

PROCEEDINGS OF
15TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP
(September 17th, 2020, Virtual Meeting)

1. 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held virtually on September 17th, 2020, with the theme of “Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries.”

(The Agenda and Program of the Meeting are attached as Annex-I and Annex-II)

2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 14 Member Countries. The Meeting was also attended by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), SESRIC, IOFS, IDB Group, SMIIC, and COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO).

(The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex-III)

3. The Meeting started with a recitation from the Holy Quran.
4. At the outset, Mr. Emin Sadık AYDIN, Acting Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office delivered his opening remarks. Mr. AYDIN expressed that the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic is not only a health issue but also humanitarian crisis leading to food insecurity and malnutrition of millions of people across the world. Highlighting that it is estimated that by the end of 2020, 130 million people in low and middle-income countries would be added to those who are suffering from acute hunger before the pandemic, Mr. AYDIN stated that the present pandemic could further exacerbate the already existing food insecurity and malnutrition situation in the world as well as the OIC region.
5. He underlined the necessity of developing sound policies and strategies for mitigating and eliminating the adverse impacts of the pandemic on food security and nutrition in the OIC Member Countries. In this regard, he indicated that “good governance” at all levels –global, regional and particularly national- is a crucial area that needs to be paid a special attention in order to prevent adverse effects of the pandemic on the food security and nutrition and implement agricultural policies leading to increased food security and sustainable development for all. He added that governments naturally have a leading role in ensuring good governance with an inclusive approach.
6. Mr. Ahmet Volkan GÜNGÖREN, Deputy Director General from General Directorate of European Union and Foreign Relations, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, moderated the sessions during the meeting. Welcoming the participants, Mr. GÜNGÖREN briefly informed the attendees about the agenda and programme of the meeting.

I. General Overview of the Good Governance Practices for Food Security and Nutrition in the World

7. Under this agenda item, Mr. Maximo Torero CULLEN, Chief Economist, Assistant Director-General of FAO, made a presentation about good governance practices for food security and nutrition in the world. Mr. CULLEN started his presentation by explaining several main drivers that put pressure on food systems such as growing human population, climate change and decline of ecosystem and then the unexpected Covid-19 pandemic. Highlighting that countries need to be ready to solve these type of problems that humanity faces and increase the resilience of food systems to be able to cope with, Mr. CULLEN pointed out 4 central pillars, namely real time data as much as possible, flowing of information for proper governance, technology for scientific evidence, innovation and lastly governance.
8. Then, Mr. CULLEN shared some figures on the state of food security and nutrition in the world. He stated that the number of hungry people has been slowly on the rise since 2014 and it is expected to increase by 10 million in a year and by nearly 60 million in 5 years. He also mentioned that COVID-19 pandemic may add between 83 and 132 million people to the total number of undernourished people globally in 2020.
9. Mr. CULLEN underlined that countries need to take a food system approach in order to meet the challenge of food security and nutrition. He stressed the five action tracks for transformational change in agri-food system, including ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all, shifting to sustainable consumption patterns, boosting nature-positive production at sufficient scales, advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution and building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses. He also added that countries need to utilize data, technology, innovation, and governance, in order to able to achieve the above-mentioned targets.
10. Defining the meaning and compounds of good governance, Mr. CULLEN pointed out that when it is mentioned about good governance practices for food security and nutrition, countries need to,
 - a) Focus on key challenges,
 - b) Understand and take into account governance-institutions and political economy dynamics,
 - c) Have evaluations, models and scenario-based analysis of different policy options,
 - d) Engage the key actors (public and private sectors) in strategic policy/investment coalition for transformational change required.
11. Then, Mr. CULLEN concluded his presentation by expressing that in terms of strengthening good governance capacity the countries need to design, build and deploy institutional capacities in order to facilitate partnerships, and alliances to ensure engagement, accountability and ownership, and mobilize means of implementation.

II. Good Governance Practices for Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC and Selected Case Studies and Lessons Learnt

