

Annex n°1: Agricultural Market Information System

Information on the current situation and outlook for global agriculture shapes expectations about future prices and allows markets to function more efficiently. Lack of accurate information on market fundamentals may reduce efficiency and accentuate price volatility. Information on stocks is an essential component of a global food market information system, yet reliable data on stocks of grains and oilseeds are often not collected or, if collected are not reported publicly.

Possible agreement to launch an Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) in order to enhance the quality, timeliness and reliability of food market outlook information through strengthening the collaboration and dialogue between main exporting and importing countries, commercial enterprises and international organizations.

The collaborative effort provided by AMIS will help to increase transparency and restore confidence in markets, reduce uncertainty and provide a more level playing field for poor countries by enhancing the dissemination of quality food market information. AMIS will make a special effort on stock data in order to reach more complete and reliable data on this topic. The private sector can assist significantly in the compilation of food balance sheets through information on stocks and inventories. AMIS will also provide the basis for global food market alerts to price surges and more timely and effective policy responses to market developments (cf. annex n°2 Rapid Response Forum).

AMIS will improve agricultural market outlook and forecasts at both national and international levels for four major crops: wheat, maize, rice and soybeans. Additional commodities will also be added to AMIS' work in the future.

Maximum use would be made of existing mechanisms. The Secretariat of AMIS will include all participating Organizations (FAO, IFAD, OECD, UNCTAD WFP, the World Bank, the WTO, IFPRI, IGC and the UN HLTF) and will be housed in FAO. It will collate and assess the submitted data, develop appropriate methodologies and indicators, and ensure the market outlook information products are of high quality and are disseminated frequently.

The analysis of market outlook will be undertaken by the Secretariat in collaboration with Global Food Market Information Group composed by market experts coming from all participating countries, including Commercial enterprises. This group will also be responsible for the provision of official data to AMIS Secretariat and will identify problems and gaps in the collection of data.

The assessment of the collected data will be carried out in terms of standards to be set by AMIS: timeliness, completeness/coherence and comparability. Apart from the assessment of global market current situation and outlook, AMIS will aim to increase the scope of analysis. Additional analytical capacity can be exploited through the collaboration of international organizations in areas such as agricultural futures markets, energy markets,

policy monitoring, price transmission from world to domestic markets and food security assessments.

Building capacity in developing countries to collect market outlook information and improve the quality of the data will be an important component of AMIS. More precisely, AMIS efforts in capacity building will focus on:

- a manual defining best practices and methodologies for agricultural market data collection and analysis;
- a series of regional training sessions to enhance data collection capacity and to assist in the development of methodologies for food market outlook; and,
- the identification, design and implementation of special projects, aiming at enhancing data collection.

The AMIS “Scoping report” which is joined provides a review of the existing food market outlook information mechanisms, identifies problems and gaps to determine the scope and operations of AMIS and establish its institutional basis.

Next steps

- The Secretariat of the Initiative is set up for June 2011 at the FAO.
- An inception workshop is organized in September 2011 involving countries, international organizations and the private sector to discuss AMIS composition, data needs, collection methodologies, analytical capacities, questionnaire design, coverage and frequency, market indicators, [alert indicators,] and scheduling.
- [A Memorandum of Understanding is signed in September 2011 by the main participants to the initiative.]
- Data collection methodologies are identified by September 2011 and assessed across participating countries; training and capacity building needs are identified.
- The Secretariat will Report to the G20 Heads of States on objectives, progress and future workplan in November 2011.
- Special studies are undertaken and market indicators are developed between January and March 2012.
- Data collection, examination, and consolidation will be carried out by the Secretariat from March 2012. The collection of data will be realised by means of electronic questionnaires and a AMIS collaborative website where participating countries will directly input the data.
- AMIS Manual is prepared and dispatched to the countries’ focal points between April and May 2012.
- AMIS Global Food Market Information Group starts bi-annual meetings by May 2012. This group will meet twice per year to discuss market trends, emerging issues and policy changes that may affect agricultural markets.
- The first enhanced global market outlook and situation is published by June 2012 (the main information product of the initiative); market indicators are developed, monitored, and disseminated monthly.

