



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

IOFS Report to the 42nd Ministerial Session of COMCEC

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WORD FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

The reporting period has been marked by a clear transition from institutional consolidation towards stronger implementation, practical cooperation and measurable regional engagement. The Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS) has continued to translate its mandate into technical programmes, policy dialogue, capacity development and partnerships that respond to the evolving food-security priorities of the Member States.

We are particularly heartened by the steady expansion and governance consolidation of our IOFS family. During the period under review, IOFS welcomed the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Uzbekistan as new Member States, bringing the Organisation's membership to 43. This development reflects growing confidence in collective action on food security and reinforces the Organisation's role as a platform for knowledge exchange, technical assistance and coordinated responses to shared challenges in the geography of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

I wish to also mention the successful convening of our 7th General Assembly in May 2026, which established key strategic guidelines for the decade ahead. From scaling up seed distribution in Afghanistan and driving livestock resilience in Africa to empowering women and youth across member states, IOFS remains steadfast in its mission.

Partnerships remain central to this progress. Cooperation with different relevant stakeholders, including the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), UN Women, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the OPEC Fund and other institutions has enabled IOFS to combine its intergovernmental mandate with specialized expertise and practical delivery capacity.

As we present this Progress Report to the 42nd COMCEC Ministerial Session, we reiterate our deep appreciation to our esteemed Member States, the OIC General Secretariat, and COMCEC for their unwavering commitment to achieving regional food security, sustainable agricultural transformation, and shared prosperity.

H.E. Ambassador Berik Aryn
Director General

A. INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the principal institutional, technical and partnership-related progress achieved by IOFS during the reporting period from October 2025 to September 2026, based primarily on the activities implemented by the Organization in the said period, which were part of the inputs prepared for the Report of the OIC Secretary General to the 42nd COMCEC Ministerial Meeting, with additional contextual enrichment from official IOFS communications.
2. The table below summarizes the main achievements and sections of the present Report:

Area	Headline progress
Institutional consolidation & governance	Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan joined IOFS on 6 May 2026, bringing membership to 43, as well as the holding of the 7 th IOFS General Assembly on 13-14 May 2026.
Strategic implementation	Regional and national activities advanced climate-smart agriculture, water governance, digital agriculture, livestock, pests, market access and food loss and waste.
Africa engagement	AFSI expanded through livestock resilience, coffee value chains, mechanization, gender consultations and the Africa Food Systems Forum.
Afghanistan	Seed distribution and climate-smart cultivation support targeted 400 smallholder farmers in Balkh and Jawzjan.
Women and inclusion	WADI advanced a gender-responsive agrifood systems study and a regional consultation with UN Women.
International partnerships	IOFS signed or advanced cooperation instruments with major multilateral, development, research and regional partners.

3. The overall pattern is one of increasing operationalization: IOFS activities increasingly connect policy priorities with field-oriented training, institutional capacity, scientific cooperation, regional strategies and investment-oriented partnerships.

B. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MEMBERSHIP & OUTREACH

4. IOFS continued consolidating its institutional structures and strengthening its role as an intergovernmental platform for food-security cooperation among OIC Member States.
5. In the context of expansion of membership, on 6 May 2026, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Uzbekistan joined IOFS. Their accession brought the total number of Member States to 43. The signing ceremony took place in Baku on the sidelines of the *19th Azerbaijan International Agriculture Exhibition and Forum*. The accession strengthens the geographic and technical reach of IOFS and creates additional opportunities for cooperation in agricultural production, trade, research, innovation and food-security resilience.
6. The new Member States inaugurated a new institutional tradition at the IOFS Secretariat. In fact, on 1 July 2026, the IOFS held its first-ever Flag Hoisting Ceremony at its Headquarters in Astana, honouring the Republic of Azerbaijan's accession as a full-fledged Member State of the Organisation. A similar ceremony was held on 7 July 2026 for Uzbekistan. As the first country to be welcomed through this new ceremonial tradition, Azerbaijan has secured a special place in the institutional history of the IOFS, opening a new chapter in the Organisation's continued growth and strengthening cooperation among its Member States.
7. The Director General undertook working visits to some OIC Member States that had not yet joined IOFS, including Lebanon and Syria in January 2026 and Togo in September 2026. These engagements sought to explain the benefits of membership and encourage deeper participation in collective food-security initiatives.
8. In terms of further visibility and institutional outreach, it is important to note the two high-level events held in December 2025 in connection with OIC Food Security Day and IOFS Day enhanced the Organisation's visibility. The Astana roundtable on 17 December brought together governmental, legislative, diplomatic, research and partner institutions. The OIC Food Security Day event on 11 December at the OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah included a panel on strengthening OIC food systems through the leadership of rural women and youth.
9. IOFS's work during the period reflects the implementation logic of Strategic Vision 2031: combining policy support, technical assistance, knowledge exchange, capacity building, partnerships and regional coordination to address food-security risks in a sustainable manner.