12. Prof. Serdar SAYAN, the consultant, started his presentation by introducing his team that conducted the research and that prepared the analytical report on Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries. The research team included Dr. Lerzan ÖZKALE and Dr. Tuğrul TEMEL as senior researchers, and Dr. Pınar KAYNAK and Dr. M. Aykut ATTAR as researchers.
13. Afterwards, Prof. SAYAN summarized the outline of his presentation. According to this outline, his presentation included five parts: (i) Conceptual Framework and Methodology, (ii) Good Governance for Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries, (iii) Main Lessons Learned from the Case Studies, (iv) Policy Recommendations, and (v) the COVID-19 pandemic.
14. In the first part of the presentation, Prof. SAYAN outlined the conceptual framework and methodology by first providing a background information on food security and nutrition in the OIC member countries. Then, Prof. SAYAN briefly introduced the purposes of the analytical study as (i) reviewing and analyzing the global and OIC food security governance practices, and (ii) making policy recommendations to the OIC member countries for good food security governance.
15. Prof. SAYAN described the conceptual framework of the study by introducing food security pillars, the food system as a whole, and the food security governance levels. The four food security pillars Prof. SAYAN mentioned by referring to the formal FAO definitions are (i) the physical availability of food, (ii) economic and physical access to food, (iii) food utilization, and (iv) stability of the three pillars in time. In his presentation, Prof. SAYAN used a schematic view of the food system as a whole to establish the causation links among the drivers of food security, policies-legislations-programs, and food system segments such as supply/value chains and consumers. Prof. SAYAN also introduced the four levels of food security governance, again, by referring to the formal FAO definitions. These governance levels are (i) Policy and Legal Framework including vision; goals and priorities; cross cutting strategies, laws, and programs; and activities for achievement of objectives, (ii) Coordination and Coherence between policies, intra and inter agencies and between the multiple actors involved, (iii) Implementation covering institutional capacity, roles and responsibilities, service delivery, accountability and recourse mechanisms, and (iv) Information-Monitoring-Evaluation including assessments, data management, and looking at the progress in activities, achievements, and impacts.

16. After emphasizing that the analysis of food security governance in the OIC member countries was built upon four pillars of food security and four levels of governance, Prof. SAYAN introduced the methodology of quadrant analyses that allowed for the identification of different food security governance regimes in the OIC member countries. According to this methodology, a country can be classified into one of four food security governance regimes. One of these regimes is called “Likely to deteriorate,” and it includes countries with high levels of food insecurity and low scores of food security governance. Prof. SAYAN emphasized that this is the regime where countries need to avoid being in. The food security governance regime countries need to reach is called “Leading,” including countries with low levels of food insecurity and high scores of food security governance. Prof. SAYAN also discussed the importance of the two transient regimes with low insecurity low governance (“Stagnating”) and high insecurity high governance (“Lagging”).
17. Prof. SAYAN started the second part of his presentation by summarizing the results of the quadrant analyses. He used a summary figure for each governance level to identify which food security governance regime a country is located in. In these four figures, each marker is associated with an OIC member country, and colors signify three official regional groups of the OIC. Prof. SAYAN emphasized that higher governance scores are generally positively associated with lower levels of food insecurity where the latter is measured by the prevalence of undernourishment. He also noted that this statistical association is strongest for three governance levels, namely (i) Coordination and Coherence, (ii) Implementation, and (iii) Information-Monitoring-Evaluation.
18. To summarize the research findings in this part of his presentation, Prof. SAYAN also shared the Food Security Governance Index rankings by three official regional groups. He underlined that the Index was prepared by the research team particularly for the analytical study on the OIC member countries. This Index provides an aggregative measure of food security governance successes of the OIC member countries by building upon the statistical resources on both the four pillars of food security and the four levels of governance.
19. After briefly discussing the global and regional challenges and opportunities for the OIC in achieving good food security governance, Prof. SAYAN concluded the second part of his presentation with some of the lessons learned for food security governance in the OIC member countries. These lessons included that some of the OIC member countries have governance gaps in coordination and monitoring, and that several OIC member countries have governance gaps in Right to Food legislations and integration of food security and nutrition targets into their national development plans.
20. The third part of Prof. SAYAN’s presentation was centered on the case study countries. Prof. SAYAN indicated that the OIC field visit countries were Côte d'Ivoire from the African group, Palestine from the Arab group, and Indonesia from the Asian group. He also mentioned that the best practice non-OIC country chosen as a desk study case was

Brazil, and the best practice international initiative chosen as the other desk study case was the United Nations' Secretary General's High Level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security (HLTF).

