1. Is there a monitoring entity of food prices, food price transmission or/and of contractual arrangements along the chain in your country? What is its name? When was it settled?

China's monitoring entity of food prices mainly includes governments and quasi-public institutions.

The government statistical and monitoring system is constituted by central and local statistical agencies at the corresponding governments. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) is established under the State Council while local statistical agencies are set at provincial, prefecture (city) and county levels. Township governments have designated officers to carry out data collection work. The department statistical and monitoring system is constituted by statistical branches of various departments under either the central government or local authorities. Its major function includes the organization and coordination of statistical and monitoring work of the departments concerned.

Main institutional arrangements currently involve departments in the central government who have specific duties in collecting, compiling and reporting food prices data include:

- Department of Market and Economic Information, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) for wholesale price with special focus on agricultural products;
- Department of Market Operation and Consumption Promotion, Ministry of Commerce (MOC) for retail price of food on large and medium-sized cities;
- Department of Price, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) for macro-level management of agricultural sector with special focus on consumption price and retail price of important commodities.

Non-official data related to food price are also produced by some quasi-public institutions and private consulting firms. Such data producers have their specific objectives and use their own approaches to collect and compile information.

2. What is the rationale behind the existence of this monitoring entity? What does it add to what was done in the past on food prices in your country?

As is stipulated under Statistical Law, China has established a centralized and unified statistical and monitoring system which features unified leadership and a decentralized administration. The biggest difference from the past is that the entities now focus on statistical and monitoring data rather than statistical data.

3. Can you identify three key objectives of this institutional initiative? Have they been reached? Did you set up an assessment's process? Can you describe experiences that were not as successful?

Three key objectives of this institutional initiative can be described as guiding production, stabilizing prices, and promoting macroscopic readjustment. Facts have proved that the existing monitoring entity of food prices has played an important role in supporting the China's economic development. Nevertheless, inter-department communication and coordination in statistical and monitoring work are always problematic as every ministry has its own preferred approaches in collecting statistical and monitoring data as well as vested interests with regard to disclosure and concealment of certain information. Meanwhile, several government bodies collect price information using their own methodologies which lead to noticeable differences in reported data.

4. Who are the "clients" of this monitoring entity: government, specific stakeholders along the chain, consumers? How do they use the tool to your knowledge?

Governments, specific stakeholders along the chain, and consumers are also the "clients" and beneficiaries of this monitoring entity. In my opinion, use data to make decisions: require data for all major decisions. The data are released publicly in a systematic way.

5. What is the cost of getting this monitoring entity up and running in terms of:

- Involvement of ministries, statistical offices, stakeholders along the chain
- Financial implications for its regular functioning

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Ministry of Commerce (MOC), National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), quasi-public institutions and private consulting firms participate in statistical and monitoring system.
The construction of the system is already spending a great deal on collecting, sharing and processing the data.

6. What is the future planned for this entity?

Governments are spending heavily on monitoring entity of food prices.
The move is expected to further strengthen china's monitoring entity of food prices.

7. If you don't have such a monitoring entity, are food prices at different levels of the chain available publicly? Is food price transmission / transparency an important issue for your government, for consumers and for stakeholders along the chain? Is there a plan to set up a monitoring entity? Did you have one in the past and why did it stop operating?

8. What about the private sector: what is their demand for and willingness to provide greater transparency regarding price formation along the food chain according to your experience?

Private sector has played an important role in monitoring food prices. Use data to make decisions raise the demand for greater transparency regarding price formation along the food chain.

9. Have you identified impediments to price transmission along the food chain? Do you think that policies can help mitigating those impediments? In that context, have policy responses been taken to ensure that food markets are competitive and integrated in your country? What is your assessment of their effectiveness? Are there any policy related to relationships along the food chain in the pipelines?

I have identified impediments to price transmission along the food chain. For example, I have studied the relationship, adjustment ability, path, efficiency and intensity of price transmission in the swine industry chain in China, which consists of the prices of maize, compound feed, and pig. Of course, policies can help mitigating those impediments. Policies have played important function on the competitive and integrated of China's agricultural market. The policy of minimum protective price, temporarily stockpiling etc. played an important role in the pipelines of food chain in the past.