

# MED-Amin

Réseau méditerranéen d'information sur les marchés agricoles

## Agriculture commerciale vs Sécurité alimentaire

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## Edito

The MED-Amin activities were in full swing in the late 2018:

The latest Planting and Harvesting Progress Bulletin (Fall) was issued in early December 2018. Prolonged heat and drought weighed heavily on crops, particularly in northern/northeastern Europe. In the MED-Amin area, the 2017/2018 season was good for summer crops (maize and rice). Planting of winter crops (wheat and barley) have been delayed over much of the northern Mediterranean. To get more details country by country, look at a glance the Bulletin <http://www.med-amin.org/en/home/9-news/124-new-release-med-amin-bulletin-of-harvest-and-planting-progress-november-2018>.

A survey of the communication tools and products of the network was organized from the end of November to the beginning of January 2019. The aim was to specify the scope of the network's communication tools, to know the current dissemination of the MED-Amin products (newsletters, newsletters, policy briefs, press reviews), to know their usefulness, and finally to better define the target audiences and the means to achieve them. Thanks to 65 detailed answers received so far, it made it possible to make an inventory of the diffusion of MED-

Amin products and to propose ways of improving this diffusion. The results were presented at the Meknes meeting (see below).

The MED-Amin members met for the sixth consecutive year at the invitation of the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture, on 22 and 23 January 2019 at the Agropole in Meknes, Morocco (see the meeting picture hereafter). For the first time, this sixth meeting was partly open to the private sector with the participation of representatives of professionals from Morocco, Algeria, Egypt and France.

Two roundtables allowed the participants to exchange on the interest of dialogue and reinforced cooperation between the private and public sector in favour of greater transparency of the cereal markets at the service of regional and global food security. The first round table revealed the importance of dialogue between all the actors of the markets in order to improve the quality and especially the availability of data making it possible to

anticipate the evolution of the grain markets in the short and medium term. Devoted to the wheat sector, the second round table considered the evolutions, trends, and prospects of this essential market for Mediterranean food security.

The 7th meeting of MED-Amin will take place in Spain in 2020. The country is taking the rotating presidency of the network.

All members appealed to the continuation of the network activities, part of the CAPMED 2025, the Strategic Action Plan of the CIHEAM, and a renewed political support to enroll it in a long-term cooperation for the food security in the Mediterranean.

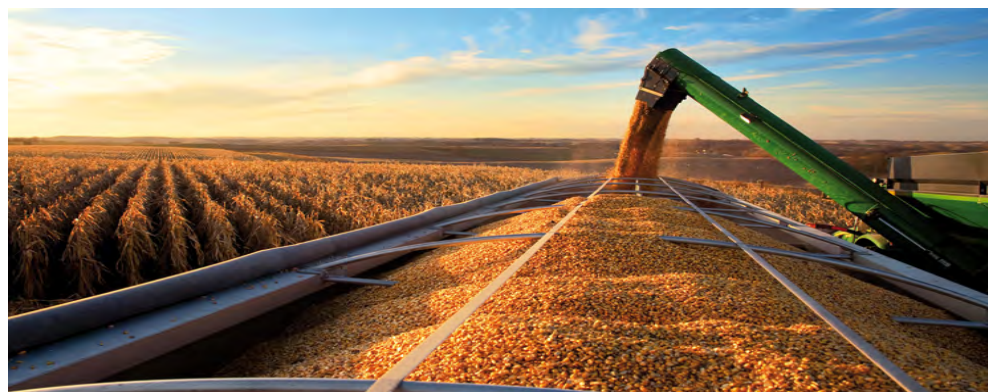
Among the 2019's MED-Amin roadmap, an evaluation of the network and its achievements will be carried out during the first semester of 2019 after five years of action, at the demand of the CIHEAM and the French Ministry of Agriculture.

## TUNISIE

## Observatoire des Prix?

(HuffPostMaghreb 04/02/2019)

Les représentants des quatre organisations professionnelles en Tunisie (dont l'Union Tunisienne de l'Agriculture, et de la Pêche), appellent l'Etat à renoncer à la fixation des prix et à les soumettre à la règle de l'offre et de la demande. Le Ministre du Commerce Omar Behi indique que 87% des produits exposés à la vente sont déjà "libéralisés" et que les produits agricoles importés ne dépassent pas 0,1% de l'ensemble des produits importés. Tous réitèrent la proposition de l'Organisation en 2012, et appellent à créer un observatoire national des prix.



