



المنظمة الإسلامية للأمن الغذائي

Islamic Organization for Food Security

l'Organisation Islamique pour la Sécurité Alimentaire

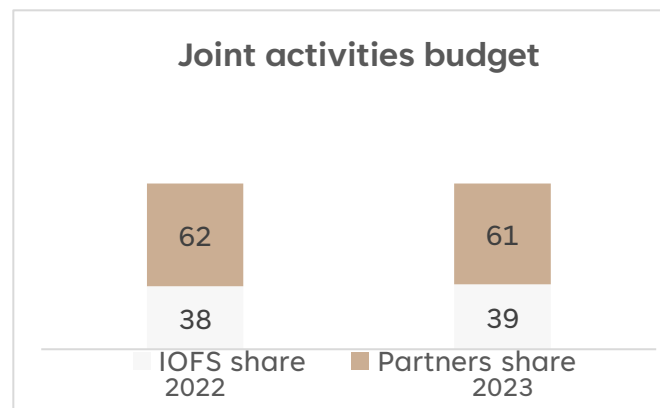
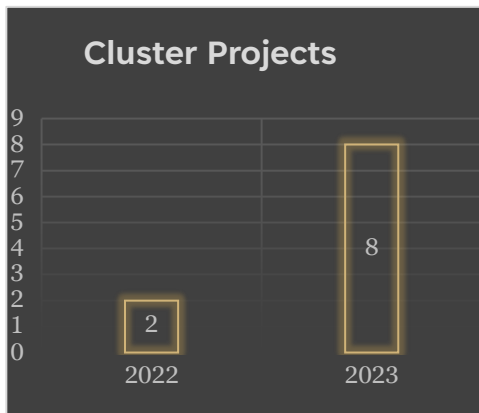
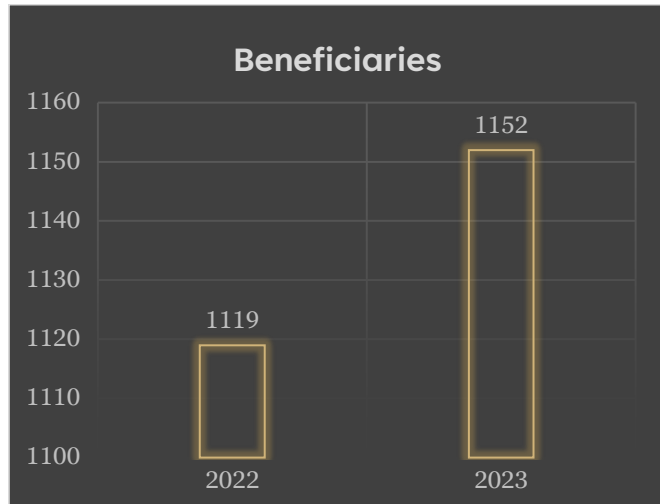
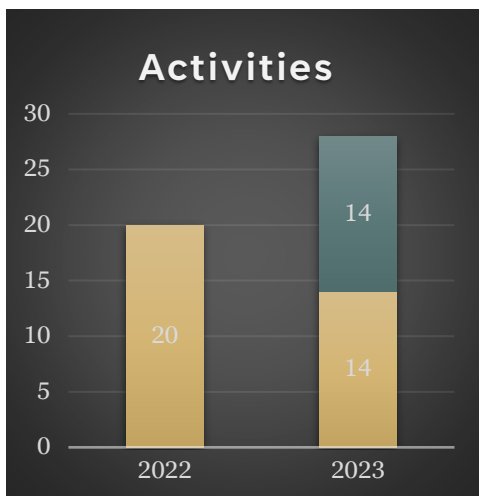
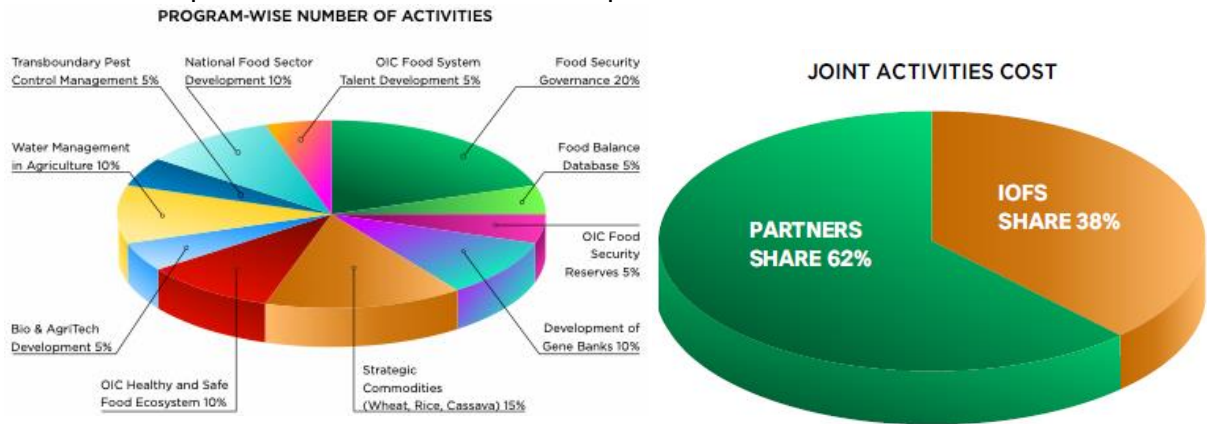
REPORT OF THE ISLAMIC
ORGANISATION FOR FOOD SECURITY
(IOFS) TO THE 39TH SESSION OF
COMCEC

