



Findings and Recommendations

of the

Workshop on Agriculture and Rural Development

“Sharing of Best Practices and Success Stories within the Poverty Framework”

Antalya, Republic of Turkey

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- 1. Preamble:** In the light of the 25th Session of COMCEC, it was decided that IDB, in collaboration with SESRIC in its capacity as the coordinator institution of the Exchange of Views Sessions of the COMCEC, to organize a workshop on ‘Agriculture and Rural Development within the Poverty Reduction Framework’ as preparation for the “Exchange of Views Session” to be organized during the 26th Session of COMCEC to be held in October 2010. The main objective of the workshop was to prepare a short background paper to be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting of COMCEC, for their further consideration and deliberation. The Workshop was actively attended by more than 37 experts from OIC member countries¹ as well as Regional and International organizations². Within the framework of Agriculture and Rural Development, the workshop was organized under 5 broad themes, namely, Agriculture, Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation; Integrated Value Chain Development; Small Holder Agriculture; Integrated Community Driven Development; and Food Security.

As evident in the evaluation carried out at the end of the workshop, the participants from the member countries, the OIC, COMCEC, International and Regional Organisations (**see footnote 1 and 2**) highly appreciated IDB’s organisation of the workshop, as well as the relevant deliberations, which has resulted in development of this paper, with its recommendations. Appreciation is extended to the OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and COMCEC, which collaborated with IDB in carrying out this workshop, with special thanks to all of the International and Regional organizations, who supported the whole process and also helped out in the various related activities including the drafting of this document.

- 2. Context:** Results from this workshop are presented below, which also refer to working sessions and frameworks that have previously taken place, as well as those which are to take place in the future. This has been done in the spirit of the Paris Declaration, with an aim of aligning and harmonizing the respective outcomes in respect of developing a more systematic and comprehensive framework for Agriculture and Rural Development including Food Security. The deliberation of this workshop refers to general recommendations, as well as those directly relating to Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security.

It is to be noted that most of the poor are located in rural areas, where agriculture is the main source of their livelihoods. Agriculture is a major contributor of GDP and has a large job market in OIC Countries. Therefore, efforts and investments in agriculture, rural development and Food Security will lead directly to poverty reduction. Given the Regional nature of this workshop, as well as its results and outcomes being utilized at a high-level meeting, it is expected that the recommendations outlined in this paper will

¹ Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Senegal, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen

² AAAID, ACSAD, AGRA, AOAD, COMCEC, FAO, ICARDA, ICCI, IDB, IFAD, OIC, SESRIC

contribute directly towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – **Goal 1:** Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; **Goal 7** – ensuring environmental sustainability, and **Goal 8:** Developing a global Partnership for Development.

3. **Methodology:** In order to have maximum benefit from this workshop an integrated methodology was adopted, whereby presentations, questions and diverse comments from the participants were incorporated into the key findings, as well as to the general and specific comments. In the light of this, there were 3 data-sets that were utilized as follows:

- i) The findings were derived from the country experts (see Annex 1) from the various Member Countries through their presentations, as well as from their discussions, who were from the Ministry relating to Agriculture & Rural Development.
- ii) A questionnaire on key challenges and key recommendations was given to the participants from the 12 countries and there were 29 responses obtained from them (in most cases more than one participant represented a country). This data has been synthesized and presented in Annex 2, with relevant graphical illustrations.
- iii) This was further supported and strengthened by the discussion and reflections of the senior experts from 12 key organizations working in the subject area which included OIC Entities as well as Regional and International Organizations. (Annex 3 – provides the full details)

The key findings and key challenges/binding constraints are therefore derived from the strength of these 3 data sets and thus incorporate Country, Regional and Global level perspectives.

4. **Key Highlights:**

Success Stories: It is to be noted that as per one of the objectives of the workshop, success stories and best practices were determined and presented by the invited participants from the member countries and relevant regional and international organizations (see footnote 1). The full details of these successful cases are presented in Annex 4, for reference and its validity could be verified from the concerned countries through the Ministry of Agriculture or the related Agencies as stated in Annex 4.

Enabling & Relevant Policies & Programmes: Within this category, there were six examples that were presented as outlined below:

- i) In Turkey agricultural reform has brought about systemic improvements in productivity.

