



## 9th MED-Amin Meeting

### ***Which Information Systems to Support Food Security in the Mediterranean and Face New Challenges?***

**22-23 November 2022**

**Background:** The **invasion of Ukraine** has driven up already high global agricultural commodity prices and significantly disturbed global agricultural markets in 2022. The consequences of the disruption of the cereal supply chain are already evidenced in several countries and are under the scrutiny of the international community. High input prices (including feed compounds and fertilizers) cast a serious shadow on future production, and add to already vivid concerns with global food security associated with record **highs in food prices** (grains-based products, vegetable oils, etc.).

Uncertainty in agricultural markets remains high despite the facilitating **Black Sea Grains Initiative** unlocking partially Ukrainian ports, whose prolongation is under discussion, and the relative decline in general cereal prices over the summer. The conflict in the Black Sea region highlights **interdependences** between food systems, energy markets, global peace, and food security for all, as well as their **fragility in many countries**. The Mediterranean region is one of the most exposed. It requires solid instruments to understand the impact of current crises on the market of grain and other derived products. To complete the picture, **climate change** is playing a major role in jeopardizing food security in the region. The high temperatures and drought conditions experienced in many parts of the Mediterranean Basin in 2022 affected the growth of crops, resulting in **lower yields and production**.

Those global phenomena highlight the necessity to discuss **alternative agricultural policies**, regulatory tools, and cooperation mechanisms.

The MED-Amin Network, in its upcoming plenary session, will offer experts and decision-makers the opportunity to debate current issues affecting **Mediterranean food systems and food security**, and open ground for joint solutions. In particular, the current crisis emphasizes the enduring significance of the MED-Amin **regional initiative** on agricultural market information sharing and communication.

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the MED-Amin Annual Meeting will gather decision-makers of the CIHEAM Mediterranean countries and relevant international organizations as well as key actors of the grains market to debate a strengthened MED-Amin **Early Warning System**, share updates and forecasts on cereal markets, present and discuss upcoming activities of the MED-Amin network.

**Venue of the Meeting:**

CIHEAM Zaragoza  
Av.Montañana, 1005  
50059, Zaragoza, Spain  
GPS: 41.7226 ; -0.8137

**Accommodation:**

Hotel Alfonso  
C/ Coso 15-17  
Ph. 34 878 54 11 18  
[www.palafoxhoteles.com](http://www.palafoxhoteles.com)

**Audience:** MED-Amin Focal Points, International organization observers and partners of MED-Amin, Mediterranean countries' decision-makers, and Spanish grain value chain representatives.

**Format:** All the sessions will be available in hybrid format: on site and online (Zoom), with simultaneous interpretation in French/English/Spanish (except on Nov. 21).

**Contacts:**

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## 21 November 2022 <sup>1</sup>

### *Internal Meeting*

**16:00-18:00 Workshop of the EWS-Med Expert Group**

(Experts from MAPA Spain, CIHEAM, IGC, DG Agri, JRC, AMIS, GIEWS, WFP, GEOGLAM)

## 22 November 2022

**8:45** Registration of the participants

**9:30 Opening speeches [30']:**

- Mr Raul Compés, CIHEAM Zaragoza Director
- Mr Placido Plaza, CIHEAM General Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> All time are indicated in Madrid time (CET)

- Mr Joaquin Olona, Regional Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment of the Government of Aragon
- Mr Fernando Miranda, General Secretary of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain

**10:00-10:45 Session 1: Cereal market outlooks [45']**

- International markets outlook (Mr Denis Drechsler, FAO-EST, AMIS Secretary & Mr Alexander Karavaytsev, International Grain Council – IGC)
- Outlook from the European Union (Ms Justyna Wrobel, European Commission, DG Agri)
- Outlook from MED-Amin countries (M. David Gasc, MED-Amin Coordinator)
- Discussion

**10:45-12:00 Session 2: Cereal Cropping in the Mediterranean Basin and Climate Change from a Food Security Perspective [1h15]**

*Panellists will share their views on climate change effects on cereals cultivation in the Mediterranean region and the pathways for its adaptation and mitigation.*

*Moderation: Subdirector General for arable crops, industrial crops and olive oil of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain*

