



**Standing Committee
for Economic and Commercial Cooperation
of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC)**

Proceedings of the 14th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group

***“Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems
in Islamic Countries in Face of Future Food Crises”***



COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

November 2019



COMCEC

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on**

**“Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems
in Islamic Countries in Face of Future Food Crises”**

(9-10 October 2019, Ankara, Turkey)

COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

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For further information please contact:

COMCEC Coordination Office
Necatibey Caddesi No: 110/A
06100 Yüce-tepe
Ankara/TURKEY
Phone : 90 312 294 57 10
Fax : 90 312 294 57 77
Web : www.comcec.org
E-mail : comcec@comcec.org
agriculture@comcec.org

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Introduction

The 14th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group (AWG) was held on October 9th-10th, 2019 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems in Islamic Countries in Face of Future Food Crises.”

The meeting was attended by the representatives of 20 Member States. The meeting was further attended by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IDB Group, Pankobirlik, ICCIA, IOFS, SESRIC, SMIIC and COMCEC Coordination Office.¹

The 14th Meeting of the COMCEC AWG has also served as a preparatory meeting for the Ministerial Exchange of Views session of the 35th COMCEC to be held on 27 November 2019 with the theme of “*Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in the OIC Member Countries.*”

At the outset, the representative of the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO) made a presentation on “COMCEC Agriculture Outlook 2019”. During the presentation, the participants were informed about the general overview of the agriculture sector in the OIC Member Countries through focusing on macro agricultural indicators.

Afterwards, the Meeting considered the research report titled “Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems in Islamic Countries in Face of Future Food Crises ” which was commissioned specifically for the 14th Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions.

The representatives of the Member States have shared their experiences and achievements and considered the current level of development of OIC food systems and the challenges as well as possible policy options related to various aspects of sustainable food systems. After intensive deliberations, the AWG has come up with a set of challenges and the policy options for strengthening food systems in the member countries.

The efforts exerted by the private sector as well as international institutions on sustainable food systems were also reflected in the discussions.

¹ The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

1. Opening Session

In line with the tradition of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Afterwards, Mr. Selçuk KOÇ, Director at the COMCEC Coordination Office welcomed all participants. Briefly informing the participants about the programme of the Meeting, Mr. KOÇ invited Mr. Nasir Adamu MUAZU, Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Federal Republic of Nigeria, to chair the Meeting. Mr. MUAZU welcomed all the participants to the 14th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group and expressed his best wishes for successful deliberations.

2. The COMCEC Agriculture Outlook 2019

Prof. Hami ALPAS, Consultant at the COMCEC Coordination Office, summarized the key features of COMCEC Agriculture Outlook 2019, which was published in October 2019.

Prof. ALPAS informed the participants that his presentation addressed four main components, namely macro indicators, selected sectoral indicators and state of food security as well as climate change as the main driver of food insecurity.

Regarding progress in terms of macro agricultural indicators, he expressed that the top ten OIC member countries produced nearly 80% of the total agricultural value added in the OIC region. He added that Indonesia alone accounted for nearly 20% of OIC agricultural GDP. Regarding trends in growth rates, he highlighted that, over the last two decades, both agriculture (3.4) and overall economy (4.4) of OIC grew faster than the world (2.7 and 2.6). Average annual agricultural growth rate between 1994 and 2016 was highest in Africa, followed by Arab and Asian groups. With respect to overall economic growth, the African group had again highest growth followed by Asia and Arab groups.

Prof. ALPAS pointed out that over the last three decades the share of agricultural employment in total employment has decreased substantially from 48% to 27% in the world and from 53% to 36% in OIC member countries. The share of agricultural employment is still 33% higher in OIC member countries than the world average.

Prof. ALPAS stressed that, in 2017, OIC agricultural exports amounted to 141 billion USD and were 66% of the imports, which amounted to 215 billion USD. He added that while the volume of trade nearly doubled over the last two decades, export/import ratio which jumped to 80% in the second half of 2000 fell back to its early 2000 level of 66%. The share of OIC in world agricultural exports nearly doubled from 6% to 10% in the first decade of the 21st century and fell gradually to 9% in the second decade. The share of OIC in world agricultural imports increased from 8% to 13.5% from 2000 to 2015 and fell gradually to 12.8% during the last three years.

Prof. ALPAS stated that 69% of agricultural exports are realized by Asian Group while Arab and African Groups follow with shares of 21% and 11% respectively. On the other hand, 50% of imports are realized by Arab Group followed by Asian Group with 43% and African Group realizing the remaining 8%. Arab and African Groups registered trade deficit in agriculture, and the Asian Group enjoyed a small trade surplus. The OIC agricultural trade deficit mainly comes from the Arab Group.

Moreover, Prof. ALPAS underlined that in 2017 OIC member countries produce 15% of world cereals, 34% of oilcrops, 19% of fruits and 14% of world vegetables. With the exception of oilcrops shares, production volume, in general, remained the same over the last 15 years. He added that OIC member countries produce 14% of the world's beef and buffalo meat, 37% of sheep and goat meat and 12% of poultry meat. The share of OIC member countries in the world production of beef and poultry have significantly increased during the last decade and a half, while the growth rate in case of sheep and goat meat have been parallel to the world average. OIC member countries are responsible for 20% of world's non-capture fish production and 18% of capture fish production. OIC shares in both capture and non-capture fish production have increased significantly over the last 15 years. The share of non-capture fisheries production in the world has increased from a level of 31% in 2000 to 53 % in 2015 while the one for OIC showed an increase from 16 to 54 % during the same period.

Prof. ALPAS expressed that almost one third of all agricultural area and over one fifth of the arable area in the world are in OIC member countries. While for Africa and Asia total land and

agricultural land shares in OIC are similar, for Arab group, share in OIC agricultural land is lower than share in total land.

Regarding the renewable water potential in the OIC by sub-regions, Prof. ALPAS informed the participants that OIC member countries have 7,261 km³/year of renewable water resources for the period 2013-2017 that accounts for 13.3% of the world's total. Taking into account the fact that OIC member countries have 28% of the world's total agricultural area, the majority of the member countries face water scarcity. At the sub-regional level, renewable water resources disperse unequally in the OIC. Moreover, the ratio of renewable water resources to the agricultural land varies considerably among its sub-regions. While Asian group has 71% of the renewable water resources in the OIC, it possesses 9,965 m³/ha renewable water per hectare of agricultural land, Arab group owns 4 % of renewable water resources with 554 m³/ha renewable water per hectare of agricultural land and African Group owns %25 of renewable water resources with 5,079 m³/ha renewable water per hectare of agricultural land.

