



**Standing Committee
for Economic and Commercial Cooperation
of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC)**

Proceedings of the 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group

“Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries”



**COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE
March 2017**



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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC
AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP
ON**

“REDUCING FOOD WASTE IN THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES”

(23 February 2017, Ankara, Turkey)

**COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE
March 2017**

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Introduction

The 9th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on February 23rd, 2017 in Ankara, Turkey with the theme of “Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries”.

The Meeting was attended by the representatives of 11 Member Countries, namely, Afghanistan, Egypt, Gabon, Iran, Ivory Coast, Malaysia, Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Turkey. Representatives of COMCEC Coordination Office, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), Association for Solidarity of Environmental Organizations, UNMAŞ A.Ş, and SESRIC have also attended the Meeting.¹

The Meeting began with a recitation from Quran. Afterwards, Mr. Mehmet Metin EKER, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), and Mr. Mahboobullah ORYAKHE, Technical Advisor to Minister in Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan and the Chairman of the Meeting, delivered their opening remarks. After the opening remarks, the representative of the CCO made a presentation on “COMCEC Agriculture Outlook 2016”. During the presentation of the COMCEC Agriculture Outlook 2016, the participants were informed about the state of agriculture sector in the OIC Member Countries through focusing macro agricultural indicators.

Afterwards, the Meeting considered the research report titled “Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries” which was conducted by specifically for the 9th Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions.

Moreover, a moderation session was held at the beginning of afternoon session. The participants deliberated on the policy recommendations for reducing food waste in the OIC Member Countries. The Room Document, prepared by the CCO in light of the findings of the research report and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions, was discussed during the meeting. The participants expressed their views and observations about the policy recommendations included in the Room Document.

The representatives of Iran, Egypt, Malaysia, Palestine, and Turkey have shared their experiences, achievements and challenges concerning food waste in their respective countries.

Lastly, UNEP, Association for Solidarity of Environmental Organizations and UNMAŞ have made presentations on their experiences with regards to food waste.

¹ The list of participants is attached as Annex 1.

1. Opening Session

In line with the tradition of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Afterwards, Mr. Mehmet Metin EKER, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office welcomed all participants. Briefly informing the participants about the programme of the Meeting, Mr. EKER invited Mr. Mahboobullah ORYAKHE, Technical Advisor to Minister in Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of the Afghanistan to chair the Meeting. Afterwards, Mr. ORYAKHE welcomed all the participants to the 9th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group. Following his opening remarks, he invited Mr. E. Emrah HATUNOĞLU to present COMCEC Agriculture Outlook 2016.

2. The COMCEC Agriculture Outlook 2016

Mr. E. Emrah HATUNOĞLU, Expert from the COMCEC Coordination Office presented the key findings of the COMCEC Agriculture Outlook.

Mr. HATUNOĞLU informed the participants on agriculture sector in the OIC Member Countries through focusing on macro agricultural indicators namely; Agricultural Value Added, Growth Rates, Population, Employment and trade, and sectoral indicators namely; land use, crops and livestock production, and agricultural productivity. In addition, he informed the participants on the current status of food security in the OIC Member Countries. In this framework, he stated that the state of undernourishment is directly and indirectly related to the availability of and access to food.

He expressed that OIC's agricultural GDP was 186 billion US Dollars in 1990 which accounted for 16 percent of world's agricultural production. OIC's agricultural GDP reached to 682 billion US Dollars with a share of 21 percent in the world's agricultural production in 2014. Despite that fact that the share of OIC's agricultural production in the world agricultural production has slightly decreased in 2014, it shows an increasing trend. Regarding sub-regional level, Mr. HATUNOĞLU mentioned that Asian Group has made the highest contribution to agricultural production over the years. Asian Group has more than half of the total agricultural GDP of the OIC Member Countries with 367 billion US Dollars agricultural production. On the other hand, performance of African Group is getting strong compared to the Arab and Asian Groups. In this respect, the share of African Group's agricultural GDP in OIC's agricultural GDP increased from 16 percent to 24 percent between 1990 and 2014.

Furthermore, Mr. HATUNOĞLU stressed that the share of agricultural GDP in total GDP of OIC Countries has been decreasing. In this conjunction, the share of agriculture sector in the economies of OIC Countries decreased from 16 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 2014

Afterwards, Mr. HATUNOĞLU informed the participants on the average annual agricultural growth and economic growth in the OIC and World. In this respect, he expressed that for the last two decades, the average agricultural growth in the OIC was 3.4 percent between 1994 and 2004. It has increased to 3.44 percent in the period of 2004-2014. Despite the fact that average yearly agricultural growth in the OIC is higher than the world's agricultural growth in both decades, it lags behind the OIC economic growth. He stated that in 1990, OIC agriculture sector employed almost 182 million people, where total employment was 344 million. In 2013, the number of people employed in agriculture sector reached to 240 million people. In the same year, total employment in the OIC Member countries realized as nearly 670 million people. Even though employment in agriculture sector is increasing, the share of employment in total employment has

been decreasing over time. To illustrate, the share of agriculture sector in total employment was 53 percent in 1990, 44 percent in 2000, and 36 percent in 2013.

Moreover, Mr. HATUNOĞLU informed the participants that agricultural commodity trade of the 57 OIC Member Countries increased considerably in the period of 1990 - 2012. In this framework, total agricultural trade in the OIC Member Countries grew by more than 5 times from 1990 to 2013 and reached 357 billion US Dollars. In 2013, total agricultural commodity import of the OIC Member Countries reached to 224 billion US Dollars from 35 billion US Dollars in 1990. Similarly, in 2013 total agricultural commodity export of OIC was 133 billion US Dollars, while it was 20 billion US Dollars in 1990. Underlying the export/import ratio, he underscored that while the ratio of export to import was around 58 percent in 1990, it increased to almost 70 percent in 2010. Nonetheless, the export/import ratio has shown a declining trend in recent years and the poor performance in agricultural export in 2013 adversely affected the export/import ratio, regressing to 59 percent. Furthermore, the share of the OIC Member Countries' agricultural imports in the world increased to 15.7 percent in 2013 from 9.9 percent in 1990. Accordingly, the contribution of OIC agricultural exports to world total agricultural export reached to 9.9 percent.

