A presentation on the FAO-NCAER project to develop short, medium and long term predictions for major food crops draws praise from participants at the International Workshop on the future of Indian agriculture: Policy options for competitiveness, inclusive and sustainable growth.

One of the main challenges in planning for a hunger free world is the lack of credible data and statistics. These gaps hinder accurate forecasting, planning and procurement decisions, all of which influence how to get the right to food to the right people at the right time.

India accounts for 18 per cent of the globally generated agriculture data. In 2011, G20 countries – including India – committed to improve the quality, reliability, timeliness and comparability of data on agricultural markets. The Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) was subsequently

launched in 2011 to encourage major agri-food market players to share data, enhance existing information systems, promote greater shared understanding of food price developments and further policy dialogue and cooperation. It was to meet these G 20 commitments to address global hunger, that FAO and NCAER were supported under a project titled 'International best practices in the preparation of agricultural outlook and situation analysis reports for India.'

With support from the Government of India and DFID under the Knowledge Partnership Programme, for the first time agriculture outlooks and analysis were generated using internationally accepted methodologies. These reports have helped India meet its global commitments, and contribute towards ensuring a hunger-free world.

The Right to Food is a fundamental human right, yet hunger and under-nutrition remain unacceptably high in low income countries and some developing countries. By 2030, demand for food is expected to grow by 50 per cent as compared to present levels. This calls for the development of a more sustainable, resilient and informed global food system to ensure delivery of greater food and nutrition security for a projected population of nine billion people.

To facilitate decision making and address food security, access to timely, transparent, reliable and accessible information that will improve planning, forecasting of demand and stocking of food at national and global levels is needed.

AMIS is an inter-agency platform to enhance food market transparency and encourage coordination of policy action in response to market uncertainty and encourage coordination of policy action in response to market uncertainty and reduce food insecurity worldwide.

Resource scarcity, food security and climate change
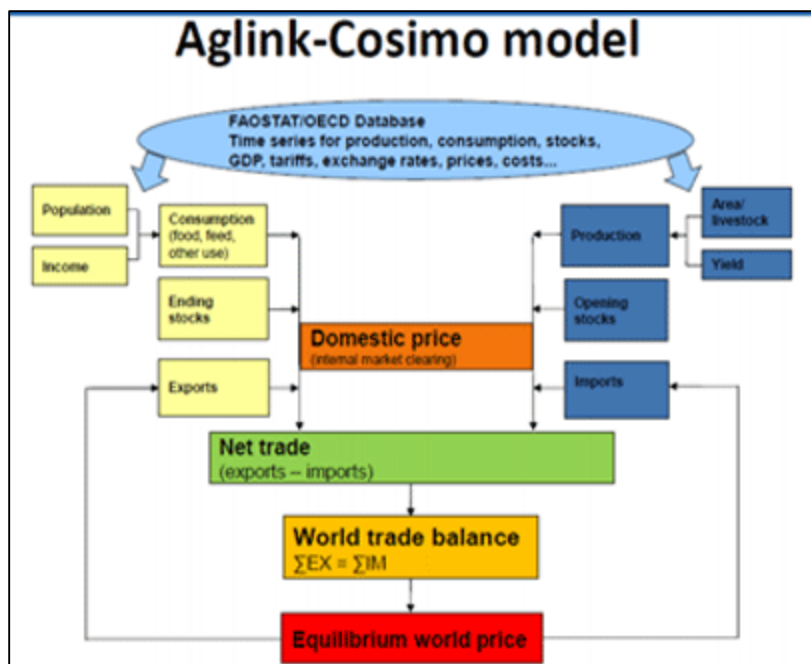
The Model

The Aglink-COSIMO model was prepared that uses state-of-the-art internationally accepted methodology. The model
- Is an integrated system to generate short, medium and long term projections for major agricultural commodities
- Is used to assess global supply, demand and trade, and their driving factors
- Can generate various scenarios to analyse emerging market and policy issues
- Aims to develop a 'consensus analysis' on the future evolution of international commodity markets.

Key features include

- Supply-demand equilibrium
- Interactions between domestic and international markets
- Provides the 'baseline' for comparison and forming expectation
- Comprehensive coverage of both crop and livestock commodities
- Flexible to incorporate a number of policy features
- Suitable for policy simulations.

Advantages of the model include:

- Scope for the disaggregated analysis
- Flexible structure of the model for any modification and extension
- Minimal data requirement.

The workshop allowed for the sharing of this model with global modelling experts, amongst the best in the world and for seeking suggestions.

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