



Making Cooperation Work

COMCEC STRATEGY

For Building an Interdependent Islamic World

RESPONSES OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES TO THE POLICY QUESTIONS ON

Reviewing Agricultural Trade Policies to Promote Intra-OIC Agricultural Trade



COMCEC

Mr. Selçuk KOÇ,
Director- COMCEC Coordination Office
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OUTLINE

- 1. Formulation of Policy Recommendations**
- 2. Policy Questions and Responses of the Member Countries**
- 3. Room Document**

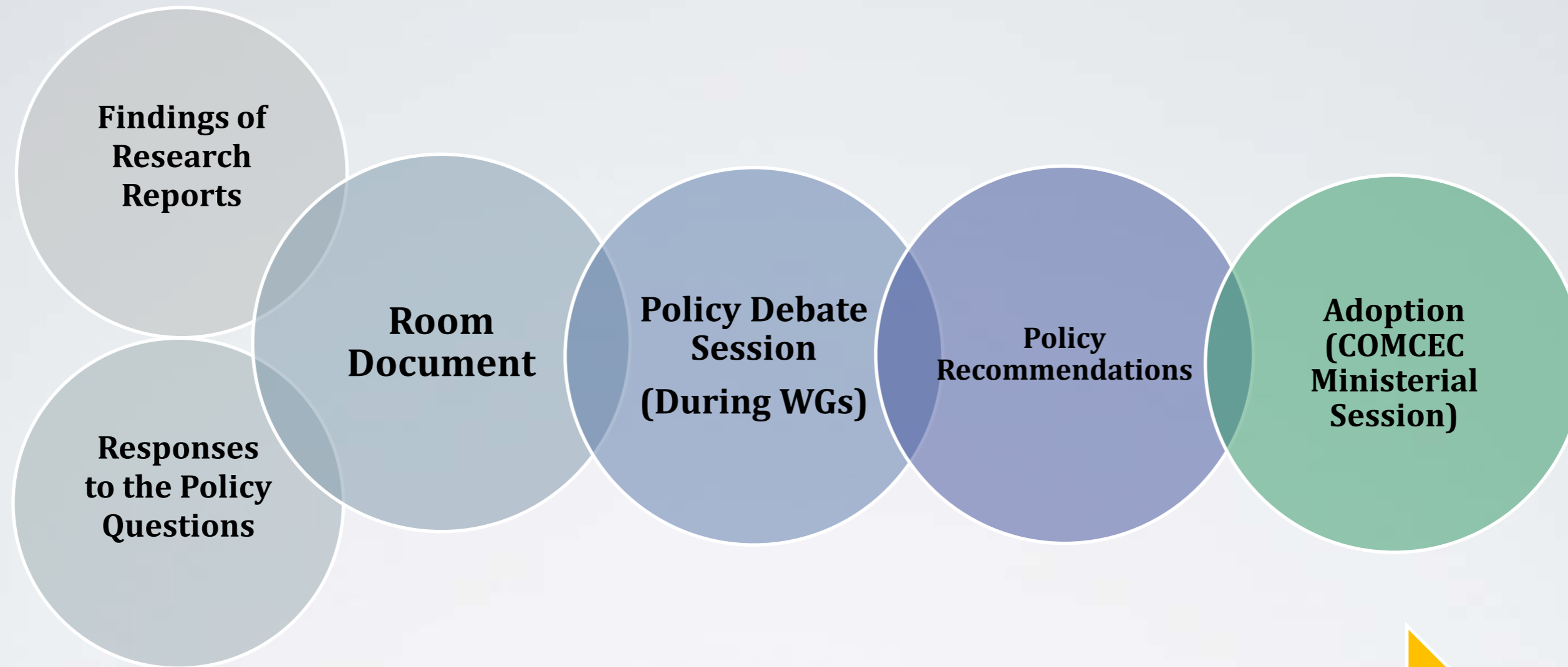
1) FORMULATION OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

«..... **approximate policies** in the cooperation areas to address and find solutions to the economic and social challenges of the Islamic Ummah»
(COMCEC Mission)

Policy Recommendations:

- Research reports, policy questions, discussions during the WGs
- Adopted by the COMCEC Ministerial Sessions
- Serve to policy approximation