Credit: Creative Commons

## L'agriculture commerciale présente un risque pour le système alimentaire mondial

By EcoFin Hebdo, 25/01/2019

## US SHUTDOWN

## Breathless for USDA data

(Successful Farming, 28/01/2019 &amp; Terre-net, 22/01/2019)

On 1 February, the USDA will start again to clear out a month's worth of backlogged data, including major reports that could jolt commodity markets and color farmers' decisions on crops to plant this spring.

The USA is indeed one of the only countries to benefit from such a sharp level of information on public markets, which makes others very dependent on these data. "The risk is that the agricultural markets are going one way or the other" when the figures are published again.

## MAROC

## Imports records

(L'Economiste, 29/01/2019)

En 2018, la facture a crevé le plafond à 12,8 milliards de dirhams. Et les deux tiers ont concerné les achats de blé. Le reste a été dédié à l'importation du maïs dont le pays est importateur net. Ceci, intervient après deux campagnes record.

L'explication tient en partie à la structure des écrasements des minoteries qui font toujours une large place au blé d'importation.

Environ 50% des calories d'origine végétale présente dans l'alimentation humaine, proviennent de trois céréales: le riz, le blé, et le maïs. A elle trois, ces cultures occupent 583 millions d'hectares, soit 5 830 000 kilomètres carrés. Ceci représente environ la superficie combinée de l'Algérie, la République démocratique du Congo, et l'Ethiopie.

Selon une étude du World Economic Forum, le cas de ces céréales est symptomatique des dérives de l'agriculture commerciale. En effet, sur environ 30 000 espèces végétales comestibles, seulement 170 le sont à une échelle commerciale. Ainsi par exemple sur les 1000 variétés de bananes qui existent, la plus consommée dans le monde est la Cavendish. Cette variété représente à elle seule près de 50% de la banane produite dans le monde.

Le choix de privilégier ces cultures commerciales constitue néanmoins un risque pour le système alimentaire mondial car en cas de maladie ou d'infection des variétés retenues par le

marché, les conséquences pourraient être dramatiques pour les circuits alimentaires mondiaux.

En outre plusieurs milliers de cultures traditionnelles qui présentent des vertus intéressantes pour la santé humaine restent sous exploitées car leur production est très peu bénéfique pour l'industrie de l'agroalimentaire.

En conséquence, le World Economic Forum recommande donc de mettre en valeur ces cultures diversifiées qui non seulement présentent de gros avantages pour la santé humaine mais peuvent, pour certaines, pallier aux insuffisances des autres cultures.

Pour plus d'information, rejoindre le site dédié du World Economic Forum <https://www.weforum.org/system-initiatives/shaping-the-future-of-food-security-and-agriculture>

## Le déclin de la résilience climatique du blé en Europe (2019)

PNAS (2019) et Centre d'études et de prospective (2019).

Une équipe de chercheurs européens étudie l'évolution de la résilience climatique du blé en Europe, et plus particulièrement le rôle joué en la matière par la diversité des variétés cultivées. L'analyse est menée sur 991 cultivars et 636 localisations, dans 9 pays (Allemagne, Belgique, Danemark, Espagne, Finlande, France, Italie, Tchéquie et Slovaquie), sur la période 1991-2014. Un modèle statistique permet d'estimer l'influence, sur les rendements, de 43 variables agroclimatiques, regroupées en 9 catégories et discrétisées en trois niveaux sur la base des 40e et 60e centiles. Les nombreux cultivars sont quant

à eux rassemblés en 9 groupes à l'aide d'une analyse par grappes. Les réponses aux aléas climatiques sont établies par l'écart relatif de rendement (en %) entre valeurs haute et basse des variables climatiques. La résilience est définie comme la diversité des réponses des variétés de blé aux aléas climatiques, et calculée avec un indice annuel de Shannon : plus la diversité est élevée, plus le blé sera capable de résister à une large gamme d'aléas climatiques.

