

[PRESS RELEASE](#)

**First strategic meeting of the MED-Amin network  
(Paris, November 30 - December 1, 2023)**

**Cereal markets and food security in the Mediterranean region:**

**The strategic importance of information sharing, early warning capacities  
and regional cooperation to face food crises and supply disruptions**

**The Mediterranean Cereal Market Information Network (MED-Amin) gathered in Paris, France, its first Strategic Meeting, on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**During two days, experts and high-level country representatives discussed lessons learnt from recent crises affecting food supplies and trade, and potential improvements through Mediterranean cooperation.**

*Paris, 6 December 2023* – Over the last 3 years, the Mediterranean region has gone through a succession of shocks and crises which disrupted food markets and threatened food security for populations at risk. In this context, the Mediterranean Cereal Market Information Network (MED-Amin), funded in 2014, organised its first Strategic Meeting in Paris on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

High level representatives of Mediterranean countries met to reflect on transferable and joint solutions to better anticipate future crises, increase the resilience of their supply chains, provide early warning and facilitate rapid reaction.

In almost 10 years of existence MED-Amin has succeeded in building trust and sharing information across the Mediterranean region, with the continuous collaboration with key international organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (in particular the Agriculture Market Information System Secretariat, AMIS), the International Grain Council (IGC) and the European Commission, including its Joint Research Centre.

**“MED-Amin is one of the most active of the CIHEAM networks”** underlined Mr. Teodoro Miano, General Secretary of CIHEAM. MED-Amin strategic meeting offers a unique platform to exchange on food security and food supply issues in the Mediterranean region.





Early warning requires a solid base of reliable, near real time information. Ms. Frida Krifca, President of the CIHEAM Governing Board, invited all member countries and partners to encourage their technical teams in their efforts to collect and share accurate information, methodologies and good practices, in a rapidly evolving context. She also invited countries to move forward in their ambition to strengthen cooperation. **“It is time to reaffirm our joint support to the MED-Amin network, and point out new areas for cooperation.”**

Ms. Paz Fentes, Deputy Director at the General Directorate of Agricultural Productions and Markets of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, invited participants to increase the visibility of the network and the information it produces. As current MED-Amin president, Spain Ministry of agriculture has strengthened the dissemination of information provided by the network, **in particular towards the private sector**. Its experience can help other countries.

At the occasion of this meeting in Paris, national representatives targeted the future priorities for MED-Amin, and discussed an ambitious pathway for the network for MED-Amin Action Plan 2024-2026. This pathway, however, needs to be realistic and approached step by step, prioritising the activities.

## **Future priorities and recommendations for policy-makers**

Member Countries recommended to strengthen exchanges at a more political level to:

- (i) discuss regularly food security issues and food crises management within MED-Amin, in a Strategic Forum;
- (ii) diversify and consolidate information and parameters monitored, including grains stocks and quality, and agricultural inputs;
- (iii) continue developing strategic partnerships and synergies with key international partners;
- (iv) strengthen visibility of the network for national institutions and private operators;
- (v) enhance institutional and financial supports to the network.

The participants formulated recommendations for Mediterranean policy-makers on priority information and cooperation to set-up contingency strategies and increase preparedness and resilience of food systems. Those recommendations will be summarized in a Policy brief in 2024. The next steps will also include **the development of a dashboard and a platform** to better inform decision-makers in case of rapid response.

Participants recalled the **critical need for qualified human resources** to support the network and maintain the statistic capacities to provide accurate data on food markets, and cover new areas. MED-Amin support to national officers in the elaboration of cereal balance sheets and forecasting must be continued and facilitated by national Focal Points and national teams.

In 2024, Albania will be taking the Presidency of the network, hosting the 10th MED-Amin Annual Meeting of Focal Points. It will be the occasion to adopt the new MED-Amin 2024-2026 Action Plan.

More about the MED-Amin Network: [www.med-amin.org/en](http://www.med-amin.org/en) or contact us at: [contact@med-amin.org](mailto:contact@med-amin.org)



information on cereal markets in the Mediterranean region, which is very integrated into the international cereals trade circuits and very vulnerable to price volatility. Composed of representatives of ministries and/or public institutions in charge of market surveillance, the network, coordinated by the CIHEAM Montpellier, one of the four Institutes of CIHEAM, and supported by experts from the FAO/AMIS Secretariat, and the European Commission and EU Joint Research Center, the International Grains Council, among others, also has a technical dialogue and capacity building function.

CIHEAM (International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies) is a Mediterranean intergovernmental organization created in 1962, which gathers 13 member states (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and Turkey). CIHEAM articulates its activity through 4 Institutes located in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France) and Zaragoza (Spain) and the Headquarters in Paris. As a key voice in multilateral cooperation on sustainable agriculture and fisheries, food systems, and coastal and rural development, its mission revolves around four main objectives: Protecting the planet through the fight against all forms of waste: of resources natural, food and knowledge and knowledge; Food and nutrition security through the promotion of agriculture and sustainable food systems; Inclusive development investing in the new generations and in vulnerable territories; and Crisis prevention through the management of tensions and working for the resilience of communities. CIHEAM seeks to achieve these objectives through education and training, networked research, cooperation and technical assistance, and political dialogue. Cooperation is essential for CIHEAM, which collaborates with more than 50 countries, several regional and intergovernmental organizations, and more than 600 universities and research centers.