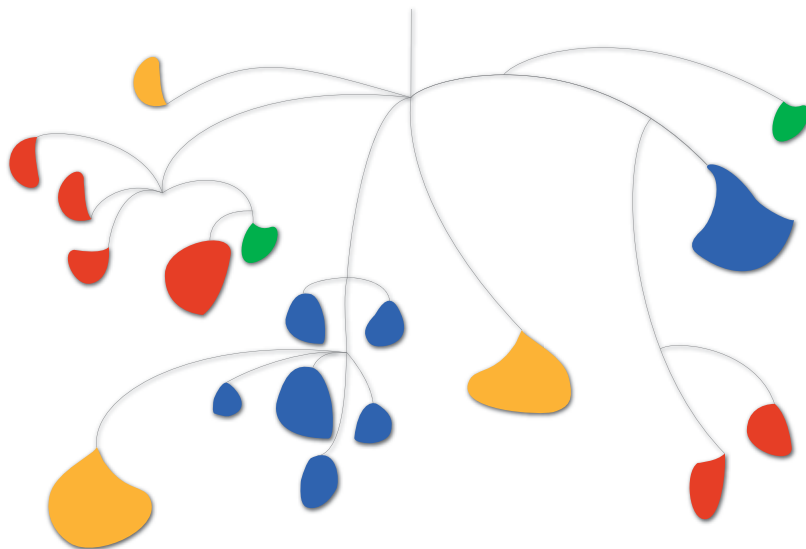


Fifth Session of the AMIS Rapid Response Forum

International Food Policy Research Institute
2033 K Street NW, Washington DC 20006

Thursday 10 March 2016
(08.30-17.00)

AMIS Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017



The Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) seeks to reduce the likelihood of unexpected food price spikes. It does so by monitoring global markets of main food commodities (wheat, maize, rice and soybeans) and by promoting policy discussions between the main producing and consuming countries of these crops. The initiative was launched by the Group of Twenty (G20) and is supported by a multi-agency Secretariat hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Uniting G20 members (and Spain) as well as seven invited countries, AMIS participants represent between 80 and 90 percent of global exports in the targeted crops; a significant share to effectively influence global markets.¹

“Information is powerful, in the right hands - correct information, up-to-date information - and I think that's what AMIS is allowing countries to have access to: accurate, reliable, and transparent information.”
Romeo S. Recide,
Philippine Statistics
Authority

Building on past achievements

Since its inception in 2011, AMIS has established itself as a trusted source of timely and reliable market information and analysis. By working closely with participating countries AMIS has improved available market forecasts and policy information which are accessible to the public through an open database. The initiative has released regular market reports which have attracted a growing number of users and subscribers. Through targeted capacity building projects, AMIS has supported countries in implementing improved methodologies for data collection, analysis and dissemination while research activities have provided new insights to better understand and monitor market developments. Most importantly, AMIS has promoted policy dialogue and mutual learning among participating countries, for example by meeting regularly with national focal points in the framework of the Global Food Market Information Group and the AMIS Rapid Response Forum.

Going forward, AMIS seeks to build on these achievements and further strengthen collaboration and trust between countries. The current phase of calm market conditions provides a good opportunity to build a strong foundation to successfully address and hopefully prevent future food price crises. All ten member organizations in the AMIS Secretariat² are committed to ensuring the sustainability of the initiative and encourage other partners to support the mission of AMIS to promote greater market transparency and coordination.

Views about AMIS

AMIS has been labelled a “particularly successful initiative” (at the 2015 meeting of G20 Agriculture Ministers in Istanbul), an “effective mechanism to stabilize commodity markets” (by the Secretary General of OECD, Mr. Angel Gurría) and a “new weapon in the arsenal to fight food price volatility” (by the Director General of FAO, Mr. José Graziano da Silva). AMIS has also been credited for playing a positive role in calming markets in 2012 when droughts in the United States significantly reduced global maize production.