Mr. HATUNOĞLU stated that OIC Member Countries' total land area is nearly 3.2 billion hectares and it is equal to 24 percent of the world. With regards to the crops and livestock production, he mentioned that there is an improvement in main crops production such as cereal, oil crops, fruit, vegetable from 2000-2013. As of 2014, OIC Member Countries contributed 395 million tons to the world cereal production, representing approximately 14 percent of the world total cereals production. Furthermore, in 2014, 69 million tons of oil crops were produced in the OIC, where it was 31 million tons in 2000, and the share of oil crops production has reached to 35 percent in the world.

He also mentioned that land and labour are important inputs that are used in the production process. In this framework, in 2013, average agricultural land productivity of OIC Member Countries reached to 1,312 US dollars/ha, where it was 705 US dollars/ha. Regarding the labour productivity Mr. HATUNOĞLU expressed that labour productivity in the OIC was higher than the world average in the OIC Countries during the period 1995 and 2013.

Regarding food insecurity, Mr. HATUNOĞLU, mentioned that as of 2014-2016 period, 168.6 million people are expected to be undernourished in the OIC Member Countries which accounts for 21 percent of undernourished people in the world.

Mr. HATUNOĞLU emphasized that in the last 25 years, while the number of undernourished people in the world has fallen gradually, it has remained almost the same in the OIC Member Countries. Therefore, the share of the OIC undernourished people in the world has risen from 16 percent in the period of 1990-1992 to 21 percent in the period of 2014-2016. In this framework, he stated that according to the Global Food Security Index, which includes 37 OIC Member Countries, most of them have improved their Food Security Score in 2016, compare to 2015. While 28 out of 37 OIC countries have improved their score, only 6 OIC countries have deteriorated their score. 3 member countries have held their score at the same level.

Questions and Remarks

Question: There is not significant difference between the 2000 and 2013 regarding the number of people employed in agriculture in sector. Is this due to the usage of high technology in the agriculture sector?

Answer: Concerning the share of agriculture sector in total employment, looking the figure it can be seen that the share of agricultural employment in total employment was 53 percent in 1990. IT

was 44 percent in 2000 and 36 percent in 2013 respectively. Therefore, the share of agriculture employment sector has been decreasing. However, the number of people employed in agriculture sector is increasing.

3. Reducing food waste in the OIC Member Countries

3.1. Major Causes and Consequences of Global Food Waste and Measures of Food Waste

Mr. Mustapha JOUILI, Expert, UDA Consulting presented the key finding of research report entitled “Reducing Food waste in the OIC Member Countries”. The analysis sought to identify approaches and practices, and policy recommendations for future initiatives. In this regard, Mr. JOUILI made a presentation on current situation of food waste at global level as well as the major causes and consequences of global food waste and measures of food waste.

In his presentation he informed that participants that there are currently 795 million hungry people in the world which equals to 11 percent of the world population. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) projections, world population could exceed nine billion by 2050 and in order to achieve food security in 2050, world agricultural production need to be increased by more than 60 percent. He expressed that it is estimated that each year approximately one-third of food produced for human consumption in the world is lost or wasted.

Mr. JOUILI informed the participants that there are significant differences between rich and developing countries with regards to food waste. In this respect, in Europe and North America 280-300 kg of food waste is generated per year per person, while in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia 120-170 kg per person is generated per year. Furthermore, in Sub-Saharan Africa, consumers are only responsible for 3.5 percent of food waste generated in the region, with the rest generated before consumption. Regarding the main wasted food types, he stated that fruits and vegetables have the highest level of waste, followed by roots and tubers and cereals.

Mr. JOUILI stated that at the global level food waste at the consumer stage is associated with food purchased by consumers, restaurants and caterers and is that which is not eaten. According to the FAO, the total volume of food waste generated globally at the consumer stage is 280 million tonnes, or 22 percent of a total 1.3 billion tonnes. Of this, nearly 80 percent is wasted by consumers in developed countries and 20 percent in developing countries. Furthermore, he stressed that waste generated by consumers ranges from 110 million tonnes in industrialized Asia to 69 million tonnes in Europe, 42 million tonnes in North America, 25 million tonnes in South and Southeast Asia, 15 million tonnes in North Africa, Central & Western Asia and Latin America and 5 million tonnes in Sub-Saharan Africa. Per capita food waste generated is highest in North America & Oceania (115kg), Europe (95kg) and Industrialized Asia (73kg).

He underlined that in medium and high-income countries causes of food waste are related primarily to consumer behavior, the food service industry buying too much food and incorrect cooking, farmers leaving food infields due to market forces, aesthetic specifications, weather conditions and damage caused by pests, and a lack of co-ordination between various actors in the supply chain. In contrast, food waste in developing countries arises due to lack of infrastructure for efficient transportation and distribution, inadequate storage and cooling, and retail.

Concerning the causes of food waste, Mr. JOUILI informed the participants that household and food service sector has different causes of food waste. In this respect, he mentioned that there are four main causes for food waste in household including poor planning of purchases, confusion about date labelling, poor storage or stock management, and poor food preparation. Following his

presentation, He noted that the food service sector is very diverse and stakeholders have significantly different characteristics. Nonetheless, the causes of food waste in service sector can be synthesized into 3 main categories namely preparation waste, consumer leftovers, and the management of surplus food.

Informing the participants about the general situation, Mr. JOULI highlighted some food waste reduction initiatives that have been implemented by several international, supra-national and national organizations such as SAVE FOOD: Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, Think.Eat.Save, 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFS), Consumer Goods Forum: The Food Waste Resolution and WRI Food Loss and Waste Protocol.

Questions and Remarks

Question: Which type of food products are highly wasted?

Answer: The food waste is higher in plant products than the animal products. However, it differs from country to country. The methodology used for measuring waste affect the level of waste. Because the measurement can be done through measuring the weight or calorie. When the measurement done by weight, the food waste is higher in plant products.

Question: In your presentation, you indicate four main cause of food wastage as enough space to store, purchasing too much, incorrect cooking and date label confusion. What is your opinion about left over of the food?

