CIHEAM

International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

MED-Amin
Harvest & Planting Progress

November 2018

MED-Amin

Mediterranean Agricultural Market Information Network

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References

The present document covers the harvest and planting progress for MED-Amin countries. It is the result of a specific data collection realized with the cooperation of the MED-Amin focal points and from commentaries sent by focal points.

For each cereal, this progress report is preceded by a synthesis of cereal harvests forecasts realized at the end of November 2018 using reference data (USDA, AMIS, FAO, IGC, EU/MARS, MED-Amin) as well as press releases from ministries and cereal offices extracted directly from official websites or from press articles.

Contents

Legend

Trends this year (of production/yield) :

● Positive outlook ● Stable ● Concerns ● Not enough data available to trend

Wheat

Global trends

AMIS does not distinguish between soft wheat and durum, so we keep this choice in the presentation of the general trends.

In the northern hemisphere, sowing of winter wheat has begun under generally favourable conditions. In Canada, spring wheat harvest is being delayed by rain and snow. Sowing of winter wheat has begun under generally favourable conditions. In the southern hemisphere, winter wheat conditions are mixed with poor conditions in eastern Australia.

World wheat production for 2018/19 is projected to 734 Mt (USDA report of 8 November 2018) and 729 Mt (IGC report of 22 November), a -4% evolution compared to 2017/18. Wheat production forecast for 2018 raised significantly since last month, on reported bigger harvests in China along with a number of other countries, more than offsetting a further downgrading of crop prospects in Australia. According to AMIS, global wheat export prices were firmer during October, underpinned by a generally tighter outlook for supplies. Harvest delays in Canada and shrinking expectations for Australia's crop provided support. In addition, suboptimal planting conditions for 2019/20 crops across much of Europe contribute to longer-term uncertainty about world availabilities. Nevertheless, the record early-season pace of shipments from the Russian Federation continued to dampen price sentiment and while market participants expected Russia's surplus to start to dwindle, there was little sign of any switch in demand to other origins.

Among the countries covered by AMIS, these are the following trends:

- EU (21% of world production[1]): Persistent dry conditions across portions of Europe are delaying winter wheat sowing. Production is estimated at 137 Mt by USDA and IGC, being the lowest production since 2012/13.
- China (17%): Sowing of winter wheat is ongoing under favourable conditions. Production is estimated at 132 Mt (USDA 08/11/2018) at the same level as the previous two years.
- India (8%): Sowing of winter wheat is beginning in the northern states under favourable conditions. On 3 October, India increased the minimum support price for wheat by 6% for the 2019/20 season to USD 248/t. Production is estimated at 100 Mt (USDA) at a very good level compared to the poor two-year period 2015/17.
- USA (8%): Winter wheat sowing is beginning across the country under favourable conditions (Crop Monitor Nov 2018). On 8 November, USDA expects a production of 51 Mt for 2018/19, less than last year but much better than 2016/17.
- Russia (8%): Winter wheat sowing is complete with crops emerging under favourable conditions. Production will top at 70 Mt this year (USDA). Dryer-than-usual weather conditions might have hampered the sowing and emergence of winter crops in the Black Sea region (CRM AgroCommodities, 24/10/2018).

Apart from theses main wheat producers, the AMIS Market Monitoring of 1 November 2018 indicates some delays in harvesting spring wheat in Canada that continues across the Prairies due to wet weather, impacting the conditions of the remaining crops. In Australia, yields remain considerably variable across the country heading into harvest, with poor conditions in Eastern Australia due to a lack of rainfall, most notably in Queensland and New South Wales. In Argentina and Ukraine, conditions are generally favourable.

[1]: Average 2013-2015 (from AMIS)

MED-Amin region: Progress of planting - Wheat

MED-Amin trends

For the MED-Amin countries, wheat harvests ended by the end of summer and 2018 planting are ongoing till the end of winter 2019.

