



# Reviewing Agricultural Trade Policies to Promote Intra-OIC Agricultural Trade

## Presentation by TURKEY

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# Agricultural Policy and Trade of Turkey



- \* **Strategic Plan (2018-2022):** Ensuring food security & developing policies for a competitive and sustainable agricultural sector is the **main aim** of Turkish agricultural policy.
- \* Turkey produces a wide range of agricultural products but is a leading world producer and exporter of **nuts, dried fruits, and some fresh vegetables**.
- \* The trend in importing raw materials, inputs for agriculture such as **feedstuffs, maize and soya beans** along with **cotton, wheat and tobacco**.



# TRADE COSTS



- \* In a broad sense, **trade costs** cover wide range of components affecting the trade such as logistics (infrastructure), transportation (distance and maritime connectivity), non-tariff barriers, transit passage and customs procedures.
- \* **Trade cost** is closely linked with **trade facilitation** and refers to duration of customs procedures and length of documentary compliance both for exports and imports.



# TRADE FACILITATION



- \* Fruits and vegetables (which constitute a considerable amount in intra-OIC agricultural trade) are **perishable** and without sophisticated transport, logistics or packaging, difficult and/or more costly to transport long distances.
- \* Therefore, trade of **perishable products** is quite concentrated between OIC member countries particularly in close vicinity.



# TRADE FACILITATION



- \* 33 of OIC member countries including **Turkey** ratified WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)
- \* Article 7.9 refers specifically to «**Perishable Goods**».
- \* To avoid loss or deterioration of perishable goods, each Member shall provide for the release of **perishable goods** within the shortest possible time;
- \* Each Member shall give priority to **perishable goods** when scheduling any examinations that may be required.





# SPS & TBT MATTERS



## Challenges:

- \* Non-uniformity of SPS and TBT regulations across OIC members
- \* Complex procedures in the way and to the detriment of intra-regional trade
- \* Lack of standardized products

## Suggestions:

- \* Due respect to ALOP signifying that a measure should not be more trade-restrictive than required
- \* Harmonization of SPS & TBT Legislation and Standards in line with the guidelines of OIE, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius in the OIC Region



# SPS & TBT MATTERS



## Suggestions (cont'd):

- \* Simplification of import/export requirements
- \* Close follow-up of changes in SPS and TBT related legislation of OIC member countries.
- \* Paying more attention and giving appropriate responses to comments for SPS and TBT notifications to the benefit of OIC area





# PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS



## Suggestions:

- \* Conclusion of PTAs among all OIC member countries in terms of trade creation to the benefit of OIC area
- \* Impeding trade diversion caused by FTAs of third parties
- \* Revision of existing agreements among OIC member countries with the aim of further reciprocal concessions for agri-food trade
- \* Rules of origin, safeguard measures and SPS matters...



# PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENTS



- \* FTAs already concluded: **Palestine (2005), Tunisia (2005), Morocco (2006), Syria (2007), Egypt (2007), Albania (2008), Malaysia (2015).**
- \* FTAs pending internal approval procedures: **Lebanon, Sudan and Qatar.**
- \* Ongoing FTA negotiations: **Cameroon, Gulf Cooperation Council, Libya, Djibouti, Chad and Pakistan.**
- \* Intention to negotiate an FTA with **Algeria.**



# BUSINESS FORUMS & AGRI-BUSINESS FORUMS



## **Business Forums and Agribusiness Forums held in OIC area:**

- \* **Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forum (Istanbul, November 2016)**
- \* **Turkey-Azerbaijan Agri-business Forum (Baku, February 2017)**
- \* **Turkey-Albania Agri-business Forum (Tirana, March 2017)**
- \* **Turkey-Africa 1<sup>st</sup> Agriculture Ministers Meeting and Agribusiness Forum (Antalya, April 2017)**
- \* **Turkey-Arab Countries Forum (Aydın, May 2017)**
- \* **Turkey-ECOWAS Economic and Business Forum (Istanbul, February, 2018)**
- \* **Turkey-Africa 2<sup>nd</sup> Economic and Business Forum (Istanbul, October 2018)**



# AGRICULTURE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS



OIC Member	Date	Place	Term
Azerbaijan	22 February 2017	Baku	8
Albania	27 March 2017	Tirana	1
Qatar	23 May 2017	Doha	1
Tunisia	1 November 2017	Tunis	6
Sudan	25 December 2017	Khartoum	3
Uzbekistan	19 April 2018	Tashkent	1
Iran	2 October 2018	Tehran	7
Benin	20 December 2018	Ankara	1
Indonesia	20 December 2018	Ankara	1



# ICT USE IN AGRICULTURE



- \* Total employment in agriculture has been gradually decreasing in many of the OIC countries.
- \* In order to feed the existing or growing populations and ensure self-sufficiency, it is essential to increase productivity.
- \* **Challenge:** Inadequacy of agricultural mechanization, productivity, packaging and warehousing systems in many members of the OIC
- \* **Suggestion:** Digitalization is supposed to play a role in reduction of costs. It is also a must to tailor the production methods and to produce FMCGs so as to serve the demands of the consumers in the OIC area.





# Looking ahead...



## **Recommendations:**

- \* Coordination and cooperation with the OIC Member Countries
- \* Facilitation of intra agrifood trade in particular
- \* SPS and TBT sensitive approach in the region
- \* Conclusion of new PTAs
- \* Revision of existing PTAs in order to deepen the preferential agri-food trade among OIC members
- \* Uniformity for Halal standards
- \* Organization of Agribusiness Forums
- \* Necessary infrastructure and ICT use in Agriculture





**Thank you for your attention.**



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