Istanbul,
02-05 December 2023

A. BACKGROUND

1. The Secretariat of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) has been overseeing implementation of diverse projects and initiatives since the holding of the 38th COMCEC Ministerial Meeting, held on 26-29 November 2022 in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye.

2. Below charts provide an overview on the implemented activities:



B. MEMBERSHIP

3. The Secretariat of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) has been working tirelessly to attract the remaining OIC Member States to join as full-fledged Members to this important OIC Specialized Institution. In this context, the Secretariat has been regularly sending correspondence, conducting bilateral meetings, including online negotiations with the Officials of the concerned OIC Member States responsible for Agriculture and Food Security.
4. As the result of extensive bilateral negotiations that had been ongoing for some time, the Gabonese Republic, Republic of Iraq, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and the Republic of Yemen signed the IOFS Statute on the sidelines of the 9th Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (Doha, State of Qatar) to increase the Membership to 41 Member States.
5. The IOFS advocates for accelerating engagements with the relevant OIC Member States authorities to coordinate actions and generate resources to properly fulfill its mission of ensuring food security of the Muslim Ummah.

C. THE 6th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

6. The 6th IOFS General Assembly was held in Doha, State of Qatar on 03rd October 2023 under the theme “Together Committed to Action”.
7. The 6th General Assembly was of extreme importance for all the OIC landscape. Participants deliberated upon current challenges, shaped solid recommendations and took milestone decisions. These included:
 - 7.1. Urging further support for successful implementation of IOFS global programs: Afghanistan Food Security Program (AFSP) and Africa Food Security Initiative (AFSI).
 - 7.2. The need to convene intergovernmental expert group meetings to consider all relevant documents of the “IOFS Fund”, particularly its terms of reference to define its functioning.
 - 7.3. The call for intergovernmental expert group meetings to consider all relevant documents of the “Association of Agricultural Academies”, particularly its terms of reference to finalize its establishment at the 7th General Assembly.
 - 7.4. The election of **His Excellency Amb. Askar Mussinov** to the position of Director General of the IOFS, effective from 01 January 2024.



D. MAJOR PROGRAMS OF IOFS

8. In the period of November 2022 – October 2023 several activities have been carried out within the framework of all 16 IOFS programmes, including the following:

8.1. Africa Food Security Initiative (AFSI)

- a. Regional Project Piloting to the Mauritanian Wheat System Development, held on 15-17 March Nouakchott, Mauritania. With the support of Mauritanian Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Commission and the National Center of Agricultural Research, Development (CNRADA), the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the Arab Organization for Agricultural development (AOAD), and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS). The event had the main aim of establishing an IOFS Task Force for Wheat production improvement.
- b. The International Training Workshop on Addressing the Challenges of Food Security in the Sahel Countries in Niamey, Niger, held from 15-19 May 2023, was organized in collaboration with esteemed partners, including the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), the OIC Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), and CILSS. The primary objective of this training workshop was to prioritize sustainable solutions for combating food insecurity and malnutrition.
- c. On 15 May 2023, the Expert Meeting on Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for Niger (IWRMP) in Niamey, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture of Niger and the High Authority of WAQF in Niger. The IOFS initiative to develop an “Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for the Sahel Region” has been supported by the INWRDAM, JSC “National Company “Kazakhstan Gharysh Sapary”, the Centre for Environment & Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), “Water Hub” within the Kazakh National Agrarian Scientific and Research University, the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE), and the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation of Niger.
- d. In collaboration with the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), we gathered different IOFS Member States to attend the Capacity Building Activity involving the exchange of experiences between Asian and African rice experts, held at the BRRI, Gazipur, Bangladesh, on 20-22 August 2023. The aim was to provide African rice experts with hands-on training and exposure to best practices in rice production, including cultivation techniques, pest and disease management, and water management strategies.
- e. The Mozambican Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development hosted an Advanced Training “Agronomic Methods on Cassava in Mozambique” on



28-29 August 2023 in Maputo. We brought renowned cassava experts to share best practices with those from Mozambique, while engaging in consultations with the Ministry to explore the idea of designing a specific program on the cassava value chain for consideration by relevant funding OIC Institutions, including the IsDB.