Prof. ALPAS concluded his presentation by giving information on the state of food insecurity in the OIC Member Countries. Prof. ALPAS underlined that, unfortunately, statistics on food security are available only for 25 of the 57 OIC member countries. They also underestimate food insecurity, as countries where data is not available face relatively higher levels of hunger. With these limitations in mind, FAO estimates about 800 million undernourished in the world, slightly down from over 900 million at the beginning of the millennium. 200 million or about quarter of the world's hungry are in the OIC member countries.

3. Overview of Food Systems: Conceptual Framework and Global Trends/Practices

Mr. Haroon LATIF, Strategy Director at U.S. and Dubai-based Strategy and Investment Advisory Firm DINARSTANDARD, made a presentation summarizing the global trends and best practices that underpin Food Systems.

Mr. LATIF started by presenting the structure of the study and how it seeks to find a path for OIC countries to realize their full economic potential, and highlighted how the study employed a rigorous methodology spanning 150 survey responses across OIC food industry stakeholders, over 15 interviews, and over 50 sources, supplemented by extensive in-house expertise from advising investment firms and government authorities on investment opportunities across the OIC.

Mr. LATIF established the link between sustainable food systems and economic prosperity, explaining how a food system includes all participants and the interconnected, value-adding activities involved in producing, aggregating, processing, distributing, consuming, and disposing of food products.

Mr. LATIF then introduced the core framework that was used throughout the study to assess the relative strength of OIC countries. He explained how establishing food system stability requires governments to undertake three broad steps: 1) developing a clear understanding of the current state of food system stability; 2) establishing processes to manage immediate and potential upcoming risks to stability; and 3) implementing initiatives that underpin long-term stability. With each, he elaborated upon the supporting seven steps, spanning building awareness, which involved understanding the four pillars of security, understanding the underlying drivers, and establishing a holistic ecosystem, and further discussed four other steps spanning monitoring, adaptation & mitigation, resilience and cooperation, explaining how the latter two steps were longer-term actions needed to raise resilience over time.

Mr LATIF then provided global context for how developing sustainable food systems has become a top priority for many countries, with significant emphasis among regional and multilateral cooperation bodies, and talked about the continuum of food systems, spanning food security, whereby the system needs ongoing vigilance against potential diseases and unintentional damage to quality, as well as food defence, where action is needed to defend fragile food systems against intentional harm.

Presenting the current picture, Mr LATIF highlighted how much of the world is currently behind on food security, showing that the number of people suffering from hunger globally increased from 804 million in 2016 to 821 million in 2017, highlighting economic drivers, social and environmental factors, with notable examples. He also highlighted the risk factors that underpin significant crises in the future, pointing to population growth and climate change as substantial threats to global food system stability. He mentioning specifically that with the world population expected to increase from 7.6 billion in 2017 to 9.8 billion in 2050 and 11.2 billion in 2100, the demand for food and feed is expected to increase significantly, with OIC countries face disproportionate risks for future food crises, with member states predominantly affected by instability and drought.

Mr LATIF also presented best practices, highlighting the top ranked countries for food security, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, specifically mentioning the top four countries, Singapore, Ireland, U.S., and UK, with a loose link to income per capita. He also elaborated on the specific actions by Ireland and the U.S. across the medium and long-term measure of food

security, including continuous monitoring of food systems across the value chain, continuous risk planning, robust social safety nets to support those affected by food crises, and resilience measures including education, R&D, supporting by cooperation, spanning trade agreements and cooperation forums.

Questions and Remarks

Question: How can the advanced countries' systems be applied to the OIC?

Answer: The OIC member countries are not homogenous in terms of the strength of their food systems, and neither are they equivalent in their access to natural resources and their wealth. Accordingly, in the analysis and recommendations, the research team has taken great care to segment the OIC members into distinct groups, and has sought to provide recommendations that apply to each of the distinct groups.

Question: Food defence seems like a very distinct area. Can you elaborate on what it is exactly, and why OIC countries should take account of it over and above more pressing crises and issues ?

Answer: Food systems are constantly under threat from international harm, and well-established ecosystems spend significantly on protection. The U.S. government spends 4% of its GDP on its food system annually, and a sizeable portion of this in fact is applied to defence, with the FDA continuously auditing premises in trade partner countries. Food systems are fragile and are a form of harming others intentionally, very unfortunately. The OIC member countries, while facing more pressing fundamental priorities, have the intention to quickly implement best practices, because robust food systems need to respond to every possible threat, whether unintentional impact of climate change, or intentional harm.

4. Assessing the Food Systems in the OIC: Current Situation, Selected Case Studies and Policy Recommendations

In the second presentation, Mr Latif presented the findings of the report on OIC segmentation and SWOT analysis, and selected case studies namely Indonesia (Asia Group), Oman (Arab Group) and Niger (Africa Group), compared to best practices, U.S. and Ireland. At the final part of the presentation, Mr. LATIF presented the policy recommendations.

OIC analysis and challenges

Mr LATIF commenced the presentation by showing the highest ranked OIC countries in the global EIU food security rankings, with the highest ranked OIC countries being GCC countries, and then delved further into extensive food crises across the OIC, showing that among 650 million individuals acutely affected between 2015-2017 by food crises worldwide, 98 million resided in OIC countries. He also showed the most acutely affected countries in the OIC, with Yemen the highest at 15.9 million, followed by Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan and Nigeria, and with the primary causes of crises being conflict and drought.

Mr LATIF then presented a first of its kind analysis segmenting the OIC member countries into four distinct groups based on food system maturity and security, spanning established agri-food production leaders; food secure, import dependent members; lagging, high-potential exporters; and, most vulnerable, the least-developed members. The segmentation revealed that Turkey, Indonesia and Guyana were the strongest performers in food system security and the GCC and other high countries were secure but import dependant. The most vulnerable countries were predominantly low income, food deficit countries, with the weakest food systems (26 countries), with another lagging group comprising 15 high potential countries with strong agricultural potential but currently inhibited food systems.

