

AMIS Policy Database – Concept Note

What is the objective of the AMIS Policy Database?

The main objective of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) Policy Database is to gather information on trade and domestic policies that are likely to impact on the prices, trade and production of crops that are particularly important in international food markets. To achieve this objective, the database records export restrictions, import tariffs, tariff quotas and producer and consumer support estimates for the four AMIS crops (wheat, maize, rice, and soybeans) in the 28 AMIS countries¹. Since the AMIS countries collectively represent a large share of global production, consumption and trade volumes of the targeted crops, typically in the range of 80-90 percent, the policies they implement have the potential to significantly influence global markets. Therefore, the AMIS Policy Database is an important output that supports AMIS members' mandate to enhance transparency and policy coordination in international food markets.

The AMIS Policy Database is unique in its set-up. It combines trade and domestic policy information and records this qualitative information in a quantitative way. Its design allows for comparing trade and domestic policies across commodities and across the AMIS countries and for tracking the evolution of a specific policy on a specific commodity in a selected country over time. This was accomplished through a rigorous harmonization process whereby different datasets were integrated and a new comprehensive database² structure was designed. As a result, the AMIS Policy Database provides a standardised, easily accessible source of information for policy makers and analysts.

Who collects the information in the AMIS Policy Database?

The AMIS Policy Database is populated with datasets from two sources: OECD and WTO. These datasets were independently developed using different methodologies. The integration of the different datasets into the AMIS Policy Database required the harmonization in structure, nomenclature, description, units, and policy and commodity classifications.

Figure 1 indicates the source for each dataset as well as the year from which information has been systematically collected and recorded in the AMIS Policy Database. In certain countries or for certain policies, information for previous years is also available. The AMIS Policy Database is updated at least once a year.

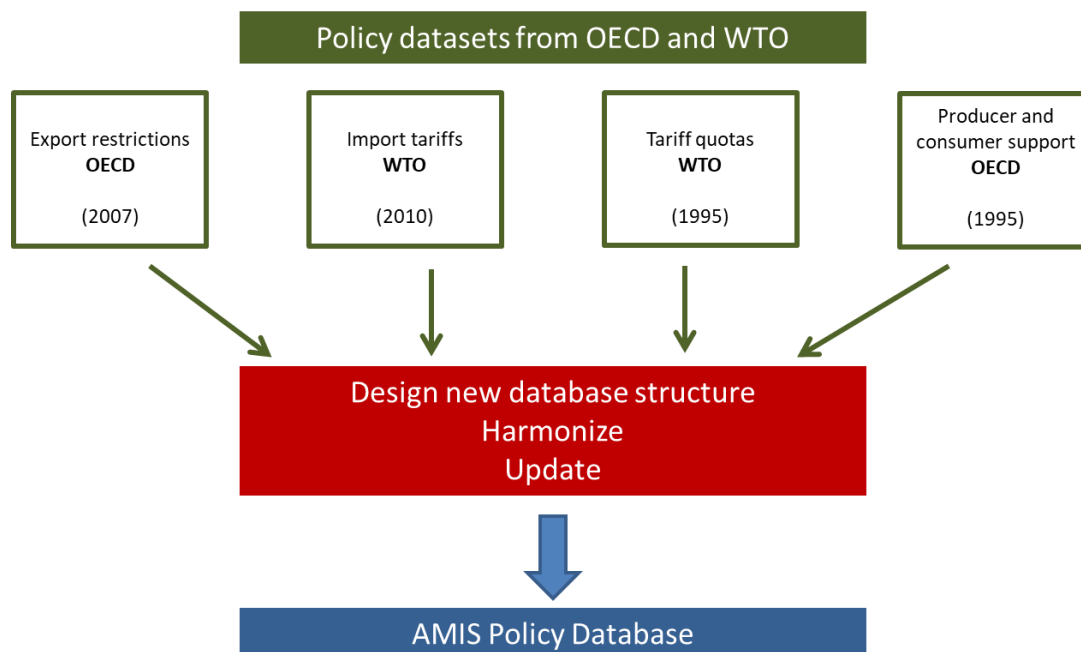
The dataset on **export restrictions is an original dataset developed by the OECD for AMIS**. It records information on export restrictive policies implemented by AMIS countries and tracks any adjustment over time. This information is extracted from official legal documents, government websites and other reliable sources. The export restrictions dataset is unique because it contains very detailed information that enables users to link the policies applied to specific commodities. Furthermore, the updating process starts by checking whether past policies are still valid, have been terminated, or have been replaced by new policies. This process guarantees that the evolution of export restrictions can be traced over time.