What countries think

- > AMIS has enhanced our ability to monitor markets (Xu Shiwei, CAAS, China)
- > Exchanges in AMIS are open and very good quality (Seth Meyer, USDA)
- > AMIS has helped us to become more efficient in terms of data production (M. F. Guimarães, MoA, Brazil)
- > By improving data AMIS has helped actors make better decision; quicker decisions (Ian Mitchell, DEFRA, UK)
- > AMIS has proved to be a successful forum for member countries (Jammie Penm, ABARES, Australia)
- > Participating in AMIS helps finding solutions at global scale (Olena Kovalova, MoA, Ukraine)



Objective of this document

This document presents the work programme of AMIS in 2016-2017 and provides an overview of available resources and funding needs. In doing so, it reaches out to AMIS participating countries, philanthropic organizations and other donors who are interested in supporting the initiative or selected activities.

Strategic framework of AMIS

AMIS has an established results framework in which key areas of work requested by the G20 have been translated into concrete activities. This framework centers around six main outputs, of which five are substantive and one is functional. These outputs are:

SUBSTANTIVE

1. **Collect available market and policy information:** for example by constructing, maintaining and continuously improving three collaborative databases for commodity balances, policy information, and market prices.
2. **Develop relevant methodologies and indicators:** through research on estimating crop production, stocks and utilization as well as on market and policy drivers to better understand global market developments.
3. **Strengthen market information systems in participating countries:** by providing guidelines, training materials and hands-on support to national focal points and other stakeholders in participating countries to generate good market information and implement new methodologies and indicators.
4. **Disseminate information for improved policy making:** by releasing timely market data and analysis so that policy makers and other stakeholders in global food markets can make better decisions.
5. **Promote policy dialogue among participating countries:** by ensuring regular exchanges between AMIS participating countries and the sharing of knowledge and best practices.

FUNCTIONAL

6. **Ensure smooth functioning of AMIS:** including an effective management, coordination and monitoring of AMIS activities, especially as regards the work of the multi-agency Secretariat.

Specific targets and milestones related to these main outputs have been identified in the AMIS Umbrella Programme, which is currently in its first cycle of implementation (2012 to 2017). The proposed work programme will conclude this cycle and achieve the first results identified in the strategic framework:

- An open database provides up-to-date information on commodity balances, policy information and prices.
- New methodologies and indicators help countries better understand and monitor market developments.
- Training materials support countries in strengthening capacities for crop forecasting, stocks estimation and price monitoring.
- The AMIS website features critical market information and analysis, including regular releases of the AMIS Market Monitor.
- Meetings of the Global Food Market Information Group and the AMIS Rapid Response Forum offer an effective platform for policy dialogue and technical exchange among AMIS participating countries.

Financial resources and needs

Excluding capacity building projects in individual participating countries (see * on next page), financial needs for the 2016-2017 work programme of AMIS amount to about USD 6 million. Of this, roughly 60 percent (or USD 3,663,500) are covered through existing resources such as funds from ongoing projects, confirmed secondments from AMIS participating countries and expected in-kind contributions from AMIS member organizations.

As many resources have been earmarked for specific activities, available funds are not distributed equally across the main outputs of AMIS. As a result, the financing gap is larger for some areas than for others, including some core activities of AMIS such as the collection and harmonization of market forecasts from participating countries and the maintenance of the collaborative databases on commodity balances, policy information and prices. Other areas are fairly well covered, especially those that benefit from direct project financing or the in-kind contributions of

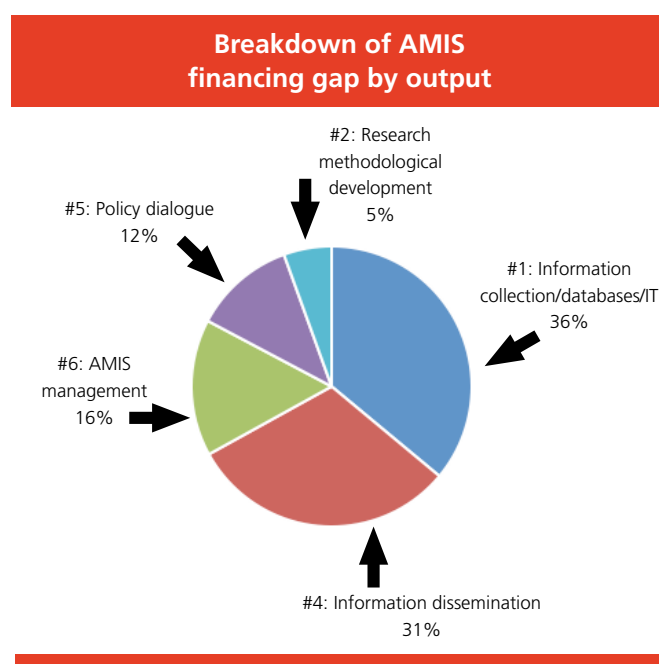


Financial needs and available resources (2016-2017)	Amount (USD)	Share of total (%)
Total	6,008,000	100
In-kind contributions from AMIS member organizations	1,978,600	33
Funds from existing AMIS projects *	1,435,000	24
Secondments from AMIS participating countries	196,900	3
Financing gap	2,397,500	40

