MED-Amin: Agricultural Market Information Network

Roles of the MED-Amin Focal Points

The MED-Amin network

MED-Amin, the Mediterranean agricultural market information network, was launched on 22 and 23 January 2014 in Paris and the ministers of agriculture of the 13 member countries of CIHEAM formalized this initiative at their tenth meeting on 6 February 2014 in Algiers.

In the trail of the international initiative AMIS (Agriculture Market Information System, G20 + 7 main grain importers and exporters) founded three years after the world economic and food crisis in 2007/2008, MED-Amin aims to foster cooperation and the sharing of experiences between national information systems on agricultural markets in order to provide greater transparency and higher quality information on cereals markets in the Mediterranean. The network brings together the 13 countries of the CIHEAM (International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies) that coordinates the initiative through the MED-Amin Secretariat based at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier. MED-Amin focuses on 5 key commodities for food security in the region (soft wheat, durum wheat, barley, maize and rice).

The network has the following objectives on the middle run:

- Laying the foundation for a stronger monitoring of food security in the Mediterranean region, via the establishment of **an early warning system** (as a main priority of the network) and possibly a database, as well as stronger cooperation between countries. Since 2022, a **modular** approach with **8 tasks** have been defined to implement the early warning system (see the 2024-2026 Action plan).
- Promoting the relevance and usefulness of moving towards greater transparency for agricultural markets.
- Sharing methods of collecting data on the markets of each country and a common method (in connection with the AMIS system).
- Exploring the links and possible interfaces with existing systems, in particular at the international level: AMIS and GEOGLAM, SMIAR/GIEWS, FAOSTAT, IGC, etc. Partnership have been established with some of these organisation (especially JRC, CCR and AMIS).

Nomination: Each member country appoints one or two focal points who are the correspondents of the network for their country. Preferably, he/she/they is/are from the service of cereals markets monitoring of the Ministry of Agriculture or another similar public position.

The MED-Amin Focal Points' role is:

- to exchange and share with each other and with the MED-Amin Secretariat on methodologies for collecting and processing information on cereal markets;
- to collect information (statistical and provisional) on cereal markets (production, consumption, stocks, imports / exports, losses) in their country, from the relevant sources, on the five monitored commodities (soft wheat, durum wheat, maize, rice, barley) for each national marketing year through a questionnaire sent each year by the Secretariat to build equilibrated grain balances;
- to provide information on the progress of harvests and planting of these five crops so that MED-Amin publishes a progress report twice a year;
- to collect field data through contacts with local experts for the early harvest estimation (three bulletins each year, in March, May and June);
- to disseminate information produced by MED-Amin in their country;
- and more generally, to promote regional cooperation through this network and to communicate about it (by disseminating the network's publications to various audiences, presenting the network at events, or suggesting events in which the network could participate).

In addition, the Focal Points are invited to attend each annual meeting of the network (once a year in general). It should be noted that until today, the plane tickets as well as the French / English interpretation are at the CIHEAM's charge and that the transfers, meals and accommodation are in charge of the host country.

MED-Amin is an initiative whose operating principle is based on a definition of objectives in continuous and dynamic consultation between its members. Faithful to the CIHEAM mission which coordinates the initiative through the MED-Amin Secretariat based at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier, this network aims first of all at meeting the needs of the countries. With this in mind, the Focal Points can send us any request for information that may emerge.