21. Prof. SAYAN proceeded to discuss how the chosen field visit countries represent the diversity within the OIC from various respects such as population size, land area, the shares of agriculture in GDP and employment, and cereal yield. He then emphasized that an important input to the field visit methodology was the Food Security Governance Expert Interview that was used during the field visits. He noted that this semi-structured interview was designed particularly for the analytical study and included 10 open-ended questions.
22. Prof. SAYAN summarized the results of the case studies for Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Palestine, respectively. For Indonesia, he first underlined that the country recorded significant reduction in the prevalence of undernourishment since 2006 particularly due to the increased governmental efforts. He also noted that the country's policy and legal framework works well in identifying existing problems such as stunting. Prof. SAYAN also emphasized the Information-Monitoring-Evaluation successes of Indonesia by referring to the country's Food Security Vulnerability Atlas. With respect to the governance levels where there is room for improvement, Prof. SAYAN indicated that Indonesia could direct more attention to (i) coordination and coherence and (ii) implementation gaps.
23. For Côte d'Ivoire, Prof. SAYAN first underlined that the country has well-documented agricultural investment plans (PNIA I and PNIA II) where the second plan for the 2018-2025 period clearly identifies food security as a major challenge and establishes itself as the new frame of reference for the national food security policy. Prof. SAYAN also mentioned that the country has prepared three major sub-sectoral strategies for the agricultural sector, respectively for rice, for crops other than rice, and for livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture. In his remarks concerning the existing governance gaps in Côte d'Ivoire, Prof. SAYAN emphasized (i) implementation (with regards to the need to develop explicit, mandated plans) and (ii) information-monitoring-evaluation (with regards to the need to establish a food security vulnerability monitoring system).
24. Prof. SAYAN continued his presentation with his remarks on Palestine, the third case study from the OIC member countries. He first noted that food security outcomes in Palestine, especially in some regions of the country, are being affected by the ongoing conflict. Prof. SAYAN then indicated that food security governance practices are relatively better in (i) policy and legal framework and (ii) coordination and coherence. The governance areas where Palestine has a room for improvement are thus (i) implementation and (ii) information-monitoring-evaluation.
25. Prof. SAYAN ended the third part of his presentation on case studies by briefly discussing the best-practice cases of Brazil and HLTF.

26. In the fourth part of his presentation, Prof. SAYAN explained the policy recommendations originating from the analytical study. Before discussing each recommendation, he underlined that differences in the severity and types of food security problems and their drivers imply that a single set of policies would not be suitable for all countries or regions.
27. For the first governance level, i.e., policy and legal framework, Prof. SAYAN emphasized (i) developing a comprehensive, national food security strategy as the first step of planning, (ii) formulating policies that target the weak segments of the supply/value chains of their key agricultural products, and (iii) eliminating the existing agricultural trade barriers in a mutually beneficial way.
28. For the second governance level, i.e., coordination and coherence, Prof. SAYAN underlined (i) establishing high level coordination mechanisms (i.e., an inter-ministerial or presidential council), (ii) mandating the operations, meetings, responsibilities, accountability criteria, and stakeholder participation mechanisms, and (iii) ensuring that the national coordination council has sufficient human and financial resources.
29. For the third governance level, i.e., implementation, Prof. SAYAN emphasized (i) designing the policies and programs with an explicit implementation plan for the national/sub national tasks, (ii) solving the infrastructure problems that negatively affect implementation of policies and programs, and (iii) educating the fieldwork personnel with relevant know-how and allocating sufficient financial resources to each and every step of the implementation process.
30. For the fourth governance level, i.e., information-monitoring-evaluation, Prof. SAYAN underlined (i) establishing a vulnerability atlas (or a similar platform) as an online platform that transmits real time information to a monitoring center, (ii) mandating the data gathering schedules, the geographical coverage at the sub-national levels, and the types of data to be collected through the vulnerability atlas, and (iii) designing and regularly implementing nationally representative household surveys that have particular modules for food security and nutrition.
31. After presenting specific policy recommendations for each governance level, Prof. SAYAN also mentioned about the general policy recommendations for good food security governance. He indicated that the OIC member countries with various governance gaps may greatly benefit from the experiences of developing countries that improved food security and nutrition. He also stated that developing partnership projects with fellow OIC member countries from the “Leading” food security governance regime would be beneficial to countries with governance gaps.
32. In the last part of his presentation, Prof. SAYAN briefly discussed the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on food security and nutrition in the OIC member countries. He stated that the economic downturn associated with COVID-19 worsens the food

insecurity and malnutrition situation mainly through decreasing availability of food (due to the fall in food production and trade) and deteriorating access to food (due to employment and income losses). Prof. SAYAN also shared the list of the OIC member countries that are expected to face higher food insecurity and malnutrition risks due to the pandemic. Finally, he underlined that minimizing the risks necessitates good governance practices especially in coordination and monitoring.

Questions and Remarks

33. **Question:** Before achieving food security, is it necessary to achieve food sovereignty (in the sense of increasing local/domestic food production)?

34. **Remark:** While economists generally agree that trade liberalization policies are beneficial to trading countries through increased productivity and welfare, the recent experience with the COVID-19 pandemic showed that some countries impose trade barriers for food. Given that stability is an important food security pillar, there may be a conflict in these views for the long run.