Answer: Globally the main causes of food waste are indicated as enough space to store, purchasing too much, incorrect cooking and date label confusion. Leftover is also an important cause of waste. Furthermore, there are also other factors mentioned in the study such as income, demography, culture, etc. that can affect the level of waste.

3.2. Food Waste in the OIC Countries and Selected Case Country Evaluation

Ms. Nicola Jenkin, Expert, UDA Consulting presented the current status of food waste in OIC member countries as well as the findings of the study related to the selected case countries from the member countries and policy recommendations for reducing food waste.

Ms. JENKIN informed the participants that the aim of this study was to establish an estimate and sense of food waste in OIC Member Countries at the household and food service levels. In this framework, at the outset the study highlighted the status of food waste in entire OIC member countries through literature review. She stressed that most data available on food waste for the OIC Member Countries is recorded for post-harvest and the processing of products, with little attention to the consumer phase. Therefore, this study fulfills an important role in building on research to date, and developing further understanding food waste generation at the consumer stage in OIC Member Countries. Furthermore, Ms. Jenkin stated that besides literature review, in-depth household and food service data is provided further on in the study, from case studies and survey data gathered for Afghanistan, Benin, Cameroon, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

In this regard, she firstly informed the participants about the finds of a study which specifically conducted for selected Mediterranean Arab countries (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon and Tunisia) focused on bread and bakery products waste. She mentioned that household food waste

is widespread in all selected countries. The quantity of food thrown away per week depends on different factors e.g. household composition and time of year. The most wasted food types are cereals and bakery products, and fruits and vegetables. Study also estimates the economic value of food wasted each month - most households in the country of study wasted less than five US Dollar per month.

Ms. JENKIN expressed that according to a study conducted in Egypt in 2015, approximately 86 percent of respondents acknowledged that they do throw away food. The most commonly food types that are thrown away are fruit and vegetables, cereals and bakery products. Over 40 percent of respondents indicated they feed food waste to animals, particularly those living in rural areas.

She briefly informed the participants about studies of FAO that carried out on food waste in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The studies indicate that highest wastes are wheat and potatoes. Low price is considered as the main cause for waste. In Tajikistan, potatoes and onions are the highest wasted products. The main reasons being excess purchase; purchase of damaged, old or unusable produce; poor transportation and storage and plate waste.

With regards to food service sector in OIC Countries, Ms. JENKIN explained that the food service sector in OIC Member Countries is witnessing a steady growth, driven by economic growth, demographic changes (multicultural, young, expanding population), favorable consumption habits, an influx of tourists and rapid urbanization. This growth is accompanied by an increase in food waste. Unlike household waste, research into hospitality (or food service waste) is not as expansive for the OIC Member Countries. She explained that a review of legislation across member countries reveals that very few have legislation that focuses on food waste. In that respect, 7 member countries (Cameroon, Iran, Iraq, Mali Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia) have regulations in which food waste has been incorporated. Nonetheless, the majority of the member countries do not have any legislative framework for reducing food waste.

Afterwards, before informing the participants on the findings of the study related to the selected case countries, she explained the methodology of the study for case countries. In this respect, she emphasized that a literature review done to collect information from cases studies, and regional and individual country studies. Furthermore, surveys conducted for in-depth household and food service data for case studies namely Cameroon, Turkey and Saudi Arabia. In addition, survey conducted in Afghanistan, Benin, Senegal and Uzbekistan. She expressed that most data available on food waste for OIC Member Countries is recorded for post-harvest and the processing of products, with little attention to the consumer phase. Thus, most data provided for selected case countries is collected through survey and may not reflect the exact situation of case countries.

She highlighted that an average household throws away 1.64 tonnes of food a year in case countries, which is enough to feed two people for a whole year. Across all households, most food waste is generated during the preparation stage, ranging from 44 percent to 85 percent of waste. Fruit and vegetables make up the most food thrown away by households. Moreover, the level of waste in fruits and vegetables is 22 percent in Cameroon, 29 percent in Saudi Arabia, 30 percent in Senegal, 38 percent in Turkey, 39 percent in Uzbekistan and 49 percent in Afghanistan.

Concerning food service food waste in the selected case countries, she stated that in a year, a restaurant could throw away almost three tonnes of food. Enough food to feed nearly 1,500 people a day, or enough calorific energy to light 2,600 lightbulbs a day. Bakery is the largest food type wasted making up 50 percent of total food service sector food waste in Afghanistan and

Saudi Arabia, and 'Meat, fish and chicken' in Benin, Cameroon, Senegal and Turkey. Vegetables are also significant food types that wasted in selected case countries.

3.2.1. Cameroon

Concerning Cameroon case, Ms. JENKIN explained that it is difficult to accurately assess the level of food waste in Cameroon since there is lack of research and evidence on the extent of food waste. The findings of surveys indicate that food waste is not an issue – a large proportion of the population is undernourished and treasure food. Nevertheless, food waste mainly occurs in urban areas. She stressed that in Cameroon, at household level, most of food waste realized at the preparation level. In this respect, the average household food waste per year is 340 kg (per person). With 30 percent meat, eggs and legumes have the highest rate of waste among all food types by the households. She emphasized that there is little concern for food waste but it would change if the household members had more information about importance of waste. She also stated that the main reasons for food waste are assumed unsafe to eat, and cooking or serving too much. Regarding the Cameroon's Food service sector, Ms. JENKIN expressed that the survey results shows that the average food and drink waste per year is 2.8 tonnes (per person). With 35 percent, meat, chicken and fish have the highest level of waste in food service sector in Cameroon. Similarly, 35 percent of vegetables also have been wasted. She mentioned that preparing too much for service, customers ordering too much and taking leftovers to home are the main reasons of food waste in service sector. For instance, less than 15 percent taking leftovers to home.