Mr LATIF then discussed the strengths and challenges faced by the OIC countries. He highlighted that the 57 member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) have substantial potential to become a major collective economic force on the world stage. They represent 24% of the global population and 15% of global GDP on PPP terms with substantial natural advantages that can drive economic prosperity.

He highlighted numerous challenges – noting significant institutional gaps in the OIC, with low performance in food safety globally, and high levels of food waste. He also highlighted that OIC countries represented only 1.7% of patents filed globally in 2016, with only 661 researchers per million people versus over 5,000 in the EU. He discussed the lack of trade, with intra-OIC trade only representing 20% of total OIC imports of food and beverage, inhibited by high tariff and non-tariff barriers.

He also discussed opportunities, including the \$1 trillion Halal Food industry, and substantial investment opportunities, including over \$3 trillion in sovereign wealth fund assets, as well as threats, including low environmental action by OIC governments.

Mr LATIF highlighted important areas of progress, including Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)'s aggregate and cumulative agricultural project financing portfolio totaled \$9.4 billion for 866 projects from inception to the end of 2017 but a distinct lack of project management functions at the OIC-level to guarantee project success.

Case study learnings

Mr LATIF explained the selection process for case study countries. He firstly explained the selection of the U.S. and Ireland, with the U.S. containing a rich ecosystem that includes extensive support of the government, and with Ireland undertaking innovative steps towards food security. Niger, Oman and Indonesia were selected to provide a range of experiences and maturity levels in food systems, as well as geographic diversity across the OIC.

Mr LATIF then went on to go through a side-by-side comparison of each of the case studies based on each attribute of the food system, spanning assessing the current situation, monitoring, adaptation and mitigation, resilience and cooperation.

When discussing assessing the food systems, Mr LATIF highlighted the comparisons of the case study countries, showing the differing roles of government institutions in supporting each pillar of the food system, from availability, to access and safety. He showed that there was no standardized approach in each country, contrasting both the U.S and Indonesia. While the U.S. had a substantially scaled central body, the USDA, supported by the FDA, Indonesia had up to nine individual bodies, each with a distinct role, including a government owned agriculture and trading company. Mr LATIF also showed the substantial difference between government spend on food systems as a share of GDP, ranging from 0.3% to 4%, and suggested that while each country is different, a government commitment of at least 0.5% is recommended based on the overall experiences of countries.

Discussing monitoring systems, Mr LATIF contrasted the various countries, and showed that OIC countries faced gaps relative to the U.S. and Ireland. Both the U.S. and Ireland undertook robust constant monitoring of the food systems, spanning annual surveys of households to track challenges with affordability and nutrition, constant monitoring of agricultural systems and tracking of food at retail and industrial locations to monitor active safety challenges. Niger's work with UN FAO to implement an early warning system was highlighted as a system that could be utilized by the OIC member countries.

After transitioning to ADAPTATION and MITIGATION, Mr LATIF discussed several topics of comparison. He firstly mentioned social safety nets, highlighting the U.S. experience with over 10 programs, with a particular focus on women and children, with the largest program, the supplemental nutrition assistance program ("SNAP") spending \$68 billion in 2018, with similar programs in place in Ireland. He compared and contrasted this with variants of social support across the OIC countries sampled, with varying degrees of reliance on multilateral bodies. Mr LATIF then discussed the important role of providing essential support to farmers, to underpin their livelihoods, with a notable lack of insurance and farmer support programs across OIC countries sampled.

While discussing resilience, Mr LATIF noted the extensive Research and Development Expenditure undertaken by the U.S. and Ireland. In the U.S., in particular, Mr LATIF went into depth on the \$10 billion spend by both the government and the private sector in supporting research, and the extensive government support of education in food and agriculture, discussing how the land grant system supported public universities financially in return for educational programs in agriculture. Mr LATIF concluded that Research and Human Capital were critical to supporting food systems in the long run. Against such examples, Mr LATIF examined the progress of the OIC countries samples, with particular highlights of progress in Oman, where \$34 million was spent on agricultural research in 2012, following the establishment of the Research Council. There has also been close collaboration between the government and Sultan Qaboos University in Oman which has served to strengthen the food system in the long run. Indonesia also saw

agricultural development schools set up and specific programs to support rice and chili, but Niger saw much less progress in both Research and Human Capital Development

Mr LATIF also discussed Oman's Food Investment Company, highlighting the role Sovereign Wealth Funds could play in boosting food systems, having spend over \$300 million in establishing food companies across Oman, particularly instructive for countries rich in oil and natural resources.

Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

At the final part of his presentation, Mr LATIF presented the findings from a survey of 150 respondents representing food industry participants and ecosystem stakeholders across the OIC, highlighting key statistics, including the fact that 51% of respondents claiming it was difficult to sustain livelihoods as farmers, and food price volatility being the largest risk factor. Recommendations were also prioritized by respondents, with building human capital, contingency planning and monitoring trade and production among the top policy priorities.

Mr LATIF carefully walked through several fundamental policy actions to be taken across the three core areas of building sustainable food systems that can be implemented over a five-year timeframe:

- ✓ Gathering detailed information, at a country-level, of where the gaps exist in the food system relative to global benchmarks. Then, it is possible to develop consistent measurements, against which the OIC can continuously track the ongoing risks of food crises. Country-level gap assessments could lead to a food security "rating" that is continually updated, supported by cross-OIC efforts to developing early warning systems.
- ✓ Development of national commitments by lagging to enhance food system stability made within the framework provided by COMCEC and supplemented by detailed national strategies to accomplish commitments made within a reasonable timeframe. Food system strategies might elaborate on and develop an implementation roadmap for national commitments made, with a robust commitment to long-term talent development in food and agriculture.
- ✓ Dedication of more funds to supporting food system stability. While The Islamic Development Bank has played an important role in providing vital funding for food and agriculture projects across the OIC, the OIC would benefit from an increase in funds allocated to at least \$1 billion a year, with a clear segmentation of how those funds will be used, and a separate project management arm, to ensure funds are distributed for the best causes. Zakat was also discussed as a source of funds, with UNHCR's Refugee Zakat Fund a potential partner to enable social safety nets.
- ✓ Ensuring a robust project management function that supports investments and implementation of food system enhancement projects across the OIC. The Islamic Organization for Food Security could play an important role in funding and driving research and development activity in the food sector across the OIC, mirroring the USDA's important role in the U.S. The IOFS could manage any commercially viable projects based on recommendations and imperatives from SESRIC and COMCEC.
- ✓ Trade liberalization among member countries, whereby the OIC has the opportunity to review its commitment to lifting trade barriers. Tariffs applied by OIC members are higher than the WTO average for the majority of OIC countries, and this is especially true for agricultural products. Under the framework of the existing Trade Preferential System,

further exploring trade liberalization between member states would strengthen the OIC-wide food system.