35. **Answer:** The liberalization of foreign trade has been known to produce welfare gains, and this is known both theoretically and empirically. Yet, the COVID-19 pandemic diffused to the entire world mainly because countries are tied to each other globally through the movements of goods and people, i.e., through global economic relationships. Currently, there is a challenge to balance the two goals, namely benefitting from foreign trade but also trying to avoid health risks. The COVID-19 pandemic makes it necessary to pay attention to health risks originating from such diseases, and, in the near future, investing in sanitary screening technologies would be a top priority.

36. **Question:** Did you encounter or find any specific chapter or section on food security governance in the national development plans of the OIC member countries? Or any specific strategy papers with regards to food security and nutrition?

Answer: We went through the documents of some of the member countries but not all. Many documents we studied did not explicitly refer to the term governance, but they included elements of good governance practices in detail. All strategy documents, all coordination mechanisms, all inter-ministerial councils are actually tools of governance. Many countries have such councils and multi-stakeholder forums. They specify rules and operations of these councils and bodies in their policy documents. But, as a concept, governance itself is not common in written documents.

37. **Question:** Which instruments could be used to ensure food and nutrition security in terms of good governance? Could you give more examples?

Answer: Instead of listing all the good governance practices as examples one-by-one, the research team tried to classify and categorize these practices by different governance

levels. Specific agricultural strategy plans at the product level could be an important tool. For instance, in Côte d'Ivoire, there are not only agricultural strategy plans with a focus on food security, but also specific strategy documents for rice and other products. We see that the greater the detail these documents provide, the more effective they would become to ensure food security and nutrition.

38. **Question:** Does Brazil, as a case country in the study, have a vulnerability atlas similar to the case of Indonesian Food Security Vulnerability Atlas? How did Brazil manage to monitor food insecurity at the local levels?

Answer: As the case of Brazil was conducted through a desk study, it was not observed whether Brazil has a vulnerability atlas mechanism or technology structure similar to the Indonesian initiative. However, it may be noted that Brazil has a well-functioning food security information system.

39. **Remark:** Brazil and Indonesia are very different countries, in terms of size and geography. These countries are also different in physical and institutional endowments. Hence, replicating the Brazilian success is difficult. More importantly, in the Brazilian case, the movement to better nutrition started at the community level with people's demands and actions.
40. **Remark:** In all international documents and policy platforms, food security framework is generally presented in a linear and static perspective. It is always presented as a process running from availability to access, and then to utilization. But, in reality, these processes are nonlinear and dynamic. Good governance of these processes requires the appreciation of such complexities.

III. Member Country Experiences in Good Governance for Food Security and Nutrition

41. Mr. Samer TITI, Director of Planning and Policy Department, Ministry of Agriculture of Palestine, made a presentation addressing food and nutrition security governance in Palestine. In his presentation, Mr. TITI shared some figures regarding the state of food security in Palestine. He stated that around 1.7 million Palestinians (33% of the total population) are food insecure and in need of assistance. Due to the unprecedented effects of Covid-19 pandemic it is expected that up to 50% of the population might face a condition of crisis or worse.
42. Mentioning on the government's ongoing practices related to FNS Governance, Mr. TITI indicated that currently, the food and nutrition security issues in Palestine are followed up by the SDG2 Working Group (SDG2WG), led by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Working Group includes the representatives of governmental ministries as well as private sector. He added that the government undertook a strategic thinking process that led to the formulation of the National Policy Agenda 2017-2022

(NPA) and series of related sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies that address the agriculture sector, such as the National Agriculture Sector Strategies and the National Nutrition Policy, and Strategy and Action Plan. He also indicated that the Atlas of Sustainable Development that includes information regarding the food security and all forms of malnutrition was initiated by Prime Minister's Office and jointly developed by the United Nations Country Team in coordination of SDGs National Team.