C. HOLDING OF THE 7TH IOFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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10. On 13–14 May 2026, the 7th Session of the IOFS General Assembly, was convened and hosted virtually by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan under the overarching theme: “Food Security through Cooperation and Innovation.”
11. The 7th General Assembly marked a strategic transition in organizational governance with the formal transfer of the General Assembly Chairmanship from the State of Qatar to the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Session provided a vital intergovernmental platform to review operational performance, approve strategic policies, and align collective efforts across Member States to build climate-resilient agri-food systems, including the following key Resolutions and Decisions Adopted:
 - 11.1. Formally designated 2027 as the **IOFS Year of Women Agrileaders and Young Agripreneurs (IOFS-WAYA-2027)**, establishing a dedicated framework to mobilize resources, capacity development, and agribusiness opportunities for women and young leaders in agriculture.
 - 11.2. Authorized the establishment of the first **IOFS Regional Office in the Kingdom of Morocco**, enhancing operational delivery and program implementation across North and West Africa.
 - 11.3. Approved the operational launch of the **IOFS Food Security and Innovation Knowledge Hub**, serving as a centralized digital platform for policy exchange, agricultural research, and technological transfer.
 - 11.4. Endorsed the **Global Islamic Food Security Expo (GIFSE)** as a recurring flagship platform to facilitate intra-OIC agricultural trade, B2B linkages, and technology showcase.
 - 11.5. Supported the strategic transition of the **IOFS General Assembly from an annual meeting schedule to a biennial (every two years) format**, optimizing administrative efficiency and long-term project planning.
 - 11.6. Endorsed the **updated official IOFS logo and brand identity**, reflecting a modernized, forward-looking institution.

D. IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC VISION 2031

12. Implementation under Strategic Vision 2031 focused on practical solutions for sustainable agriculture, water management, climate adaptation, animal health, digital transformation, market access and food-system efficiency.
13. Relevant activities on **water governance and climate-smart agriculture** include:
 - 13.1. On 22-24 October 2025, IOFS and the IsDB in cooperation with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of the Republic of Kazakhstan jointly held a *Regional Training on Water Governance and Digitalization* in Astana. Delegates from Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Türkiye examined digital irrigation systems, water-resource management platforms and climate-smart water governance. The three-day capacity-building programme aims to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance effective water governance and promote digitalization of irrigation systems, bringing together participants from Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Türkiye, alongside representatives from ICARDA; International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and consultancy groups working in the water sector.
 - 13.2. On 9-12 February 2026, IOFS and the Ministry of Agriculture of Iraq conducted a national workshop in Baghdad on *strengthening policy and institutional frameworks for climate-smart agriculture, soil health and combating desertification* to address challenges related to soil degradation, climate vulnerabilities, and desertification while highlighting the need for comprehensive legislative and institutional reform. The workshop concluded with the preparation of key recommendations, to be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and relevant national institutions, aimed at supporting Iraq's transition towards a sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural system.
 - 13.3. On 1-10 April 2026, IOFS supported the training of two KazNIIZiR specialists at ICARDA in Morocco on legume breeding, hybridization, practical crossing techniques and drought-tolerant germplasm.
14. On **Innovation, digitalization and artificial intelligence**:
 - 14.1. On 27-28 April 2026, IOFS convened a *Regional Workshop on Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence in Agricultural Governance* in Astana. Organized within the framework of IOFS efforts to support Member States in strengthening food security through capacity

development, knowledge exchange, and the adoption of modern technologies, the workshop served as a regional platform for discussing practical digital solutions for the agricultural sector.

- 14.2. On 18-22 May 2026, IOFS convened a *Spring School on Functional Genomics and Bioinformatics* in Petropavlovsk, Kazakhstan, supporting scientific capacity and the application of modern biological tools to agriculture.
- 14.3. On 10-11 September 2026, IOFS, in cooperation with Uzbekistan's Ministry of Agriculture, conducted a practical workshop in Tashkent on *Digital, Geospatial and Ai-Enabled Solutions for Agricultural Governance*. Topics included satellite-based monitoring, digital public services, decision support for water stress and drought, soil salinity and land degradation.