Annex n°2: Rapid Response Forum

Possible agreement to implement a Rapid Response Forum in the framework of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), along the lines defined by the international organisations in their AMIS “Scoping report” which is joined.

Through the participation of the major producing, exporting and importing countries the AMIS Rapid Response Forum will be able to mobilise wide political support to achieve agreement on appropriate policy response and actions in times of crisis.

To promote policy coherence and coordination in times of crisis, the Rapid Response Forum will:

- receive and assess information and analyses from AMIS Secretariat on the current global market situation and outlook, assessing the Secretariat’s regular statements on the ensuing implications for food security;
- receive information and assessments for particularly vulnerable countries;
- when the market situation and outlook as evaluated by the AMIS Secretariat indicates a high food security risk, provide appropriate policy guidance and promote policy coordination; and,
- work closely with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to promote greater policy convergence and strengthen policy linkages at global level.

Next steps

- The Secretariat of the Initiative is set up for June 2011 at the FAO. In case of alert, the Secretariat will call a meeting of the Rapid Response Forum. This RRF will gather and communicate their decisions (or not) to existing institutions within the FAO (CSA, CCP) and other international organisations. The Secretariat can call a meeting of the Rapid Response Forum at any time starting June 2011 if the situation warrants.
- An inception workshop is organized in September 2011 involving countries, international organizations and the private sector to discuss AMIS composition, data needs, collection methodologies, analytical capacities, questionnaire design, coverage and frequency, market indicators, [alert indicators,] and scheduling.
- [A Memorandum of Understanding is signed in September 2011 by the main participants to AMIS. The Rapid Response Forum is included in the Initiative.]
- [An “Emergency Guideline” is also prepared in order to define the procedures to be implemented in case of alert on prices at global level between April and May 2012.]

Annex n°3: International Wheat Research Initiative

Possible agreement to support the concrete pilot projects on an international wheat research initiative. Possible agreement on the terms of reference for this initiative that are defined by the international research organisations in a report which is joined.

The main objectives of the International Wheat Research Initiative, coordinated by the International Wheat Research Coordination Committee, will be to:

- Coordinate world-wide wheat improvement research efforts;
- Provide a forum to identify synergies and encourage collaborations among major nationally and internationally (public and private) funded wheat programmes with the result of maximising opportunities for gaining added-value internationally;
- Establish and periodically update priorities for wheat research of global relevance;
- Facilitate and ensure open communication and free, unencumbered exchange of germplasm, data, materials and ideas within the wheat research community;
- Recommend minimum data-reporting standards and develop protocols to allow consistency for screening and analyses;
- Support the development of publically available integrated databases and platforms;
- Monitor and summarize progress of scientific activities;
- Communicate to national and international funding agencies the needs of the wheat research community of participating nations.

Next steps

- The Wheat Research Initiative project was or will be presented to the wheat scientific community during two international conferences, the 2011 Plant GEM Conference (Istanbul, May 4-7) and the 2011 ITMI Workshop (Mexico, September 5-9), to ensure input and support from the international community. Interactions with the CEOs of the G20 research organisations working on wheat will be pursued through e-mail and video-conferences to develop a common vision and agenda.
- A high level meeting bringing together international wheat scientific leaders, CEOs of major G20 and international research organisations and representatives of the G20 member states will be organised in Paris, France on the 14th of September 2011 to officially launch the International Wheat Initiative.
- A vision paper and strategic plan will be written by the International Wheat Research Coordination Committee to develop a common research agenda and define the first actions to be undertaken for January 2012.
- The International Wheat Research Coordination Committee will undertake a scoping study to determine the best platform for the centralised information system for January 2012. It may be possible to build on existing wheat databases or to modify an existing system developed for other crop species. The we portal will be opened and the discussion forum launched by May 2012.

- The first International Wheat Conference will be organised by the International Wheat Research Coordination Committee in 2013. International Wheat Conferences and International Wheat Genetics Symposia are organised every 4-5 years. The International Wheat Research Coordination Committee will endeavour to link these two initiatives and organize every other year an international conference bringing together scientists involved in wheat research, to share the latest results in the different fields of wheat research and to create or sustain links between the research groups and help setting up international collaborations.

Draft