43. In the conclusion of his presentation, he mentioned about the Food and Nutrition Security Governance's way forward in Palestine by stressing that the Ministry of Agriculture would be responsible for overseeing inter-institutional coordination, the Food and Nutrition Security Council (FNSC) would be responsible for decisions at the inter-ministerial level and then the SDG2 WG would serve as the technical task force of FNSC, assist the Ministry of Agriculture and monitor and evaluate the FNS-oriented interventions. In addition, Mr. TITI pointed out the challenges facing the FNS Governance in Palestine such as outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and increase in the number of infected people and the limited human and financial resources of the government.
44. Dr. Mukama CHARLES, Senior Veterinary Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of Uganda, made a presentation titled "Good Government for Financing Food Security and Nutrition in Uganda". He depicted the overview of food security and nutrition in Uganda. Mr. CHARLES stated that about 85% of Uganda is food secure both by own production and in the market. He also underlined several major factors that limit food security and nutrition in Uganda including low level of awareness, climate crisis, and low levels of storage and post-harvest handling, etc.
45. Underlying that the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda compels the Government to ensure food security and nutrition to all the citizens of Uganda, Mr. CHARLES mentioned about three main fronts for ensuring FSN namely, legal framework, institutional arrangements and international and local organizations for ensuring food security and nutrition. In this regard, He stated that through 'Vision 2040' Uganda's long term goal is to deliver a number of outcomes, such as provision of food and income security, wealth creation, and creation of employment opportunities. He underlined the importance the Agriculture Sector Strategic Plan composed of detailed interventions and activities constituting a "road map" that guides the investments of the public and private in the agriculture sector over the next five years. Some of the objectives of the Road Map are cited below:
 - Increasing agriculture production and productivity
 - Improving post-harvest handling and storage of agriculture products
 - Strengthening agriculture sector's institutional capacities for agro-industrialization
 - Increasing the mobilization, access to and utilization of agricultural finance.

46. Mr. CHARLES indicated that Uganda has partnerships with several international organizations regarding food security and nutrition, including FAO, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, and IFAD.
47. In the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. CHARLES mentioned about Uganda's response to COVID-19 pandemic. He emphasized that from beginning of the Pandemic, agriculture production has remained open and movements to gardens were permitted.. He added that food stores and markets also remained open.
48. Ms. Pınar ÖZDEMİR, Expert, Turkish Grain Board, made a presentation about governance and market monitoring in cereals markets in Turkey. She also presented Turkish Grain Board, which is a governmental body providing the market stability with the policies since 1938 and has a significant place in Turkey's agriculture sector.
49. She pointed out that Turkish Grain Board uses several market indicators such as international and domestic prices, production cost, supply and demand balance, stocks and expectations. She added that in terms of market monitoring and evaluation, TGB uses some sources including market reports, domestic and international meetings, industry opinions, domestic field tours and international price suppliers' data and prepares daily market and commodity exchange prices bulletin.
50. Ms. ÖZDEMİR highlighted that TGB not only support sustainable production by encouraging farmers to keep producing in terms of food security but also ensures market stability in the event of unusual price fluctuations. She added that in the Covid-19 period, TGB reinforced its stocks and supplied products to the market without interruption.
51. She ended her presentation by stressing that as TGB is aware of food security and nutrition as well as waste issues, the "Campaign for Preventing Bread Waste" was launched by the Turkish Grain Board with the aim of preventing bread waste. The Campaign drew the attention of notable international institutions such as FAO, OECD, and G-20.

IV. Contributions of International Institutions

52. Mr. Ougfaly BADJI, Lead Food Security Specialist, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) made a presentation on the IsDB's agriculture policy development towards sustainable and inclusive growth.
53. Mr. BADJI firstly touched upon the contribution of agriculture to economic growth and inclusive development and the targets of the IsDB's support in agriculture area including well-functioning national agriculture and food markets and increased intra/inter-regional trade expanded local agro-industry and value addition, improved management

and governance of natural resources (i.e. land and water) for sustainable agricultural production.

54. Then he mentioned about the importance and impact of integrating governance and agriculture. He expressed that poor governance is one of the major driver of food insecurity. There are many policies and programs about agriculture and food security that are hindered by complex political processes and interactions between governments, stakeholders and private sectors and farmers. He added that poor institutional capacity and weak design and implementation of government policies undermine the food security. Mr. BADJI stressed the importance of including civil society and technical partners through strong partnership and connectivity in the design and implementation processes of the agricultural policies and programs.
55. Mr. BADJI continued with the lessons learnt from the IsDB's practices about the governance in agriculture sector and food security. He expressed that the governance of food systems has changed dramatically over the last 50–60 years. There are growing concerns related to sustainability and building resilience to cope with the climate change and market volatility. He underlined the importance of exerting systematic efforts to increase cereal productivity through investing in science and technology. He added that the IsDB's support to the member countries aims to direct the governance efforts of the agriculture sector towards achieving the SDGs and inclusive growth.
56. Mr. BADJI concluded by stressing the IsDB's critical role in advocating for laws and policies to accelerate agricultural transformation in the OIC Member Countries thereby creating employment, eliminating poverty and fostering shared prosperity.

