



AGRICULTURE



CCO BRIEF
ON
AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATION

COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

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I. Introduction

The world has been undergoing a rapid economic and technological transformation in recent years. In this process, global major problems, including drought, increases in cost of production and global hunger due to climate change as well as regional conflicts, are adversely affecting the food supply chains. Considering this reality, agriculture is one of foremost sectors for the economies worldwide, particularly in OIC member countries. The development of this sector is also critically important for addressing the pressing issues such as food security, poverty, and economic development.

Agriculture is one of the leading sectors in most OIC member countries, providing people with food, income, and employment. Recently, OIC countries have improved their agricultural production performance compared to other regions. Since 2016, farm production in OIC countries has witnessed an increase of 13.2%, surpassing that of non-OIC developing countries (10.8%), developed countries (0.1%), and the global average (9.9%). Additionally, 216 million people in OIC countries are working in agriculture sector, equivalent to 32% of their total employment. While the proportion of employment in agriculture has decreased in the past decade, it is noteworthy that about 1.4 billion hectares of land in OIC countries, amounting to one-third of the world's total agriculture land, is still dedicated to agriculture sector.

However, OIC member countries face challenges in ensuring agricultural development and food security for their populations. Among these challenges, the escalation of conflict and insecurity within their territories stands as a critical concern. Therefore, the agriculture sector is critical for many OIC member countries to generate income, increase welfare, and eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

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, agricultural inputs, food security and good governance for ensuring food security and nutrition.

II. Agricultural Cooperation under the COMCEC

Climate change occurs globally in different ways and negatively affects the environment, social and economic structure. The holistic impact of climate change negatively affects all dimensions

of food security - food availability, access, utilization and stability. It is recognized that the frequency, intensity or duration of climatic shocks varies significantly. Rising temperatures, shifting precipitation patterns, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and growing pressure on water resources are making agricultural production more uncertain and complex. Although OIC member countries contribute significantly to global agricultural production, many of them are characterized by climate-sensitive production structures and limited adaptive capacity. Prevailing agricultural planning frameworks in many OIC Member Countries remain largely based on historical climate patterns and short-term productivity objectives, limiting their effectiveness under increasing climate uncertainty. About 200 million of the world's food insecure people (about 25 % of undernourished people) live in OIC member countries, so it is imperative to achieve food security by transforming agricultural systems through promoting a resilient agriculture sector against climate change.

A. Promoting a Resilient Agriculture Sector against Climate Change in OIC Member Countries (26th Meeting of the Agriculture Working Group)

Recognizing the growing impact of climate change on agricultural systems in OIC Member Countries, the COMCEC AWG devoted its Meetings in 2026 to discuss on " Promoting a Resilient Agriculture Sector against Climate Change in OIC Member Countries." The 26th Meeting of the COMCEC Agriculture Working Group (AWG) was held on April 22nd, 2026 with the said theme.

The Working Group deliberated on policy measures and strategies to enhance the resilience of the agriculture sector against climate change and to develop sustainable and practical solutions to the challenges faced. Moreover, the preliminary findings of the related research report were presented during the Meeting. The final version of the report will be submitted to the 27th Meeting of the AWG, to be held on 21–22 September 2026.

A. 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 cooperation among member counties 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.

In this regard, 7 projects have been selected to be implemented in 2026. These projects are as follows:

The Project titled “Capacity Building for the Establishment of a Community-Based Revolving Fund to Facilitate Farmers’ Access to Agricultural Inputs” will be implemented by Benin in partnership of Pakistan, Türkiye and IOFS. The project aims at enhancing food security and agricultural productivity of smallholder farmers through improved access to inputs via sustainable financing.

The Project titled “Capacity Building on Efficient Water Management in Rice Production” will be implemented by the Gambia with partnership of Nigeria. The project aims at improving human and institutional capacities in efficient water management in rice production in OIC member states.

The Project titled “Capacity Building on Adopting Water-Smart Agricultural Techniques for Paddy Production in Malaysia” will be implemented by Malaysia in partnership of Egypt. The project aims at increasing technical capacity of the researchers in Malaysia on efficient water management practices for paddy production.

The Project titled “Support and Incentive Mechanisms for Promoting Women and Youth Entrepreneurship in Agriculture” will be implemented by Morocco with partnership of Türkiye. The project aims increasing technical and institutional capacity on different mechanisms for promoting woman and youth entrepreneurship.

The Project titled “Enhancing Livestock Productivity in Niger through Artificial Insemination” will be implemented by Niger in partnership of Türkiye and Uganda. The project aims at increasing human capacity in Niger on artificial insemination.

The Project titled “Enhancing Genome Editing and Crop Biotechnology Capacity for Climate-Resilient Agriculture in OIC Member Countries” will be implemented by Pakistan with partnership of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, SESRIC and COMSTECH. The project aims at increasing technical capabilities of scientists and policymakers from member countries in the field of genome editing applications.

The Project titled “Building Capacity in the Use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for Agricultural Data and Early Warning to Enhance the Resilience of Smallholder Farmers” will be implemented by Uganda in partnership of Türkiye. The project aims at strengthening institutional and human capacity of Uganda on using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in Agriculture.