of Plant Breeders Rights (OG RS No 41/09 and 88/11)
- Law on Planting Material of Fruit Trees, Vine and Hops (OG RS No 18/05),
- Law on Forest Reproductive Material (OG RS No 135/04, 8/05 and 41/09)
- Law on Forestry (OG RS No 30/10)
- Law on Sanitary Surveillance (OG RS No 125/04)
- Law on Health Surveillance of Food and Items of General Use (OG RS No 48/94)

Laws are implemented though secondary legislation: 
*decrees, decisions, rulebooks, ordinance, instructions*
CAPACITY BUILDING
EDUCATION

State Universities
- Faculty of Medicine: Belgrade (2), Novi Sad, Kragujevac, Niš
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine: Belgrade, Novi Sad
- Faculty of Technology, Novi Sad
- Faculty of Pharmacy: Belgrade, Novi Sad
- Faculty of Agriculture: Belgrade, Novi Sad
- Faculty of Agronomy: Čačak, Lešak

Private Universities
- Faculty of organic farming: Sremska Kamenica, Bačka Topola

Institutes in public health, veterinary, agriculture and plant protection areas

Medical and agricultural high schools

Medical, veterinary and agricultural secondary schools
EXTERNAL SUPPORT

In the MAEP and MH there are three main sources of donor assistance for agricultural programs and projects:

1. **EU through IPA funds** (from IPA 2007 project cycle, Twinning, TAs,...) and TAIEX

2. **Bilateral Assistance** – EU countries through their developing agencies (Germany, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Italy, France, Hungary, Slovakia etc.) and other countries (USA, Japan, Norway, Switzerland)

3. **International organizations**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>EU MS</th>
<th>TIME FRAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Capacity Building within the Veterinary Directorate</td>
<td>Germany/Austria/Slovakia</td>
<td>2007 – 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional capacity building within the Phytosanitary Directorate</td>
<td>Italy, Slovenia</td>
<td>2007 – 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional capacity building of the food-chain laboratories administration</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>2007 – 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmonisation of national legislation with EU legislation for placing on the market and control of Plant Protection Products and implementation of new legal provisions</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>2010 – 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building within the National Referent Laboratory</td>
<td>Denmark/Netherlands</td>
<td>2011-2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building capacity in the areas of food safety and animal welfare</td>
<td>Lithuania &amp; Hungary</td>
<td>2012 – 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of sustainable use of plant protection products and establishing systems for regular technical inspection of pesticide application equipment</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2013 – 2015 on going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building for Upgrading of Food establishments and Animal By-Product management</td>
<td>Netherlands/Denmark/Latvia</td>
<td>2014 – 2016 on going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control/Eradication of Classical Swine Fever and Rabies in the RS</td>
<td>Technical assistance - MS experts</td>
<td>2010-2013, 2014 - on going</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRAINING

TRAINING AREAS:

- EU legislation
- Food and feed safety: Risk Assessment; HACCP; RASFF; Microbiological criteria; Food born diseases; Traceability; Labelling; Contaminants; Food contact material; Quality and safety of waters,...
- SPS and TBT agreement
- Animal Health
- Animal by-products
- Animal Welfare
- Plant Health
- Pesticides
- GMO
- Plant Breeders Rights
- Seed and Planting Materials
- Variety Registration

- EFSA
- IPA
- BTSF
- TAIEX
- CPVO
- UPOV
- Aid Agencies of MS Countries
- Institutions of MS Countries
- Codex Alimentarius
- FAO
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- USDA
- JICA
- MASHAV
- etc.
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

- Serbia has signed numerous international agreements with third countries in the area of Food safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary issues.

- In due time before accession to the EU, Serbia will cancel all international agreements not compliant with the EU trade regime. By the day of accession, Serbia will adhere to and implement international agreements concluded by the EU.

- In the process of accession to WTO, Serbia has harmonised legal acts related to SPS measures with SPS Agreement.
MEMBERSHIP
IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- **OIE** – *World Organisation for Animal Health*
- Codex Alimentarius
- **IPPC** – *International Plant Protection Convention*
- **UPOV** – *International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants*
- **EPPO** – *European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation*
- **FAO** – *Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN*
- **WHO** – *World Health Organisation*
- etc.
FUTURE STEPS
FUTURE STEPS

Strategy for full harmonisation (legal alignment, implementation and enforcement) with the EU acquis

• Overcoming the main challenges: process of upgrading food establishments, ABP management; improvement of raw milk quality
• Increasing awareness and developing assistance for stakeholders
• Capacity building within MAEP and MH
• Elaboration of multiannual control plans for whole food chain
• Ensuring the full functioning of the NRL
• Development of integrated IT systems
CONCLUSION

☑ Serbia shares the objective and principles of the EU food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy.

☑ Serbian legislation and its implementation are still not fully compliant to the EU acquis, but will be further aligned.

☑ On the day of accession Serbia will adopt, implement and fully enforce the EU acquis for Chapter 12 with all rights and obligations that it brings, with the exception of transitional measures and/or derogations which will be subject to the negotiations.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION