



المنظمة الإسلامية للأمن الغذائي
Islamic Organization for Food Security

L'Organisation Islamique pour la Sécurité Alimentaire

ACTIVITY REPORT

OF THE ISLAMIC ORGANISATION FOR FOOD SECURITY

**40TH FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE
MEETING OF THE COMCEC**



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**Submitted to
The 40th Follow-up Committee Meeting of
the COMCEC**

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Ankara, TÜRKİYE

Introduction

This report provides a summary of the technical activities, programs and projects that have been implemented by IOFS and is to be submitted to the 40th Follow-up Committee Meeting of the COMCEC, which will be held on 22-23 May 2024, Ankara, Republic of Türkiye.

Since the 39th Session of the COMCEC held in İstanbul, Türkiye, on 2-5 December 2023, IOFS has continued to implement the activities under different programs and projects. This report highlights only the implemented activities of IOFS related to the following agenda items of the COMCEC.

Increasing Productivity of Agriculture Sector and Sustaining Food Security

An overview of activities implemented by IOFS:

15 capacity building workshops, conferences, forums, sessions, webinars etc organized in

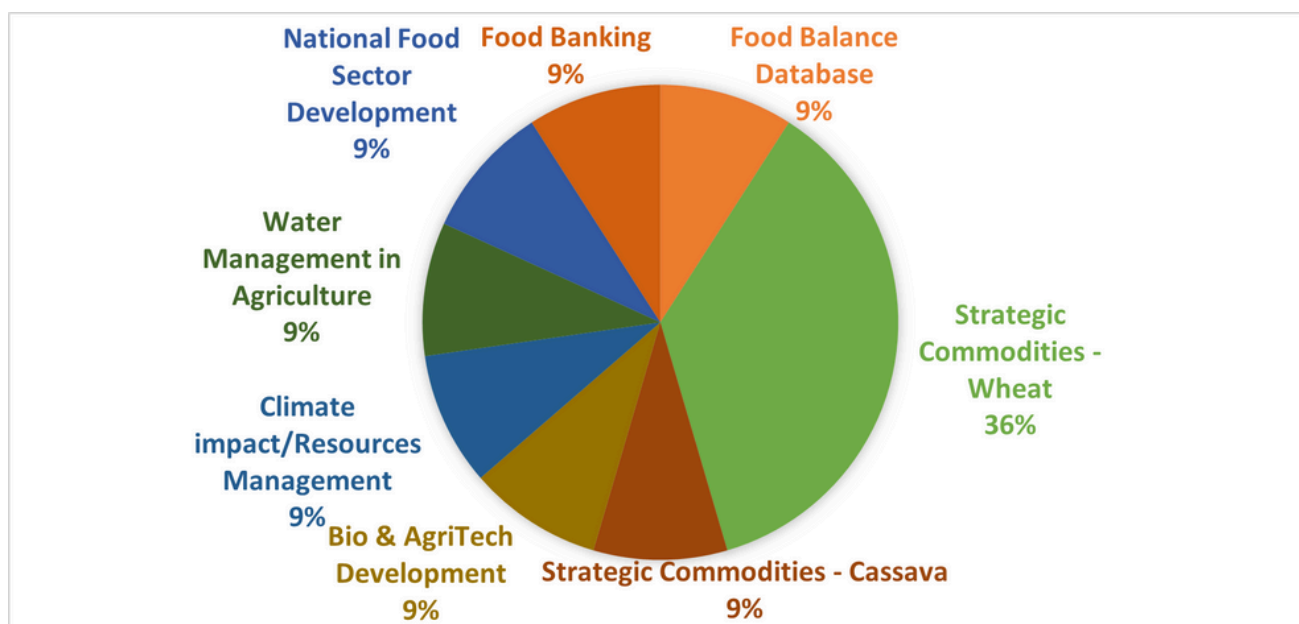
07 OIC MS: Cote d' Ivoire, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Morocco, Pakistan and Tunisia.

801 beneficiary participants.

45 Beneficiary OIC Member States: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d' Ivoire, Cameroon, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, KSA, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, UAE, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

Partnered with 21 OIC national and international organizations: COMSTECH, IsDB, Hamad Bin Halifa University, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan. MNS University of Agriculture Multan Pakistan, Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), ACSAD, AATF, Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), CGIAR, FAO- Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa, FAO-Mauritania, FBRN (Food Banking Regional Network), ICARDA, IITA, INRA Algeria, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung Office in Morocco, SFD, UNDP, WFP, and the private sector.