V. Policy Debate Session on Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries

57. Under this agenda item, the participants deliberated on the policy options for improving the good governance practices for ensuring food security and nutrition in the OIC Member Countries. Mr. Ahmet Volkan GÜNGÖREN, Deputy Director General from General Directorate of European Union and Foreign Relations, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, moderated the session. At the outset, Mr. Mehmet Akif ALANBAY, Expert at the COMCEC Coordination Office, briefed the participants on the responses of the member countries to the Policy Questions circulated by the CCO and introduced the Room Document including specific policy recommendations on the topic. After fruitful deliberations, the Working Group has come up with the following policy recommendations to be submitted to the 36th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC.
- **Policy Recommendation I:** Developing a comprehensive national food security and nutrition strategy and/or strengthening the existing food security policies and strategies

to extend their reach and inclusiveness so that everyone can reap the benefits, including the poorest and the most vulnerable to achieve food security and nutrition for all.

- **Policy Recommendation II:** Establishing a high level national coordination mechanism (i.e. an inter-ministerial or presidential council) for ensuring a healthy and sustainable multi-stakeholder dialogue for the effective coordination of all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the processes of policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring; and endowing it with significant execution power and sufficient human and financial resources.
- **Policy Recommendation III:** Improving the coordination and coherence of policy actions on food security and nutrition in turbulent times (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic) at all levels ranging from sub-national to national; sub-regional to regional, and bilateral, OIC-level to finally global level.
- **Policy Recommendation IV:** Designing a detailed and transparent implementation plan for the national and sub-national tasks and equipping the fieldwork personnel with relevant know-how and allocating sufficient financial resources to each and every step of the implementation process.
- **Policy Recommendation V:** Establishing an online platform/food information systems (e.g. vulnerability atlas, food security fora) that ideally transmits real-time information on monitoring food security and nutrition governance with a view to generating credible data and statistics and formulating evidence-based policies.
- **Policy Recommendation VI:** Promoting capacity building and knowledge/experience sharing among the OIC Member Countries in the four levels of good governance of food security and nutrition (i.e. (i) Policy and Legal Framework (ii) Coordination and Coherence (iii) Implementation, and (iv) Information-Monitoring-Evaluation.)

(Policy Recommendations and their rationales are attached as Annex IV)

VI. COMCEC Project Funding and COMCEC COVID Response Program

58. Mr. Ali ORUÇ, Program Coordinator at the COMCEC Coordination Office, briefed the participants regarding the COMCEC Project Funding and COMCEC COVID Response Program.
59. At the outset, Mr. ORUÇ informed the participants on the 8th Call for Project Proposals started on September 1st, 2020. In this regard, he stated that the Member Countries can submit their project proposals through the Online Project Submission System until the end of September and they can reach all documents on the System by using the username and password, provided for the focal points.

60. He also reminded the participants to read the application documents particularly the Project Preparation and Submission Guidelines as well as supported sectoral themes before designing and submitting their project proposal. Moreover, Mr. ORUÇ invited the Member Countries and OIC Institutions to submit their project proposals and wished all the success in the project submission period.
61. Furthermore, Mr. ORUÇ informed the participants regarding the new CCO initiative to address the current and future negative impacts of the pandemic, which is COMCEC COVID Response Program. The Program was designed based on the feedback received from member countries during COVID Consultative Meetings and the questionnaire sent in July 2020. The Program will directly address the needs and demands of member countries in order to alleviate the situation in certain sectors.
62. At the end, Mr. ORUÇ briefed the participants that the modus operandi of COMCEC COVID Response Program was being finalized and the call for project proposals under this Program was expected to start in October 2020.

Closing Remarks

63. At the end of the program Mr. Fatih ÜNLÜ, Acting Deputy Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), expressed his thanks to all the presenters and participants for the fruitful deliberations made during the meeting.

ANNEXES

Annex-I



AGENDA

**15TH MEETING OF
THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP
(September 17th, 2020; Virtual Meeting)**

***“Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition
in the OIC Member Countries”***

Opening Remarks

1. Overview of the Good Governance Practices for Food Security and Nutrition in the World
2. Good Governance Practices for Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC and Selected Case Studies and Lessons Learnt
3. Member Country Presentations
4. Contributions of International Institutions, Private Sector and NGOs
5. Policy Debate Session on the Food Security and Nutrition Governance
6. COMCEC Project Funding and COMCEC COVID Response Program

Closing Remarks



PROGRAMME

15TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP (September 17th, 2020, Virtual Meeting)

“Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries”