- f. On 28 August and 4th September 2023, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Maritime Fisheries of the Republic of Tunisia, Chair of 5th IOFS General Assembly, we organized two Webinars Conference on Climate Impact on 1. Agroforestry to Integrate trees into agricultural systems to improve productivity, environmental resilience and food security, 2. Sustainable Management of Agricultural Land and Water to promote sustainable agricultural practices to preserve fertile soils, improve their level of fertility and effectively and sustainably manage water resources which are limited and becoming scarce, 3. Strengthening the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector to identify and implement climate change adaptation measures to reduce negative impacts on agriculture, 4. Aquaculture and Climate Change to Explore the opportunities and challenges of aquaculture in the face of climate change and its role in food security.
- g. On 12-13 September 2023, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Maritime Fisheries of the Republic of Tunisia, Chair of 5th IOFS General Assembly, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, with the generous support of GIZ and General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean – GFCM, we organized the Regional Conference on Resilient Agriculture in IOFS Member States: Climate Adaptation and Food Security in Tunis, Tunisia. The conference aimed to address critical issues related to climate adaptation and food security and to highlight the pressing necessity of creating integrated policies, adopting suitable strategies and technologies, and embracing innovative practices to address the challenges posed by climate change.

8.2. Afghanistan Food Security Program:

- a. On 14 November 2022, we hosted a virtual Conference on AFSP Implementation with the participation of OIC Member States, OIC General Secretariat, the International Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC), and United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).
- b. Hosting a variety of Afghan scientists for a training on Afghanistan Wheat Issue: the Breeding of Nutritious and Climate-Resilient Varieties in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 22-24 November 2022 in cooperation with COMSTECH and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC).
- c. The IOFS Humanitarian Food Convoy to Afghanistan was executed with the kind support of the Republic of Kazakhstan (100.000,00\$) and Republic



of Tajikistan (10.000,00\$) and implemented in collaboration with the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), which took the responsibility of distribution at Herat Province, as the goods entered from the Turkmen border of Thurgundi. The government of Turkmenistan assured safe and free passage of the train transporting 200 tons of wheat. The distribution process took place on 15-16 April 2023, corresponding the last week of the month of Ramadan.

- d. Separately, on 16 April 2023, a visit was undertaken to the UNAMA headquarters for bilateral exchanges with its Head and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan, H.E. Mrs. Roza Isakovna Otunbayeva. Such auspicious occasion was marked with the signature of an Agreement with UNAMA in which the IOFS was to provide a modest humanitarian food convoy composed of 68 tons of wheat flour generously donated by IOFS Secretariat and some Kazakh private companies.
- e. On 19-20 June 2023, we implemented the IOFS-UNAMA project through providing wheat flour to reach those in need hosted at selected Drug Addicted Treatment Centers in Kabul. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was to be the logistical partner on the ground.
- f. On 14-22 August 2023, the IOFS Team was in Herat for holding meetings with international and local institutions to understand the needs for designing appropriate sustainable agricultural projects and food security interventions.
- g. On 13-15 September 2023, Afghanistan Agro Business & Investment Forum was held at Faisalabad Agricultural University in Pakistan. It was to foster agricultural and food sector development in Central and South Asia brought together influential participants and speakers from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, and Türkiye.

8.3. Implementation of IOFS 2031 Strategic Vision

- a. On 7 June 2023, the 7th expert meeting of the Healthy and Safe Food Ecosystem Program of the IOFS, devoted to the celebration of World Food Safety Day, was organized jointly with the Kazakh Agrotechnical University named after S. Seifulin. The meeting gathered experts from: Jordan, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Türkiye.
- b. A virtual seminar on “Monitoring and forecasting of food security, and food balance sheet management”, was held on 14-15 June 2023 at the request of Kazakhstan’s Ministry of Agriculture. The two-day event gathered 87 representatives of government agencies, research institutions and international experts from 23 OIC Member States to share some good experiences on food security monitoring. The development of methodology for food balance sheet maintenance were presented by some Member



States as country-specific experiences, such as those from Bangladesh, Cameroon, Indonesia, Qatar, Türkiye, and UAE, and international practices of Ireland and UN FAO.