- Albania: Soft wheat acreage follows the same trend as regards the cultivation of cereals in the country. The planting is almost finished (98%) in good conditions despite the rain deficit that occurred in the region and mentioned in the DG AGRI reports of 22/11/2018.
- Algeria: The authorities anticipate a slight decrease in planted area of soft wheat compared to the last year (-4% vs. 2017/18) and relative stability for durum wheat acreage (+2%). The pace of planting is a bit quicker than last year (5% of progress for both crops).
- Spain: The soil presents good conditions for the sowing, better than the previous campaign, but due to the rainfalls, it is being done with a bit of delay with respect to the previous year.
- France: The planting of wheat is a bit delayed compared to last year and 5-year average. 85% of soft wheat is planted on 06/11/2018 (vs 87% last year) and 27% of durum wheat (vs 39% last year). FranceAgriMer measures on 18/11/2018 a 82% of "good" or "very good" conditions for soft wheat (vs 96% last year).
- Greece: In most of Greek regions from which data are available, the lack of rainfalls during autumn resulted in delay of sowing (19% progress for soft wheat and 17% for durum wheat vs 27% last year for both). The acreage is expected to be stable vs average.
- Italy: The northern regions are affected by a rain deficit (DG AGRI 22/11/2018) delaying plantings.
- Lebanon: The wheat acreage is slightly up for both crops (+5% vs last year). The planting progress is 40%, a bit quicker than last year at the same period (35%).
- Morocco: Planting of soft wheat and durum wheat is underway for the 2018/2019, since one month. The DG AGRI reports on 22/11/2018 a heat wave affecting the north-western regions.
- Portugal: In the South of Portugal, October was drier and hotter than usual, which delayed the sowing.
- Tunisia: The areas cultivated with soft wheat are up after several years of reduction (+13% vs last year) and recuded for durum wheat (-4% vs last year). The planting is a bit faster than usually (3% of progress) thanks to good quantity and repartition of rainfalls all over the country. Harvests in 2018 were poor.
- Turkey: The planting is almost completed (99%). Acreage for wheat is stable compared to average. The DG AGRI dashboard of 22/11/2018 indicates a heat wave affecting the southeastern regions.

Country	Type of wheat	Date of Measurement	Estimated Planted Area - 2018 ('000 ha)	Evolution of Planted Area (n/n-1)	Progress in Planting	Progress in Planting 2017 (same period)	Estimated End of Planting 2018
Albania	(soft)	09/10/2018	65	7%	98%	94%	15/01/2019
Algeria	(soft)	12/11/2018	461	-4%	5%	2%	02/2019
	(durum)		1636	+2%	5%	2%	
France	(soft)	04/11/2018	nd	-	85%	87%	nd
	(durum)			-	27%	39%	
Greece	(soft)	05-11/11/2018	nd	-	19%	27%	15/01/2019
	(durum)			-	17%	27%	
Italy	(soft)	nd	nd	-	nd	nd	nd
	(durum)			-			
Lebanon	(soft)	11/11/2018	2	+5%	40%	35%	nd
	(durum)		10	+5%	40%	35%	
Morocco	(soft)	nd	nd	-	nd	nd	nd
	(durum)			-			
Portugal	(soft)	31/10/2018	nd	-	nd	nd	31/12/2018
	(durum)			-			
Spain	(soft)		nd	-	nd	nd	nd
	(durum)			-			
Tunisia	(soft)	09/11/2018	112	+13%	3%	nd	nd
	(durum)		600	-4%	3%	1%	
Turkey	(soft)	01/11/2018	6432	-	99%	99%	03/2019
	(durum)		1237	-	99%	99%	

n.d. : non disclosed

Maize/Corn

Global trends

In the northern hemisphere, harvest is ongoing with a bumper crop expected in portions of the US, Europe, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation (AMIS Market Monitoring of 1 November 2018). However, dry conditions are negatively impacting expected yields in northern Europe and in southern Russian Federation. In the southern hemisphere, Brazil and Argentina are sowing the spring-planted crop under favourable conditions.