¹ The 28 AMIS participating members are the G20 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Korea, Türkiye, United Kingdom, United States, and the European Union), plus Spain and seven major producing, consuming and exporting countries of commodities covered by AMIS. These seven countries are Egypt, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Philippines, Thailand, Ukraine and Viet Nam.

² The word 'dataset' is used to refer to the original datasets while the word 'database' denotes the integrated version of the datasets.

The three other datasets (namely import tariffs, tariff quotas, and producer and consumer support estimates) are segments of larger datasets. Information on **import tariffs and tariff quotas** was extracted from **WTO-datasets**³ for the AMIS countries and AMIS commodities and integrated into the new database structure. Selected **producer and consumer support** estimates are obtained from the **OECD's PSE/CSE dataset**.⁴

Figure 1: Process of AMIS Policy Database development



³ The WTO online databases are available at <http://tao.wto.org/default.aspx>.

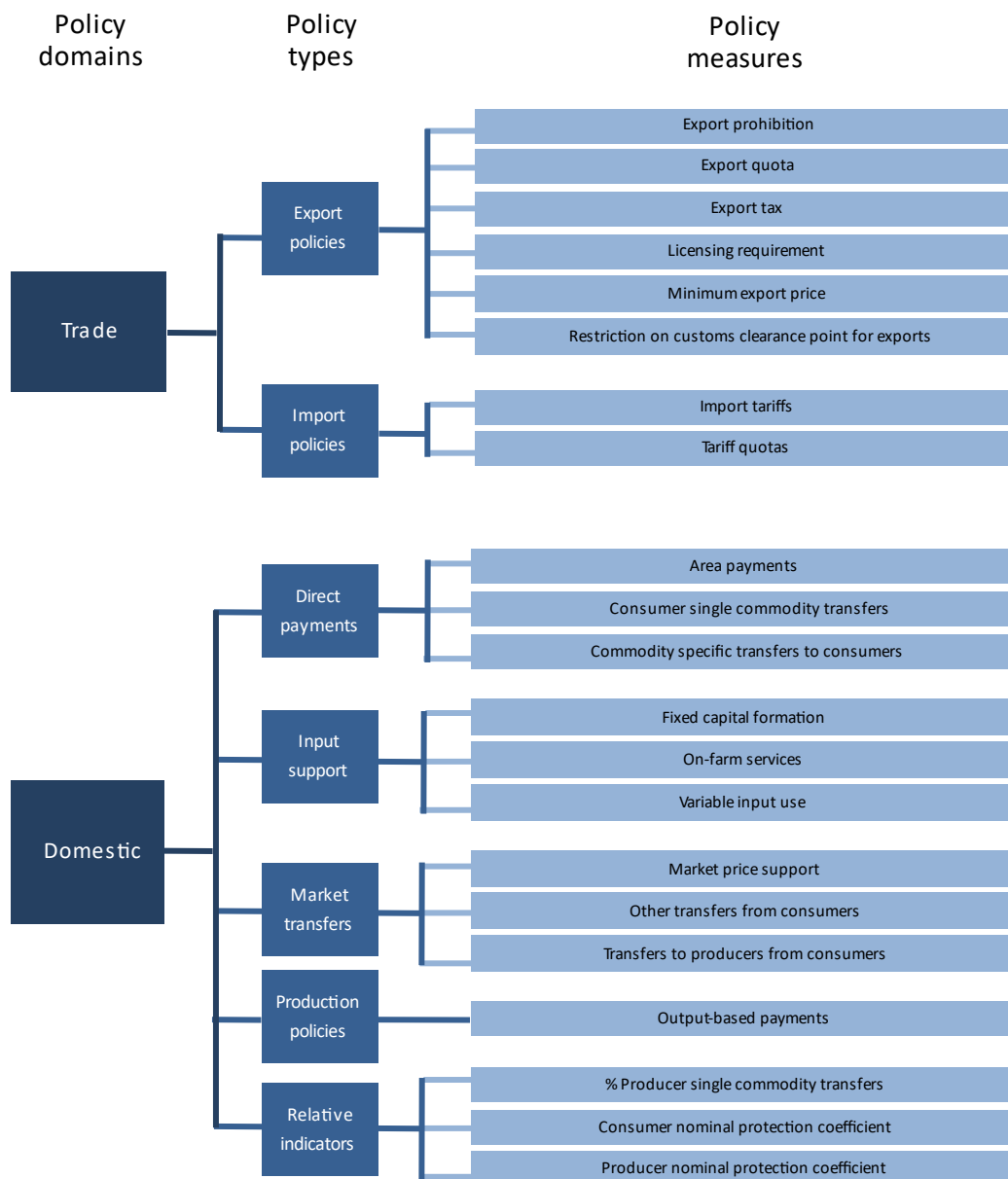
⁴ The OECD producer and consumer support estimates (PSE/CSE) online database is available at <https://www.oecd.org/agriculture/topics/agricultural-policy-monitoring-and-evaluation/>.