1. Formulation of Policy Recommendations



2. Policy Questions and Responses

Q 1: Contribution of Agricultural trade to the social and economic welfare

Importance of Agricultural Trade

1	Contribution to food security
2	Contribution to agricultural producer incomes/agricultural livelihoods
3	Contribution to lower consumer prices for agricultural goods
4	Stabilizing domestic agricultural prices
5	Provision of intermediate inputs to agro-food industry
6	Contribution to foreign exchange earnings
7	Source of foreign exchange spending

2. Policy Questions and Responses

Q2: Challenges faced in designing and implementing sound and effective agricultural trade policies.

	Challenges
1	Insufficient coordination among different stakeholders (different Ministries, partners, etc.)
2	Lack of awareness about the importance of agricultural trade policies
3	Inefficient Technical Capacity
4	Lack of a national trade facilitation strategy and/or prioritization
5	Inefficient support/incentives to the exporters

2. Policy Questions and Responses

Q3: Strengths of the OIC Member Countries in promoting, realizing and sustaining intra-OIC trade in agriculture.

	Member Countries' Comparative Advantage in Promoting, Realizing and Sustaining Intra-OIC Trade in Agriculture
1	Matching demand for and supply of agricultural products
2	Cultural similarities
3	Existing bilateral agreements/arrangements
4	Geographical proximity
5	OIC/COMCEC's existing mechanisms (such as Agriculture Working Group, COMCEC Project Funding, etc.)
6	Need to unite against third parties
7	Common languages

2. Policy Questions and Responses

Q4: Initiatives to the promotion of intra-OIC agricultural trade.

Facilitators of Intra-OIC Trade	
1	Product diversification, marketing and advertising strategies (such as market research systems, common statistical data portal market information networks, promoting niche agricultural products of fellow OIC members, etc.)
2	Trade arrangements (such as tariff reductions, accelerating the implementation of TPS-OIC, trade with national currencies, etc.)
3	Promotion of agricultural investments in the Member Countries
4	Infrastructural investments (such as transportation investments, inauguration of direct flights, etc.)
5	Technical Cooperation (sharing of best-practices in agriculture and agricultural trade
6	Accelerating the process of Halal certification

2. Policy Questions and Responses

Q5: Trade systems to contribute most to the advancement of intra-OIC agricultural trade.

	Agricultural Trade Systems
1	Preferential trade arrangements (trade arrangements with preferential agricultural market access provisions)
2	Preferential regional trade arrangements (arrangements with agricultural preferential market access provisions)
3	Product-based commodity trade arrangements (bilateral or multilateral, intra- or inter-regional arrangements with preferential market access)
4	Regional agricultural trade arrangements (trade arrangements with agricultural preferential market access provisions)
5	Bilateral trade arrangements (arrangements between two trading parties with agricultural preferential market access provisions)
6	Agricultural policy liberalization (multilaterally level or unilaterally)
7	Agricultural Free Trade Areas
8	Regional economic communities (arrangements with broad economic cooperation with/without preferential market access provisions)

3- ROOM DOCUMENT

Policy Advice 1

- **Promotion of Niche Agricultural Products and Halal Certification through product diversification, trademarking, marketing strategies and advertising campaigns.**

Policy Advice 2

- **Promotion of Commercial Cooperation (e.g. enhancing agricultural investments, removal of business visas, etc) and Non-Commercial Cooperation (e.g. sharing best practices and technical expertise, developing safety standards, etc.) among OIC Member Countries in areas related to agricultural trade.**

3- ROOM DOCUMENT

Policy Advice 3

- **Promotion of Tariff Reductions and Bilateral Arrangements in key products (e.g. sugar, meat, feeding stuff for animals, oil-seeds, live animals)**

Policy Advice 4

- **Developing and implementing multilateral trade arrangements (e.g. TPS-OIC (Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC)) with a view to contributing to collaborative and sustainable agricultural trade development.**

3- ROOM DOCUMENT

Policy Advice 5

- **Enhancing the capacity of the Member Countries in collection, management and dissemination of agricultural trade data with a view to designing sound and evidence-based agricultural trade policies.**



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www.comcec.org

agriculture@comcec.org



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