Cereal markets :
The Mediterranean countries gathered in Tunis to improve responsiveness to food security challenges.

Press release
Tunis, Tunisia, December 8, 2016

The 4th MED-Amin meeting (Mediterranean Agricultural Information Network) was held in Tunis, upon invitation of the Tunisian authorities, on December 7&8, 2016. The MED-Amin network constitutes a discussion forum and an opportunity for information-sharing whose purpose is to provide decision-makers with improved transparency and with a better understanding of cereal markets. The name of the network, "MED-Amin" was coined from the Arabic word "Amin" for trust, a concept at the crossroads of CIHEAM's missions and values. The network participates to the reinforcement of the multilateral dialogue in the Mediterranean area and consequently holds a special position within the priority objectives of the CIHEAM Action Plan for the Mediterranean area (CAPMED2025): Combating knowledge waste, improving food security, enhancing resilience against shocks, notably via the implementation of collaborative systems of crisis management.

The MED-Amin network was launched officially by the Agricultural Ministries from the 13 CIHEAM member-states during the 10th ministerial meeting held in Algiers in February 2014. The network was created to develop the mutual understanding of Mediterranean countries and to provide decision-makers with improved transparency on cereal markets via the sharing of quality information so as to step up to the challenge that food security constitutes in the first cereal-importing region of the world.

The Middle East-North Africa region is the first importing region in the world (about 30% for world imports for 6% of the world consumption). Cereals are at the heart of the complex equation characterizing the Mediterranean area: anticipating and supporting the increase of supply (production, importation, …) induced by demographic growth, producing better considering the natural resources scarcity and producing with stability when climatic changes are quickening pace.



Mr Pascal Bergeret, Director, CIHEAM-Montpellier

Co-organized by ONAGRI, the Tunisian Cereal Office and CIHEAM, this meeting allowed experts from the 13 CIHEAM member states, with the support of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, and the Secretariat of AMIS (Agriculture market information system) based within FAO, to continue the harmonization of collected data and the realization of cereal balance sheets as well as to discuss early warning systems' role in providing enhanced anticipation of negative events linked to future harvests.



Mr. Omar El Behi, Secretary of State to the Tunisian Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Ministry, in charge of the Agricultural Production

On this basis, the Secretary of State to the Tunisian Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Ministry, in charge of the Agricultural Production, Mr. Omar El Behi reminded participants, during the opening address of the meeting, that the cereal markets instability constitutes a major challenge for Tunisia and many countries in the region. Tunisia, a CIHEAM member state for over three decades, has always positioned itself at the heart of multilateral euro-Mediterranean cooperation, through its positions regarding the centrality of food and agricultural issues for the development of the region.



The MED-Amin network members gathered in Tunis on December 8, 2016

At the conclusion of the 4th MED-Amin meeting, a decision was taken to create a working group to cover the progressive implementation of a Mediterranean early warning system on wheat. Addressing the observed increase in shocks in the Mediterranean area (climatic events, market instability, phytosanitary diseases, conflicts, ...) this scheme, bringing together national operators, CIHEAM, AMIS, and the European Commission, will allow for an improved circulation of information and will facilitate the implementation of concerted operations aimed at better preparedness and sustainable management of the different shocks. A kick-off meeting will be held during the first semester 2017.

Learn more on MED-Amin : www.med-amin.org

Learn more CIHEAM : www.ciheam.org

Learn on more on MED2025 : www.ministerial2016.ciheam.org