3.2.2. Saudi Arabia

With regards to Saudi Arabia case, she stressed that according to the surveys done for the research report, poor storage in rural households, food reaching expiry date, promotions encourage over purchase and desire to eat fresh food and cook from scratch are the main reasons for food waste. The average household food waste per year is 716 kg (per person) and with 29 percent, fruits and vegetables are most wasted food types. Concerning Saudi Arabia's food service sector, Ms. JENKIN briefly informed that participants that results of survey shows that the average food and drink waste per year is 0.7 tonnes (per restaurant) and bakery, with 53 percent, is the most wasted food type. Customers ordering too much, Children not finishing their food, poor stock management and preparing too much for service are indicated as the main reasons for food waste.

3.2.3. Turkey

Regarding Turkey, she mentioned that the survey indicates that food reaching expiry date, date label confusion, and promotions and over-purchase are the main reasons for food waste in household. The average household food waste per year is 1.4 tonnes (per person) and with 38 percent, fruits and vegetables are most wasted food types. Although, the awareness has been increasing in recent years and food waste is a concern, additional awareness rising activities on food storage and how to shop more effectively can help saving more food. According to the survey, average food and drink waste per year in 5 tonnes (per restaurant), and meat, chicken and fish are the most wasted food types with 40 percent. Furthermore, with 40 percent of waste vegetables also are among top wasted food types. Customers ordering too much, children not finishing their food and customers not taking away leftovers are important reasons of food waste in service sector of Turkey. She also briefly informed the participants about the Turkish Grain Board's 'Do not waste your bread' campaign. She mentioned that Turkey launched the 'Do not waste your bread' campaign in 2013. The Campaign resulted in a waste reduction of 18 percent (an equivalent of 5.9 million loaves per day or 2.17 billion loaves per year).

Ms. JENKIN lastly stressed that the main attributes and causes for food waste in OIC Member Countries are:

- The impact of social events creating a spike in food waste e.g. weddings and large-scale social events.
- Fruit, vegetables and bakery are the most commonly discarded products.
- Food reaching its expiry date is the most common reason given for throwing away food.
- Most household waste is generated at the preparation stage, and is likely to be avoidable.
- Food service waste mainly occurs during the preparation stage, or due to consumers ordering too much or leaving leftovers on their plates. The latter contributes significantly to food waste in this sector, yet with the stigma attached to taking leftovers home, this area is likely to be a challenge.

She lastly underlined the following policy recommendations for reducing food waste in the OIC Member Countries;

- Improving measurement, targets, reporting and monitoring.
- Supporting sustainable food systems and integrated supply chains.
- Developing and/or adjusting legislation, and initiating a roadmap for action.
- Promoting food banks and food distribution networks.
- Adopting cohesive initiatives and campaigns to improve knowledge and awareness.

Questions and Remarks

Questions: From three case studies, we can see that these are geographically, economically, environmentally different countries. For instance, Saudi Arabia has less agricultural land compare to Cameroon. What were the main findings? How did they differ from each other?

Answer: It can be said that the level of waste increases in high-income countries globally, and it has a similar situation in the OIC Countries as well. For instance, Saudi Arabia, which is classified in high-income countries, has higher level of waste compared to Cameroon.

4. Policy Discussion Session

The session was moderated by Mr. Metin TÜRKER, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MFAL) of Turkey.

At the beginning of the session, Mr. Mehmet FİDAN, representative of the COMCEC Coordination Office, made a short presentation on the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions on reducing food waste that were already sent by the CCO. Afterwards, the policy recommendations provided in the room document were presented.

Later on, the participants expressed their views and comments for each policy recommendation as well as the experience of their respective countries concerning food waste. Following the intensive discussions, the participants have underlined the following policy recommendations:²

- ✓ Developing a specific legislative framework and road map for reducing food waste in a holistic context including supply chain
- ✓ Promotion of food banks and food distribution networks
- ✓ Conducting cohesive initiatives and campaigns to increase awareness on food waste in supply chain and consumption

The policy recommendations are attached to this report as Annex 4.

5. The Way Forward: Utilizing the COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM)

Mr. Burak KARAGÖL, Director at the COMCEC Coordination Office made a presentation on the COMCEC Project Funding for agriculture projects introduced by the COMCEC Strategy. In the beginning, Mr. KARAGÖL informed the participants about where the COMCEC Project Funding stands in the COMCEC Strategy. Mr. KARAGÖL described the basic qualifications of the COMCEC Project Funding as “simple and clearly defined procedures and financial framework”, and stressed that CCO provided continuous support to the member countries during the all stages of the COMCEC Project Funding Mechanism. Regarding the financial framework, He emphasized that the funds are grant in nature and would be provided by the CCO.

Then he briefly explained the COMCEC Project Funding, by underlining the potential project owners. Mr. KARAGÖL mentioned that relevant ministries and other public institutions of the Member Countries and the OIC Institutions operating in the field of economic and commercial cooperation could submit projects. He also emphasized that to be able to submit their project proposals, member countries have to be registered to respective working group.

In his presentation, Mr. KARAGÖL stressed three key actors and their responsibilities under the COMCEC Project Funding; Project Owner (Project Submission and Implementation); the CCO (Program Management) and the Development Bank of Turkey (Project Monitoring and Financing). In addition, he also highlighted the basic steps and roles of these key actors throughout the project application process.

Mr. KARAGÖL continued his presentation, by explaining the “Project Selection Criteria” namely, compliance with Strategy’s Principles, and targeting strategic objectives of the Strategy, focusing

² The Room Document attached as Annex 3 for further information regarding the rationale of the policy recommendations.

on output areas and pursuing multilateral cooperation among the OIC Member Countries. He stressed that project proposals should be compliant with the sectoral themes for the fourth call stated in the Program Implementation Guidelines. He underlined the importance of the multilateralism for project appraisal and stated that project proposals should focus on common problems of at least two member countries and also should offer joint solutions for these problems.