- ii) The case of Malaysia's intervention through Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry indicated significant success through its packaged programme, which incorporated funding, technology transfer, motivational training and infrastructural development.
- iii) In the case of Senegal, the GOANA programme, which was triggered by the fiscal and regulatory policies, resulted in a shift and improvement in performance in the agricultural sector.
- iv) In Malawi the intervention resulting from the introduction of 'smart subsidies', which provided access of farmers to seeds and fertilizer positively impacted the agricultural sector. (Case presented by AGRA).
- v) Tunisia's National Programme, which subsumed 326 projects made large impact on the population through its integrated rural development programme covering agriculture, fisheries, rural infrastructure, as well as organizing people, including women and building their capacities.
- vi) AOAD's regional policies and programmes shapes up in combating poverty in the Arab world, with a combination of projects ranging from small-scale fisheries development to rural women's school and integrated agricultural development.

Integrated Research Approach & Technology – There were some interesting examples within this category as illustrated here:

- i) The example of Syria showed that integrated approach to research as presented by ICARDA was a success with the development of the national wheat programme, which improved crop and water technologies. This was done through enabling policy environment, increased farmer's access to modern inputs, increased adoption and maximised impact. This led to enhancing land and water productivity, which lead towards greater food security in the country.
- ii) ACSAD's progressive breeding programme for small ruminants has raised productivity and improved incomes for benefiting farmers in Arab countries.
- iii) In Niger, AGRA has successfully introduced an integrated approach to input supply, including local multiplication of improved seeds and integrated fertilizer/water delivery, using water harvesting technologies.

Participatory Approach & Community Empowerment: There were several examples within this broad category:

- a) In the case of Pakistan, it was seen that there was social conflict that had developed within a community and this was affecting the socio-economic lives of

the people including their livelihood. The Water Users Association that developed within this community was seen to significantly change the lives of a number of families as well impacting on crop maximisation. This has resulted from the community ownership, the appropriate use of technology making water use more equitable and efficient and maximization of crop production.

- b) The Special Programme for Food Security in Sudan and the New National Agricultural Extension System in Burkina Faso, were seen as positive in the light of their community involvement combined with the efficient use of technology.
- c) The Integrated Community Driven Development Model, which is a part of the National Poverty Alleviation Programme of Indonesia in partnership with IDB-ISFD is seen as an emerging success given its strong community involvement in infrastructure, as well as in livelihood and capacity development. This programme which has very wide coverage has become known for its process of transparency and accountability. The programme has become a flagship for Indonesia and the experience of this model is being shared with other member countries through IDB deliberations. A similar programme with IDB intervention has now started with the Government of Sierra Leone targeting several communities.
- d) Relating to Indonesia the Village – Centered and Agriculture Based Industry for Poverty Alleviation was seen to be able to forge the people, to develop community ownership, as well as build their technical knowledge base.
- e) The Yemen Al-Mahara Rural Development Programme took an integrated approach covering through its 157 sub-projects a wide range of projects by building the capacities of communities and their local institutions and inputting in the area of agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, drinking water, health, vocational training combined with the development of micro-finance activities.
- f) Successful introduction of Conservation Agriculture by ICARDA in Syria and Iraq and ACSAD in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Mauritania, has proved to be an important technology for conserving water in dry areas. It requires investment in machinery and equipment to widely disseminate this technology, so part of the technology package involves design of simple machinery that can be constructed locally at low cost.

All of the above initiatives had an integrated value chain approach to their development and therefore were integrated with the various sectors.

5. General Highlights:

During the discussion, the participants emphasized that agriculture, rural development and food security will be one of the most important items in the global development agenda in the following years due to the adverse impact of the financial crisis, economic downturn, climate change, energy prices and population growth. In this context, the

meeting agreed that any effort to develop a comprehensive programme to deal with Food Insecurity and Agriculture and Rural Development should take into consideration the emerging challenges in the post-crisis world. To this end the following were identified as key points for further considered:

- a. Recent FAO estimates indicate that agricultural production would need to grow globally by 70 per cent over the next 40 years to feed the growing population in 2050. Lack of investment in agriculture over the decades has meant continuing low-productivity and stagnant production in many developing States especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- b. The need for member country Governments to develop strategies leading to the development of comprehensive programmes towards achieving the MDGs, by exploiting the full potential within Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security. This needs to be combined with mobilizing greater resources and investments for enhancing the Agricultural sector in its wider sense to include natural resources, crops, horticulture, livestock, fisheries, forestry and environment.
- c. Rural Finance has been recognized globally as a key instrument for improving the livelihoods of the poorer segments of society and evident of having enormous impact on rural development and poverty reduction.
- d. The need for increased national and foreign resources and investments in the Agricultural Sector particularly Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which brings with itself a bundle of resources in addition to capital such as technology, organizational and managerial skills, as well as market accessibility through the marketing networks of partners.
- e. A successful programme to enhance food security and improve the resilience of the agriculture to the emerging challenges and constraints requires a long-term view addressing activities related to the production, processing and distribution-marketing of agriculture commodities.
- f. OIC Member Countries need to enhance their Agricultural Capacities, which include scientific, technological, organization, institutional and resource capabilities.
- g. Any programme for agriculture, rural development and Food Security is a country driven activity, which should clearly address the links between sustainable agricultural development, poverty reduction and promotion of food security in the country.
- h. The need for close involvement of the community in their own development, thereby empowering them to analyse, plan, manage and monitor their process of development using a community driven methodology.

