



Fifteenth Session of the AMIS Global Food Market Information Group



Rome, FAO Headquarters

27-28 May 2019

Agenda

Monday 27 May 14.00-17.00, Iraq Room (A235)

14.00

Registration

14.30

1. Welcome remarks of the FAO Director-General, José Graziano da Silva

14.45

2. Opening address

The Chair of AMIS, Mr. Marco Valicenti of Canada, will open the meeting. In his address, he will summarize the outcome of the G20 Agriculture Ministers meeting as regards AMIS and reflect on results of the country working group on AMIS sustainability.

15.00

3. AMIS market situation and outlook

The AMIS Secretariat will present latest developments and forecasts concerning global wheat, maize, rice and soybean markets. Main producing and/or consuming countries of these crops are invited to comment, while each presentation will be followed by questions and answers from the floor.

The session is divided into two blocks: Wheat and rice (15.00-16.00), followed by maize and soybeans (16.00-17.00)

17:30

Cocktail reception

Tuesday 28 May 9.00-17.30, German Room (C269)

9.00

4. Trade disputes– A mixed pattern of outcomes

Since the 1970s, only a few major trade disrupting measures have been implemented in the area of food and agriculture. Frequently targeting unrelated sectors (in an effort to sway policy realignment with trade partners), trade measures such as grain embargoes, import bans and most recently tariffs, have nevertheless had lasting impacts on the global supply and trade pattern of foodstuffs. In this presentation, Ann Berg of the AMIS Secretariat argues that each case has unique antecedents and outcomes, making any prediction as to the results of the current trade conflicts difficult.

9.30

5. Understanding forecast errors

Using more than 20 years of USDA data of global supply and demand variables, forecast errors for major production regions and importing countries are examined to better understand the reasons behind any discrepancies in key indicators such as global ending stocks. Joe Glauber of the AMIS Secretariat will present preliminary results of this analysis, which suggests that geographic shifts of production and demand have impacted on forecast accuracy, such as the emergence of the Black Sea region as an important wheat exporters or the important role of China as the major importer of soybeans.

10.15

Coffee break

10.45

6. Historical revisions of China's supply and demand balances

Following the release of new production estimates for wheat, maize and rice by China's Bureau of Statistics for the years 2007-2017, the AMIS Secretariat, in consultation with the Chinese focal point to AMIS and the International Grains Council, made historical revisions to China's supply and demand balances starting from 1980.

- Drivers and sources of the official revisions by China's Academy of Agricultural Sciences (Li Gan-qiong)
- Presenting the new China balances of AMIS for wheat, maize and rice and the rationale behind the revisions (AMIS Secretariat)



11.15

7. Improving feed estimates

Feed use accounts for about a third of world consumption of cereals, yet remains a relatively unknown component in supply and demand balances. This session will present recent efforts to estimate feed utilization and the application of new tools at country level, which would also help to improve other elements in the balances, including stocks.

- IGC: Recent approaches in estimating feed demand
- FAO-AMIS feed tool
- South Africa case study
- Way forward, including future developments and applications of the FAO-AMIS feed tool

12.30-14.30

Lunch

14.30

8. African Swine Fever (ASF): Speed and extent of the spread; implications for global feed/meat sectors

- Briefing on latest developments of the spread of AFS and related control measures (Juan Lubroth, FAO Chief Veterinary Officer)
- Potential impacts on feed and meat markets concerning production, consumption and trade (Josef Schmidhuber, FAO/EST Deputy Director)

15.00

9. New AMIS Market Database

The AMIS Secretariat has just released a new website to provide easier access to the latest supply and demand information of wheat, maize, rice and soybeans, and to compare AMIS numbers to information from other key sources of global food market data.

15.10

10. Results of the Market Monitor user survey

The AMIS Secretariat regularly seeks feedback on its outreach activities. In this agenda item, results of the recent Market Monitor user survey will be presented.

15:20

11. Update on country collaboration

The AMIS Secretariat will present the status of country collaboration in terms of regular and timely submission of commodity balances, participation in the monthly webinars and attendance of AMIS meetings. The session will provide an opportunity to discuss obstacles for more active country engagement.

15:30

Coffee break

16.00

12. A proposal to enhance interest in the monthly webinars

Building on the positive, but currently stagnating experience with the AMIS webinars as regards country participation and engagement, the AMIS Secretariat proposes organizing joint webinars with GEOGLAM, at least for a trial period of some months. Joining forces with GEOGLAM will put a stronger focus on discussing latest crop developments in specific countries and regions, which is expected to incentivize a larger number of AMIS focal points to join and actively participate in the webinars. In addition, a joint webinar could lead to stronger collaboration between focal points of both entities.

16:30

13. Message from the incoming Chair

At the last meeting of the Rapid Response Forum in February, Brazil was elected as the new Chair of AMIS. Marcelo Fernandes Guimarães of Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, whose term as Chair will start at the end of this meeting, will reflect on future work priorities for AMIS and outline plans for the next meeting of the Information Group.

16:45

14. Any other business

17.00

15. Chair's summary

17.30

16. Meeting closure

The Director of FAO's Trade and Markets Division, Boubaker Ben-Belhassen, will close the meeting.