The USDA forecasts on 8 November a global harvest of 1099 Mt vs. 1076 Mt in 2017/18 (a poor year). IGC: 1073 Mt. According to AMIS Crop Monitor of 1 November, maize production forecast for 2018 raised on improved prospects in Canada and Indonesia more than offsetting m/m downward revisions in several countries, including Brazil and the US. Globally, this is a promising year for maize, with exceptional crop conditions in several regions. Utilization in 2018/19 will increase at a faster rate than anticipated earlier, supported by a stronger growth in feed use in several countries. **Trade in 2018/19 (July/June) would reach a new peak, underpinned by continued brisk world demand and large export availabilities**. Stocks (ending in 2019) downgraded further, are now pointing to a decline of almost 14% from their record-high opening level, with most of the decrease in Argentina, Brazil, China and the US.

By AMIS, futures prices of maize reach USD 145 (+4.5% M/M, +5.4% Y/Y). Maize prices may have benefited from crude oil prices which reached a 4-year high at the start of the month and the US administration's promise of expanding the amount of ethanol allowed in domestic gasoline blends from 10 to 15%. Rainy weather with some snow blizzards reportedly caused plants to lodge in some areas likely to revise downward in future USDA reports.

Among the countries covered by AMIS, these are the following trends:

- USA (35% of world production[1]): Harvest is progressing with a bumper crop expected in many parts of the country. According to USDA, production is forecasted at 372 Mt, less than October's projection and higher than 5-year average.

- China (22%): Harvest is complete with another year of high production expected thanks to good yields. The USDA projection rises to 256 Mt (in line with the two previous years) after a statistical readjustment at the beginning of the month. The IGC forecasts 220 Mt.

- Brazil (8%): The first harvest (about 40% of total production) ended in early summer, the second is currently ending. Sowing of the spring-planted crop is ongoing in the main producing regions under favourable conditions. This year USDA and IGC forecast a harvest of 95 Mt (compared to 83 Mt in 2017/18 and 98 Mt in 2016/17).

- EU (7%): Continued warmer- and dryer-than-usual weather in large parts of Europe created near-optimal conditions for conclusion of the harvest of maize, which, in many places was completed earlier than usual (MARS Bulletin 26/11/2018). Overall EU yield expectations remain above the five-year average (AMIS Crop Monitor 01/11/2018). Forecasts for the 2018's harvest are equivalent to the previous two good campaigns, 60 Mt for USDA (01/11/2018) and 62 Mt for IGC (Grain Market report of 22/11/2018).

- Argentina (3%): USDA predicts a harvest in line with previous trends: 42 Mt. The AMIS Market Monitor of 22 November 2018 indicates that sowing is continuing for the spring-planted crop under favourable conditions, albeit with some delays due to areas of low soil moisture. In September 2018, a 12 percent export duty was introduced on all products, including maize, valid with immediate effect until 31 December 2020 (Decree 793/2018).

MED-Amin region : Progress of harvest - Maize

MED-Amin trends

Regarding maize in the MED-Amin area, harvesting generally begins in October.

- Albania: Maize production for 2018 is expected to be 380 000 ton harvested on 59 000 ha. Yields are good. Production is equivalent to last year and benefited from favourable growing conditions. Quality of grains is good.

- Egypt: Harvests usually take place in October-November. Stable production around 7 Mt (USDA).

- Spain: Good meteorological conditions occurred during the current maize campaign, and the harvest progress is normal (34% of the total is harvested). There are several areas of Spain in which the harvest is already over, but the most important ones are still at the beginning of it. According to the national authorities, the production is expected to be good in quantity and quality despite the reduction of planted area vs last year (-7%).

- France: With the end of the harvest approaching (98% over), only 57% of the maize area is estimated as "good" or "very good" conditions on 4 November 2018 (81% in 2017). Production is likely to reach 12.4 Mt in 2018, ie -15% vs 2017 and an average yield of 8,8 t/ha. The weather conditions in the spring were marked by heavy rainfalls which complicated planting, especially in the southwest. The summer drought then negatively affected yields. These conditions, associated with high temperatures, led to very early harvests. Grains had very low humidity levels.