- ✓ Supplementing a government-led, OIC-wide trade agreement is a policy to foster targeted cooperation between member countries in producing particular products. Partnerships can be created between member countries that may have different strengths. Such partnerships can be created across different product segments of food and agriculture and can bring together private companies as well as investment firms and sovereign wealth funds.

Questions and Remarks

Question: How do you ensure that the rating is credible and a worthwhile effort?

Answer: A more detailed collection of data for OIC Member Countries is proposed since most of the data that is available is outdated and more granular data is needed to facilitate action. How OIC member countries are compared to each other could be an extension of the segmentation that is already done. The collection of data can facilitate strategy formulation and greater trade between countries.

Remarks:–Is there a more recent data available especially for food crises in the OIC?

Answer: There is an unfortunate shortcoming of existing data. In the report, the research team exerted its efforts to provide the most granular picture for the OIC and used the most recent data available.

Question: How the investments can be enhanced given the fact that many countries don't have the right ecosystem?

Answer: Investment climates vary from country to country, and some high potential countries are not yet fully open to foreign investments. While more detailed strategies need to be formulated, it was observed that a combination of factors can make markets more open and investable – notably, backing of sovereign wealth funds, cross-collaboration of government departments, and the existence of supportive international partners.

Question: How the collection of Zakat with full cooperation from the governments of OIC countries is ensured? ? Since Zakat is typically collected and distributed domestically.

Answer: It is true that Zakat is collected and preferably distributed domestically. However, it was seen a powerful impact with organizations such as UNHCR and UNICEF obtaining Sharia approvals and establishing Zakat Funds – such organizations can make a substantial difference in distributing funds to those most in need and to alleviating the plight of those facing active food crises. The UNHCR's experience is particularly enlightening – raising \$38 million in the first half of 2019, and distributing to over 5,000 refugee families.

5. Member State Presentations

In this section, member country representatives had a chance to present their experiences with regards to sustainable food systems.

5.1. Morocco

Ms. FATIMA ZAHRA EL MIRI, Head of the Bilateral and Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Waters and Forestry of the Kingdom of Morocco made a presentation and shared her country experiences.

Ms. El Miri started her presentation by introducing the Green Maroc Plan Strategy and the food security aspect under this Plan. She stated that Green Maroc Plan Strategy aims to make agriculture an engine of economic growth by 2020, reduce poverty, ensure food security and the long-term sustainability of natural resources in rural areas. She stated that the strategy of the Green Morocco Plan, works fully to strengthen food security through, among others, the implementation of high value-added agriculture development projects; and solidarity farming; the implementation of 19 program contracts concluded between the State and professionals; and the implementation of a contract agribusiness development program (2017-2021), etc.

Lastly, Ms. El Miri informed the participants about the programs to increase resilience against climate change. She mentioned some details about the programs on irrigation, farm insurance, planting, drought, etc.

5.2. Turkey

Ms. Güler ÜNLÜ, Market Monitoring and Evaluation Section Manager, Turkish Grain Board (TMO), made a presentation on the role of TMO in Turkish agricultural markets.

At the beginning, Ms. ÜNLÜ has mentioned that TMO has been active in Turkish agricultural markets for 81 years and has become a success story of providing market stability in grains.

Then Ms. ÜNLÜ has informed the participants about the products in TMO's field of activity, explained how TMO takes part in the markets and introduced the instruments of market stabilization under TMO's responsibility. Ms ÜNLÜ has underlined the importance of accurate and reliable information in decision-making and explained about TMO's market research resources.

Afterwards, Ms ÜNLÜ presented one of the examples of their institutional reports which contains price indicators from various sources.

At the end of her presentation, Ms ÜNLÜ has emphasized on the importance and advantages of licenced warehousing for developing functional market, and then showed the products and warehousing capacity in Turkey by numbers.

6. Utilizing the COMCEC Project Funding

Mr. Deniz GÖLE, Director at the COMCEC Coordination Office, made a presentation on the COMCEC Project Funding. At the outset, a short video on COMCEC Project Funding has been showed to the participants.

Mr. GÖLE shared the outline of his presentation. Afterwards, Mr. GÖLE informed the participants about the essentials of the COMCEC Project Funding. He emphasized that the supported themes in agriculture can be found in COMCEC website.

Mr. GÖLE continued his presentation by sharing information on funded projects in the last 5 years. At the final part of his presentation, he informed the participants on the project submission process. He highlighted the timeline for the project submission. He shared brief information with participants regarding online project submission system. He introduced the COMCEC Project Funding Webpage and invited the participants to frequently visit this webpage.

7. The Efforts of the International Institutions/Private Sector

Under this agenda item, international institutions and private sector perspectives were reflected to the discussions.

7.1. FAO

Ms. Lan LI, Economist at the Sustainable Market, Agribusiness and Rural Transformation (SMART) Program of FAO made a presentation during the Meeting reflecting the FAO's perspectives on sustainable food systems.

Ms. LI started her presentation with the definition of food systems approach. She stated that taking a food systems approach means adopting integrated solutions to food system challenges based on a holistic framing and deeper analysis of problems by a multi-disciplinary team. She expressed that there are two reasons for taking food systems approach. First, food systems are changing fast, getting more global, complex and interconnected every day – as development practitioners, we cannot rely on methods that date from several decades ago when food systems were more static and the opportunities and challenges were very different from those we face today. We need to change our approaches along with the changing food systems. Second, a food systems approach helps to frame a problem in a broader and deeper way than traditional approaches. This leads to a greater understanding of the problem or opportunity and thus allows us to design solutions that are likely to be far more effective and efficient.