He also briefly informed the participants on 2014, 2015 and 2016 Projects. In this respect, He explained that member countries and OIC institutions had shown great interest and 209 project proposals were submitted by member countries and OIC institutions in three-year period (2013-2015). He, furthermore, expressed that during that period in total 8 Agriculture projects were implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding. They were titled “Pakistan Bioremediation Model for wastewater treatment and capacity building program among OIC countries”, “Improving the Income of Small and Medium Scale Farmers in OIC Member Countries through Integrated Farming System” , “Project for Support to the Agricultural Training Centers”, “The establishment of database, network connection and web pages of smallholders/family farmer’s agricultural cooperatives between COMCEC member states”, “Rural Household Empowerment on Management of Production, Supply and Market Access”, “Establishment of Database, Network Connection and Web Pages of Smallholders/Family Farmer’s Agricultural Cooperatives between OIC Member States”, “Improving Small Ruminates Productivity by using different technologies as silage, feed block and hydroponic in Palestine, Jordan and Tunisia” and “Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Greenhouse Vegetable Crops; Principles for Tropical Climate Areas” proposed, respectively, by Pakistan, Indonesia, Chad, Turkey, Suriname, Iran, Turkey and Palestine. Mr. KARAGÖL also stated that 57 project proposals received under the fourth project call and 15 of them will be funded in 2017. He also mentioned that 3 projects in the field of agriculture will be funded in 2017.

Mr. KARAGÖL briefly informed the participants concerning common characteristics of successful project proposals and stated that “sufficient and informative project summary”, “sound project activities and relevant details about them”, “qualified human resources in line with Program Implementation Guidelines requirements”, “detailed and well-designed work plan”, “realistic cost estimations in the budget and sufficient explanations for them”, “Project Owner’s cooperation and communication with CCO” and “active participation to the relevant Working Group” are key success factors.

Questions and Remarks

Questions: Who are the potential beneficiaries of projects financed by the COMCEC Project Funding?

Answer: OIC Member Countries which are registered to the COMCEC Working Groups and the relevant OIC Institutions are potential beneficiaries of projects financed by the COMCEC Project

6. Member Country Presentations

In this section, member country representatives had chance to present their experiences with regards to reducing post-harvest losses. Participants from Iran, Sudan, Senegal and Turkey made presentations.

6.1. Egypt

Mr. Mahmoud Mohammed KHALLAF, from Agriculture Research Center of Egypt, made a presentation on the losses of agricultural crops during the stages of production. Firstly, he underlined the importance of reducing food waste as it would serve to prevent the waste of capital and other resources, especially land and water that can be used for other crops. He highlighted that reducing food waste would help decreasing trade deficit though closing the gap between exports and imports.

Mr. KHALLAF continued his presentation with the factors resulting in food losses such as climatic factors namely temperature and light; agricultural transactions namely irrigation and fertilization; other internal factors including water, chemical content, physiological defects and external drivers such as humidity, cold damage etc. Then, he summarized some proportions of wasted products for some of the OIC countries during the production process.

Afterwards, Mr. KHALLAF mentioned about EGYPT Food Bank, an NGO, which has helped about 3.5 million households monthly through a seasonal feeding program. The programme provided 17 million packaged meals per month and school meals through 5 points. He added that the Bank has opened its branches in 10 countries.

6.2. Iran

Ms. ROGHAIH SOKOOTIFAR, senior expert at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests of Iran, made a presentation on the experience of Iran with regards to the food waste.

In her presentation Ms. SOKOOTIFAR briefed the participants that food nutrition is a key element in maintaining our overall physical wellbeing, and as Muslims we must pay attention to the foods that we eat.

She mentioned that food waste is part of food losses and refers to discarding or alternative (non-food) use of food that is safe and nutritious for human consumption along the entire food supply chain, from primary production to end household consumer level. Food waste is recognized as a distinct part of food losses because the drivers that generate it and the solutions to it are different from those of food losses. She explained that according to the estimates food waste is approximately 18-26 percent in Middle East Countries. In Iran food waste is mostly occurs in post-harvest, distribution, retailer, restaurants and householders. She mentioned that factors impact waste of food are mainly food consuming patterns, purchasing food more than necessity, mechanism of food Price assignment and lack of packaging of food. She stressed that most wasted food types are fruit and vegetables, bread and rice.

She continued her presentation with giving information about the initiative developed to reduce food losses and waste in Iran. She stressed that “National Great Food Safety and Food Security Council” was established in 2004. It is the main authority for policy and decision-making on food safety and reducing food losses and wastes. The members of council are from several ministries such as, ministry of health, ministry of Jahade-agriculture, etc. It has a secretariat located in ministry of health.

In line with the strategy for reducing food losses and waste, two plans namely cultural and technical plans have been developed. Inspiring from the Islamic philosophy which inhibit waste, through cultural plan Iranian authorities aim to increase awareness among consumers, householders, etc. to prevent food waste in purchasing, storing and cooking. The technical plan it aims to improve the food processing, capacity building, and good packaging.

6.3. Turkey

Mr. Melik AYTAÇ, Expert in Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey made a presentation on Reducing Food Waste in Turkey. At the outset, Mr. AYTAÇ touched upon the situation in the world regarding food waste and the importance of reducing food waste. He stated that the cost for producing food that is wasted amounts to US\$750 billion each year. He added that two billion people would be fed if this waste could be prevented around the world.

Mr. AYTAÇ continued with the assessment of food losses and waste in Turkey. He explained the stages in which the losses occur and he showed the fact that losses at consumption is at a considerable level. While on-farm food loss is 5.1 percent the loss at consumption level is 5 percent.

Mr. Melik AYTAÇ informed the participants about the campaign for preventing bread waste in Turkey. According the research conducted in 2012 by Turkish Grain Board, the ratio of bread waste in Turkey increased by 20 percent, 6 million loaves of bread per day and 2,1 billion loaves per year were wasted, and the economic value of bread waste was 1,6 billion TL.

The Campaign for Preventing Bread Waste was initiated in January 2013, as a comprehensive social responsibility project. Thereafter, campaign web site has been made up and 7 different public serve advertisements, a campaign music and a promotional film were made. In addition, 2012 and 2013 Research on Bread Waste in Turkey Books, Recipes of Food with Stale Bread Cookbook, 2013 Campaign Results Book, 2015 Campaign Book and Brochures were printed and distributed. Public serve advertisements were broadcasted 7.963 times on national TV channels, were reported as news 1.456 times on news channels and 8.334 times at print media on local, regional and national level. The Campaign has been supported nationwide and a total of 884 events have been carried out with 819 institutions till today. Furthermore, many events such as symposiums, meetings, conferences, contests, marches, etc. have been held and articles about the Campaign have been published in newspapers and magazines.