- Greece: Normal to excellent climatic conditions during cultivating period occurred in most of Greek regions. Favourable conditions, especially during harvest (lack of rainfalls), resulted in satisfactory yields and high product quality. This year the infestations from the insect ***Diabrotica*** were low. Harvest is 93% over.

- Italy: On a smaller area than last year (-5%), ongoing harvest predicts good production in both quantity and quality.

- Lebanon/Morocco: Harvest is over on both countries. No official data available about harvest.

- Portugal: Mid October tropical storm Leslie affected maize fields in the ***Beira Litoral*** region. Harvest is delayed (75% performed vs 95% last year). A small decrease in the 2018 production is expected vs 2017.

- Turkey: Planted area covered 638 000 hectares according to the Turkish authorities (less than in 2017). Harvesting ended in November.

Country	Date of Measurement	Estimated Harvested Area - 2018 ('000 ha)	Evolution of Harvested Area (n/n-1)	Progress in Harvest 2018	Progress in Planting same period 2017	Estimated End of Harvest 2018	Quality of Grains	Meteorological Conditions
Albania	07/09/2018	59	-	100%	100%	10/10/2018	++	++
France	04/11/2018	1416	-1%	98%	94%	nd	+	-
Greece	05-11/11/2018	109	16%	93%	85%	15-31/12/2018	++	++
Italy	13/11/2018	314	-5%	nd	nd	nd	++	++
Lebanon	nd	nd	-	100%	nd	nd	nd	nd
Morocco	nd	nd	-	100%	100%	nd	nd	nd
Portugal	31/10/2018	nd	-	75%	95%	15/11/2018	++	-
Spain	12-16/11/2018	327	-7%	34%	nd	03/2019	++	++
Turkey	01/11/2018	638	-6%	100%	100%	11/2018	nd	nd

Barley

Global trends

The European Union, Russia, Ukraine, Canada, Australia, Turkey and the US are the largest producers of barley. Together, they account for 80% of world production between 2013 and 2016 (FAO data). It should be noted that Argentina has for several years reached the US barley production levels (4 Mt estimated during this 2018/19 campaign).

On 22 November, IGC expects a world barley production of 140 Mt, a bit lower than 2017/18. Barley imports are raised for Saudi Arabia, and higher exports projected for Russia and Ukraine (USDA 08/11/2018). Ending stocks will be reduced for the second year in a row.

Among the countries covered by AMIS, these are the following trends:

- EU (41% of world production[1]): IGC forecasts a 2018/19 reduced production of 56 Mt (November 2018). Planting is in progress across Europe. Persistent dryness / drought condition in Northern and Eastern Europe hindered initial barley sowing. The latest release of the MARS Bulletin of 26/11/2018 indicated probable extended or local impacts on winter cereals sowing (in particular barley) in north-eastern France, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, western Poland, Austria, Hungary, Romania and western Bulgaria, some typical barley producing areas. Re-sowing could have been implemented.
- Russia (11%): IGC forecasts a reduced harvest of 17 Mt from 2017/18 (20.2 Mt). Planting of winter barley usually runs till November. Due to drought conditions affecting the Black Sea region, which is the most producing area of Russia, planting is delayed this year compared to average.
- Ukraine (6%): Affected by temperature accumulation surplus (MARS bulletin of 26/11/2018) since several months, winter crops like barley might be affected in the planting and emergence process.
- Canada (6%): The Canadian harvest usually ends in mid-October. The Canadian Grain Commission and the IGC forecast a stable harvest of 8 Mt, comparable to the two last years.
- Australia (6%): The Australian harvest usually extends from October to January. Harsh conditions of drought drove to substantial problem in development and harvest. The IGC forecasts 7 Mt in 2018/19, the lowest in 10 years.
- Turkey (5%): See after
- USA (3%): The harvest ended. The planting is in progress. The IGC forecasts an increase in the production up to 5 Mt for 2018/19 (in the 5-year average).

MED-Amin region: Progress of planting - Barley

MED-Amin trends

The barley planting takes place for the majority of countries in the MED-Amin area between September and January.