- 13.15 – 13.30** **Joining the Online Meeting**
- 13.30 - 13.40** **Opening**
- 13.40 – 14.00** **Overview of the Good Governance Practices for Food Security and Nutrition in the World**
- Presentation: Mr. Maximo Torero CULLEN
Chief Economist/Assistant Director-General
Economic and Social Development Department
FAO*
- 14.00 – 14.10** *Questions and Answers (Q & A)*
- 14.10 – 14.40** **Good Governance Practices for Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC and Selected Case Studies and Lessons Learnt**
- Presentation: Prof. Dr. Serdar SAYAN
Consultant*
- 14.40 – 15.00** *Q & A*
- 15.00 - 15.30** **Member Country Experiences**
- 15.30 – 15.40** **Contributions of International Institutions**
- Presentation: Mr. Ougfaly BADJI
Lead Food Security Specialist
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)*
- 15.40 – 15.50** *Q & A*
- 15.50 – 16.50** **Policy Debate Session on the Food Security and Nutrition Governance**
- 16.50- 17.05** **COMCEC Project Funding and Introducing COMCEC COVID Response Program**
- 17.05 – 17.15** **Closing Remarks**

Annex-III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS **15th MEETING OF COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP** **(September 17th, 2020)**

A. MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OIC

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

- Mr. AHMAD FARIDON KAKAR
Expert, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and livestock

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

- Ms. MALIKA FADILA KORICHI HAMANA
Director of Organic Farming, Labelling and The Promotion of Agricultural Productions,
Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- Mr. ALAA AZOUZ
Head of Agricultural Extension Sector, Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation
- Mr. MAHMOUD KHALLAF
Prof. Chief Researcher, Agricultural Economics-Agricultural Finance Research and Cooperation
Department, Agricultural Research Center-Agricultural Economics Research Institute

REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

- Mr. SARIYANG MK JOBARTEH
Assistant Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Economy, Pub. Admin. and Policy

REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

- Ms. DEWI KARTIKA DAMAYANTI
Head of Division, Ministry of Agriculture
- Mr. ARIEF RACHMAN
Head of Non Asean Sub Division, Ministry of Agriculture
- Mr. MOHAMMAD ZAENI TASRIPIN
Expert, Ministry of Agriculture

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

- Mr. MOHAMED KHALEDI
Director General, Ministry of Jihad e-Agriculture

MALAYSIA

- Mr. MOHD RASHD RABU

Director, Governance and Legal Centre, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI)

REPUBLIC OF NIGER

- Ms. AMINA ABASS

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Annex-IV

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE 15TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

A policy debate session was held during the 15th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group. The Working Group came up with some concrete policy recommendations for enhancing good governance practices for ensuring food security and nutrition in the Member Countries. The policy recommendations given below have been identified in light of the main findings of the research report titled "*Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries*" and the responses from the Member Countries to Policy Questions conveyed by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

Policy Recommendation I: Developing a comprehensive national food security and nutrition strategy and/or strengthening the existing food security policies and strategies to extend their reach and inclusiveness so that everyone can reap the benefits, including the poorest and the most vulnerable to achieve food security and nutrition for all.

Rationale: An enabling legal framework accompanied by a comprehensive food security and nutrition policy is of particular importance for the success of the food security governance. A comprehensive food security and nutrition strategy could be developed as the first step of planning for good food security governance. Under the shadow of COVID-19; the said strategy could specifically re-define the vision, goals and priorities of the country on food security governance in line with the current and future food security and nutrition trends of the country, and guide complementary and cross-cutting strategies, laws, and programs, as well as activities for achievement of objectives. In this regard, the member countries may utilize the experiences and facilities provided by the OIC Institutions (e.g. COMCEC, IOFS, SESRIC, SMIIC, IsDB) as well as the international organizations (e.g. UNFAO).

Policy Recommendation II: Establishing a high level national coordination mechanism (i.e. an inter-ministerial or presidential council) for ensuring a healthy and sustainable multi-stakeholder dialogue for the effective coordination of all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in the processes of policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring; and endowing it with significant execution power and sufficient human and financial resources.

Rationale: For successful food security and nutrition policies, governance and coordination mechanisms need to be drastically upgraded in all areas from policy formulation to implementation and monitoring. Effective coordination and coherence mechanisms require an inclusive and participatory process in which all segments of the population, especially the most vulnerable, have their needs and rights properly represented. Different stakeholders have their own objectives, policy preferences, and functions, and this creates an inherent fragmentation in the sphere of governance. The OIC member countries may thus benefit from establishing a high level national coordination mechanism (i.e. inter-ministerial or presidential council), endowed with significant executive power. Member countries may benefit from mandating the operations, meetings, responsibilities, accountability criteria, and stakeholder participation mechanisms of their national coordination mechanisms. Moreover, they are recommended to ensure that the national coordination mechanism has sufficient human and financial resources.

Policy Recommendation III: Improving the coordination and coherence of policy actions on food security and nutrition in turbulent times (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic) at all levels ranging from sub-national to national; national to bilateral or multilateral; sub-regional to regional, and finally, from OIC-level to global level.