Program-wise activities



Capacity building

1. IOFS organized a **capacity building** activity Spurring Food Security, Climate Resilience and Agro-Industrial Development by Transforming Cassava Production and Processing in Cote D' Ivoire on December 12-14, 2023, in collaboration with IsDB and UNDP. The Cassava Capacity Building program boasted a diverse cohort of 70 participants from Different Member States namely Sierra Leone, Togo, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, Benin, Togo, and Côte d'Ivoire. Notable attendees included representatives from prominent international organizations such as UNDP, WFP, IITA, AATF, SFD, CGIAR, and the private sector.

2. IOFS organized a **capacity building** training on Food Banking Regional Network Model: Establishment, Operations, Pillars to Focus on December 17-19, 2023, in partnership with IsDB, and FBRN (Food Banking Regional Network). The 61 participants represented food banks, civil society, multinational companies, private sector from 22 MS: Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, The Gambia, Guinea, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Mauritania, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Türkiye, UAE, Uganda, Yemen, and 01 Non-OIC: Ghana. The experience on food banking, food waste management practices and agricultural support to small farmers was shared.

3. IOFS organized a capacity building training workshop on the Application of Artificial Intelligence in Precision Agriculture for Food Security on February 13-15, 2024, in collaboration with Mauritanian Government, COMSTECH, FAO-Mauritania, INRA Algeria, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung Office in Morocco. A diverse cohort of 88 government officials, researchers, academia, and representatives from the private sector and industry from Mauritania, Algeria, Egypt, Burkina Faso, Qatar, Türkiye, Pakistan, Uganda. The main focus was on integration of science, education and industry for intelligent agricultural machinery equipment and sharing of best AI and AgriTechs for deployment in water management and irrigation, agricultural extension, vegetable production through cost-effective greenhouse design, spatial management for crop classification and monitoring, soil moisture and plant health, and assessment of agri-potential.

4. IOFS organized an Exchange visit and Hands-on Training Workshop for best practices of wheat development in Pakistan on February 19-23, 2024, in collaboration with University of Agriculture Faisalabad and MNS University of Agriculture Multan Pakistan, and ACIAR. The beneficiaries included 30 Breeders and agronomists from Kazakhstan, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, and Iraq. The aim of the workshop was to introducing hybrid and OPV wheat breeding expertise of Pakistan to experts of CWANA region. Main focused international best practices of wheat breeding were:

a. Technologies to improve heat tolerance and climate resilience in field crops by Wahington State University, USA.

b. Genetic biofortification to alleviate global malnutrition by University of Melbourne, Australia.

c. “Hybridity: more than just higher yield” by Sydney Institute of Agriculture, Australia.

Conferences/Summits

5. IOFS organized an International Conference on Food Security in the Arab World During and After Crises on December 20-21, 2023, in collaboration with ALECSO.

This event also enhanced the capacity of 60 government officials, researchers, and international experts from Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and UAE.

The conference introduced the following international best practices:

- a. Climate Smart Village.
- b. Climate Smart Desert.
- c. Geoformation technologies and artificial intelligence to reduce the risk of disasters that threaten Arab food security and hinder its achievement.
- d. Innovations for Integrated Water Management in the OIC Arab Group Member States.
- e. Artificial Intelligence and climate Smart Technologies for Food, Water and Energy Secure Arab World under Environmental Stresses

6. IOFS co-organized the International **Conference** of Emerging Technologies for Crop Improvement in Pakistan on February 19-20, 2024, in collaboration with the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan, and the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The beneficiaries included 200+ public and private sector researchers, experts, academia and postgraduate students from Kazakhstan, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Libya, and Iraq.

The conference introduced the following international best practices:

- a. Acquired Inheritance and Plant Breeding for Climate Change
- b. Hybridity: more than just higher yield.
- c. Genetic biofortification to alleviate global malnutrition.
- d. Applied Predictive Techniques at CIMMYT Bread Wheat Program.
- e. Iron biofortification of Australian bread wheat.
- f. Harvesting Resilience: Nurturing Food Systems through Advanced Disease Resistance Gene Deployment and Early Warning Systems.
- g. Lab to field translation: Technologies to improve heat tolerance and climate resilience in field crops.

The conference also introduced following Pakistan national best practices:

- a. HarvestPlus Pakistan.
- b. Wheat Speed Breeding.
- c. Unmanned Aircraft Systems Imagery for Phenotyping.
- d. Regulatory Environment for GM crops in Pakistan.

7. IOFS co-organized The Arab Water Management Summit in Morocco from the 4th to the 7th of March 2024, focused on addressing water scarcity and climate change impacts in the Arab region. The event conducted an analysis of the challenges and solutions related to water in agriculture in the Arab world, including the impact of climate change. Key outcomes included advocating for climate-resilient agricultural practices, modernizing traditional water systems like Khattarat, promoting solar-powered irrigation, and developing water harvesting and flood management strategies. The event enhanced knowledge sharing and set actionable plans to secure sustainable water resources for food security in OIC Arab countries.

