



EIGHTH SESSION OF THE AMIS GLOBAL FOOD MARKET INFORMATION GROUP

Expo Milan - Auditorium
19 October 2015 *

AGENDA

* As a courtesy of the Italian government, all AMIS participants are invited to visit the Exhibition Site at Expo Milan 2015 on Tuesday 20 October, with a guided tour in the morning.

Monday, 19 October 2015

Morning (open door sessions)

08.30-09.15 Registration Please note that registration opens at 08.30 and closes at 09.15. The location of the registration has been communicated by email on 8 October.

10.00 1. Opening remarks

- Maurizio Martina, Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, Italy
- Ian Mitchell, AMIS Chair, Deputy Director and Senior Economic Advisor, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom
- Abdolreza Abbassian, AMIS Secretary

11.00 2. Food market outlook for 2015/15

The outlook for global wheat, maize, soybeans, and rice markets in 2015/16 will be presented by national focal points. The presentations will feature latest forecasts by AMIS and include a discussion of micro- and macroeconomic factors shaping market performance.

- An overview of main factors influencing global markets
Joseph Glauber, International Food Policy Research Institute
- Price formation and volatility in international markets
Ann Berg, Independent Consultant
- Global outlook for wheat
Eric Willems, European Union
- Global outlook for maize
Seth Meyer, United States
- Global outlook for soybeans
Marcelo Fernandes Guimarães, Brazil
- Global outlook for rice
Romeo Recide, the Philippines

12.30 Q&A

13.00 Lunch break

Afternoon (closed door sessions)

14.30 3. Progress report (May - October 2015) (AMIS: IG/8 - 2015/2)

In addition to a short progress report on the main achievements since the previous meeting, this session will focus on a number of follow-up actions and activities, including:

- Outcome of the Expert Workshop on Stock and Utilization Measurement, China (6-7 July 2015)
- Outcome of the Technical Expert Meeting on EU Rice Balance Sheet (24 September 2015)
- Recent developments concerning the AMIS Policy Database
- Update on AMIS Working Group evaluation effort
- IFPRI activities on global fertilizer market structure and price data (in the context of excessive volatility) and eventual contribution to the AMIS Market Monitor



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- 16.00 4. Country collaboration and the forecasting exercise
- A summary presentation of the latest status regarding the supply and demand balances by the Secretariat will be followed by a Q&A session on related matters, including data gaps, methodology and timeliness of data delivery. Delegates will provide updates on their bilateral follow-up actions since the May meeting, namely:
- South Africa: Report on enhanced collaboration with GEOGLAM
 - Japan: Report on discussions with Australia, Canada and the United States on improving estimation methods
 - Indonesia: Report on discussions with FAO and the United States on improving estimation methods of domestic maize crop production and utilization
 - Feedback from the second round of the AMIS Exchange Programme (China and India)

16.45 Coffee break

- 17.00 5. Valuing public information in agricultural commodity markets
- Existing literature has shown that markets respond to WASDE releases (news effects) but has not quantified the value or distribution of benefits from those reports. In a recent research study, Philip Abbott, David Boussios and Jess Lowenberg-DeBoer provide some estimates on the value of USDA's WASDE corn reports using Monte Carlo simulations along the lines used in price stabilization literature. The main results of this study will be presented by Professor Phil Abbott from Purdue University.

- 17.30 6. What can we learn from the world supply-demand outlook data published in the AMIS Market Monitor reports?
- Preliminary results of a recent study that compares AMIS forecasts with IGC and USDA will be presented by Jan Brockhaus from the University of Bonn.

- 17.50 7. Market information influencing policy decision making: Ukraine case
- Early each marketing year, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food and the Ukrainian grain industry agree to set "reasonable" grain export volumes and notification procedures based on their expected supply and demand outlook for grains in Ukraine. A presentation about this process and its effectiveness will be made by a representative of the Ukrainian Grain Association.

- 18.10 8. Information system of grain operations - Argentina
- A new computing platform for registering transactions in grains and oilseeds markets will be presented by José Posse and Diego Fernandez of Argentina.

- 18.30 9. Any other business

- 18.45 10. Chair's summary

- 19.00 11. Chair's handover

19.00 Dinner (hosted by Italy)