Ms. LI informed the participants about the Food System Wheel which is a practical and structured framework to navigate food system complexity. She stated that the food system does not exist in isolation, but rather it overlaps and interacts with many other systems, such as the trade system, the health system, the energy system, the social security system, and so on. The performance of the food system depends on (and influences) the performance of these other systems and therefore we need take these interactions into account

In her presentation, she also informed the participants about the Accelerator for Agribusiness and Agro-industry Development and Innovation plus (3ADI+) initiative developed jointly by FAO and UNIDO and implemented in Bangladesh, Suriname and Tanzania.

7.2. IDB Group

Mr. Sabi ER, Agricultural Markets & Trade Specialist from Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group made a presentation titled "Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Experiences in Increasing Resilience of the Food Systems."

Mr. ER stated that the Food System is the network of activities from production, distribution, marketing and consumption connected through complex social, ecological, and economic relationships. He expressed that it is essential to have resilient food system in a country defined as the capacity of people/institutions to produce and access nutritious and affordable food over time and space in the face of disturbance and change.

Furthermore, he pointed out that in order to create resilient food systems in the OIC member countries, IsDB has been implementing programs/projects to solve issues addressed in each stage of the food system. For example, lack of productivity and climate change effects are main issues in

production stage, lack of infrastructure including storage facilities are hindering factors to achieve resilient food system in distribution stage, lack of private sector participation is main obstacle in processing stage, and so on. IsDB has invested nearly USD 5 billion in last 10 years in agriculture sector to overcome the mentioned issues.

Mr. ER concluded his presentation by mentioning one of the recent and comprehensive programs of the IDB Group that was Regional Rice Value Chain being implemented mainly in West African member countries with nearly USD 400 million budget addressing such problems and targeting to create resilient food systems.

7.3. Pankobirlik

Mr. Arif AKKAYA, Foreign Relations Specialist at the Union of Sugar Beet Growers Cooperatives (PANKOBİRLİK) presented the PANKOBİRLİK's food system model.

At the beginning, Mr. AKKAYA briefly summarized the role played by the PANKOBİRLİK in agriculture and food systems with some figures and examples. He pointed out that PANKOBİRLİK is an organisation including nearly 1.5 million farmers and the main aim of the cooperatives union is enhancing the wealth of these farmers.

Mr. AKKAYA informed participants about PANKOBİRLİK's food system model particularly focusing on Production, Planning, Industry and affiliates, branding, international memberships, university and the environment aspects. Mr. AKKAYA highlighted that PANKOBİRLİK's environment friendly production model was based on zero waste principle. He also pointed out the crucial role of branding in creating added value and wide product range as a result of rotations of crops.

He concluded his presentation by inviting all of the participations to PANKOBİRLİK's headquarter to share further information and to discuss the possible cooperation opportunities with the OIC Member Countries.

8. Moderated Session: Main Challenges and Success Factors for Sustainable Food Systems

Under this agenda item, moderation session was held under the moderation of Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ, Senior Expert from COMCEC Coordination Office.

At the outset, Mr. Haroon LATIF, Consultant from the Dinarstandard made a short presentation on the main challenges and success factors for sustainable food systems. Mr. Haroon, stated some factors adversely affecting sustainable food systems. These are low level of agricultural and labor productivity; lack of reliable and up-to-date data on food security; price fluctuations of food products; limited/low level of intra trade for food products in the OIC region due to high tariff and non-tariff barriers; adverse effects of climate change on agriculture and food systems (drought, water scarcity) and poor risk management of natural disasters.

After the presentation, the participants had a lively discussion and the following possible challenges and problems in increasing the resilience of the food systems in the Member Countries are highlighted:

- Low level of agricultural and labor productivity
- Expensive input costs for plant and animal production
- Small and fragmented land structure
- Decrease in arable lands
- Inefficient use of agricultural machinery and technologies
- Weak market performance and challenges in access to market
- Lack of reliable and up-to-date data on food security
- Inadequate agricultural planning and strategy development
- Political instabilities (i.e. forced movement of farming population, insufficient institutionalization, etc.) in some parts of the OIC geography
- Poor infrastructure and related services
- Limited agro-industry investment
- Poor legal and regulatory framework
- Low priority accorded to the agricultural sector, particularly in the young population, in most of the Member States
- Rapid and uncontrolled urbanization
- High subsidies and protective measures in the agricultural sectors of developed countries
- Price fluctuations of food products
- Limited/low level of intra trade for food products in the OIC region due to high tariff and non-tariff barriers, non-compliance of food products to required food safety and quality standards
- Adverse effects of climate change on agriculture and food systems (drought, water scarcity)
- Poor risk management of natural disasters
- Increasing risk of food adulteration and limited food defense systems in the OIC geography
- Insufficient international branding in food industry and agriculture in general
- Insufficient veterinary services for animal husbandry and fisheries
- Insufficient financing instruments in agriculture
- Difficulties arising from different practices of land tenure system (i.e. women lack land ownership, etc.) in some parts of the OIC region
- Insufficient extension services

- Lack of adequate institutional and human capacity
- Lack of women empowerment in agriculture sector in some parts of the OIC region.

9. Moderated Session: Policy Recommendations for the Exchange of Views Session of the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Meeting

The 34th COMCEC Session agreed on “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in the OIC Member States” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 35th Session of the COMCEC and requested the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group (AWG) to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Session. In this regard, a moderation session was held under the moderation of Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ, Senior Expert from COMCEC Coordination Office.

At the outset, Mr. ÜNLÜ opened the Session by highlighting the importance of sustainable food systems in the Member States. The session continued with the presentation made by Mr. Selçuk KOÇ, Director in the COMCEC Coordination Office, made a presentation titled “Draft Policy Recommendations and Member Countries’ Feedbacks on Sustainable Food Systems” concerning the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions on Sustainable Food Systems sent to the focal points by the CCO.

The participants, in light of the discussions took place and the main findings of the research report prepared specifically for this Meeting, have come up with a set of draft policy recommendations to be submitted to the 35th Session of the COMCEC.

The draft policy recommendations have been formulated under ten main headings of sustainable food systems as follows:

- ***Legal and regulatory framework***
- ***Improving Agro-production and Agricultural Productivity***
- ***Development of Infrastructure***
- ***Financing and Investment***
- ***Market Performance and Market Access***
- ***Promotion of intra-OIC agricultural trade/ Reducing barriers to trade***
- ***Human and institutional capacity***
- ***Monitoring and evaluation of food security***
- ***Adaptation and mitigation strategies for reducing the adverse effects of climate change, man-made disasters, etc***
- ***International and Regional Cooperation***

The policy recommendations are attached to this report as Annex 4.