Panel sessions

8. IOFS organized a panel session on food nutrition in OIC Arab Countries during the International Conference on Food Security in the Arab World During and After Crises on 21 December 2023, in collaboration with ALECSO. The beneficiaries of this activity were government officials, researchers, and international experts from Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and UAE. Best practices on calculation methodology of IOFS FNI, results of the survey, and joint report with SESRIC on the Food Security situation was presented with insights and approaches for the OIC region.

9. IOFS conducted a session on improving systems to produce strategic commodities (Wheat, Rice, Olive Oil) during international conference on Food Security in the Arab World During and After Crises on 20-21 December 2023 in collaboration with ALECSO. The beneficiary of this activity were government officials, researchers, and international experts from Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and UAE. The activity mainly focused more crop per drop: feasibility and challenges. Case study of Western US Corn belt was shared.

10. IOFS organized a panel session developing comprehensive water management policies during the International Conference on Food Security in the Arab World During and After Crises on 21 December 2023 in collaboration with ALECSO. The beneficiaries of this activity included government officials, researchers, and international experts from Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and UAE. The experience of the U.S. on artificial intelligence and climate-smart technologies for food, water and energy was shared. Other best practices included climate smart aquaculture technologies from Jordan, smart-city model to reduce the risk of disasters from Syria, an overview of OIC strategies for advancing water and food security by the IOFS (Kazakhstan) and Tunisian scientific research in promoting smart agriculture.

Webinars

11. IOFS hosted two consultative **webinars** on the development of Material Transfer Agreement for the wheat germplasm exchange among Kazakhstan, Tunisia, Jordan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Türkiye, Egypt, Libya, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan on February 6 and 8, 2024. National Material Transfer and Phytosanitary regulations were shared, SMTA of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, ICARDA and ACSAD agreements were discussed to learn and improve the said MTA.

12. IOFS organized a **webinar** on “Mobilizing Finance for Sustainable Agriculture and Agriculture Productivity” under the series entitled “Food Security and Sustainable Development” on February 26, 2024, in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University, State of Qatar. The participants were from 24 MS which represent MS government officials, national quasi-public and private sector, research centers and others.

The webinar focused on:

- a. Economic diversification strategies and visions of GCC countries that can support food security.
- b. Cases of UAE and Oman contributing to economic diversification initiatives and promoting private sector participation and FDI.
- c. Sustainable agriculture financing, risk mitigation.
- d. The measures are aimed at digitalization and bankability.

13. IOFS organized a **webinar** on 28 March 2024, titled "Pests and Diseases in Wheat and Rice Farming in Central Asia" to address the critical challenges these issues pose to food security in the region. The event featured experts from various institutions who discussed prevalent pests and diseases, innovative management strategies, and sustainable practices suitable for Central Asia's unique agricultural context.

Key presentations included eco-friendly pest management, the use of disease-resistant crop varieties, and the economic impacts of crop diseases. The webinar emphasized collaborative efforts through a proposed regional action plan for integrated pest management, aiming to enhance sustainable agriculture and secure food security in Central Asia.

14. IOFS organized a kick-off **webinar** of the project under the Food Security Governance Program titled "Integrating Climate-Smart Agriculture into Food Security Policy Frameworks in Central Asia" on the 4th of April, 2024, which witnessed the participation of an extensive consortium of stakeholders. This project is designed to fortify the agricultural sectors of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan against the adverse effects of climate change, thereby ensuring sustainable food security in the region.

The webinar included national policymakers, esteemed agricultural experts, representatives of science and academia, as well as international organizations. The primary goal of the webinar was to establish a collaborative foundation for the promotion and adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices across the nations of Central Asia. The main objective of the initiative is the empowerment of regional stakeholders through the dissemination of knowledge and the provision of tools necessary for the effective implementation of CSA practices.

The project is poised to facilitate the development of a regional CSA policy framework, augment the capacities of policymakers through specialized training, and establish a Central Asian think tank to bolster regional cooperation on climate-smart agriculture and food security.

Miscellaneous activities

15. IOFS and the Women Development Organization (WDO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) and Action Plan between the two institutions on 17 January 2024.
16. Published two issues of **Food Security Hub** – an IOFS magazine publishing articles related to agricultural development and food security.
17. 12th Meeting of the **Executive Board** of IOFS was held in Astana on 29-30 January 2024.
18. IOFS is establishing an '**endowment financial facility**' dedicated for the implementation of Humanitarian Assistance and Development projects. This strategic initiative emphasizes a replenishment model tied to project outcomes, ensuring a sustainable cycle of success replicable to other countries. Additionally, the resolution aims to attract supplementary funding from esteemed donor agencies, including the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), and other entities within our Member States.



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