15. On **Livestock, animal health and transboundary pests**

- 15.1. On 22–23 December 2025, IOFS convened an *Expert Roundtable and Capacity Exchange on Climate-Smart Livestock Breeding* in Tehran, in partnership with AREEO and the Azerbaijan Social-Ecological Research Institute, contributing to the development of a sustained expert network under the Animal Development Program.
- 15.2. IOFS participated in the *Specialized Regional Training on the Use of Drones in Desert Locust Control* held on 25–29 January 2026 in Oman, supporting efforts to reduce crop losses and prevent food crises.
- 15.3. On 13 February 2026, IOFS convened a technical consultation with veterinary authorities from Central Asia and Azerbaijan to provide regional inputs to the study on market access barriers for OIC meat exporters, in cooperation with World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).
- 15.4. On 29 June-4 July 2026, IOFS and FAO held a joint *Capacity Building Workshop on Transboundary Pests* in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. The workshop strengthened regional capacities for locust and grasshopper identification and surveillance.
- 15.5. On 8-10 September 2026, IOFS supported the FAO Central Asia Regional PPR Episystems and Regional Strategy Validation Workshop in Astana. The process validated a common framework for coordinated prevention, control and eradication of peste des petits ruminants.

16. On **Agricultural exports and food-system efficiency:**

16.1. On 4-5 November 2025, IOFS organized a study visit in Agadir, Morocco, on agri-export and irrigation innovation for Beninese delegates.

16.2. On 11 June 2026, the IOFS–IFPA *Roundtable on Kazakhstan–UAE Meat Trade and Supply Chains* was held in Almaty. Discussions focused on practical measures to facilitate meat exports from Kazakhstan to the UAE and other regional markets. Participants examined issues related to certification and compliance requirements, veterinary controls, logistics and cold-chain infrastructure, market access and investment opportunities throughout the production and distribution process.

16.3. On 15–17 July 2026, IOFS convened a *Regional Round Table on Food Loss and Waste Management in OIC Arab Member States* in Meknes, Morocco. The event, organized in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests of the Kingdom of Morocco, the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), and graciously hosted by the National School of Agriculture of Meknes (ENAM), examined post-harvest solutions, circular-economy models and regional adoption of the IOFS Food Loss and Waste Index.

17. On **country-level technical assistance:** From February to September 2026, IOFS implemented the IsDB-supported *Technical Assistance Project for Libya's National Food Security Strategy*. The project covered inception, stakeholder consultations, capacity building, report development and a validation workshop.

18. Regarding the **knowledge and innovation cooperation**, on 24-26 November 2025, IOFS co-organized with COMSTECH an *International Workshop on Knowledge and Innovation for Sustainable Food Security* in Mogadishu, Somalia. With the attendance of more than 300 experts, who throughout the workshop engaged in thematic sessions addressing agricultural sustainability, food systems and value chain development, policy and governance frameworks, climate change impacts, digital agriculture, scientific research, market linkages, and equity in food access.

E. AFRICA FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE (AFSI)

19. AFSI continued to serve as a major platform for strengthening food-security cooperation across African OIC Member States, linking technical programmes with policy dialogue, investment, research and inclusive agricultural transformation.

20. IOFS engagements were contextualized on regional policy and partnership engagement and implementation of activities to advance different areas under the purview, including livestock and value chains as follows:

- 20.1. During the *Africa Food Systems Forum* in Dakar in September 2025, IOFS participated in high-level activities focused on youth-driven resilient agriculture and held bilateral engagements with Senegal, Somalia and Niger.
- 20.2. IOFS deepened cooperation in Côte d'Ivoire through ministerial meetings and visits to the National Centre for Agronomic Research, while promoting participation in the IOFS Agricultural Academies during the working visit of the Director General in September 2025.
- 20.3. Gender-focused consultations in Nigeria and Sierra Leone in October 2025 engaged more than 380 participants and helped identify priorities for women's participation in agricultural development.
- 20.4. IOFS also contributed to water–agriculture governance discussions through co-hosted events at *Cairo Water Week* in October 2025 and the *World Water Congress* in Marrakech in December 2025.
- 20.5. On 9-12 February 2026, IOFS, IsDB, ILRI and UNDP co-organized the *Regional Workshop of the Africa Livestock Resilience Program* in Nairobi, Kenya. Representatives of 14 African OIC Member States, development partners, research institutions and private-sector stakeholders worked on a roadmap for country-level implementation.
- 20.6. On 5-6 May 2026, IOFS contributed to the *Regional Forum on Coffee Value Chain Development in Africa* in Marrakech, organized by IsDB and the African Coffee Hub. More than 100 participants from 10 countries discussed productivity, value addition, market access and investment opportunities.
- 20.7. Participation in the *20th Africa Food Systems Forum* in Kigali, Rwanda, from 2-4 September 2026 provided a platform to strengthen Africa–IOFS cooperation on food security, agricultural transformation, investment and resilient agri-food systems. IOFS held consultations with African Member States, including Nigeria and Senegal, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Africa Food Systems Forum Secretariat to establish a framework for joint activities and enable more active participation in AFSF2027.