10. Closing Remarks

The Meeting ended with closing remarks of Mr. ADAMU, Chairman of the Meeting and Mr. Selçuk KOÇ, Director at the COMCEC Coordination Office.

In his closing remarks, Mr. KOÇ informed the participants that Ministerial Exchange of Views session of the 35th COMCEC will be held on 27 November 2019 with the theme of “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in the OIC Member Countries.” He stated that the next meeting (15th) of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group will be held with the theme of “Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Countries.”. He mentioned that a research report will also be shared with the focal points and other participants in advance of the meeting.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of Participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

14th MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

9-10 October 2019, Ankara

A. MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OIC

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

- Mr. MILOUD TRIA

Researcher-Agricultural Economist, National Institute of Agronomic Research of Algeria

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

- Mr. SABUJ AHMED

First Secretary, Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara

REPUBLIC OF BENIN

- Mr. FLAVIEN DÉSIÉ AHOUGBAMEY

Head of Development Cooperation Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

- Mr. COSME ZINSE

Specialist, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries

- Mr. ESSOUN OLATOUNDI MARTIN

Economic Engineer, Ministry of Planning and Development

REPUBLIC OF CHAD

- Mr. BOUBAKARI HAMADOU

Expert, Ministry of Agriculture

- Mr. RAMADAN OUMAR ABDOUL

Expert, Ministry of Agriculture

REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE

- Mr. BI IRIE JEAN MESMIN DJE

Assistant to the Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- Mr. DRISSA TRAORE

Assistant to the Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- Mr. AMR SELIM

Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Egypt in Ankara

REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

- Mr. SARIYANG JOBARTEH

Director General, Ministry of Agriculture

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA

- Mr. MAMADOU KOUROUMA

Agro-Economist Engineer, Ministry of Agriculture

- Mr. SEKOU SYLLA

Expert, Ministry of Agriculture

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

- Mr. MOHAMAD ZAENI TASRIPIN

Manager, Ministry of Agriculture

- Ms. RACHMI WIDIRIANI

Ministry of Agriculture

- Mr. MUHAMMAD ROZALI

Expert, Ministry of Agriculture

KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

- Ms. FATIMA ZAHRA EL MIRI

Head of the Bilateral and Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries,
Rural Development and Waters and Forestry

- Ms. SOUAD ELKAHLANI

Expert, Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Waters and Forestry

- Ms. NAILA HAIDOR

Economic Counsellor, Embassy of Morocco in Ankara

REPUBLIC OF NIGER

- Ms. ZAHARATOU SOULEY

Director, Ministry of Agriculture

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

- Mr. NASIR ADAMU MUAZU

Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- Ms. KARIMA BABANGIDA

Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

SULTANATE OF OMAN

- Mr. BADR AL SIYABI

Director, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

THE STATE OF PALESTINE

- Mr. HASAN HASAN

General Director of Planning and Policies, Ministry of Agriculture

- Mr. SAMER ALTEETI

Director, Ministry of Agriculture

STATE OF QATAR

- Ms. SARA ALMALKI

Assistant Director, Ministry of Municipality and Environment

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

- Ms. NOUF AHMED ALBASRI

Consultant International Trade, Ministry of Environment Water and Agriculture

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

- Mr. ABDURAHMON SOBIROV

Third Secretary, Embassy of Tajikistan in Ankara

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- Mr. AHMET VOLKAN GÜNGÖREN
Assistant General Manager, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ms. ŞULE ÖZGE İMAMOĞLU
Head of Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Mr. UMUT AHMET ŞEKERCAN
Branch Manager, General Directorate of Forestry
- Mr. ADİL ALTAN
EU Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ms. GÜLER ÜNLÜ
Expert, Turkish Grain Board
- Mr. BURÇAK YÜKSEL
EU Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Mr. KORKUT GÖKHAN KURTAR
Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ms. ELİF MERVE EROL
Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ms. PINAR ÖZDEMİR
Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ms. RENGİN MACİT
Expert, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- Mr. HAKAN ARSLAN
Engineer, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

TURKMENISTAN

- Mr. SAPARMYRAT ISHANTAYEV
Coordinator, Ministry of Finance and Economics
- Mr. RAHIM BABALIYEV
Food Engineer, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

- Mr. JOSEPH BARIGYE
First Secretary, Uganda Embassy in Ankara

B. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)

- Ms. ALIA SHARIFY ORTAQ
Training Expert, SESRIC
- Mr. AHMET ÖZTÜRK
Researcher, SESRIC

ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION FOR FOOD SECURITY (IOFS)

- Mr. HAMEED OPELOYERU
Deputy Director General, Islamic Organization for Food Security

C. SPECIALIZED ORGANS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

- Mr. SABRİ ER
Agricultural Markets Trade Specialist, Islamic Development Bank

D. AFFILIATED ORGANS OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE (ICCIA)

- Mr. MULHIM ELTAYEB
Advisor, ICCIA

STANDARDS AND METROLOGY INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SMIIC)

- Ms. EMEL GÖNÇ
Executive Assistant, SMIIC

E. INVITED INSTITUTIONS

- Ms. LAN LI
Consultant, FAO
- Mr. HAROON LATIF
Consultant, Dinar Standard
- Mr. MUHSİN ARİF AKKAYA
Expert, PANKOBİRLİK

F. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

- Mr. M. METİN EKER
Director General
- Mr. ERTAN TOSUN
Deputy Director General
- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ
Head of Department
- Mr. DENİZ GÖLE
Head of Department
- Mr. MEHMET ASLAN
Head of Department
- Ms. AYLİN ŞENOL GÜN
Expert

Annex 2: Agenda of the Meeting



AGENDA

14TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP (9-10 October 2019, Ankara)

“Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems in Islamic Countries in Face of Future Food Crises”

October 9th, 2019

Opening Remarks

1. The COMCEC Agriculture Outlook
2. Overview of Food Systems: Conceptual Framework and Global Trends/Practices
3. Assessing the Food Systems in the OIC: Current Situation, Selected Case Studies and Policy Recommendations
4. Member Country Presentations
5. The Efforts of the International Institutions/Private Sector
6. Utilizing the COMCEC Project Funding

