



المنظمة الإسلامية للأمن الغذائي  
Islamic Organization for Food Security  
l'Organisation Islamique pour la Sécurité Alimentaire

Report on the IOFS Activities  
to be presented  
at  
*42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the  
Follow-up Committee of the  
COMCEC*

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## A. Introduction

1. Since November 2025, the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) has continued to advance its mandate in strengthening food security, sustainable agriculture, and resilience across OIC Member States. The Organization has actively engaged in high-level diplomatic outreach, global policy platforms, and technical programmes, while reinforcing partnerships within the OIC system and with international stakeholders.
2. In the context of increasing the Membership, H.E. Amb. Berik Aryn, IOFS Director General, undertook a number of high-level missions, including to Republic of Uzbekistan (13 November 2025), Syrian Arab Republic (20–21 January 2026), Republic of Lebanon (22–23 January 2026), and Republic of Azerbaijan (05 March 2026) where respective governments assured of their intention to soon complete all necessary formalities to become IOFS fully-fledged Member States.
3. It is expected that during the holding of the *42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC*, the IOFS would welcomed the Republic of Azerbaijan as its 42<sup>nd</sup> Member State, as its Ministry of Agriculture has proposed 06 May 2026 as the new date for the signing ceremony of the IOFS Statute in Baku, in light of the postponement of the initial date of 05 March 2026 due to unforeseen circumstances. It is important to note that the proposed signing ceremony is expected to take place on the sidelines of the *19<sup>th</sup> Azerbaijan International Agriculture Exhibition* and the *31<sup>st</sup> Azerbaijan International Food Industry Exhibition*, to be held on 05–08 May 2026 in Baku.
4. It is equally important to note that the forthcoming *7<sup>th</sup> IOFS General Assembly* is to be convened virtually on the same date as the *42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of COMCEC*. The General Assembly is expected to continue serving as a pivotal platform for in-depth deliberations among Member States. Key matters of concern within the shared agendas of food security and agricultural development will be thoroughly examined, enabling Member States to dissect emerging challenges, assess collective progress, and articulate coordinated policy responses. Member States are expected to reinforce their strengthened commitment to the IOFS by providing relevant mandates to further its coherence and continuity in advancing collective action, fostering strategic alignment, and delivering tangible outcomes in support of sustainable and resilient agri-food systems across the OIC region.
5. In the period under review, IOFS commends the kind gesture of the OIC General Secretariat for hosting the celebration of the OIC Food Security Day on 11 December 2025 on the sidelines of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI), which was attended by high-level dignitaries, including the OIC Secretary General and the Ambassadors of the Republic of The Gambia and Republic of Türkiye in their respective capacities as Chairs of the 15<sup>th</sup> OIC Summit and the 51<sup>st</sup> Council of Foreign Ministers. The programme also featured a dedicated panel on strengthening OIC food systems through the leadership of rural women and youth, with the participation of Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB), Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Development (ICCD), and the IOFS Secretariat.

## B. Overall Implementation of IOFS Strategic Vision 2031

6. To advance the water agenda, the IOFS
  - 6.1. organized two on-site Technical Missions in Adana (30–31 October & 1–2 November 2025) where Kazakhstani and regional experts accessed the İmamoğlu Automation System, Yedigöze Dam, and Seyhan regulator, witnessing how fully automated gates respond in real time to crop demand, weather shifts, and soil moisture variation.
  - 6.2. co-organized side events during 19<sup>th</sup> World Water Congress (1–5 December 2025, Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco) focusing on policy coherence, scaling of water solutions, and climate adaptation in agriculture.
  - 6.3. participated at the highest level the relevant side-events during the Regional Ecological Summit held on 22–24 April 2026 in Astana, Kazakhstan, including the FAO's *Food Security in Central Asia – Advancing Sustainable Water and Land Management through Regional Cooperation* and CICA's *Global Climate Change and Sustainable Development in the CICA Region* both held on 23 April in which the IOFS Director General outlined IOFS's ongoing efforts to support Member States through capacity-building, digital solutions in irrigation management, and the promotion of integrated water–land–food approaches aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and resilience. He also noted that these efforts align with broader global initiatives on water governance, particularly the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, to establish a United Nations International Water Organization.
7. On halal and Climate Smart Agriculture, the IOFS
  - 7.1. on 27 November 2025, IOFS, in partnership with SMIIIC, hosted a Session on “Halal & Hi-Tech,” showcased innovative technologies shaping future halal assurance across OIC Member States” at the 11<sup>th</sup> World Halal Summit in Istanbul, Türkiye. The Session included advanced conversation on digital traceability, integrated safety compliance, standard convergence, and smart-inspection technologies, helping bridge halal-market practices across Asia, Africa and the Middle East.
  - 7.2. participated in the Specialized Regional Training on the Use of Drones in Desert Locust Control on 25–29 January 2026, organized by the FAO-CRC and CLCPRO commissions, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources of the Sultanate of Oman. The training strengthens national and regional capacities from 15 IOFS Members States in the use of drones for early warning, monitoring, and precision control, marking a major step toward faster, more effective, and environmentally responsible responses to locust outbreaks. Such innovations are critical to reducing crop losses and preventing food crises in vulnerable regions.
  - 7.3. on 9–12 February 2026, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Iraq, held in Baghdad a four-day national workshop on *Strengthening the Policy and Institutional Framework for Climate-Smart*

*Agriculture to Improve Soil Health and Combat Desertification in Iraq.* The workshop brought together high-level representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, as well as members of legal and legislative bodies, academic institutions, research centers, and national experts from across Iraq.