Rationale: The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic downturn are expected to worsen food insecurity and malnutrition situation in many countries mainly through (i) the declining availability of food (due to contraction of food production and trade) and (ii) the access to food (due to employment and income losses). Recently published figures indicate that, by the end of 2020, 130 million people in low and middle income countries will be added to those already suffering from acute hunger before the pandemic started. Roughly half of the OIC Member Countries are among the countries that face the highest risks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Minimizing the risks associated with the pandemic necessitates good governance practices especially with respect to the coordination of policy actions at national and sub-national levels and bilateral, OIC-level and finally global levels.

Policy Recommendation IV: Designing a detailed and transparent implementation plan for the national and sub-national tasks and equipping the fieldwork personnel with relevant know-how and allocating sufficient financial resources to each and every step of the implementation process.

Rationale: Adopted policies and programs that are not supported by detailed and transparent implementation plans may end up being partially implemented or not implemented as a result of departures of critical post-holders due to new appointments and other bureaucratic obstacles. This is more than highly possible in this new era where COVID-19's negative effects are felt considerably. Therefore, the top challenge regarding implementation is to design the policies and programs with an explicit implementation plan for the national and sub-national tasks. One of the main governance challenges regarding implementation is associated with the lack of sufficient human and financial resources. Therefore, the OIC member countries may focus on mechanisms to train the field-work personnel so as to equip them with relevant know-how, and to allocate sufficient financial resources to each and every step of the implementation process.

Policy Recommendation V: Establishing an online platform/food information systems (e.g. vulnerability atlas, food security fora) that ideally transmits real-time information on monitoring food security and nutrition governance with a view to generating credible data and statistics and formulating evidence-based policies.

Rationale: COVID-19 pandemic has shown once more the importance of the monitoring of acute food insecurity through the food information systems. Limited availability of timely, reliable and consistent data on food security and nutrition hampers evidence-based decision making by both public and private sector actors in the Member Countries as well as the international organizations. Besides utilizing the existing instruments such as OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) more effectively, new projects that are inter and intra related with other harshly affected sectors (tourism, trade, finance etc.) from COVID-19 need to be designed and conducted to generate credible data and statistics, to strengthen the Member Countries' capacities to analyze them, and support the development of policies, investment and action plans based on this evidence all across the OIC.

Policy Recommendation VI: Promoting capacity building and knowledge/experience sharing among the OIC Member Countries in the four levels of good governance of food security and nutrition (i.e. (i) Policy and Legal Framework (ii) Coordination and Coherence (iii) Implementation, and (iv) Information-Monitoring-Evaluation.)

Rationale: There are lessons that member countries can learn from the experiences of fellow members within the OIC. When effective sharing and capacity building mechanisms are established, successful outcomes of well-tested food security governance policies and practices in one country can allow others to adopt those without making the costly mistakes that the initiating country may have made during the process of fine-tuning new initiatives, saving valuable resources. Hence, regular or occasional gatherings of policy makers as well as practitioners from member countries to discuss common problems related to food security governance, and creation of staff exchange and training programs can be encouraged. The growing experience of all countries with on-line gatherings and meetings during the pandemic presents itself as an opportunity to make such events increasingly feasible. Also, the countries may seek technical assistance from OIC institutions and/or seek project-based funding from the OIC and other international bodies.

Instruments to Realize the Policy Recommendations:

COMCEC Agriculture Working Group: In its subsequent meetings, the Working Group may elaborate on the above-mentioned policy areas in a more detailed manner.

COMCEC Project Funding: Under the COMCEC Project Funding, the COMCEC Coordination Office calls for projects each year. With the COMCEC Project Funding, the member countries participating in the Working Groups can submit multilateral cooperation projects to be financed through grants by the COMCEC Coordination Office. For the above-mentioned policy areas, the member countries can utilize the COMCEC Project Funding and the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance the successful projects in this regard. These projects may include organization of seminars, training programs, study visits, exchange of experts, workshops and preparing of analytical studies, needs assessments and training materials/documents, etc.

Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS): IOFS, as a specialized institution of the OIC dedicated to promoting food security and nutrition, may contribute to policy formulation in the OIC member countries and support good food security governance within the OIC.

SESRIC: Member Countries may utilize the Capacity Building Programs of SESRIC as well as OIC Statistical Commission in the areas related to food security and nutrition.

IDB Group: The facilities of the IDB Group, particularly the IsDB Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Implementation, may be utilized by the Member Countries to achieve good governance of food security and nutrition.

SMIIC: The Technical Committees of the SMIIC can be utilized.