

## **Policy Recommendations adopted by 30th Session of the COMCEC**

- **Promoting the Establishment of the Producer Organizations and Increasing the Effectiveness of the Existing Ones**

**Rationale:** Linking smallholder farmers to markets involves high transaction costs. They may have insufficient output to invest individually in transport and essential storage infrastructure. In this respect, public authorities have important roles in encouraging the growth of effective producer organizations, associations and cooperatives to reduce transaction costs. Furthermore, producer organizations may facilitate access to input loans and credits, provision of extension and technical recommendation, appropriate technology and management systems. In this connection, OIC Member Countries should promote necessary steps to facilitate collective action by groups of farmers, including fostering the growth of effective producer organizations, associations, and cooperatives.

- **Disseminating Technical and Market Information to Smallholder Farmers**

**Rationale:** Government has a crucial role in disseminating technical and market information to smallholders. Enabling smallholder farmers to explore, learn, and carry out their own value chain analysis and develop their own marketing plans through participatory approaches has proven to be an effective strategy for empowering those farmers and facilitating market linkages. In this respect, the governments may facilitate the access of smallholders to technical and market information.

- **Encouraging Contract Farming**

**Rationale:** Contract farming is one of the most important instruments for increasing productivity and facilitating smallholder farmers' market access. Contract farming helps small scale farmers to enter markets that are normally out of their reach, due to distance, standards, processing requirements, etc.