AMIS member organizations. These include capacity development activities in participating countries as well as the coordination, management and evaluation of the respective projects, and methodological development and research.

As illustrated in the pie chart and the table below, support is particularly needed for the work on information collection (Output #1) and information dissemination (Output #4). Funding needs are less pronounced for AMIS management, policy dialogue and research activities.

For a complete list of proposed activities and budget implications, please see the table in the Annex.



Output	Funding needs (USD)	Funding available (USD)	Share covered approx. (%)
Total	6,008,000	3,663,500	61
#1: Information collection/databases/IT	1,150,000	305,000	27
#2: Research/methodological development	910,000	780,500	86
#3: Capacity development (in-country activities) *	[1,845,000]	[1,845,000]	[100]
#4: Information dissemination	1,150,000	425,000	37
#5: Policy dialogue	1,000,000	725,000	73
#6: AMIS management	1,798,000	1,428,000	79

* Resources for country-level activities have been excluded from this analysis if these activities only address the specific national context and don't provide any broader benefit to the AMIS initiative as a whole. The respective activities are fully funded through existing capacity development projects with a budget of USD 1,845,000.



Financing modalities

In the past, the work of AMIS has typically been supported in three different ways (in descending order of significance): (i) participating countries, member organizations and external donors financed a particular project with a specific set of outputs and activities; (ii) countries and member organizations seconded experts to the AMIS Secretariat; (iii) donors pooled resources to support the AMIS initiative through the Umbrella Programme.

While each of these modalities has benefits and shortcomings, the nature of AMIS as an evolving initiative with changing demands and priorities makes a compelling case to rely stronger on flexible programme funding (option iii). Earmarked grants have worked well to support very specific and time-bound activities, but they have proved too rigid in their design and often costly in their administration to ensure the long-term sustainability of AMIS. Similarly, the secondment of experts has been instrumental to strengthen the AMIS Secretariat in the early days of the initiative. However, with the work of AMIS becoming more defined and specialized a candidate's profile now needs to match the needs of AMIS much closer than in the past, especially since the limited duration of the secondment reduces the time for on-the-job training.

Multi-donor trust fund

In order to promote the use of pooled funding, the AMIS Secretariat created a multi-donor trust fund. The AMIS Umbrella Programme outlines the activities, outputs and outcomes to be financed through this fund and uses the above-mentioned results framework to evaluate project performance (see the Annex for a complete logframe of AMIS). The AMIS Secretariat encourages interested resource partners to contribute to this fund, for example by signing a Letter of Agreement or a Memorandum of Understanding with FAO as the hosting organization of the AMIS Secretariat.

Funding partners will receive yearly progress reports that describe the extent to which scheduled activities have been carried out, list all outputs that have been produced, and assess progress towards stated objectives. In addition, FAO prepares a Terminal Report for each donor at the end of the grant period, reviewing past activities, major results obtained and conclusions drawn. A section on recommendations and lessons learned, presenting guiding principles for future interventions, constitutes the key element of the report.

Why support AMIS?

The AMIS initiative has a recognized international mandate to carry out specific activities that are new and distinct from those carried out independently by its member organizations and participating countries. These activities have proved to be beneficial to organizations and donors, which share a common interest in achieving more transparent and predictable international food markets.

The development objective of AMIS is to reduce the likelihood of unexpected food price shocks by generating better information on global supply and demand of major food crops and putting this information in the public domain, and by supporting the capacity of participating countries to provide timely and reliable market information and conduct policy discussions in times of market uncertainty. Continued resources will support activities that have helped establish AMIS as a respected source of market information and analysis.

