

# SEVENTH SESSION OF THE AMIS GLOBAL FOOD MARKET INFORMATION GROUP

FAO Headquarters  
Rome, 14-15 May 2015

## AGENDA



# DAY 1: Thursday, 14 May 2015

## Morning: 08:30-12:45

08.30 Registration

09.00 1. Opening remarks (Chair) Mr Ian Mitchell, Deputy Director and Senior Economic Advisor, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK

09.15 2. AMIS progress report: October 2014 - May 2015 (AMIS: IG/7 - 2015/2)

The Secretariat will highlight main achievements of AMIS from October 2014 to May 2015 and provide an overview of upcoming activities, especially as regards the five main functions of AMIS:

- (i) Information collection
- (ii) Research
- (iii) Capacity development
- (iv) Dissemination
- (v) Policy Dialogue

In addition, GEOGLAM will update the group on new developments and future plans for collaboration with AMIS

09.45 3. AMIS crops market situation and outlook

Given the positive feedback from the previous meeting and the recommendations to address this topic in a more interactive way, focal points will split into groups by commodity and discuss the latest global supply and demand forecasts for AMIS crops based on the May issue of the AMIS Market Monitor and new insights from GEOGLAM. Results of each group's discussion will be presented at the end of the session by a rapporteur.

11.15 Coffee break

11.45 4. The status of data submissions to AMIS and next steps (AMIS: IG/7 - 2015/3)

The Secretariat will present the overall status of data submissions and an assessment of main outstanding issues. Participating countries are invited to share their views on the challenges they face, in order to agree on some general recommendations for follow-up action. As the Secretariat looks forward to incorporating countries' forecasts in its global analysis, the Secretariat will suggest a monthly schedule for the submission of forecasts that countries will be requested to adhere to.

- (i) Overview of the latest status and unresolved problems (Secretariat)
- (ii) Open discussion on challenges faced (participating countries)
- (iii) Timetable for receiving monthly forecasts from focal points



## DAY 1: Thursday, 9 May 2015

12.45 Lunch break

### Afternoon: 14.00-17:30

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| 14.00 | 5. Bilateral discussions between members of the Secretariat and the focal points on data submission and forecasting (by appointment) | The Secretariat will schedule bilateral discussions with country focal points to establish an action plan to accelerate and improve data submissions before the next meeting of the Information Group in November. As background information, the Secretariat will provide a brief assessment of outstanding problems and recommended solutions for each country that will be shared with countries at least two weeks before the meeting. It is therefore expected that country focal points reflect on their specific challenges and possible remedies before coming to Rome in order to commit to the agreed solutions. |
| 16.00 | 6. Recommendations on how to enhance country collaboration   | A wrap-up of the bilateral discussions with a view to agreeing on a plan for more constructive collaboration on data submissions.  |
| 16.30 | 7. Exchange Programme, lessons learned and next steps  | A short intervention by the two first participants (to be confirmed), providing feedback and sharing their experiences. Overview of the Exchange Programme and introduction of the two new participants.   |
| 16.45 | 8. Panel discussion on the monthly decomposition of supply and demand balances (AMIS: IG/7 - 2015/4)                                 | At the last meeting of the AMIS Information Group, six participants (Argentina, Australia, Canada, Japan, Indonesia and the Russian Federation) agreed to continue the work on a monthly breakdown of the supply and demand balances, which was initiated last year. These countries will form a panel to discuss the progress made and lessons learned. The Secretariat expects new countries to volunteer for the next round of this exercise.   |



## DAY 2: Friday, 15 May 2015

### 17.30 Reception (Aventino Room - terrace)

### Morning: 09:00-13:00

09.00	9. AMIS feed utilization tool	The Secretariat will present a web application of the feed model developed for AMIS.
09.30	10. National policy actions	AMIS participating countries will be asked to report on major national policy developments, explaining the possible implications they could have for international markets
10.00	11. Policy database	The Secretariat will present the latest status of the AMIS Policy Database.

### 10.30 Coffee break

11.00	12. Research initiatives by AMIS participating countries and partners	<p>This session is devoted to research initiatives by AMIS participating countries and member organizations of the AMIS Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Issues in assessing/measuring volatility (EU):</b> Forward looking measures and historical estimators are complementary tools. They both contribute to a better understanding of volatility. Very often, technicalities inside indicators play a dominant role and small changes in the math/assumptions could lead to different conclusions over the phenomenon.</li><li>• <b>Has volatility changed? (FAO):</b> Different levels of volatility have different implications for policy-makers. The status of ongoing research, published in the May 2015 issue of Food Outlook, on regime changes in price volatility for AMIS crops will be presented.</li><li>• <b>Domestic and external drivers of maize prices in Tanzania (World Bank):</b> A presentation will be given on recently published research that analyzes the effects of world markets, trade policies, weather variability, and seasonality on domestic prices.</li></ul>
12.00	13. Any other business	
12.30	14. Chair's summary	

