

## **Policy Recommendations Adopted by 33rd Session of the COMCEC**

- **Developing a specific legislative framework and road map for reducing food waste in a holistic context including supply chain**

**Rationale:** Development of a legislative framework is considered to be a key issue for reduction of food waste. Many countries have regulations to prevent waste in entire food supply chain. Thus, they aim to ensure that all food is adequately separated from the waste stream and is made available for human consumption. Nonetheless, researches indicate that few OIC Member Countries have legislative framework related to food waste, such as Qatar, Turkey, Egypt, Pakistan and Indonesia. In this respect, the OIC Member Countries, which do not have any legal framework on food waste, can develop a legal framework and food waste road map. Prior to this, the Member Countries should evaluate the level of waste in general as well as for specific product groups and sectors so that they may focus their efforts to the areas where significant amount of the waste occurs. Doing so, the Member Countries would also contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 12.3 which is “By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses”.

- **Promotion of food banks and food distribution networks**

**Rationale:** Creation of food banks and food distributions networks are considered to be among the leading ways of reducing food waste both globally and within OIC Member Countries. These initiatives could play an important role in the distribution of food surplus to the needy people. An important successful initiative, in this regard, is the Egyptian-based food bank model. The program was initiated in 2005 and donates more than 17 million meals each month. This program facilitated the participation of more than 400 hotels and restaurants, ranging from five star hotels to local coffee shops in the Egyptian food bank system. In this framework, development of food banks and distribution networks will help member countries in reducing food waste. Furthermore, the distribution of food that is being unnecessarily wasted can also increase access of poor to food, and thereby can help Member Countries achieve food security. Therefore, the Member Countries are encouraged to establish food banks or to improve the efficiency of the existing ones.

- **Conducting cohesive initiatives and campaigns to increase awareness on food waste in supply chain and consumption**

**Rationale:** The research report conducted for this Meeting reveals that significant proportion of the people living in the OIC Member Countries have little concern for food waste. It is also indicated that if they had access to further information on the environmental impacts associated with food waste and the provision of solutions on how to reduce food waste, this would encourage them to reduce food waste. Lack of concern for food waste is applicable to both households and the food service sector. Taking this into consideration, conducting food waste initiatives and creating food waste campaigns should be a priority for OIC Member Countries.

There are various crucial campaigns and initiatives conducted internationally and by member countries to reduce food waste such as Save Food Initiative of UN, Pakistan’s ‘one-dish law’,

Indonesia's 'Law on Food' and Turkey's 'Do not waste your bread'. For instance, Turkey has conducted a 'Do not waste your bread' campaign, which resulted in 18 percent reduction in bread waste amounting to US\$ 131 million per day. The OIC Member Countries may examine the experiences of these initiatives, in terms of implementation, evaluation and monitoring taking their unique cultural and social settings into consideration. Furthermore, the active involvement of relevant stakeholders along the food supply is of particular importance for the success of the campaigns/initiatives. In this respect, the campaigns/initiatives should be designed in a way to ensure the active involvement of relevant stakeholders including businesses, local authorities and consumers.

- **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.**

**Rationale:** Lacking institutions/authorities where farmers are registered hinders collection of market information. Registration of farmers enables governments to develop customized policies and to collect, analyze, and disseminate statistics, data, as well as information related to agricultural sector. The registry system could also be utilized for granting and monitoring incentives as well as developing customized support and assistance to upgrade farmers' production capacity and enhance their access to information about the indicative prices. It may also increase the efficiency and performance of the overall agricultural market system as the available market information would indicate opportunities for connecting agricultural production with processing, value-addition, and other post-harvest activities, and, eventually, consumption.

- **Developing policies/programs/mechanisms to improve farmers' timely access to quality inputs (e.g. seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, and other key ingredients) with a view to increasing quality, quantity and marketability of end products.**

**Rationale:** Many smallholders/small-scale farmers have a limited access to high-quality, certified inputs and often only have access to low-quality or even imitated inputs. Governments may develop and supervise authorities (or re-mandate one of the current ones) which would be responsible for the quality assurance, distribution of inputs (e.g. feeds, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and equipment) and certification of the domestic and imported inputs. This would also help to increase the overall productivity and performance of the entire agricultural market system. 2

- **Providing need based capacity development support and training to farmers and farmer associations for increasing their access to warehousing and storage capacity.**

**Rationale:** Lack of storage, warehouse, and post-harvest facilities compel farmers to sell their products immediately after harvest. This causes surplus of products during the post-harvest period and results in lower prices. Warehousing and storage systems facilitate smallholders' access to storage facilities, which would enable them to store and sell their products when supply is low(er) and, hence, market prices are better. In addition, storage facilities also increase smallholders' access to credit (storage of products as form of collateral).

Agriculture cooperatives can set up warehouses of their own. A key to success for cooperatives is the direct involvement of primary producers through ownership or contractual arrangements backed by the producers' common market power of the downstream processing, marketing, and distribution elements of the agricultural market system. Without this, the producers can only be price-takers and can get very limited benefit/profit from the market system.

- **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**

**Rationale:** The traceability of food in the market system is critical for food safety and for broader strategic as well as market monitoring purposes. The functioning of the broader food market system is considerably hampered without traceability in the supply chain.

A traceability system could enable agricultural market institutions to trace farmers or areas which do not meet export requirements in terms of standardization, food safety, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures. As a critical complementary to traceability, qualified standardization of products (e.g. size, volume, and ingredients) is required to improve the market access for smallholders' products. Traceability systems based upon sanitary, phytosanitary, feed and food safety regulatory framework, (like animal identification system) feed monitoring and food establishment registry would be an important step to develop the capacity for the surveillance of the supply chain.