Contact us

For more information on AMIS activities and guidance on how to support the initiative, please contact us at amis-secretariat@fao.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

¹ The AMIS participating countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, and the European Union (the G20 members) plus Spain; the invited countries are Egypt, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, the Philippines, Thailand, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

² FAO, IFPRI, IFAD, IGC, OECD, UNCTAD, the UN High Level Task Force (UN-HLTF), the World Bank Group, WFP, and WTO.



Annex: Detailed list of AMIS activities and outputs in 2016-2017



Activity foreseen in the respective quarter; funding expected to be sufficient
Activity foreseen in the respective quarter; funding lacking or expected to be insufficient
Activity not foreseen in the respective quarter

Output / Component / Activities	Timeframe								Lead agency	Contr. agency	Budget needs (USD)	Share covered (approx.)	Type of funding
	2016				2017								
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4					
Output #1- Available market information, including both statistical data as well as market and policy drivers, of AMIS crops is collected, evaluated and disseminated.													
1.1: Create and maintain the AMIS Collaborative Database, including systems to support the collection, validation and dissemination of data on production, utilization, stocks and trade of AMIS crops													
Maintain, improve and host the AMIS Collaborative Database									FAO	--	300,000		in-kind (FAO); project (World Bank)
Better integrate the AMIS Collaborative Database into the AMIS website, for example through widgets for charts and data tables									FAO	--	100,000		in-kind (FAO); project (World Bank)
Finalize, test and launch a new input mechanism for national balances									FAO	--	20,000		in-kind (FAO); project (World Bank)
Review – and possibly change – the hosting server of the AMIS Collaborative Database									FAO	--	10,000		in-kind (FAO); project (World Bank)
1.2: Create and maintain relevant platforms/systems at the national level to support the collection, validation and dissemination of data on production, utilization, stocks and trade of AMIS crops													
Maintain and further develop the Country AMIS IT Toolkit and promote its use through capacity development projects									FAO	--	50,000		in-kind (FAO); project (Gates)
1.3: Strengthen market information analysis and dissemination in collaboration with FPMA													
Maintain and expand the FPMA database, including national consumer price information of AMIS countries									FAO	--	65,000		tbd

Expand regular market analysis to include consumer price dynamics in AMIS countries	FAO	--	65,000	tbd
Improve the FPMA Tool, developing AMIS specific components such as widgets to embed selected prices/price indicators in the AMIS website	FAO	--	120,000	tbd
Price-based research for analysis and elaboration of market and food security indicators	FAO	--	100,000	tbd
1.4: Develop a system to monitor market and policy drivers				
Maintain and host the AMIS Policy Database and Analysis Tool	FAO, OECD	--	50,000	in-kind (FAO, OECD)
Further enhance the AMIS Policy Database and Analysis Tool: e.g. operationalize data input and validation	FAO, OECD	WTO	200,000	in-kind (FAO, OECD, WTO); project (World Bank)
Maintain and further enhance the "Indicators" section on the AMIS website	FAO	IFPRI, IGC, OECD, World Bank, WTO	50,000	in-kind (FAO); project (World Bank)
Better integrate the AMIS Policy Database into the AMIS website, for example through widgets for charts and data tables	FAO, OECD	--	20,000	in-kind (FAO, OECD); project (World Bank)
Output #2- Relevant methodologies and indicators are developed to monitor and analyze market conditions and provide improved forecasts.			910,000	86%
2.1: Improve/develop methodologies for crop production forecasts, including yields				
Based on completed literature reviews and in close collaboration with the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, implement research/methodological agenda for crop production forecasts	FAO	--	50,000	in-kind (FAO)
Expand the current list of best practice cases (e.g. Belgium, China, Morocco, South Africa, and the United States) to assess the human, technical and financial infrastructures required for enhanced crop production forecasts	FAO	--	15,000	in-kind (FAO); project (Gates)