October 10th, 2019

7. Main Challenges and Success Factors for Sustainable Food Systems
8. Policy Recommendations for the Exchange of Views Session of the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Meeting

Closing Remarks

Annex 3: Programme of the Meeting



**PROGRAMME
14TH MEETING OF
THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP
(October 9th- 10th, 2019, Ankara)**

***"Increasing the Resilience of the Food Systems in Islamic Countries
in Face of Future Food Crises"***

October 9th, 2019

08.30-09.00 **Registration**

09.00-09.05 **Recitation from the Holy Quran**

09.05-09.15 **Opening Remarks**

COMCEC Agriculture Outlook

09.15-09.40 - *Presentation: Prof. Hami ALPAS
Consultant
COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO)*

09.40-09.50 - *Discussion*

Overview of Food Systems: Conceptual Framework and Global Trends/Practices

09.50-10.30 - *Presentation: Mr. Haroon LATIF
Consultant
DinarStandard*

10.30-11.00 - *Discussion*

11.00-11.15 *Coffee Break*

Assessing the Food Systems in the OIC: Current Situation, Selected Case Studies and Policy Recommendations

11.15-12.00 - *Presentation: Mr. Haroon LATIF
Consultant
DinarStandard*

12.00-12.30 - Discussion

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00- 15.30 **Member State Presentations**

- Presentations
- Discussion

Utilizing the COMCEC Project Funding

15.30-15.45 - Presentation: *Mr. Deniz GÖLE*
Director
COMCEC Coordination Office

15.45-16.00 - Discussion

16.00-16.15 Coffee Break

The Efforts of the International Institutions/Private Sector

16.15-16.30 - Presentation: *Ms. Lan LI*
Economist
Sustainable Market, Agribusiness and Rural Transformation
(SMART)
FAO

16.30-16.45 - Presentation: *Mr. Sabri ER*
Agricultural Markets & Trade Specialist
IDB Group

16.45-17.00 - Presentation: *M. Arif AKKAYA*
Expert

17.00-17.30 *Pankobirlik*

- Discussion

October 10th, 2019

Moderated Session: Main Challenges and Success Factors for Sustainable Food Systems

- Moderator: *Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ*
Senior Expert, CCO

09.00-9.20 - Presentation: *Mr. Haroon LATIF*
Consultant
DinarStandard

09.20-10.00 - Discussion

10.00-10.15 Coffee Break

Moderated Session: Policy Recommendations for the Exchange of Views Session of the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Meeting

During the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Session, a Ministerial Exchange of Views Session will be organized with the theme of “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in the OIC Member Countries.” In this moderated session, the participants will extensively deliberate on the theme with a view to come up with concrete policy recommendations for submission to the 35th COMCEC Session.

- *Moderator: Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ
Senior Expert, CCO*
- 10.15-10.30 - *Presentation: “Draft Policy Recommendations and Member Countries’
Feedbacks on Sustainable Food Systems”
Mr. Selçuk KOÇ
Director, CCO*
- 10.30-12.00 - *Discussion*
- 12.00-12.15 **Closing Remarks**
- 12.30 **Lunch**

Annex 4: Draft Policy Recommendations

Draft Policy Recommendations Prepared by the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group, in its 14th Meeting, for the Exchange of Views Session of the 35th COMCEC Session on “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in the OIC Member States”

The 34th COMCEC Session agreed on “Promoting Sustainable Food Systems in the OIC Member States” as the theme for the Exchange of Views Session at the 35th Session of the COMCEC and requested the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group (AWG) to come up with concrete policy recommendations on this topic and report it to the 35th COMCEC Ministerial Session. The AWG, in its 14th Meeting held on 9-10 October 2019 in Ankara, considered the current level of development of OIC food systems and the challenges as well as possible policy options related to various aspects of sustainable food systems. After intensive deliberations, the AWG has come up with a set of challenges and the policy options for strengthening food systems in the member countries.

CHALLENGES

Agriculture Working Group highlighted the following possible challenges and problems in increasing the resilience of the food systems in the Member Countries:

- Low level of agricultural and labor productivity
- Expensive input costs for plant and animal production
- Small and fragmented land structure
- Decrease in arable lands
- Inefficient use of agricultural machinery and technologies
- Weak market performance and challenges in access to market
- Lack of reliable and up-to-date data on food security
- Inadequate agricultural planning and strategy development
- Political instabilities (i.e. forced movement of farming population, insufficient institutionalization, etc.) in some parts of the OIC geography
- Poor infrastructure and related services
- Limited agro-industry investment
- Poor legal and regulatory framework
- Low priority accorded to the agricultural sector, particularly in the young population, in most of the Member States
- Rapid and uncontrolled urbanization
- High subsidies and protective measures in the agricultural sectors of developed countries
- Price fluctuations of food products
- Limited/low level of intra trade for food products in the OIC region due to high tariff and non-tariff barriers, non-compliance of food products to required food safety and quality standards
- Adverse effects of climate change on agriculture and food systems (drought, water scarcity)
- Poor risk management of natural disasters
- Increasing risk of food adulteration and limited food defense systems in the OIC geography
- Insufficient international branding in food industry and agriculture in general

- Insufficient veterinary services for animal husbandry and fisheries
- Insufficient financing instruments in agriculture
- Difficulties arising from different practices of land tenure system (i.e. women lack land ownership, etc.) in some parts of the OIC region
- Insufficient extension services
- Lack of adequate institutional and human capacity
- Lack of women empowerment in agriculture sector in some parts of the OIC region

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the above-mentioned challenges and problems, AWG came up with a set of policy recommendations:

1. Legal and regulatory framework

- Developing national strategies/plans based on robust and country-level data for ensuring food system stability
- Harmonizing standards on agricultural products for enhancing agricultural trade
- Strengthen regulatory activities to ensure food can be certified in accordance with global standards – spanning safety and religious certifications such as Halal – which is essential to enabling exports
- Creating legal and regulatory frameworks that provide an enabling environment for the FDIs and encourage the private sector to invest in more sustainable agri-business operations.
- Developing legal infrastructure that promotes and allows member countries to use non-conventional financing modalities especially Islamic finance.