Les résultats montrent un déclin de cette diversité depuis le début des années 2000, dans plusieurs pays de l'Est, avec dans certaines localisations de véritables « déserts

de diversité ». Une légère augmentation est constatée en France, mais la valeur de la diversité y reste moyenne. Selon les auteurs, les causes de ce déclin de la résilience climatique du blé sont à chercher dans les incitations économiques des sélectionneurs, qui favorisent la maximisation du rendement potentiel au détriment de la robustesse aux aléas. Loin de s'opposer, ces deux dimensions devraient, pour eux, être complémentaires, et la politique agricole ainsi que les réglementations relatives aux semences ont un rôle à jouer pour assurer les incitations nécessaires en la matière.

Source: <https://www.pnas.org/content/116/1/123>





Credit

## FAO FOOD PRICES

### The Cereal Price Index

(FAO [www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/](http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/), 07/02/2019)

L'indice a atteint 168,1 points en janvier, en légère hausse vs décembre et +7% vs janvier 2018. Les prix des céréales principales se sont en général bien maintenus dans l'ensemble, en raison de la baisse de la production mondiale en 2018, d'un resserrement des disponibilités exportables et d'une demande mondiale forte. Les marchés du blé et du maïs sont restés bien calmes, notamment parce que plusieurs rapports importants n'ont pas été publiés aux USA, en raison du «shutdown». Toutefois, les cours du maïs enregistrant la plus forte hausse, en raison de mauvaises conditions météo en Amérique du Sud. Ceux du riz ont également augmenté, principalement en raison d'une forte demande de riz Japonica et de l'appréciation du baht thaïlandais.

## EU/USA TRADE AGREEMENT

### To Ag or not to Ag

(USWheat, 13/12/2018)

To Ag, from the US view! The U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) submitted comments to the U.S. Trade Representative on wheat growers' priorities for the negotiations. One of the priority, of course, is that the negotiations should cover agricultural products like wheat. The most significant challenges U.S. wheat growers currently face in the EU are non-tariff barriers also designed primarily to protect EU wheat producers. Pesticide residue and plant breeding regulations, phytosanitary tests and labeling requirements can disrupt U.S. wheat imports and create additional market uncertainty.

## SCOOPS

### Pour plus de news sur les marchés céréaliers, suivez le Scoop.It MED-Amin !

A retrouver sur :

[www.scoop.it/t/med-amin](http://www.scoop.it/t/med-amin)

ainsi qu'à partir du site web de MED -Amin :

<http://www.med-amin.org>

## 2019 Trade Policy Outlook

By Ben Conner, USW Vice President of Policy, 09/01/2019

If there is anything we learned from 2018, it is that the trade policy landscape is unpredictable. While many upcoming or ongoing issues are known, there are a range of possible outcomes within each, some of which could drastically alter the trade landscape in the future.

Let us start with China. This week, U.S. and Chinese negotiators met in Beijing to work toward resolving the current trade dispute, which has seen tariffs slapped on over \$300 billion in trade. According to the U.S. Trade Representative, there is a hard deadline of 1st March to reach a deal that will at least prevent further imposition of tariffs. U.S. wheat farmers have been shut out of China since March 2018, leaving their Chinese customers scrambling for other sources. The next couple months could reveal if trade will resume this year, or if the conflict will continue.

The US has also initiated formal processes for trade negotiations with Japan, the European Union, and the United Kingdom (U.S. Wheat Associates will submit comments on the UK negotiations next week). However, there are still a number

of unknowns, such as the scope and length of negotiations with Japan, the inclusion of agriculture in negotiations with the EU and the nature of the UK's post-Brexit relationship with the EU.

The new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement will likely be submitted to Congress this year to replace the NAFTA, but shifting political dynamics let us a bit dizzy.

Finally, there is the possibility that the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body will cease to function by December 2019. This is the culmination of over a decade of complaints by the United States about the way the Appellate Body functions. It is important for other countries to engage the United States to find a solution, because if a solution is not reached, it will mean the effective end of the WTO's dispute settlement function and the ability of countries to enforce trade commitments.

In other words, based on the uncertainty these trade issues represent, we cannot expect 2019 to be less exciting than 2018.

Source: <https://www.uswheat.org/wheatletter>

## Impact of a changing climate, land use, and water usage on Europe's water resources (2018)

JRC Technical Report (Dec. 2018).

The study used a water resources model to estimate the impact of the changing climate under two 30-year scenarios. In one scenario, the targets of the Paris Agreement to keep global temperature rise below 2°C are met. In the other, global temperatures increase by more than 2°C. We modelled the consequences on Europe's water resources under these two scenarios", said JRC researcher Ad De Roo.