Organize an international workshop on methodologies and practice for crop production forecasting (Bangladesh)	FAO	--	80,000	in-kind (FAO); project (Gates)
Explore the cost/benefit ratio of crowdsourcing solutions for crop forecasts, at farm level. Publish paper with experiences and lessons learnt	FAO	WFP (tbc), IRRI (tbc)	45,000	project (Gates)
2.2: Improve/develop methodologies for estimation of food stocks				
			190,000	100%
Launch and maintain a database documenting good practice cases from several countries for the measurement of food grain stocks	FAO	--	15,000	project (Gates)
Finalize and publish guidelines that present options, recommended approaches and methodological issues linked with stocks measurement	FAO	--	15,000	project (Gates)
Explore and test options for collaboration with AGRIS, a 10-year farm based integrated survey plan led by FAO's Statistics Division, for improved stocks measurement	FAO	--	80,000	project (Gates)
Organize an international workshop on methodologies and practice for stocks measurement (India)	FAO	--	80,000	in-kind (FAO); project (Gates)
2.3: Improve/develop methodologies for estimation of the utilization of AMIS crops				
			50,000	100%
Revisit feed model based on user feedback from the online feed simulation application	FAO	--	10,000	in-kind (FAO)
Continue working with national focal points on utilization elements of commodity balances	FAO	--	30,000	secondment (France); in-kind (FAO)
Encourage bi-/multilateral discussions between AMIS participating countries on lessons learnt/best practices in measuring/estimating utilization elements of commodity balances	FAO	--	10,000	secondment (France); in-kind (FAO)
2.4: Improve/develop statistical methods for food and agricultural price data collection				
			70,000	100%
Explore the cost/benefit ratio of crowdsourcing solutions for market price data collection, building on a pilot project in Indonesia. Publish paper with experiences and lessons learnt	FAO	WFP, UNDP	45,000	project (Gates)

Explore the cost/benefit ratio of crowdsourcing solutions for farm-gate price data collection. Publish paper with experiences and lessons learnt			FAO	--	25,000	project (Gates)
2.5: Develop, test and put into operation indicators to detect global food market vulnerabilities and better understand global market developments						
Continue research on drivers of food price volatility, including a paper on indicators of volatility regime change			FAO	--	60,000	secondment/A PO (Germany)
Develop an indicator of market vulnerability measuring market sentiment using information from social media, notably Twitter			FAO	IFPRI	50,000	in-kind (FAO)
Building on the November 2015 workshop on market indicators, continue improving existing indicators of Secretariat members, including: Excessive Food Price Variability measure (IFPRI); World Bank Food Price Crisis Monitor; FAO work on volatility; and WFP Alert for Price Spikes indicator			IFPRI	FAO, WFP, World Bank	50,000	in-kind (IFPRI, FAO, WFP, World Bank)
Continue collaboration with GEOGLAM on geo-spatial indicators of crop growing conditions			FAO	GEOGLAM	50,000	in-kind (FAO, GEOGLAM)
Investigate the impact of various policy measures on agricultural markets, with a view to deriving policy drivers			OECD	--	120,000	in-kind (OECD)
Continue research on price transmission, including a quantitative analysis of the impact of futures markets			FAO	--	80,000	tbd
Output # 3. Capacity of national data producers is strengthened to collect and validate data on production, utilization, stocks and trade of AMIS crops					1,845,000	100%
3.1: Improve capacity in national agencies to monitor market prices						
Conduct training workshops in Nigeria on improving: data access; data collection, transmission and validation.			FAO	--	80,000	project (Gates)
Pilot the farmers market information network in Nigeria			FAO	--	125,000	project (Gates)
Assess and improve market prices information systems in India			FAO	--	200,000	project (Gates)





3.2: Improve capacity in national agencies to forecast crop production					340,000	100%
Continue the modelling/agricultural outlook in India		FAO	--	project (Gates)	80,000	
Strengthen the crop production survey in Nigeria		FAO	--	project (Gates)	60,000	
Conduct workshops and field tests in Bangladesh to enhance the technological, methodological and human capacities for producing data on crop production and forecasts		FAO	--	project (Gates)	200,000	
3.3: Improve capacity in national agencies to measure food grain stocks					700,000	100%
Conduct workshops and field tests in Bangladesh to enhance the technological, methodological and human capacities for producing data on food grain stocks (private stocks)		FAO	--	project (Gates)	350,000	
Conduct workshops and field tests in India to enhance the technological, methodological and human capacities for producing data on food grain stocks (private stocks)		FAO	--	project (Gates)	350,000	
3.4: Improve institutional set-ups in selected countries to improve AMIS data production and use					350,000	100%
Develop and implement customized systems specifically designed for national information needs: e.g. India (stocks measurement; price data collection); Nigeria (data access; data collection, validation and transmission)		FAO	--	project (Gates)	350,000	
3.5: Strengthen capacity of national focal points in the framework of the AMIS Exchange Programme					50,000	100%
Train participants of the fourth cycle of the Exchange Programme		FAO	OECD	in-kind (FAO); project (MDTF)	25,000	
Train participants of the fifth cycle of the Exchange Programme		FAO	OECD	in-kind (FAO); project (MDTF)	25,000	

