



**AGRICULTURE**



# **CCO BRIEF ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION**

**COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE  
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### **I. Introduction**

Agriculture is seen as an important engine of growth and unique source for poverty reduction in most of the developing world. Several empirical studies demonstrate that agriculture is the most effective sector in generating income for the poorest segments of the population. Hence, it is accepted as a key sector for economic growth, reducing poverty and sustainable rural development especially in developing countries. In many member countries of the OIC, agriculture is one of the leading sectors in terms of income, employment and trade.

Given its importance agriculture was identified as a cooperation area in the COMCEC Strategy and Agriculture Working Group (AWG) was established with the strategic objective of “Increasing the productivity of agricultural sector and sustaining food security in the COMCEC region”.

In order to reach this objective, the COMCEC Strategy has determined (i) increasing productivity, (ii) regulatory framework and institutional capacity, (iii) reliable and up-to-date data, and (iv) market performance and access as output areas under the agriculture cooperation area.

The AWG elaborated on the above-mentioned output areas in its previous gatherings and discussed irrigation systems, on-farm and post-harvest food losses, food waste, agricultural market institutions and market information systems, resilience of and ensuring food security and good governance for ensuring food security and nutrition.

### **II. Agricultural Cooperation under the COMCEC**

Considering the important dimensions of agricultural inputs (such as seeds, fertilizers, energy, human resources), which are among the most important elements for sustainable food security in the OIC Member States, the COMCEC AWG devoted its Meetings in 2023 to discuss on "Ensuring the Sustainability of Agricultural Inputs to Combat Food Insecurity in OIC Member Countries."

In order to understand agricultural inputs at the OIC scale with dimensions such as optimum cost, supply stock, management and governance, and to provide permanent and feasible solutions to such problems. In this framework, this study aims to examine agricultural inputs (seeds, energy, fertilizers and plant protection agents, etc.) in OIC countries with their demand and supply sides and to present good practices for country and region-based problems in the form of a guide.

## **A. Ensuring the Sustainability of Agricultural Inputs to Combat Food Insecurity in OIC Member Countries**

### **(20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group)**

The 20th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group was held on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with the theme of “Ensuring the Sustainability of Agricultural Inputs to Combat Food Insecurity in OIC Member Countries”.

The Working Group discussed the agricultural inputs at the OIC scale with dimensions such as optimum cost, supply stock, management and governance, and to provide permanent and feasible solutions to such problems. Moreover, the preliminary findings of the aforementioned research report presented during the Meeting. The final version of the report will be submitted to the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the AWG to be held in October 2023.

## **B. COMCEC Financial Support Instruments**

### **COMCEC Project Funding**

COMCEC Project Funding (CPF) is the other important instrument of the Strategy. Projects financed under the CPF need to serve multilateral cooperation and must be designed in accordance with the objectives and the expected outcomes defined by the Strategy in the agriculture section. Projects also play important roles in realization of the policy recommendations formulated by the member countries during the AWG meetings.

Under the 9th Call for Project Proposals under the CPF, 4 projects were selected to be implemented in 2022. The projects implemented under the CPF in 2022 are as follows;

The project titled “Promote Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture to Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition in West Africa” was implemented by Benin in partnership with five beneficiary countries. Beneficiary countries were Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Togo. The project aimed to increase human and institutional capacity on the implementation tools of nutrition sensitive agriculture for food security and good nutrition.

Other important project titled “Creating Awareness on the Importance of Agriculture Commodity Exchange Markets” were implemented by ICCIA for the benefit of seven beneficiary countries. Purpose of the project was to create awareness among the relevant stakeholders on the importance of agriculture commodity exchange markets and its benefit to the agriculture sector. The project also aimed at sharing knowledge among the partners on the business model for a successful the respective exchange markets.

The third agriculture project titled “Capacity Building on New Technologies to Reduce Post-Harvest Losses” was implemented by Türkiye with six beneficiary countries. This project aimed to share knowledge and good practices on using new technologies for warehousing and storage of grains.

Lastly, IOFS has been implemented the project titled “Building the capacity of OIC member states in Food Security Governance” with 20 beneficiary counties. This project aimed to assist OIC member states in building the institutional capacity of government agencies in the implementation of food security governance practices.

Furthermore, under the 10th Call for Project Proposals under the CPF, 6 projects have been selected to be implemented in 2023. These projects are as follows:

The project titled “Increasing Agricultural Productivity in West Africa through Promoting Village Beekeeping” will be implemented by Benin in the partnership of Uganda. The project aims at increasing capacities of small holder on village bee keeping in order to increase productivity of the main food crops in Benin.

The Gambia also will implement a project titled “Capacity Building on Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting in the Agriculture Sector”. The project aims to increase technical capacity of officials working in agriculture sector on data collection, analysis and reporting techniques.

The project titled “Needs Assessment on the Adoption of Sustainable Approaches for Rice Cultivation in Facing Climate Change” will be implemented by Malaysia. The project aims at increasing paddy farmers’ awareness and adoption of sustainable approaches/technology to increase rice productivity against the impacts of climate change.

Türkiye also will implement the project titled “Capacity Building on Using Remote Sensing Systems in Agriculture” with the partnership of Malaysia. The project aims at improving human and institutional capacity of Ministry of Agriculture of and Forestry of Türkiye on remote sensing systems through knowledge and experience sharing activities.