Mr. Melik AYTAÇ briefed the participants about the results of the Campaign. A new research was conducted by Turkish Grain Board at the end of 2013. According to the results of the Campaign, the daily bread waste which was 5,9 million loaves of bread in 2012 decreased to 4,9 million loaves at the end of 2013. It means that annually 384 million loaves of bread have been saved from being thrown away. In his way, a reduction at an amount of 18 percent was achieved. Consequently, the Campaign contributed to the economy of Turkey as much as 2,8 billion TL (740 million \$) annually. In conclusion, Mr. AYTAÇ expressed the fact that the campaign has had remarkable outcomes in a short time of just one year which is carried out without imposing any legal sanctions and with only voluntary support and participation.

6.4. Palestine

Mr. Odeh ALSABARNEH, Director of Horticulture Departments, Ministry of Agriculture of Palestine made a presentation on the current status of food waste in Palestine. In his presentation, Mr. ALSABARNEH informed the participants that 27 percent of Palestinian is confronted with food security problem and 14 percent of them is vulnerable to food insecurity. He stated that food waste issue did not have the attention of the government or the local non-governmental

organizations (NGOs) in Palestine until recent times. There has been no study to show the real numbers and the quantities waste. He, afterwards, mentioned that there are two types of factors (negative and positive factors) that affecting food waste in Palestine. Wars, which largely result in the waste of food, especially in the Gaza Strip, permanent drop in electricity, military checkpoints between Palestinian cities, etc. are amongst the negative factors of food waste in Palestine and these factors contribute to waste increase in Palestine. He explained the factors that have positive effects on food waste as follows;

- ✓ Economic situation forces Palestinian families to schedule purchases.
- ✓ Palestinian women play a big role in maintaining the food in terms of the amount of the purchase and re-processing of the remaining fresh food.
- ✓ Social solidarity: Palestinian families are sensitive in sharing their food with other poor families.

Mr. ALSABARNEH informed the participants that the level of waste in fruits and Vegetables is severe. This is mainly due to purchasing much and poor storage (leaving fruits and vegetables to rot inside fridges). He also explained that roots and tubers and cereals have moderate level of waste in Palestine. Poor storage is the main reason of waste in these food types.

6.5. Malaysia

Ms. Aniadila KAMARUDOIN, Research Officer at Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute made a presentation concerning the initiatives developed in Malaysia to reduce food losses and waste. Ms. KAMARUDOIN informed the participants that they conducted a recent project to reduce food losses and waste in entire the production stage. The project included in the 10th and 11th Malaysian Plans, and it is being implemented under the leadership of Ministry of Agriculture. In this regard, we firstly evaluated the food losses and waste along the entire value chain that starts with production and ends with consumption.

Afterwards, she stressed that the researches indicates that the level of the post-harvest losses was 28.5 percent of in 1985. Because of utilization of new technologies and new practices, Malaysia currently managed to reduce the level of losses to 11.3 percent, which equals to 355 million Malaysia Ringgit (RM). Within the framework of the project, a postharvest research for rice was conducted since rice is very important product for Malaysia. The research included the harvesting, distribution, storage, drying and milling stages. As the result of the projects, guidelines developed for reducing rice wastes.

She continued her presentation emphasizing that Malaysia tries to minimalize the level of losses in the processing of fruits and vegetables especially in tropical fruits which are durian, jackfruits, pineapples and are important food that are exported. These products have very short life, so utilization of technology is crucial.

She lastly briefly explained the ongoing initiatives of different Malaysian intuitions. In this respect, she stressed that Federal Agriculture Marketing Authority (FAMA), Department of Veterinary Services and Malaysian Good Agriculture Practices Certification (MYGAP) prepared grading, packaging and labeling guidelines for diseases in animal and animal products. With regards the consumption Stage also different institutions has developed various initiatives. In this respect, Ministry of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism developed guidelines for restaurant owners and catering services. Similarly, ministry of Health prepared guidelines on food safety issues.

7. International and Local Initiatives to Reduce Food Waste

7.1. Think.Eat.Save Campaign

Mr. James LOMAX, Programme Management Officer UN Environment Programme (UNEP), made a presentation on the Think.Eat.Save Campaign.

At the outset, Mr. LOMAX touched upon some main statistics concerning the food waste. In this respect, he expressed that due to spoilage and waste the average yearly losses in the African dairy sector is 90 million Dollar. The food currently lost or wasted in Latin America could feed 300 million people. He mentioned that food loss and waste costs the global economy 940 billion dollar each year. Looking the economic cost of food wastage at global level by commodity group level, we can see that vegetables and meat has the highest level followed by fruits and cereals respectively.

He stated that to deal with food waste problem UN Environment Programme (UNEP) calls countries and companies to action on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 12.3, which is targets halving per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses by 2030. And UNEP sees 12.3 as a unique coalition of executives collaborating to accelerate progress on the delivery of this critical target.

Mr. LOMAX stated that in order to achieving food waste a systematic process should be followed. Therefore, firstly the target should be determined. Then countries should measure food loss and waste. The SDG Target 12.3 is a good target for all world, and UNEP calls upon countries and companies to quantify their food loss and waste, setting a baseline to track progress against towards 2030. In this respect, UNEP developed the Food Loss and Waste Protocol, which provides a global standard for food loss and waste measurement.

Concerning global initiatives for reducing food waste he stated that UNEP together with FAO and SAVE FOOD, started many activities including food waste prevention programmes at national and local level, capacity building on food waste at regional level and the think eat save campaign.

The Objectives of Think Eat Save Campaign are:

- ✓ Raise awareness on food waste prevention
- ✓ Inspire action
- ✓ Share best practice
- ✓ The website www.thinkeatsave.org:
- ✓ One stop shop for news and resources
- ✓ Showcases ideas and examples
- ✓ Launches call for public action

Within the framework of the Food Waste Prevention Programmes at National and Local Level, they aims to developed a guidance for public authorities, businesses and other organisations on mapping, planning and delivering effective food waste prevention strategy. The guidance methodology being piloted with selected countries and companies worldwide.