- c. We organized a two-day Workshop on “Development of Curriculum & Introduction of Education Program on Food Security” on 21-22 June 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan in a hybrid format that brought together 20 representatives of the Kazakh Agrotechnical Research University attending physically and 15 joining online to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices in teaching food security. The event aimed at raising awareness and building capacity among university staff and experts on teaching food security and sharing best international practices from Hamad Bin Khalifa University of Qatar, UAE University, University of Agriculture in Faisalabad of Pakistan, Sustainable Food Systems of Ireland, the American University in Beirut of Lebanon, Gulu and Makerere Universities of Uganda.
- d. On 22 June 2023, we launched the “Sukuk for Investments in Agriculture” workshop in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The workshop featured esteemed speakers and experts that delved into various aspects of Sukuk and its relevance to the agricultural sector.
- e. The 2nd International Forum for Agri-biotechnology, held on 04-05 July 2023 in Astana, Kazakhstan, organized in partnership with COMSTECH aimed to explore the advancements in plant, microbial, animal, and food biotechnology and their crucial role in addressing environmental challenges and ensuring global food security. This gathering provided a crucial platform for experts from diverse OIC countries, including Egypt, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia, Tajikistan, Jordan, Niger and others, to collectively explore the transformative potential of plant, microbial, animal, and food biotechnology in managing cross-border plant pests, diseases, and soil fertility.
- f. On 12 September 2023, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, and the Republic of Tunisia, we convened a webinar on “Seeding the Future: Governance Approaches to Building and Sustaining Food Security”, with participation of Mauritanian Commissioner of Food Safety, the OIC, the IsDB, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The event was held within the framework of US-OIC Strategic Dialogue with goal of showcasing the efforts of U.S. and OIC entities, particularly the IOFS, as the OIC's specialized institution in the field of food security. We aim to raise international awareness about food security governance in the context of worsening climate change.
- g. On 16-18 October 2023, in a concerted effort to combat the pressing challenges of desertification and drought in OIC-Africa countries, the IOFS



partnered with SESRIC to organize an online training course, as per their Joint Action Plan. The course aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills to tackle issues that are affecting many developing nations within the Islamic world.

- h. On 31 October 2023, in cooperation with Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM) jointly hosted a side event during Cairo Water Week, titled “Supporting Policies and Innovations for Integrated Water Management in the OIC Member States”. The roundtable aimed to address the most pressing water management challenges faced by OIC Member States and discuss viable solutions through policy, technological innovations, and sustainable initiatives.

8.4. On International Islamic Food Processing Association (IFPA):

- a. As decided by the 5th IOFS General Assembly, the IOFS subsidiary, IFPA, was finally relocated to the United Arab Emirates, precisely in Dubai. The official inauguration of its headquarters took place on 29 May 2023, in the esteemed presence of HE Mrs. Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change & Environment of the United Arab Emirates, during which the CEO appointment agreement was formally signed. Mr. Saleh A. Lootah currently leads IFPA, spearheading its continued progress. IFPA’s membership has expanded to include 24 OIC Member States along with 61 honorary and corporate members.
- b. IFPA introduced its new logo during the Future Food Forum 2023, marking the inception of an exciting rebranding endeavor. The organization is currently focused on resolving office and administrative issues, with a firm dedication to completing these tasks by year-end.

9. It should be noted that some Ministers of Agriculture from the esteemed Member States visited IOFS headquarters in Astana, Kazakhstan, including His Excellency Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Fadhli, Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (17 August 2023), who, inter alia, extended his support to the IOFS, endorsing its endeavors in all areas of operation. On 18 September 2023, His Excellency Mr. Abdel Monem Belati, Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries of the Republic of Tunisia, graced us with a visit to our headquarters. We have thanked him of the important support to IOFS in his quality of Chairman of the 5th General Assembly.

10. In relation to mandates issued by 49th Council of Foreign Ministers, the IOFS worked with SESRIC and IsDB to design the Strategic Plan for Ensuring Food Security in the Member States. The first draft was presented for the consideration of the 9th MCFSAD (01-02 October 2023 in Doha, State of Qatar), which in turn requested IOFS to hold regional consultations among the three OIC geographical groups in collaboration with SESRIC and IsDB for future review of its priorities for its adoption at the 10th MCFSAD.

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