How is the AMIS Policy Database structured?

Classification of policies

The classification of policies follows a hierarchical structure (see Figure 2). At a first level, the policy domain is identified. The policy domain is either trade or domestic. Then, for each policy domain, there is a set of policy types. Finally, each policy type consists of a set of policy measures.

Figure 2. Hierarchical structure of policy classification



Commodity lists

Separate policy datasets do not allow for easy comparisons because they use different commodity definitions. The AMIS Policy Database solves this issue by creating a consistent commodity list based on WTO's classification of commodities. In particular, wherever this was possible HS codes were added or updated in the database and WTO descriptions for commodities were used. In addition, commodity descriptions were harmonized across countries and across policies. To facilitate the readability of commodity descriptions in the online application, a short description was created. The result of this process is the creation of a **Commodity List**, which can be downloaded from the online application.

Certain policy measures, such as export quotas and tariff quotas, may apply to groups of commodities, which are called 'shared groups' in the database. The composition of these shared groups can be found in the **Shared Group List**, featured in the online application. This list gives the name of the shared group as well as the description, HS code and HS version of the commodities that make up the shared group.

Commodity classes

Policy measures can be targeted at specific varieties. An important outcome of the harmonization process is that it is possible to combine policy information for broad commodity classes and hence obtain a general overview. This was achieved by assigning each record (or line of information) to a specific commodity class. The commodity classes consist of either one of the AMIS commodities (single commodity class) or a combination of AMIS commodities (mixed commodity class). The table below lists the commodity classes that are currently used in the database. The list is not exhaustive as more combinations may be added in the future.

Table 1. Single and mixed commodity classes currently used in the AMIS Policy Database

Single commodity classes	Wheat
	Rice
	Maize
	Soybeans
Mixed commodity classes	Maize + Rice
	Maize + Rice + Wheat
	Maize + Soybeans
	Maize + Wheat
	Rice + Wheat

Mixed commodity classes can occur in two cases. First, when a policy measure applies to a group of commodities or shared group, as is the case for quotas. These shared groups can consist of commodities that all belong to the same commodity class (e.g. the shared group is composed of four different varieties of maize), or of commodities that belong to different commodity classes (e.g. the shared group is composed of two varieties of wheat and three varieties of maize). In the latter case, the policy measure will be assigned to a mixed commodity class. Mixed commodity classes can also occur when the commodity itself is a combination of different commodity classes (e.g. a semi-processed product that contains both wheat and maize).

How to access and use the AMIS Policy Database?

The complete AMIS Policy Database can be downloaded from the **online application** <https://www.oecd.org/agriculture/amis-policy-database/>. The online application is not only a depository of the database, but also an analytical tool which provides both a concise and an in-depth overview of the database. This is accomplished through the development of several activities in the application:

- A **Visualization** tool, which provides a set of interactive graphs that give a snapshot of the contents and potential applications of the AMIS Policy Database.
- A **Query and Download** tool, which allows the user to preview and bulk download the AMIS Policy Database.
- A **Resources** page with explanatory documents, diagrams and links with background information on the organization and contents of the database to help users interpret, use and analyse the data.

The AMIS Policy Database is updated at least once a year⁵. No part of these data may be reproduced without attribution to the AMIS Policy Database.

⁵ The date of the last update is listed on the online application.