- 7.4. in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye and the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), co-hosted a high-level side event at the Regional Ecological Summit (Astana, 22 April 2026), on *Advancing Dialogue on Climate Action, Land Restoration, Biodiversity, and Food Security*, in which, inter alia, the high-level speakers underscored 2026 as a pivotal year for global environmental governance, with key milestones including UNFCCC COP31 (Antalya), UNCCD COP17 (Ulaanbaatar), and CBD COP17 (Yerevan) that all held within the vicinity of Central Asia. In this context, Türkiye's hosting of COP31 in Antalya is expected to serve as a decisive platform for delivering an "implementation COP" focused on tangible results.
  - 7.5. In collaboration with Astana IT University, the IOFS convened the *Regional Technical Workshop on "Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence in Agricultural Governance"* in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 27-28 April 2026. The event was held to strengthen the IOFS capacity for continued and improved usage of digital tools in advancing the agendas of food security, agricultural development and agrifood systems transformation for the benefit of the Member States and also served for the IOFS to mark Kazakhstan's 2026 as the Year of Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence.
8. On Livestock, the IOFS
- 8.1. organized and *Expert Roundtable on Climate-Smart Livestock Breeding* (22-23 December 2025, Teheran, Islamic Republic of Iran) in partnership with Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension Organization of Iran (AREEO) and Azerbaijan Social-Ecological Research Institute (ASRI). The platform brought together regional specialists to exchange knowledge on resilient breeding models, indigenous genetic resources, and climate-adaptive technologies, contributing to formation of a sustained expert network under the Animal Development Program.
  - 8.2. in partnership with the IsDB, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), held the *Regional Workshop of the Africa Livestock Resilience Program* (9-12 February 2026, Nairobi, Kenya), bringing together 14 African OIC Member States along with development partners, research institutions, and private-sector stakeholders. The workshop advanced coordinated action on resilient and inclusive livestock systems through technical discussions on key transformation pillars, country consultations, and field visits demonstrating integrated value chain models.
  - 8.3. in cooperation with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) convened a closed-door *Technical Consultation with Heads and Senior Representatives of*

Veterinary Authorities from Central Asia and Azerbaijan to provide structured regional inputs to the Study on Market Access Barriers for OIC Meat Exporters (13 February 2026, Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan).

### C. Strategic Partnerships and Institutional Cooperation

9. The IOFS Director General delivered a keynote address at the *Conference on Food Security in the Arab World* (4–5 February 2026, Dubai, United Arab Emirates), where he underscored the urgency of coordinated regional responses to food insecurity, the importance of resilient agri-food systems, and the role of innovation, investment, and intra-OIC cooperation in addressing structural vulnerabilities across Arab countries.
10. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the World Food Programme (WFP) on 29 October 2025 at their Headquarters in Rome, Italy. The agreement aims to strengthen collaboration in emergency food assistance, resilience-building, and capacity development, particularly in OIC Member States facing acute food insecurity.
11. On 30 October 2025, an MoU was concluded with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) at its headquarters in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The partnership focuses on promoting sustainable agriculture, climate-smart practices, and green investment solutions to enhance food security and environmental sustainability.
12. An MoU was signed with the OIC Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) on 11 December 2025 at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. This cooperation framework emphasizes the right to food as a fundamental human right and seeks to integrate human rights-based approaches into food security policies and programs across Member States.
13. A comprehensive Joint Action Plan for 2026–2027 was with the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) on 21 January 2026 in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic. The plan outlines joint initiatives in dryland agriculture, water resource management, and the dissemination of technologies suited to arid and semi-arid regions.
14. On 5 February 2026 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, a Joint Action Plan covering 2026–2028 was signed with the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD). The agreement aims to advance agricultural development, strengthen food value chains, and enhance technical cooperation and knowledge exchange among Arab and OIC Member States.
15. A Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on 5 February 2026 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The LoI sets the foundation for future collaboration in rural development, smallholder support, and investment mobilization to improve food security and livelihoods in vulnerable communities.
16. An MoU was signed with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) on 6 February 2026 in Astana, Kazakhstan, at IOFS Headquarters. This partnership aims to address environmental and food security

- challenges in the Aral Sea basin through joint initiatives in sustainable water management, land restoration, and regional cooperation.
17. On 17 February 2026, an MoU was virtually signed with the Global Crop Diversity Trust. The agreement focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources, including support for gene banks and crop diversity initiatives essential for long-term food security and climate resilience.
  18. An MoU was signed with Al-Farabi Kazakh National University on 10 April 2026 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, establishing a framework for cooperation in research, education, and knowledge exchange. The MoU places particular emphasis on sustainable agriculture, biotechnology, and human capital development, aiming to strengthen the link between scientific research and applied solutions in the field of food security.
  19. On 24 April 2026, the IOFS and the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development. The agreement establishes a framework for collaboration in key areas, including sustainable agriculture, food security, biotechnology, and the efficient use of land and water resources. It also provides for the exchange of knowledge and best practices, as well as joint initiatives, capacity-building, and research cooperation.
  20. Additionally, the IOFS has taken the decision to join the Global Flagship Initiative on Food Security, Zero Hunger Coalition and the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development to also reflect on the broader direction IOFS is taking to diversify and expand its partnerships beyond the OIC region, allowing it to mobilize expertise, forge strategic alliances, and connect the priorities of its Member States with global action.

## Conclusion

The above-mentioned activities reflect the key initiatives and engagements undertaken by the IOFS since the holding of the 41<sup>st</sup> Ministerial Session of COMCEC in November 2025. While these efforts demonstrate continued commitment to advancing food security and agricultural development across Member States, it is important to note that the full scope of planned activities could not be realized. This was due to prevailing financial constraints, as well as the evolving situation in the Middle East, which has affected operational planning and implementation. Notwithstanding these challenges, IOFS remains committed to sustaining momentum, strengthening partnerships, and delivering on its mandate in support of resilient and sustainable agri-food systems across the OIC region.

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