- Albania: The barley planted area has decreased compared to the last year. Sowing is almost finished (99%) in good conditions.
- Algeria: Slight decrease in planted area (1272 ha) compared to the last year (-1%). The progress of planting is in the average, 14% of the total expected acreage. The MARS Bulletin of 26/11/2018 indicates rain surplus that could have affected the north-eastern regions for planting.
- Spain: Planting in progress. Official figures are not available. The MARS Bulletin of 26/11/2018 indicates a rain surplus in the southern regions with potential impacts on planting.
- France: Planting of barley is 90% over, less advanced compared to average, mainly due to above-mentioned dry conditions in north-eastern regions.
- Greece: In most of Greek regions from which data are available, the lack of rainfalls during autumn resulted in delay of sowing (planting progress of 16% compared to 25% last year at the same first week of November. There is no report for reduction of planted areas.
- Italy: The MARS Bulletin of 26/11/2018 indicates a rain surplus in the northern regions and the southern regions, with no significant concern for the planting of barley.
- Morocco: The cropping season was characterized by very favorable growing conditions for barley. The forecast production is 2.5 Mt thanks to good yields this year (1.67 t/ha according to USDA, 1.68 t/ha according to MARS against 0.9 t/ha, or +34% vs five-year average).
- Portugal: The last harvest was exceptional. The 2018 planting may start in late November and last till the end of January 2019.
- Tunisia: After the harsh crop conditions and harvest in 2018 for barley, the expected planted area is reduced this year. The planting pace is earlier than usual (22% vs 4% last year at the same period), maybe due to a rain surplus in the northern regions (MARS Bulletin of 26/11/2018).
- Turkey: The planting, advanced at 99%, was carried out in good conditions. The planted area decreases of 12% compared to last year. Spring barley will be planted till end of March. The IGC projects 7 Mt this year, same level as last year's one.

Country	Date of Measurement	Estimated Planted Area - 2018 ('000 ha)	Evolution of Planted Area (n/n-1)	Progress in Planting	Progress in Planting 2017 (same period)	Estimated End of Planting 2018
Albania	09/10/2018	2	-18%	99%	98%	nd
Algeria	12/11/2018	1272	-1%	14%	0	01/2019
France	04/11/2018	nd	-	90%	95%	nd
Greece	05-11/11/2018	nd	-	16%	25%	31/12/2018
Italy	nd	nd	-	nd	nd	nd
Lebanon	11/11/2018	2	-2%	38%	40%	nd
Morocco	nd	nd	-	nd	nd	nd
Portugal	31/10/2018	nd	-	nd	-	31/01/2019
Spain	nd	nd	-	nd	nd	nd
Tunisia	09/11/2018	614	-8%	22%	4%	nd
Turkey	01/11/2018	2424	-12%	99%	99%	03/2019

Rice

Global trends

Trends indicate reduced 2018/19 global supplies of milled rice due to reduced production in Madagascar and Iraq. World trade is up slightly, driven by rising Pakistani exports and Iraqi imports. Overall consumption and closing stocks will be reduced. In East and South Asia conditions are favourable as the main rice seasons draw to a close. In Southeast Asia, the harvest of wet-season rice is beginning in the northern countries, while sowing of wet-season rice is starting in Indonesia (AMIS Market Monitor of 1 November 2018).

USDA forecasts on 8 November 2018 a relatively stable production compared to the previous year (491 Mt in 2018/19 compared to 494 Mt in 2017/18 and 490 Mt in 2016/17, same for IGC). Global 2018/19 rice supplies are increased by 18 Mt to 651 Mt, mostly due to revisions for China. USDA incorporated China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) rice production revisions from 2007/08 through 2017/18, which consequently raised its supplies over this multi-year period. The cumulative increases in China's ending stocks result in the large upward adjustment in 2018/19 global supplies. Additionally, China's 2018/19 production forecast is raised on larger harvested area, reflecting the NBS revisions for prior years. Global consumption is fractionally lower at 488 Mt as reductions in Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan are not completely offset by increases in other countries. World trade is lowered 0.6 Mt to 49 Mt on reduced exports for India, Argentina, and the United States. Global ending stocks are raised 18 Mt to a record 163 Mt with China now accounting for 69% of 2018/19 world stocks, compared to 66% last month.

