Today we announce a new ECFS publication that presents suggested priorities for analytical studies that can be used in the development of measures to improve food and nutrition security in the Eurasian region.

This issue also includes a brief overview of the International Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition in Eurasia held on May 26 2017, in Moscow; as well as a look at scientific international cooperation through Anton Strokov's experience with ECFS and IFPRI.

The report *Suggested Priorities for Policy Research to Improve Food Security and Nutrition in Eurasia* is now available

Solid evidence is critically important for policy making. A new Eurasian Center for Food Security (ECFS) report by Per Pinstrup-Andersen identifies knowledge gaps for which additional evidence is needed to assist policy making to improve food security and nutrition in the Eurasian countries. The report *Suggested Priorities for Policy Research to Improve Food Security and Nutrition in Eurasia* is available on the ECFS website.
The International Conference on Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition in Eurasia Featuring IFPRI’s 2017 Global Food Policy Report: An Overview

On May 26, 2017, the International Conference on Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition in Eurasia featuring IFPRI’s 2017 Global Food Policy Report took place at the Department of Economics of Moscow State University named after M.V. Lomonosov. About 100 people from Russia and other countries of the Eurasian region, representing more than 50 organizations, participated in the event. Among them were Erkinbek Choduyev, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food Industry and Land Improvement of the Kyrgyz Republic; Kamolidin Kurbonov, Head of the International Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of Tajikistan; and Rahim Oshakbayev, Director of the Center for Applied Research of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, and organizations and diplomatic representations from different countries, among other participants.

The event was made possible thanks to the support of the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation for food security programs implemented by the World Bank, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and the Eurasian Center for Food Security (ECFS).

Holding such an event within the walls of Moscow University has become a good tradition. Last year, the presentation of the 2016 Global Nutrition Report was also held at the university’s Department of Economics.

The key conference speakers included Sergei Shoba, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director of the Eurasian Center for Food Security (ECFS); Andras Horvai, Director and Permanent Representative of the World Bank in the Russian Federation; Shengen Fan, Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); Vasily Uzun, Doctor of Economics, Professor of the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA); and Evgenia Serova, Doctor of Economics, Head of the Moscow office of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

After the greetings of Sergei Shoba and Andras Horvai, Schengen Fan presented the 2017 Global Food Policy Report. This annual survey, which has been published by IFPRI since 2011, is the key international publication on the topic. In his presentation, Schengen Fan outlined the main findings and conclusions that are relevant for the Commonwealth of Independent States countries. Evgenia Serova and Vasily Yakimovich Uzun took part in the discussion. For a summary of the report and the chapter on Central Asian countries, please follow links.

One of the main tasks of the conference was to discuss priorities for policy research on food security in the Eurasian region, proposed by Per Pinstrup-Andersen. The issues raised in the 2017 Global Food Policy Report correspond to priority research areas such as changing dietary intake, agrarian transformation, strengthening ties between urban and rural areas, and determining market links and household behavior.
Scientific International Cooperation between the Eurasian Center for Food Security (ECFS) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

By Anton Strokov

From April 17 to May 12, 2017, as Head of the Economics Department of the Agrarian Center of the Moscow State University, I visited the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, DC, USA.

This was a business trip that involved the following three main activities:

I. Preparation for the International Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition in the Eurasian Region, which included the presentation of the 2017 Global Food Policy Report, and which was held in Moscow on May 26, 2017.

II. Continuation of the joint work on food security in Central Asia with ECFS and IFPRI.

III. Training in applied economic and agricultural models.

Let us examine in more detail each of the above points.

I. The conference was successfully held on May 26, 2017. For more details about the results please refer to the article on the conference in this newsletter.

II. The work on food security in Central Asian countries falls into two categories: (1) assessment of the impact of climate change on agriculture, and (2) economic evaluation of integration processes in the countries of Central Asia, including those in the Eurasian Economic Union.

During the trip, work was done to prepare databases for the development of a mathematical model of the impact of climate change on agriculture. The database is built for the countries of Central Asia and the South Caucasus for 1983–2015 and includes the following indicators: average annual temperature, average annual rainfall, agricultural land area, value of agricultural products, agricultural price index, tractors in agriculture, number of tractors per unit of cultivated area, employment in agriculture, and so on. The main problem confronted in building the database is the lack of data for individual regions, especially for the period 1983–1991.

Among the scientific problems that must be addressed are the need to build a special deflator to translate the prices of the Soviet period (1983–1991) into current prices, and building a mathematical model that takes into account not only the climatic factors of the studied region, but also the economic ones. The latter is especially important, since in many countries agricultural

At the conference, the results of individual scientific studies conducted in countries of the Eurasian region were presented. Especially informative were the speeches of the representatives of the Eurasian countries, which enabled all interested persons to get acquainted with the problems of different regions. Click here for presentations by speakers.

The next ECFS event that plans to gather participants interested in the problems of food security in Eurasia is the Annual Conference on Food Security in the Eurasian Region, which will be held in Dushanbe on October 3–5, 2017.
production decreased in 1991–2000 as a result of the challenging period of economies’ adaptation to a market relations economy after nearly 70 years of a command-administrative economy.

III. Training in applied economic and agricultural models began with the IMPACT model. This is a model that shows how, under different climate scenarios, the location and production of agricultural products will change. With the help of this model, calculations were made to support change in the various irrigation systems in Russia and the countries of Central Asia. A collective monograph on modeling and analyzing climate change in the countries of the Eurasian region and the possibilities for their adaptation is being prepared with colleagues from IFPRI and the countries of the focal region.

The DSSAT model was also part of the training. This is an agricultural model that shows how the yields of different crops vary, depending on the following factors: solar energy, water, fertilizers, organic matter in the soil, rainfall, and average daily temperatures. There are plans to work on an article using this method for one of the countries (or areas) in the focus region in the future.

### Event Calendar 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>City, Country</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 21–23</td>
<td>Halle (Saale), Germany</td>
<td>IAMO Forum 2017: <a href="#">Eurasian Food Economy between Globalization and Geopolitics</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 21–25</td>
<td>Can Tho, Vietnam</td>
<td>APEC Food Security Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3–5</td>
<td>Dushanbe, Tajikistan</td>
<td><a href="#">Annual Eurasian Food Security Conference</a></td>
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<td>&gt;&gt;&gt; Express your interest in participating in this conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 12–13</td>
<td>Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>Annual ‘Life in Kyrgyzstan’ Conference 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 12–15</td>
<td>Hannover, Germany</td>
<td>G20 Agricultural Chief Scientists Meeting (MACS)</td>
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