2. Improving Agro-production and Agricultural Productivity

- Developing policies/programs/mechanisms to improve farmers' timely access to quality inputs (e.g. seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, animal feed and other key ingredients) with a view to increasing quality, quantity and marketability of end products,
- Improving and ensuring the safety and quality of food at all stages of the food chain with constant monitoring
- Developing the storage infrastructure / equipment of regional reserves for food products so as to meet the shortage of strategic and staple products and create regional production industries of selected fertilizers and seeds (seeds banks) in collaboration with the national and regional financial institutions of the OIC Countries as well as with international financial institutions
- Launching programmes for reducing pre-harvest, processing and post-harvest losses and food waste in the member countries through campaigns, technological applications, cultural and social approach, etc.
- Enhancing cooperation and coordination in the whole food chain to reduce food losses and waste
- Encouraging youth participation and women empowerment in agriculture sector
- Encouraging innovation and Research and Development in agriculture and improving access to efficient extension services in agricultural activity and food production.

- Introduction / Employment of best practices in agricultural activity and food production.

3. Development of Infrastructure

- Investing in infrastructures capable to ensure a better conservation and better storage so as to avoid post-harvest losses. Improving logistics infrastructure to facilitate transport and the distribution of food products among the Exporting and Importing Member States.
- Developing infrastructure in rural areas with a view to increasing access to food supply in rural areas and farmers' motivation to survive with their families in local areas.
- Encouraging the development of both physical infrastructure (i.e. irrigation, renewable energy, ICT, etc.) and social infrastructure (schools, hospitals, etc) at the local level to support agro-production and processing.

4. Financing and Investment

- Increasing access of producers to sufficient finance and diversifying credit opportunities
- Encouraging FDI flows in the OIC Region for increasing investments in Agriculture and facilitating technology transfer.
- Formation of a farmer cooperatives and producers' unions to accumulate capital for financing new investments
- Encourage the organization of investment promotion forums/conferences on sub-sectors of agriculture which bring together relevant stakeholders to mobilize the resources among OIC Member Countries.

5. Market Performance and Market Access

- Establishing/improving a Farmer Registry System for farmers/farmer organizations to provide customized supports and assistance as well as extension and market information for farmers,
- Providing need based capacity development support and training to farmers and farmer associations for increasing their access to warehousing and storage capacity,
- Establishing/improving the ingredient and input traceability as well as marketing oriented product standardization and certification to enhance safety and marketability of agricultural products in both domestic and international markets
- Designing Market Information Systems (MIS) through assessing and reviewing targeted stakeholders with a sustained budget support and an effective monitoring and evaluation framework,
- Building sufficient capacity for stock monitoring, trend analysis and forecasting as well as other relevant subjects beyond providing price information for a better functioning MIS,
- Linking MIS to other market-supporting institutions and/or other risk-management tools to increase the mutual benefits,
- Encouraging the development of retail markets to ensure physical access of consumers to the products

- Promoting agricultural cooperatives, unions and associations among small farmers for enhancing input quality, marketing performance and market access.
 - Developing and promoting online platforms and e-trade applications in the Member countries to improve market access of producers and to enhance competitive power.
- 6. Promotion of intra-OIC agricultural trade/ Reducing barriers to trade**
- Promoting intra-OIC agricultural trade through tariff reductions, Non-tariff measures (NTMs) and bilateral arrangements/partnerships among the Member Countries across different product segments of food and agriculture
 - Strengthening and implementing multilateral trade arrangements (e.g. TPS-OIC - Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC)) with a view to strengthening the OIC-wide food systems and reducing the risk of food crises particularly for the vulnerable member countries, taken into consideration the existing smaller/regional preferential trade arrangements.
- 7. Human and institutional capacity**
- Improving the institutional and human capacity of farmers, farmer organizations, relevant government agencies and other possible stakeholders through introducing innovative management and organizational systems.
 - Developing strategies for the long-term skill development in agriculture sector through proper education systems and training centers.
 - Enhancing the capacity of the Member Countries in collection, management and dissemination of food security data with a view to designing sound and evidence-based food security policies.
 - Strengthening IOFS to conduct research and development activities in food sector across the OIC and raise awareness of opportunities and challenges in the OIC regarding food security
- 8. Monitoring and evaluation of food security**
- Encouraging Member Countries to take steps towards establishing an integrated comprehensive online database for agricultural statistics.
 - Fostering better understanding of the specific gaps and the required actions in a given country's food system through encouraging member countries that have been most at risk to conduct in-depth studies at the country/regional level.
 - Supplementing internationally agreed food security indices with detailed monitoring and rating of the Member Countries
 - Developing consistent and comparable KPIs for monitoring food system stability to develop early warning systems at the OIC level
- 9. Adaptation and mitigation strategies for reducing the adverse effects of climate change, man-made disasters, etc.**
- Developing emergency assistance mechanisms at the national level to mitigate the adverse effects of food crises and natural disasters and strengthen intra-OIC cooperation to that end.

- Utilizing early warning systems (i.e UNFAO's Early Warning- Early Action (EWEA) System) particularly in the member countries being vulnerable to natural disasters and food insecurity.
- Enhancing disaster risk reduction and management capacities of the member states for better adaptation and mitigation of agriculture sector to climate change particularly through:
 - Adopting modern irrigation technologies to improve the efficiency of irrigation systems.
 - Introducing suitable plant /crop varieties to cope with water scarcity and soil degradation

10. International and Regional Cooperation

- Promoting experience sharing and technology transfer among the OIC Member Countries in the areas related to in sustainable food systems and food security.
- Developing pilot national and sub-regional food security programs and projects for increasing the efficiency of the agricultural production in partnership with the OIC and other international institutions specialized in agriculture sector.
- Developing food security funds (e.g. Sovereign Wealth Funds, Zakat Funds etc.) with the support of the governments, the relevant OIC institutions (i.e. IDB), other multilateral organizations (e.g. World Bank, UNFAO) and private investors.
- Encouraging the IOFS to develop viable projects towards addressing the needs of the member Countries and the implementation of the policy recommendations of the COMCEC.
- Enhancing private sector cooperation in all areas of sustainable food systems and ensuring the engagement of the all relevant stakeholders including the private sector in finding solutions to a more sustainable and nutritious food system.