



PRESS RELEASE
ON THE PROJECT LAUNCH WORKSHOP OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION
CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS (BSEC CSFS)
(8 December 2020)

BSEC Regional Cooperation Center for Sustainable Food Systems project was launched with a virtual workshop.

In conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations and the Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, a Virtual Project Launch Workshop was held today to mark the establishment of the BSEC Regional Cooperation Centre for Sustainable Food Systems.

The new body, the BSEC CSFS, which became operational on the 1st of August 2020, aims to create greater awareness among BSEC Member States on sustainable food systems and to improve mutual collaboration and cooperation in order to generate increased food security and healthier nutrition in the Black Sea region.

The workshop heard from Sumiter Broca, FAO Senior Policy Officer and the Project Lead, on what it hoped to achieve. "By 2023 BSEC Member States will have enhanced capacity to analyse and monitor food sustainability and implement projects to make food systems more sustainable", he said. "We will also be able to strengthen regional cooperation in this sector". Referring to next year's UN Global Food Systems Summit, he said "Many of the world's food systems are fragile and vulnerable to collapse. The Summit will offer solutions to how everyone needs to take action to transform the world's food systems." He said it would be important that the new BSEC initiative made a contribution to the Summit in September 2021.

BSEC's Regional Programme Coordinator, Sule Ozge Imamoglu, presented an overview to the workshop of how the Regional Cooperation Centre would work and what its immediate priorities would be.

In her opening remarks, the First Deputy Secretary General of BSEC Permisi, Ambassador Ebru Barutcu Gokdenizler, said "the vast agricultural potential of the Black Sea region and the fact that trade in agricultural products is an important source of revenue for many BSEC countries, places the topic of agriculture as one of the main fields of cooperation within the framework of the BSEC". She concluded by saying "At BSEC Permisi we are ready and eager to contribute to the effective implementation of the BSEC CSFS project with a view to enhancing regional cooperation for food security and safety and institutional capacities to that end".