

AGRICULTURAL MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM (AMIS)

The Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) is a G20 initiative, established in June 2011, to enhance food market transparency and encourage international policy coordination in response to market uncertainty. One of its main objectives is to forecast the **short-term market outlook** for wheat, maize, rice and soybeans (“AMIS crops”). FAO’s Trade and Market Division is housing the Secretariat, which consists of ten international organizations with the capacity to collect, analyze and disseminate information on the food market situation and outlook.

Objectives

- Improve **agricultural market information, analyses and forecasts** at both national and international levels.
- **Report on critical conditions** of international food markets, including structural weaknesses, and strengthen global early warning capacity on these movements.
- **Collect and analyse policy information**, and promote international policy dialogue and coordination.
- Build **data collection capacity** in participating countries, e.g. by defining best practices and methodologies to be applied, as well as by training national stakeholders in technical workshops.

Main Outputs

- **Data and statistics** to provide the latest information on the production, consumption, trade, and stocks of AMIS crops from various sources, including AMIS, FAO, IGC and USDA (<http://statistics.amis-outlook.org/>).
- **Market Monitor**, a monthly publication to provide an update on the food market situation and outlook (<http://www.amis-outlook.org/amis-monitoring/en/>).
- **Research and analysis** to focus on topical issues affecting international food markets, such as futures exchanges, energy markets, and public stock regimes (<http://www.amis-outlook.org/amis-analysis/en/>).
- **Indicators**, including market and policy drivers, to effectively monitor food market developments and identify critical market situations that require policy action (published soon).
- **Tools and resources** to support the analysis of international food markets, including best practices and improved methodologies in data collection, as well as a harmonized crop calendar (<http://www.amis-outlook.org/amis-about/calendars/en/>).
- **Outreach and policy dialogue** to effectively inform AMIS participating countries and other stakeholders of the food market situation and outlook, for example through regular meetings of the Global Food Market Information Group and the Rapid Response Forum (<http://www.amis-outlook.org/amis-events/en/>).

Approach

- AMIS participants are required to **provide monthly data** and relevant supporting information (e.g. policy changes) on production, consumption, import, export, stocks and prices of AMIS crops.
- The Secretariat **assesses and validates** this data in order to create market outlooks and related information products. In order to improve data quality and harmonization, the Secretariat is independent in its validation of country information.
- AMIS is modeled after the **Joint Organizations Data Initiative (JODI Oil)**. JODI is recognized for contributing to transparent and sustainable energy data provision.

Structure

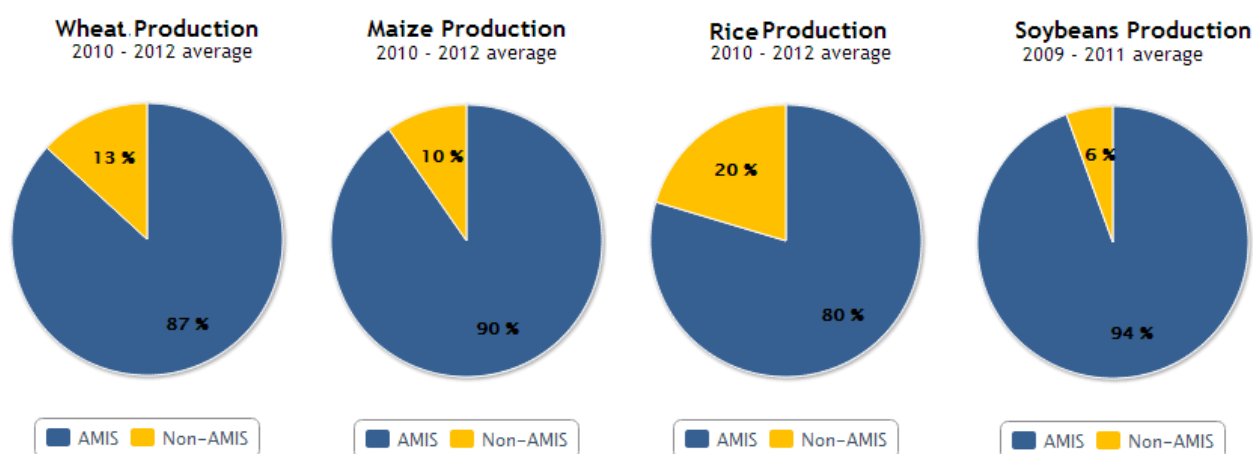
AMIS has an established governance structure that consists of three main bodies:

- **The International Food Market Information Group:** Provides and assesses market and policy information. It consists of technical representatives from participating countries who meet twice per year.
- **The Rapid Response Forum:** Promotes early discussion among decision-level officials about critical international market conditions, and encourages the coordination of policies. It is composed of senior officials from participating countries who meet once per year on a regular basis, as well as when the market situation warrants international policy action.
- **The Secretariat:** Produces market outlooks, assessments and analyses, and supports all functions of the Forum and the Information Group. It is formed by ten international organizations and supported by a Steering Committee that includes one representative from each organization, namely: FAO, IFAD, IFPRI, IGC, OECD, WFP, WTO, UNCTAD, UN-HLTF, and the World Bank.

Membership

- Participants in AMIS include G20 countries plus Spain and seven additional major exporting and importing countries of agricultural commodities. These are: Egypt, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, the Philippines, Thailand, Ukraine, and Viet Nam. Together, participating countries represent a large share of international commodity markets, usually in the range of 80-90 percent of global production (see Figure 1).
- AMIS was initiated during the French Presidency of the G20 in 2011 as a means to address food price volatility. It was agreed in the **June 2011 meeting** of G20 agriculture ministers that, given its ongoing work in food market systems, FAO would host the Secretariat. FAO has led all major events and developments since then, including the production of the AMIS Terms of Reference.
- Past, current and future chair countries of AMIS include **France** (Chair of AMIS in 2012); **United States** (Chair of AMIS in 2013); and **Australia** (elected Chair of AMIS for 2014).

Figure 1: Shares of global production of the AMIS crops (in percent)



Partnerships

- An important linkage has been established with the **Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics**. While differing in scope and coverage, many of the objectives of the Global Strategy are important elements within the framework of AMIS, and *vice versa*.
- Linkages are equally promoted with **GEO-GALM**, the G20's Global Agricultural Geo-Monitoring Initiative, especially as regards improved crop forecasting – one of the main objectives of AMIS.
- AMIS also seeks partnerships with private-sector actors, as well as key international forums like the **Committee on World Food Security** (CFS), which is invited as a Permanent Observer to AMIS meetings.

Resources and financial support

- AMIS is supported through **existing program resources of FAO** (approximately USD 1 million per year) as well as cash and/or in-kind contributions from partners. As of April 2013, financial resources through project contributions amounted to approximately USD 8 million.
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** has committed USD 5.6 million for a three-year capacity building project in Bangladesh, India and Nigeria.
- Japan** has provided USD 1.5 million for a three-year capacity building project in Thailand and Philippines.
- France** has supported the work of the Secretariat with EUR 55,000 as well as the secondment of an international commodities expert.
- The World Bank** is supporting the work of the Secretariat through a Partnership Grant of USD 400,000.
- IFAD** has supported AMIS through two consecutive research grants, each amounting to USD 200,000.
- OECD** will support the Secretariat through a commodities policy expert (starting in June 2013).