He lastly mentioned that the OIC Member Countries could consider making a joint commitment to adopt SDG Target 12.3. In this respect,

- Member Countries can consider including food waste reduction in their Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

- Member States can start measuring their food waste baseline across the supply chain, using the Food Loss and Waste Protocol.
- UN Environment Program can work with individual countries in developing National Food Waste Prevention Programmes.

7.2. The Experience of Association for Solidarity of Environmental Organizations on Reducing Food Waste

Asst. Prof. Dr. Bekir KAYACAN, Member of Board of Association for Solidarity of Environmental Organizations (ASEO), made a presentation on “Experience of Association for Solidarity of Environmental Organizations on Reducing Food Waste”. At the beginning of his presentation, he briefly informed the participants about ASEO. He explained that ASEO was founded in 1999 by a group of volunteers of the environment with an aim to contribute to public awareness on environment.

Then, Dr. KAYACAN briefed the types and contents of activities of ASEO and continued his presentation by underlining their project in terms of preventing waste namely Zero Waste Off the Board (SSA). He said that this project is a social responsibility project of ASEO against the waste. The purpose of the project is to contribute to reducing wastefulness in general and specifically wastefulness in eating and drinking through awareness raising seminars and conferences for students and their families. Life style and habits are a major source or root cause of food waste which is the rationale behind the project. The target group of the project is students of middle and high schools and their families in municipal areas.

After briefing the participants on the implementation of the said project, Dr. KAYACAN highlighted the lessons learned during the implementation and future plans of ASEO. He said that for an NGO, the project has been financially bearable. Sub-province municipalities are usually enthusiastic and cooperative in such social responsibility projects.

Finally, Dr. KAYACAN expressed that the SSA project will continue in upcoming period. However, the major challenge is to gather sufficient feedback from the participants. In order to overcome this challenge, they plan to conduct surveys among the participants just after the seminars or conferences. They also plan to prepare a concise report containing the experience in this SSA project to date, and share it with the relevant stakeholders.

7.3. Bread Waste Project

Mr. Tolga SARITAŞ, Industrial Director at UNMAŞ made a presentation on bread formulation and process development for recycling of return bread. He explained that bread wastage is one of the biggest problems in Turkey. In most of the cases, traditional bread has a shelf life with hours. UNMAŞ supports the initiative of the government to cut down the wastage. He mentioned that due to the quality of the ingredients, the hygiene and safety of the processes and packaging conditions shelf life is longer, and bread wastage is lower in packed bread. In this respect, UNMAŞ contributed the waste reduction through utilizing packed bread. He informed the participants that the bread waste during production realized at two stages, waste during the process and waste after production.

UNMAŞ targets to reduce waste during the process. In this framework, they used sourdough method, which is one of the waste bread evaluation method. They develop the formulation and process for dark coloured waste bread to be regained into production in terms of sourdough. According to bread scoring tests, there is no significant difference between «control multigrain bread» and Multigrain Bread produced with 48 hour proofed sourdough liquid. He lastly highlighted that with this project they are able to save 8500kg of waste bread every month.

Closing Remarks

The Meeting ended with closing remarks of Mr. Mahboobullah ORYAKHE, Chairman of the Meeting and Mr. Metin EKER, Director General of the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO).

Mr. ORYAKHE expressed his kind appreciation to the all member country representatives as well as participants from UNEP, SESRIC, Association for Solidarity of Environmental Organizations and UNMAŞ for their participation and valuable contributions.

Mr. Metin EKER also thanked all participants for their attendance and valuable contributions. He expressed that the main outcome of the meeting is the Policy Recommendations Document that includes a number of policy recommendations for the member countries. He stressed that these recommendations will be submitted to the 33rd COMCEC Ministerial Meeting as an output of the 9th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group.

Furthermore, Mr. EKER informed the participants that the 10th meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group will be held on 28th September, 2017 in Ankara with the theme of *“Improving Agricultural Market Performance: Creation and Development of Market Institutions”*. He mentioned that a research report will also be shared with the focal points and other participants at least one month before the aforementioned meeting.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of Participants

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
9th MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP
(23 FEBRUARY 2017, ANKARA)**

A. MEMBER COUNTRIES

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

- Mr. MAHBOOBULLAH ORYAKHEL
Technical Advisor to Minister in Agricultural Development and Codex Country Focal Point,
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE

- Ms. MEMEL FOTE NEE DIWA
First Secretary, Embassy of Cote d'Ivoire in Ankara

THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

- Mr. MAHMOUD KHALLAF
Emeritus Chief Researcher, Agricultural Economics Research Institute

THE GABONESE REPUBLIC

- Mr. CLEMENT MANDONGAULT
First Counsellor, Embassy of Gabon in Ankara
- Mr. THIBAUT IFOUNGA
Chief of Protocol, Embassy of Gabon in Ankara

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

- Mr. ALI GHALAMI
Deputy of Bruea, Ministry of Agriculture
- Ms. ROGHAIH SOKOTIFAR
Senior Expert, Ministry of Agriculture

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

- Mr. YOUSEF ABDELGHANI
Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Jordan in Ankara

MALAYSIA

- Ms. ANIADILA KAMARUDOIN
Research Officer, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
- Ms. ZAULIA OTHMAN
Senior Research Officer, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute

THE STATE OF PALESTINE

- Mr. SAMER ALTEETI
Director of Policies and Planning, Ministry of Agriculture

- Mr. ODEH ALSABARNEH
Director of Horticulture Departments, Ministry of Agricultural

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

- Mr. SAUD AL OTHMAN
Deputy Director of Vision Realisation Office, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture

THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

- Mr. SAID BEJI MASMOUDI
Director, Ministry of Agriculture of Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