Southern European countries – particularly Spain, Greece, Cyprus, Italy and Turkey – are projected to face increased water shortages.

Significant reductions in groundwater recharge are estimated for Spain, Portugal and Greece, with negative impacts on the environment and water availability for irrigation. Increasing droughts will lead to water scarcity and reduced hydropower resources in the Mediterranean region. This is likely to have knock-on effects on agriculture, energy, transport and food security.

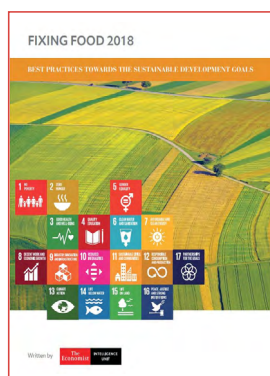
Central and northern European countries will see an increase in annual water availability, with France, Belgium and the UK projected to experience wetter winters and drier summers.

The rising temperatures mean that even if the objectives of the Paris Agreement are met, the number of people affected by water scarcity in the EU-28 is projected to increase from 85 to 94 million. If they are not, it will be surely worst. [Report here: 2018eu-ropecc\\_technicalreport\\_online.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/ropecc/technicalreport_online.pdf)



## Biannual Report on Global Food Markets

(FAO Newsroom, 7 November 2018)



The report of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) investigates best practices in food sustainability across the world. It uses the three pillars—sustainable agriculture, nutritional challenges, and food loss and waste—of the Food Sustainability Index (FSI) as a framework.

Changes to farming systems do not always come without trade-offs. For example, solar power can transform livelihoods for smallholder farmers by providing free electricity, which enables them to tap into groundwater for irrigation. "But there's a trade-off. In the longer term, you're going to have a problem of groundwater depletion," declares an expert of the International Water Management Institute. A worst practice in agriculture is intensive use of groundwater in irrigation, which can deplete resources, reducing its availability for future use. Countries that face significant groundwater stress are particularly prevalent in the Middle East and to a lesser extent in North Africa.

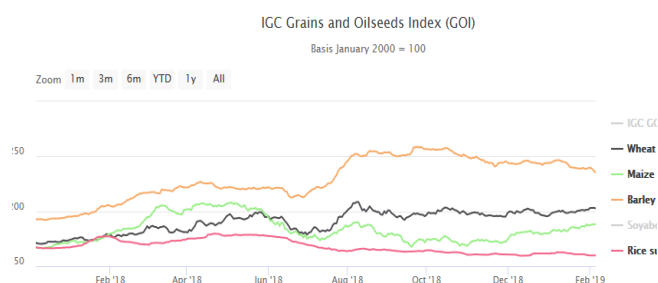
Read the full paper on <http://foodsustainability.eiu.com/>

## Global Markets: What Is the Trend?

|             | Global Index <sup>1</sup><br>(Jan 19) | From previous<br>forecast (m/m) | From previous<br>season |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Blé/Wheat   | 200 ↗                                 | ▲                               | ▼                       |
| Maïs/Maize  | 184 ↗                                 | ▲                               | ▼                       |
| Riz/Rice    | 161 ↔                                 | ▲                               | ▲                       |
| Orge/Barley | 235 ↘                                 | n/a                             | ▼                       |

<sup>1</sup>: Monthly average in USD, base 100=year 2000, ↗↘ vs last month  
(▲ : Easing ; ▼ : Tightening ; ↔ : Neutral, n/a : missing data)

Sources : AMIS Outlook - <http://www.amis-outlook.org> and [International Grains Council](http://www.internationalgrainscouncil.org) for the Barley (07/02/19) and the graph below.



## Événements



### XVI International Conference BlackSea Grain (Kyiv, Ukraine)

The international platform aims at discussion of topical issues and prospects of the global and Black Sea agri commodity markets. This edition "Commodity markets: challenge, shift, evolve" will discuss how the Black Sea Region can meet the

New Consumption Trends

<http://www.ukragroconsult.com/bsg/2019/en/conference>

### Global Grain MENA Event (Dubai, AUE)

This major global grains event brings together the major traders, consumers and producers involved in the Middle East and North Africa supply chain to understand future demand.

A unique opportunity to build commercially valuable and profitable business or collaboration relationships. [www.globalgrainevents.com/mena](http://www.globalgrainevents.com/mena)



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