Output # 4. Policy makers in AMIS participating countries and other stakeholders are effectively informed of the market situation and outlook, including on relevant policy developments					1,150,000	37%
4.1: Conduct periodic reviews on policy environment in agricultural markets					300,000	0%
Collect, validate and publish policy information in AMIS Market Monitor and AMIS Policy Database				OECD FAO, WTO, IGC	300,000	in-kind (FAO, OECD, WTO)
4.2. Prepare and disseminate information materials on market situation and outlook					850,000	50%
Prepare and publish the AMIS Market Monitor				FAO	400,000	in-kind (FAO, IGC, OECD, GEOGLAM, WTO); project (World Bank)
Hire dedicated market analyst/s to continuously monitor wheat, maize, rice and soybean markets for more frequent (e.g. weekly) updates				FAO	300,000	tbd
Regularly update the AMIS website and engage with stakeholders through various channels, including social media (e.g. Twitter)				FAO	100,000	in-kind (FAO); project (MDTF)
Prepare interactive tools and information materials (e.g. video tutorials; online presentations) to explain market situation and outlook				FAO	50,000	in-kind (FAO); project (MDTF)
Output # 5. Dialogue is strengthened among policy makers in AMIS participating countries, including outreach to other stakeholders in international food markets					1,000,000	73%
5.1: Organize regular meetings and exchanges with AMIS participating countries					800,000	75%
Regularly organize and participate in sessions of the Global Food Market Information Group				FAO	400,000	in-kind (all Secretariat members)
Regularly organize and participate in meetings of the AMIS Rapid Response Forum				FAO	200,000	in-kind (all Secretariat members)
Maintain close contacts with national focal points for improved data submissions, including through country visits				FAO	200,000	secondment (France); project (France)



5.2: Facilitate capacity building and knowledge sharing on key topics				
Organize seminars and workshops in selected participating countries on an ad-hoc basis (e.g. China workshop on stock and utilization measurement)	FAO	--	100,000	25%
				in-kind (FAO); project (World Bank)
5.3: Ensure outreach to other stakeholders				
			100,000	100%
Participate in relevant conferences, seminars and events, and regularly liaise with non-state market actors	FAO	all	100,000	
				in-kind (all Secretariat members)
Output # 6. AMIS is functioning smoothly and effectively				
			1,798,000	79%
6.1: AMIS activities are effectively managed, coordinated and evaluated				
			740,000	50%
Implement project work plans, in collaboration with national counterparts, resource partners and other stakeholders	FAO	--	200,000	project (MDTF, Gates)
Systematically monitor the performance of projects and regularly report to national counterparts, resource partners and other stakeholders, including through independent evaluations where applicable	FAO	--	200,000	project (MDTF, Gates)
Regularly review project budgets and adjust where necessary, according to the financial rules and regulations of FAO	FAO	--	200,000	project (MDTF, Gates)
Establish annual work plans for AMIS and win resource partners to finance selected activities	FAO	--	100,000	in-kind (FAO); project (MDTF)
Formulate specific capacity building projects and support resource mobilization	FAO	--	40,000	in-kind (FAO); project (Gates)

6.2: AMIS is effectively supported by a multi-agency Secretariat				500,000	100%
Provide leadership and represent AMIS to external audiences and other stakeholders		FAO	all	400,000	in-kind (FAO)
Regularly organize and participate in meetings of the AMIS Steering Committee		FAO	all	100,000	in-kind (all Secretariat members)
6.3: Administrative expenses and overheads for hosting the AMIS Secretariat				558,000	100%
Project Servicing Cost (around 10%)		FAO	--	328,000	
Reporting costs		FAO	--	30,000	
Evaluation costs		FAO	--	200,000	