- Mr. METİN TÜRKER
Deputy General Manager, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
- Mr. V. TUNÇ NECİPOĞLU
Manager, Turkish Grain Board
- Mr. EMİN DÖNMEZ
Head of Department, General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies
- Mr. VOLKAN GÜNGÖREN
Head of Department, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
- Mr. MELİK AYTAÇ
Engineer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
- Mr. ADİL ALTAN
Engineer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
- Mr. HAKAN ARSLAN
Expert, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock
- Mr. AYTAÇ KÜÇÜK
Expert, Turkish Grain Board
- Mr. MEHMET ALİ ÖZDEM
Expert, Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock
- Mr. MEHMET AYDINBELGE
Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock
- Ms. EMEL MOLLA
Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock
- Ms. MEHTAP AYDINLI
Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock

B. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

STATICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)

- Mr. MAZHAR HUSSIAN
Senior Researcher
- Ms. ALIA SHARIFY
Expert

C. INVITED INSTITUTIONS

ASSOCIATION FOR SOLIDARITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (ASEO)

- Mr. BEKİR KAYACAN

Associate Professor Doctor

UDA CONSULTING

- Mr. HAKAN DEMİRBÜKEN
Expert
- Mr. BAYRAM SAMET ŞAHİN
Expert
- Ms. NICOLA JENKIN
Researcher
- Mr. MUSTAPHA JOUILI
Expert

UN ENVIRONMENT'S ECONOMY DIVISION (UNEP)

- Mr. JAMES LOMAX
Programme Management Officer

UNMAŞ UNLU MAMÛL.SAN.V TIC. INC. (UNO)

- Mr. MEHMET TOLGA SARITAŞ
Industrial Director
- Ms. TÜLAY GENÇ
Manager

D. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

- Mr. M. METİN EKER
Director General, Head of COMCEC Coordination Office
- Mr. SELÇUK KOÇ
Head of Department
- Mr. BURAK KARAGÖL
Head of Department
- EMRAH HATUNOĞLU
Expert
- Mr. MEHMET TARAKCIOĞLU
Expert
- Mr. MEHMET FİDAN
Expert
- ALİ ORUÇ
Expert
- Okan POLAT
Expert

Annex 2: Agenda of the Meeting



AGENDA 9th MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

(February 23rd, 2017, Ankara)

“Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries”

Opening Remarks

1. The COMCEC Agriculture Outlook
2. Global Overview of Food Waste: Major Causes and Consequences of Global Food Waste
3. Overview of Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries and Selected Case Studies
4. Policy Debate Session on Reducing Food Waste
5. Member Country Presentations
6. International and Local Initiatives to Reduce Food Waste
7. Utilizing the COMCEC Project Funding

Closing Remarks

Annex 3: Programme of the Meeting



PROGRAMME OF THE 9th MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP (February 23rd, 2017, Ankara, Turkey)

"Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries"

- 08.30-09.00 **Registration**
- 09.00-09.05 **Recitation from Holy Quran**
- 09.05-09.15 **Opening Remarks**
- COMCEC Agriculture Outlook**
- 09.15-09.40 Presentation: "Outlook of Agriculture in the OIC Member States"
Mr. Erdoğan Emrah HATUNOĞLU, Expert
COMCEC Coordination Office
- 09.40-09.50 *Discussion*
- Global Overview of Food Waste**
- 09.50-10.30 Presentation: "Major Causes and Consequences of Global Food Waste and Measures of Food Waste"
Mr. Mustapha JOUILI,
Expert, UDA Consulting
- 10.30-10.55 *Discussion*
- 10.55-11.10 *Coffee Break*
- Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries**
- 11.10-11.50 Presentation: "Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries and Selected Case Country Evaluation"
Ms. Nicola JENKIN,
Expert, UDA Consulting
- 11.50-12.30 *Discussion*
- 12.30-14.00 **Lunch**

Policy Debate Session on Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries

There will be a moderation session under this agenda item. The participants are expected to deliberate on the policy options/advice for reducing food waste in the OIC Member Countries. The Room Document has been prepared by the CCO, in light of the findings of the analytical study prepared specifically for the Meeting and the answers of the Member Countries to the policy questions which have already been sent by the CCO. This Document has been shared with the Agriculture Working Group focal points before the Meeting with a view to enriching the discussions during the Session and coming up with concrete policy advice for the policy approximation among the Member Countries in this important field. At the beginning of the session, CCO will make a short presentation introducing the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questions as well as the Room Document..

- 14.00-14.15 Presentation: “Responses of the Member Countries to the Policy Questions on Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries.”
Mr. Mehmet FİDAN, Expert
COMCEC Coordination Office
- 14.15-15.15 *Discussion*
- 15.15-16.15 **Member Country Presentations**
Discussion
- 16.15-16.30 *Coffee Break*
- 16.30-16.50 **COMCEC Project Funding for Agriculture Projects**
Presentation: Mr. Burak KARAGÖL, Director
COMCEC Coordination Office
- 16.50-17.05 *Discussion*
- International and Local Initiatives to Reduce Food Waste**
- 17.05-17.20 Presentation: “Think.Eat.Save Campaign”
Mr. James LOMAX, Programme Management Officer
UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- 17.20-17.35 Presentation: “Experience of Association for Solidarity of Environmental Organizations on Reducing Food Waste”
Assoc. Prof. Dr. BEKİR KAYACAN, Member of the Board
Association for Solidarity of Environmental Organizations
- 17.35-17.50 Presentation: “Bread Waste Project”
Mehmet Tolga SARITAŞ, Industrial Director
UNMAŞ A.Ş
- 17.50-18.05 *Discussion*
- 18.05-18.15 **Closing Remarks**

Annex 4: The Policy Recommendations

ROOM DOCUMENT FOR THE POLICY DEBATE SESSION OF THE 9TH MEETING OF THE COMCEC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP

A policy debate session was held during the 9th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group to come up with some concrete policy recommendations for reducing food waste in the OIC Member Countries and approximating policies among the Member Countries on this important subject. The policy advices presented below have been identified in light of the main findings of the research report titled “*Reducing Food Waste in the OIC Member Countries*” and the responses of the Member Countries to the policy questionnaires which have already been sent by the COMCEC Coordination Office.

Policy Advice I: 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*”

Policy Advice II: 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.

Policy Advice III: 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.

Instruments that can contribute to realizing the Policy Advices:

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 where the COMCEC Coordination Office may finance 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.