- i. It is crucial to improve education, training and research to enhance productivity and technical efficiency in agricultural sector.
 - j. The need to identify and focus on practical ways and means to support and encourage Private Sector to invest in Agricultural Sector, as well as promote public-private sector partnership (PPP) based investments to develop infrastructure in the agriculture sector.
 - k. COMCEC and other relevant Entities need to identify and mitigate the Trade related challenges in agriculture commodities in OIC Member Countries, which will offer good opportunities to strengthen the agricultural resources in sectors for which they have comparative advantage.
 - l. Member Countries need to focus on ways and means to enhance strategic Partnerships and collaboration with each other and learn lessons from best practices amongst OIC member countries to promote agricultural and rural development.
 - m. It is proposed that SESRIC and IDB could support research and publication of relevant success stories and best practices within Agriculture and Rural Development including Food Security amongst OIC member countries as a way to strengthen knowledge sharing and its management.
6. **Key Challenges/binding Constraints.** These could be broadly categorized within 3 main areas, namely, General, Agriculture and Integrated Rural Development. The General Findings at OIC and Regional level are outlined below, while the key challenges/constraints relating to Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security are reflected in **Table 1 A:**

General:

OIC & Regional Level

Absence of an OIC comprehensive Framework for Agricultural, Rural Development, and Food Security, to guide intra-OIC Cooperation, including support for National Processes, Regional Initiatives and International Partnerships.

Regional:

- Lack of Regional Integrated Research Networks to synergize research capacities amongst OIC member countries.
- Lack of FDI in Agriculture.
- Lack of active Regional Trade practices in Agricultural Commodities.

7. **Recommendation to Overcome Key Challenges/Binding Constraints – specific and general recommendations:**

The recommendations are categorized into 3 areas, namely, General and those specific to Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security. The General recommendations at OIC and Regional level are outlined here, while a summary of the findings relating to Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security are reflected below, with further details attached in Table 1 B.

General (OIC & Regional):

- i) COMCEC should mandate its Task Force on Food Security to incorporate Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security and request the Task Force to engage OIC member States and relevant Institutions for the establishment of an Executive Framework for Food Security, Agriculture and Rural Development and Food Security for OIC Member States. This should embody identified Programmes and Projects in the critical sectors with time-lines, benchmarks accompanied by Lead Countries, Lead MDBs and Regional and International Organisations working Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security.
- ii) The above proposed comprehensive –executive framework should take into consideration the findings of the following deliberations:
 - a) IDB organized EGM on Food Security held in Jeddah on 2nd - 3rd May 2010.
 - b) IDB Board of Governors “Brain-Storming Session on Food Security” held on the 23rd June 2010.
 - c) OIC, COMCEC and IDB organized Workshop on Agriculture and Rural Development held in Antalya held on 16th - 18th September 2010.
 - d) Meeting of High level Officials of OIC Countries on Food Security to be held in Izmir, Turkey on 28th - 29th September 2010, and
 - e) The 5th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development scheduled in Khartoum, Sudan on the 26th - 28th October 2010.
- iii) Consideration should also be given to the existing Regional Programmes on Agriculture and Food Security especially the African Union’s Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), as well as the Strategy for Sustainable Arab Agricultural Development and Emergency Programme for Arab Food Security, with a similar programme available for Asia plus the Regional Programme for Food Security of ECO.
- iv) Based on the several issues relating to agriculture, rural development and food security as evident in Table 1 A, it was flagged by the participants that there is a need for the close involvement of the MDBs and Donor communities.

Regional Level:

- i) Establish suitable Funds and Networks to share the research amongst the member countries.

- ii) Call upon the collaboration of Regional Specialised Agencies and relevant OIC Institutions to link-up with the Private sector aimed at building capacities, linkages and harnessing resources for the development of the agricultural sector.
- iii) Fostering Intra-Trade in Agricultural Commodities.
- iv) Enhancing Intra-OIC FDI in the Agriculture Sector.

Country Level:

There were many recommendations that emerged within the light of the challenges and the constraints that were presented during the workshop (**See Table 1B**) . For the sake of conceptual clarity, these are grouped within 5 broad areas as outlined below.

a. Policies and Institutions:

Public Sector Investment: Increase amount of official investment in agriculture with an intent of achieving self-sufficiency in at least some primary commodities.

