

Special Project on Food and Agriculture – Work Plan 2025-2026

Special Project on Food and Agriculture Mission

In response to rising food inflation and persistently high food prices throughout, the 2023 International Competition Network (ICN) Conference confirmed the importance of tackling competition issues in agriculture and food markets. The mission of the ICN Special Project on Food and Agriculture is to elevate food and agriculture as priority area for competition agencies. Competition agencies have a long-standing interest and experience in food and agricultural markets. Through capturing and sharing lessons learnt by competition agencies their experience in with interventions in food and agricultural markets, the special project will contribute to effective competition law enforcement and advocacy for pro-competitive policies in these markets.

Special Project Strategic Goals

1. Develop the knowledge base on competition law enforcement in food and agriculture markets.
2. Strengthen the capacity of competition authorities to detect anti-competitive practices in food and agriculture markets.
3. Encourage competition agencies to conduct market monitoring and market studies in food and agriculture markets.
4. Encourage co-operation among competition agencies on cross-border or regional concerns in food and agriculture markets.
5. Identify areas for advocacy by authorities to support pro-competitive policy in food and agriculture markets

Current Co-chairs

Competition Agency	Agency representative names	Contact emails
Competition Commission of South Africa	Kagiso Zwane Khalirendwe Ranenyeni	KagisoZ@compcom.co.za Khalirendwer@compcom.co.za
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Pursuant to special project strategic goals, the following new projects will be initiated in the 2025-26 ICN year:

Update of Existing Project: **Special Project on Food and Agriculture – Practical Toolkit on price monitoring analysis**

Description	Project Status and Total Duration	Upcoming Work Product Output(s) and anticipated Delivery Date(s)	Lead contact
<p>Practical toolkits will be developed to empower agencies to better evaluate food market dynamics and tackle competition policy challenges.</p> <p>The toolkits will be developed from a view to learn from agency experiences, drawing on the survey, which indicated that a substantial number of competition authorities had undertaken diverse approaches to market monitoring and had assessed margins and prices along food value chains.</p> <p>The toolkits will draw on the diversity of approaches to develop a typology of monitoring studies that agencies can use depending on their areas of interest and resources.</p> <p>For each approach, the toolkit will then layout a step-by-step method for application. The toolkit will draw agency experiences to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each approach to price and market monitoring. Examples of issues covered in the toolkit include the powers of authorities to assess markets in the absence of formal investigations, the data required for price and market monitoring and where it can be sourced.</p>	<p><i>Completed work outputs and current project status:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of agency experiences – (completed in September 2024) • Currently collecting price and market monitoring studies for the toolkit with agencies that have expressed interest in this project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect price and market monitoring studies conducted by competition agencies. • Review collected studies and develop the toolkit template. • Prepare draft written report (A Toolkit for Market and Price Monitoring) • First Consultation - Draft written report (A Toolkit for Market and Price Monitoring) • Second (and final) consultation – Draft written report (A Toolkit for Market and Price Monitoring) • Ahead of the AC 2026: SG approval of Written Report • May 2026: Presentation of the Toolkits at the ICN 2026 Conference 	<p>Kagiso Zwane KagisoZ@compcom.co.za</p>

Update of Existing Project: **Market Inquiries in the Food and Agriculture sector – Best practices and case studies (Global Knowledge Sharing and Best-Practice Exchanges: Competition Issues in Food and Agriculture Markets)**

Description	Project Status and Total Duration	Upcoming Work Product Output(s) and anticipated Delivery Date(s)	Lead contact
<p>Knowledge sharing and best-practice exchanges, including in-depth reviews of key sub-sectors - Sharing case studies and best practices enhances collective capacity to respond. Data, research, and case studies help regulators understand cross-border dynamics and global corporate behaviour more effectively.</p> <p>This includes building a global database of market inquiries and cases as a multi-year project.ⁱ</p>	<p>The Special Project is in the second phase.</p> <p><i>Completed work outputs and current project status:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of agency experiences – (completed in September 2024) • Webinar on survey findings and next steps for the special project. 	<p>In the year ahead, in-depth reviews of key sub-sectors will be undertaken to share practical insights on the cross-border nature of conduct and the international reach of companies in concentrated industries.</p> <p>In 2025/26, it will involve reviews of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - commodity trading: building on the 2025 Annual Conference BoS discussions - poultry: building on concerns raised in cases and inquiries <p>The in-depth reviews will draw together data on concentration and competition concerns from literature, cases and inquiries, undertaken by authorities from the globe, from the survey and follow-up contact with authorities.</p> <p>In 2026/27: reviews will be undertaken of fertilizer and other products where extensive common concerns have been identified such as supermarkets and dairy products.</p> <p>Timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare draft written reports of findings: December 2025. • First Consultations - Draft written report of findings: January 2026 	<p>KagisoZ@compcom.co.za</p> <p>nmwarania@cak.go.ke</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second (and final) consultation – Draft written reports (Global Competition Issues in Food and Agriculture Markets): March 2026 • SG approval of Written Report: July 2026) 	
Update of Existing Project: Special Project on Food and Agriculture: Advocacy initiatives for policies that support competition in Food and agriculture markets			
Description	Total Project Duration	Final Work Product Output(s) and Anticipated Delivery Date(s)	Lead Contact Details
<p>Many government policies (e.g., tariffs, export bans) can distort competition, sometimes unintentionally. At the same time, regulations are essential for agriculture and food markets, including for sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS), which impact competition within countries and across borders.</p> <p>Climate change and concerns about food security mean further calls for government policies to intervene in markets. Embedding competition concerns into government decisions can mitigate risks of regulations undermining competition while ensuring that appropriate regulations harness market mechanisms for sustainable development.</p> <p>AWG may collaborate with the Project Team depending on types of contributions that are received – to be considered.</p>	<p>The Special Project is in the second phase.</p> <p><i>Completed work outputs and current project status:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of agency experience: completed in September 2024 • Webinar on survey findings and next steps for the special project. • Market Inquiry on Animal Feed 	<p>Written Report – Policy advocacy to enhance competitive Food and Agriculture markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of the policies: August 2025 • Review and analysis of the policies: November 2025 • Development of the 1st Draft: January 2026 • Final report: March 2026 	<p>Kagiso Zwane - KagisoZ@compcom.co.za</p> <p>Ninette Mwarania - nmwarania@cak.go.ke</p>