



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

**FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture  
(GIEWS):  
Improving monitoring and analysis of food supply/demand and markets**

5 October 2016

**About the event**

The event presents FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), which remains in the forefront of food security early warning, some 40 years after its inception in the wake of the world food crisis of the early 1970s. After a general overview of the system, the event will focus on particular domains in which the system has recently developed innovative methods for collecting, analyzing and disseminating data and information on food supply/demand and markets.

In recent years, concern over the higher frequency of severe natural disasters and political crises, and a period of increased volatility of global food commodity prices, confirms the need for continued high vigilance and improved techniques of monitoring.

GIEWS' analysis increasingly relies upon remote sensing data to support staple food production monitoring at global level. The timely detection of developing drought and the accurate assessment of the stressed areas assists in carrying out informed interventions to alleviate negative impacts. In partnership with FAO NRC Division, GIEWS has developed the Agricultural Stress Index System (ASIS), a remote sensing data based system to detect agricultural areas with a high likelihood of water stress.

Following the 2007-2008 food price crisis and a subsequent period of highly volatile prices, GIEWS intensified its food price monitoring and analysis activities, leading to the development of the online Food Price Data and Analysis Tool. The FPMA Tool provides an easy way to access and analyze domestic and international price data collated by GIEWS. Besides supporting GIEWS and other FAO Units' analysis, the FPMA Tool and database has become a valuable Public Good for providing the international community and decision-makers with timely and reliable information.

Following from these innovations, GIEWS information products have been enhanced with two new web-based resources: a web page on domestic food price trends and related information, including warnings on countries where domestic prices for food staples are exceptionally high, and a satellite data-based tool for monitoring rainfall and crop vegetation conditions worldwide in near-real time.

**Purpose:**

- To provide an update on GIEWS functioning and recent developments and improvements in the system.
- To highlight how GIEWS support countries to monitor their food supply, demand and market situation.

**Draft Proposed Agenda**

12.45	12.55	Welcome remarks by Chairperson	Mr. Shukri Ahmed, Deputy Strategic Programme Leader (SO5)
12.55	13.05	GIEWS Presentation	Mr. Jean Senahoun, GIEWS
13.05	13.20	Focus on GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis	Mr. Paul Racionzer, GIEWS
13.20	13.30	Country perspective	Ms. Sylvia Wholers de Meie, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO, Republic of Guatemala
13.30	13.40	Country perspective	Mr. Suzelin Ratohiarijaona, Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO, Madagascar
13.40	13.50	Country perspective	Mr. Seth Meyers, Office of the Chief Economist, US Department of Agriculture, The United States of America
13.50	14.10	Questions and Answers (moderated by Chairperson)	Mr. Shukri Ahmed, Deputy Strategic Programme Leader (SO5)
14.10	14.15	Closing remarks Chairperson	Mr. Shukri Ahmed, Deputy Strategic Programme Leader (SO5)

**Total time:**

90 minutes

**Languages:**

English, French, Spanish