



## Press Release

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### **International Food Policy Research Institute Implements Sophic Intelligence Software to Improve Global Commodity Price Prediction**

July 23, 2012, Germantown, MD. Today Sophic Systems Alliance Inc.® announced the successful implementation of the Sophic Intelligence™ configured to aid in the analysis of global commodity prices for the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), a Washington-based “think-tank.” Sophic Intelligence produces reports that analyze daily media coverage to examine the extent to which current expectations regarding food prices, agricultural markets, and food stocks may also impact food prices and increase price volatility. The goal is to combine Sophic Intelligence methods and technology with IFPRI economic models to improve food policy decisions and help fight world hunger.

Sophic Intelligence is built on the Biomax BioXM™ Knowledge Management Suite and uses sophisticated linguistic and semantic object network-mapping algorithms to provide end-users with an intuitive Wiki interface and heatmaps pin-pointing relationships that influence commodity price volatility. Each day, global food- and commodity-related news articles are loaded into Sophic Intelligence for linguistic analysis and semantic object network mapping. Sophic Intelligence generates Wiki reports and heatmaps based on terms and phrases found in press articles that influence commodity price volatility and food security.

Dr. Maximo Torero, Director of IFPRI’s Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division, said, “There was a devastating food price crisis in 2007/2008 and since then, we have developed economic models to analyze the cause of this disaster and help us avoid similar crises in the future. We are now using Sophic Intelligence to provide valuable daily information that will allow us to more accurately measure the influence of press articles on current commodity price fluctuations. The Sophic Intelligence commodity media analysis reports and heatmaps help us to understand the relationships between events that affect food and commodity prices in countries around the world, and are one more tool in the fight against global hunger.”

Fathi Elloumi, Ph.D., the Sophic Scientific Software Project Leader for the IFPRI project said, “Sophic spent a lot of time discussing the details of commodity volatility problems with Dr. Torero and his colleagues when we started to design the proof-of-concept configuration. The work-flow process includes gathering, loading, analyzing global press articles and producing accurate, timely and valuable “intelligence” mined and made useful from raw text files each day. The Biomax BioXM Knowledge Management Suite is used by Sophic in all of our projects and provides a rapid, agile development platform allowing Sophic scientists to very quickly configure, test and deliver solutions such as the Sophic-Intel IFPRI configuration.”

Patrick Blake, Sophic’s CEO said, “We are very proud that one of our cancer research customers recommended Sophic software and services to Dr. Torero at IFPRI. As we became familiar with the challenges of commodity price volatility analysis and the complexity of finding meaningful trends in

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raw text files, it was clear that our “intelligence” approach, methods and technology would be useful in the IFPRI project. We have teamed with Biomax Informatics AG in Munich since 2002 and have extensive experience using their BioXM Knowledge Management Suite to configure and deliver highly functional and cost-effective solutions for our customers. Our success at IFPRI and our multi-year license agreement prove that the Sophic Intelligence configuration can be leveraged in wide range “think-tank” research institute applications. We will now expand our Sophic Intel software to support this new market.”

**About Sophic:** Sophic Systems Alliance Inc.® (Falmouth, MA and Germantown, MD) is a scientific software and consulting services company. Sophic™ accelerates scientific research and drug discovery by using the BioXM rapid and agile software to configure specialized Integrated Knowledge Environments (IKE) for constantly evolving, diverse domains including: cancer biomarkers and diagnostics, pharmaceutical drug safety and discovery, and global food security. The company provides a broad range of software and services to research scientists and MDs in the government, commercial and biomedical sectors. [www.sophicalliance.com](http://www.sophicalliance.com).

**About IFPRI:** The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) seeks sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty. IFPRI was established in 1975 to identify and analyze alternative national and international strategies and policies for meeting the food needs of the developing world, with particular emphasis on low-income countries and on the poorer groups in those countries. It is a member of the CGIAR Consortium. [www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org).

**BioXM™ Knowledge Management System** is developed by Biomax Informatics AG, Munich Germany.

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