Private Sector Investment: Implement incentive policies to create enabling environment for private sector, including Foreign direct investment (FDI); Promote Public-Private sector Partnerships (PPP).

Capacity Building: Build technical capacities for policy, program and project formulation; Prepare long-term action plans, recognizing the time required for impacts to be felt; Conduct awareness campaigns on climate change.

Regional Cooperation: Promote regional water-sharing agreements; promote intra-regional market integration; promote investments in regional infrastructure, promote regional sharing of information and knowledge.

b. Natural Resource Management:

Water Management: Support creation of water users' associations; Improve efficiency of water use and delivery; Maximize water productivity; Promote water harvesting; Promote supplementary irrigation; Promote conservation agriculture, accompanied by machinery and equipment provision; Provide incentives for sustainable and optimal use of ground water; Promote technologies for use of brackish water for irrigation.

Land Management: Maintain soil quality with appropriate fertilization and soil nutrient maintenance schemes; Keep soil well-drained to prevent salinity, Maintain thick vegetative cover to protect against soil erosion during flooding.

c. Sustainable Productivity Growth:

Research and Extension: Increase investment in agricultural research and extension: Give greater priority to investment in research on how to bridge the yield gap; Better integrate research and extension through holistic programs; Integrate and harmonize official and private sector extension services; Promote franchising of extension services, using NGOs; Conduct research program on adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change, and on development of drought and salt-tolerant crop varieties.

Technology Transfer and Input Supply for Smallholders: Identify and disseminate technologies appropriate for smallholders; Promote literacy and numeracy training; Promote exchange of knowledge and experience, example through SSC; Target technology development to smallholders; Put in place efficient seed delivery mechanisms, including development of informal seed production systems; Integrate fertilizer and water delivery; Invest in development of alternative energy sources (bio, solar); Put in place ‘Smart Subsidies’ for fertilizer and seeds.

d. Market Performance:

Market Institutions: Develop relevant market institutions in order to enhance price discovery processes, improve decision making at each link in the value chain and allow better management of inherent market risks; Create crop insurance schemes and indemnisation funds to encourage farmers to become risk-takers; Create enabling environment for technology transfer (credit, market access).

Integrated Value Chain Approach: For horticulture, introduce precision agriculture in conformity with international certification standards, establish input delivery systems that provide precision inputs, codify standards and use Intellectual Property Rights to protect quality of inputs and products, place collection points near to production areas and ensure producers gain adequate return for value added, rely on investors at processing and marketing end to create demand and establish standards for target markets; For livestock, Organise producer groups; Introduce improved breeds that meet standards and are appropriate for smallholders; Provide adequate animal health care services and promote good animal nutrition; Facilitate access to land, using participative methods at local level; Introduce simple procedures for establishing processing and marketing enterprises; upgrade local and central markets, with relevant storage facilities to curb post-harvest losses; facilitate to over-come the impediments of rural markets by effectively putting in place measures to mitigate and open-up relevant trade channels.

Reduction of Post-Harvest Losses: Link agro-processing development to productivity; improvement, so as to absorb excess supply; Invest in processing industries that create marketing chains; Reduce post-harvest losses by investing in storage, packaging and transport facilities that eliminate need for long-term storage of bulk commodities.

e. **Community Driven Development, Micro-Finance and Women Empowerment:**

Community Driven Development: Create greater awareness about the CDD approach and the benefit to both communities and governments; Apply CDD methodologies for establishment and development of farmer organizations, cooperatives, and women's organizations at all levels.

Micro-Finance & Innovative Financing Schemes: Establish funds that mobilize investment capital from rural enterprises for qualifying agricultural and rural development projects; Promote micro-finance schemes for disadvantaged and marginalized persons; developing both informal and formal insurance cover, in order to mitigate inherent and external risks involved in the agriculture and its related sectors.

Women Empowerment: Provide greater access to education-vocational training and technology for women villagers; Provide legal access to land, assets and credit for women; Ensure that extension services reach women farmers.

Conclusion and Way Forward

A rich body of data was generated by the participants from the member countries, as well as from the reflections and discussions with International and Regional organisations which participated in this workshop.

In the light of the challenges/constraints outlined across the various countries and regions, it is evident that a comprehensive framework is required to develop agriculture and rural development, which is defined here in a holistic manner and includes Food Security.

In order to develop this above framework as well as systematically operationalize it, there is a need for governments, bi-lateral, multi-lateral including MDBs, as well as civil society organisations to be closely involved in this process.