



9th MED-Amin Meeting

Which Information Systems to Support Food Security in the Mediterranean and Face New Challenges?

22-23 November 2022

[Tentative Agenda]

Background: The **invasion of Ukraine** has driven up already high global agricultural commodity prices and significantly disturbed global agricultural markets in 2022. The consequences of the disruption of the cereal supply chain are already evidenced in several countries and are under the scrutiny of the international community. High input prices (feed compounds and fertilizers included) cast a serious shadow on future production, and thus add to already vivid concerns with global food security associated with record **highs in food prices** (grains-based products, vegetable oils, etc.).

Uncertainty in agricultural markets remains high despite the facilitating **Black Sea Grains Initiative** unlocking partially Ukrainian ports, whose prolongation is under discussion, and the relative decline in general cereal prices over the summer. The conflict in the Black Sea region highlights **interdependences** between food systems, energy markets, global peace, and food security for all, as well as their **fragility in many countries**. The Mediterranean region is one of the most exposed. It requires solid instruments to understand the impact of current crises on the market of grain and other derived products. To complete the picture, **climate change** is playing a major role in jeopardizing food security in the region. The high temperatures and drought conditions experienced in many parts of the Mediterranean Basin during 2022 affected the growth of crops, resulting in **lower yields and production**.

Those global phenomena highlight the necessity to discuss **alternative agricultural policies**, regulatory tools, and cooperation mechanisms.

The MED-Amin Network, in its upcoming plenary session, will offer the opportunity to experts and decision-makers to debate current issues affecting **Mediterranean food systems and food security**, and open ground for joint solutions. In particular, the current crisis emphasizes the enduring significance of the MED-Amin **regional initiative**.

The 9th edition of the MED-Amin Annual Meeting will gather decision-makers of the CIHEAM Mediterranean countries and relevant international organizations as well as key actors of the grains market to debate about a strengthened MED-Amin **Early Warning System**, share updates and forecasts on cereal markets, present and upcoming activities of the MED-Amin network.

Venue:

CIHEAM Zaragoza
Av.Montañana, 1005
50059, Zaragoza, Spain
GPS: 41.7226 ; -0.8137

Accommodation:

Hotel Alfonso
C/ Coso 15-17
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www.palafoxhoteles.com

Audience: MED-Amin Focal Points, International organization observers and partners of MED-Amin, Mediterranean countries' decision-makers, and Spanish grain value chain representatives.

Format: All the sessions will be available on hybrid format: on site and online (Zoom), with simultaneous interpreting in French/English/Spanish.

Contacts:

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Ms. Pilar Galán López-García, Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación, pgalanlo@mapa.es.

21 November 2022 ¹

Internal Meeting

16:00-18:00 Workshop of the EWS-Med Expert Group
(CIHEAM, IGC, DG Agri, JRC, AMIS, GIEWS, WFP, GEOGLAM)

22 November 2022 ²

8:30 Registration of the participants

9:00 Opening speeches [30']:

- CIHEAM Zaragoza Director
- CIHEAM General Secretary
- MAPA General Secretary of Agriculture

¹ All time are indicated in Madrid time (CET)

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9:30-10:15 Session 1: Cereal market outlooks [45']

- International markets outlook: Mr. Denis Drechsler (FAO-EST, AMIS Secretary) & Mr. Alexander Karavaytsev (International Grain Council – IGC)
- Outlook from the European Union: Ms. Justyna Wrobel (European Commission, DG Agri)
- Outlook from MED-Amin countries: Mr. David Gasc (CIHEAM Montpellier)
- Discussion

10:15-11:30 Session 2: Cereal Cropping in the Mediterranean Basin and Climate Change from a Food Security Perspective [1h15]

Four panellists from international scientific committee and Spanish agricultural organizations will share their views on climate change and its effect on cereals cultivation and the pathways for its adaptation and mitigation.

11:30 **Press conference**

11:30: Coffee break [30']

12:00-13:30 Session 3: Expert roundtable on Impacts of the Conflict in the Black Sea region in the Mediterranean countries [1h30]

The roundtable of panellists will share their appreciation of the actual consequences on grain and derived products (oil) markets and the Mediterranean region's economies and communities. The discussion will help identify gaps and bottlenecks that call for a political action (link to next session). MED-Amin Strategic Resource Persons / Focal Points will also be invited to present the current situation, potential concerns and emerging solutions in their respective countries.

Among other keynote speakers:

- Mr. Dmitry Prikhodko (FAO Investment Center)
- Mr. Ben Parker (UN facility for Tripartite Agreement on grains trade in Black Sea)
- Ms Monika Tothova (Global Information and Early Warning System, FAO-EST)
- Mr. Mohamed Sebgui (Director of the Office National Interprofessionnel des Céréales et Légumineuses of Morocco, ONICL)

13:30 **Lunch (*in situ*)**

14:30-16:30 Session 4 (high-level panel): Preparing and/or implementing contingency strategies to mitigate food insecurity/vulnerability and alleviate the effects of current and future crises³: Which national tools and mechanisms towards a strengthened Mediterranean information systems and cooperation? [2h]

³ See, for example [EU Food security and food supply contingency plan](#).

The session proposes, in the form of a round table, to bring an institutional and strategic light on the needs (current and anticipated) of Mediterranean countries in terms of information to prepare, monitor and operationalize food crisis management and contingency strategies. This will contribute to the political awareness/attention to the network action and its partners. It should open leads for agreements on strengthened cooperation and call for a strengthened early warning system in the Mediterranean region.

Among other keynote speakers:

- Mr. Alexander Karavaytsev (International Grain Council),
- Mr. Fabien Santini (European Commission, DG Agri),
- Ms. Esperanza Orellana Moraleda, Directora General de Producciones y mercados Agrarios (Spain)

17:00 Conclusions of the day

17:30 Cultural visit in Zaragoza at the Palacio of Aljaferia

20:00 Official dinner on invitation of the Spanish Authorities (in Zaragoza)

23 November 2022 ¹

9:00-10:00 Session 5: MED-Amin Action Plan 2021-2023 implementation [1h]

- MED-Amin Action Plan implementation
- 2022's MED-Amin Forecasting exercise and others yield forecast initiatives and market information systems among Member countries and beyond

10:00-11:30 Session 6: Early Warning System (EWS-Med) developments [1h30]

- First results of the EWS-Med initiative and Experts group
- Warning signals and actors involved in the crisis management in situation of food insecurity: case study in Tunisia
- Discussion: next steps of EWS-Med developments; funding Early Warning and crisis anticipation capacities, etc.

11:30 *Coffee break* [15']

11:45-12:45 Session 7: MED-Amin perspectives [1h]

- Consolidating the network governance
- MED-Amin priority activities in 2023

- 10th Meeting in 2023

12:45 **Closing**

13:00 *Lunch before departure*

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