

Agricultural Knowledge Systems in post-Soviet Societies

by Dr. Anastasiya Shtaltovna (Visiting Researcher at
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This presentation addresses the crucial role of knowledge and innovation in coping with and adapting to socio-economic and political transformation in places facing dramatic political and economic changes, such as post-Soviet countries. Following the end of the Soviet Union, the knowledge available to farmers has included traces and fragments from centralized socialist agricultural and from the former educational system of universities, research institutes and academies of science. Foreign technical advice, mainly introduced by development agencies, was the other main source of agricultural knowledge. Foreign experts were a relatively new actor in knowledge dissemination, but they were nevertheless very important in the transition to capitalist international agriculture. This presentation discusses the livelihoods and adaptation strategies of the newly emerged private farmers coming out of major structural shifts in their sector. Some of these shifts include the disruption of traditional farming systems, loss of traditional sources of knowledge, limited access to bank loans and any kind of governmental support, and absence of marketing capacity under the new aggressive capitalist framework.

We welcome interested students and teaching staff.



Dr. Anastasiya Shtaltovna is a Visiting Researcher at Graduate School of Agriculture in Kyoto University and research collaborator at Centre for International Studies (CÉRIUM), University of Montreal. For the past 13 years she has been working in the field of rural development focusing on post-Soviet countries and Africa. She holds a PhD in development studies from the University of Bonn, Germany. Her PhD looked at agrarian change and rural transformation in post-Soviet Uzbekistan. Her work and research interests lie in, but not limited to, rural development, governance, extension services, knowledge and innovation, and comparative studies.

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