Among the countries covered by AMIS, the following trends can be observed:

China (29% of world production[1]): Single rice harvest for is ongoing under favourable conditions and late rice in the south is maturing under favourable conditions. USDA forecasts a production of 142 Mt, down slightly from previous years. AMIS predicts stable production around 144 Mt.

India (21%): It is generally considered (FAO-CBS, USDA-PSD) that the Indian campaign starts in October. The AMIS Market Monitor of 1 November announces favourable crop conditions. Harvest of the Kharif rice is beginning in the northern states under favourable conditions, while in the southern and eastern regions, the crop is entering the grain filling stage. An increase in overall production is estimated compared to last year due to good yields and despite a slightly lower total sown area this season. USDA forecasts steady annual production around 111 Mt.

Indonesia (9%): Harvest of dry-season rice continues with yields remaining above last year's. Sowing of wet-season rice has begun with areas of concern in Java and Lesser Sunda Islands due to low levels of rainfall. About 1/3 of planted areas are to "watch" according to AMIS. USDA forecasts an average annual output around 37 Mt.

Vietnam (9%): The harvest of the summer-autumn rice (wet-season rice) has begun with yields reported slightly above last year's. Earlier in season flooding in the south noticeably reduced the total sown area (AMIS). USDA and AMIS projects a stable annual production around 29 Mt.

Thailand (6%): Conditions of wet-season rice are generally favourable owing to good rainfall and enough sunlight. However, earlier flooding in the north-eastern region remains a concern (1/3 of the planted areas on a "watch" status according to AMIS). Production is forecasted with a slight increase up to 21 Mt for 2018/19 (USDA, IGC).

MED-Amin region: Progress of harvest - Rice

MED-Amin trends

For the whole MED-Amin area, the rice harvest has not started yet, generally occurring between September and November.

EU: USDA forecasts a stable production at 2 Mt.

Egypt: The main rice harvest takes place in October. USDA forecasts a decrease in production to 3 Mt due to reduced area sown to less water-demanding crops (4 Mt in 2017/18 and 5 Mt in 2016/17).

Spain: Rainfall during the sowing caused delays in some regions (on a stable planted area at the national scale vs 2017). In addition, it has not been possible to finish the harvest in the south yet, due to the heavy rains that have made the field impracticable in some areas.

France: Harvesting is over. The authorities announce a 16% reduction of the planted areas this year (12 870 ha).

Greece: Considering the low international prices, a slight decrease in the planted area is observed this year again (27 000 ha). According to the authorities, harvesting is 97% completed under normal climatic conditions in most of Greek regions. Grains quality is in average.

Italy: Harvesting is usually performed in September-October.

Morocco: Harvesting is over. No official figure is available.

Portugal: Mid October tropical storm Leslie affected rice fields in the *Beira Litoral* region. A small is expected in the 2018 national rice production, vs 2017. Grains quality is good.

Turkey: Harvesting is over (ended in November this year, a bit later than usual). The authorities announce a slightly reduced planted areas as last year's acreage (-6% vs 2017).

Country	Date of Measurement	Estimated Harvested Area - 2018 ('000 ha)	Evolution of Harvested Area (n/n-1)	Progress in Harvest 2018	Progress in Planting same period 2017	Estimated End of Harvest 2018	Quality of Grains	Meteorological Conditions
France	04/11/2018	13	-16%	100%	100%	nd	nd	nd
Greece	05-11/11/2018	27	-9%	97%	100%	25/11/2018	+	++
Italia	nd	nd		nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Morocco	nd	nd	nd	100%	nd	11/20108	nd	nd
Portugal	31/10/2018	nd	-	70%	100%	30/11/2018	++	-
Spain	nd	105	-	nd	nd	15/12/2018	++	+/-
Turkey	01/11/2018	109	-6%	100%	100%	11/2018	nd	nd

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