- Climate change impacts on Mediterranean agriculture and pathways for adaptation (Ms Elen Lemaître-Curri – CIHEAM Montpellier and Ms Nechaat Jaziri – ONAGRI Tunisia)
- Climate change and its effects on cereal crops (M. Pablo Resco; Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Agricultores y Ganaderos – COAG)
- Grain chain stakeholders' perceptions on climate change (Mr José Luis Cruz Macein; Instituto Madrileño de Investigación y Desarrollo Rural, Agrario y Alimentario – IMIDRA)
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in arable crops (Mr Javier Alejandro; Unión de Pequeños agricultores y Ganaderos – UPA)

**11:45 Press conference**

**12:00: Coffee break [15']**

**12:15-13:30 Session 3: Expert roundtable on Impacts of the Conflict in the Black Sea region in the Mediterranean countries [1h15]**

*The roundtable of panellists will share their appreciation of the actual consequences on grain and derived products (oil) markets and on the Mediterranean region's economies and communities. The discussion will help identify gaps and bottlenecks that call for a political action (link to the next session). MED-Amin Strategic Resource Persons / Focal Points will also be invited to present the current situation, potential concerns and emerging solutions in their respective countries.*

*Moderation: Mr Raúl Compés (CIHEAM Zaragoza)*

- Ms Monika Tothova, Senior economist, Global Information and Early Warning System, FAO-EST
- Mr Dmitry Prikhodko, Senior economist, FAO Investment Center
- Mr Ben Parker, Deputy UN Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative
- Mr Farouk Aoun Seghir, Director of External Trade, Algerian Office for Cereal Interprofession – OAIC, Algeria

**13:30 Lunch (in situ)**

**14:45-17:00 Session 4 (high-level panel):** Preparing and/or implementing contingency strategies to mitigate food insecurity/vulnerability and alleviate the effects of current and future crises <sup>2</sup> : Which tools and mechanisms towards strengthened Mediterranean information systems and cooperation? **[2h15]**

*The session proposes, in the form of a round table, to bring an institutional and strategic light on the needs (current and anticipated) of Mediterranean countries in terms of information to prepare, monitor and operationalize food crisis management and contingency strategies. This will contribute to the political awareness/attention to the network action and the opening of leads for a strengthened early warning system in the Mediterranean region.*

*Moderation: Ms. Elen Lemaître-Curri (CIHEAM Montpellier)*

- Ms. Esperanza Orellana Moraleda, Director General for Agricultural Productions and Markets, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Spain)
- Ms. Françoise Simon, Head of International Affairs Division, Europe and International Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (France)
- Mr. Shaaban Salem, Economic Affairs (Egypt)
- Mr. Raed Hattar, Deputy Director General, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development – AOAD
- Mr. Alexander Karavaytsev, Senior economist, International Grain Council
- Mr. Fabien Santini, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Agri

*MED-Amin Strategic Resource Persons / Focal Points will also be invited to present the current situation, priority needs and emerging solutions in their respective countries.*

**17:00 Conclusions of the day**

**17:30 Cultural visit in Zaragoza at the Palacio of Aljaferia**

**20:00 Official dinner on invitation of the Spanish Authorities (in Zaragoza)**

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<sup>2</sup> See, for example [https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/market-measures/agri-food-supply-chain/contingency-plan\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/market-measures/agri-food-supply-chain/contingency-plan_en).

## 23 November 2022 <sup>1</sup>

### 8:45-9:45 **Session 5: MED-Amin Action Plan 2021-2023 implementation [1h]**

- MED-Amin Action Plan implementation (Mr David Gasc, CIHEAM Montpellier)
- MED-Amin 2022 Forecasting exercise and others yield forecast initiatives and market information systems among Member countries and beyond (Mr Giacinto Manfron, European Commission Joint Research Center of Ispra and Mr David Gasc, CIHEAM Montpellier)

### 9:45-11:15 **Session 6: Early Warning System (EWS-Med) developments [1h30]** (Expert group members)

- Other tasks of the EWS-Med initiative and Expert group
- Discussion: next steps of EWS-Med developments; funding Early Warning and crisis anticipation capacities, etc.

### 11:15 ***Coffee break [15']***

### 11:30-12:15 **Session 7: MED-Amin perspectives [45']** (Mr Thierry Dupeuble, CIHEAM Montpellier)

- Proposal for priority activities supported by Spain (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and MED-Amin priority activities in 2023
- Consolidating the network governance
- 10th Meeting in 2023

### 12:15 **Closing**

### 12:45 ***Lunch before departure***