- 20.8. On 1-3 September 2026, IOFS, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Animal Resources and Fisheries of Burkina Faso, ICESCO and AgriEdge, organized a *Regional Training Programme on Agricultural Mechanization Technologies for Strengthening Agricultural Cooperatives in West Africa*. The programme addressed shared machinery models, service centres, financing, digitalization and capacity development.

F. AFGHANISTAN FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME (AFSP)

21. On 6 May 2026, an official seed distribution ceremony was held in Mazar-i-Sharif under a joint initiative of IOFS, TICA and Afghanistan's Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. The project, titled "Enhancing Maize and Soybean Cultivation for Sustainable Development in Northern Afghanistan," aims to support 400 smallholder farmers in Balkh and Jawzjan provinces through drought-resistant maize and soybean seeds, mineral fertilizers and training in climate-smart agricultural practices. The initiative contributes to diversification, improved productivity and greater resilience to climatic pressures while strengthening cooperation with national authorities and development partners.

G. WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (WADI)

22. WADI represents IOFS's growing attention to the role of women in resilient, inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems.
23. It is implemented through different formats, including through **gender-responsive agrifood systems** study: IOFS commenced a study under WADI on "Gender-Responsive Agrifood Systems for Climate Resilience in Kazakhstan." The study assesses the role, needs and opportunities of women farmers, women entrepreneurs and women-led agribusinesses across selected regions. It covers wheat and seed production, livestock and dairy, horticulture and greenhouse production, agro-processing and agribusiness. Consultations involve women engaged in farming and agricultural businesses, as well as relevant local stakeholders. The findings are intended to provide practical recommendations and a basis for targeted projects and interventions responding to identified needs and opportunities.
24. Together with UN Women, IOFS organized a *Regional Consultation Workshop* in Astana on 15–16 October 2026 for Central Asia and Caucasus countries, with invitations extended to Arab countries. The consultation was designed to showcase the Kazakhstan study, exchange good practices and discuss regional priorities for strengthening women's participation in resilient and inclusive agrifood systems.

H. INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

25. IOFS expanded its international outreach through participation in high-level forums and the conclusion of cooperation instruments with organizations whose mandates complement food-security objectives, including

- 25.1. On 24 June 2026, IOFS participated in the *OPEC Fund Development Forum* and the 50th Golden Jubilee celebration in Vienna, contributing to dialogue on mobilizing sustainable finance for agricultural infrastructure.
- 25.2. IOFS participated in *UNCCD COP17* in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 24-28 August 2026, strengthening food-security diplomacy and cross-border partnerships addressing land degradation and drought resilience.

26. Cooperation instruments concluded

- 26.1. IOFS signed MoUs with World Food Program (WFP) on 29 October 2025 in Rome; with Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) on 30 October 2025 in Seoul; with OIC Independent Permanent Commission for Human Rights (IPHRC) on 11 December 2025 in Jeddah; with North Kazakhstan University on 17 December 2025 in Astana; with Global Crop Trust virtually on 17 February 2026; with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (EC-IFSAE) on 6 February 2026 in Astana; and with the OPEC Fund for International Development on 24 June 2026 in Vienna.
- 26.2. IOFS signed a comprehensive Joint Action Plans for 2026–2027 with the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) on 21 January 2026 in Damascus, and with Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) covering 2026–2028 on 5 February 2026 in Dubai.
- 26.3. On 5 February 2026, IOFS signed a Letter of Intent with International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

27. These instruments create channels for joint programming, technical exchange, resource mobilization, scientific cooperation, policy support and coordinated action. They also reinforce IOFS's ability to connect the Member States with global and regional institutions working on agriculture, climate resilience, food systems and sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

The achievements detailed in this progress report demonstrate IOFS's evolving capacity as a specialized operational engine for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). By consolidating its intergovernmental footprint to 43 Member States, delivering impactful technical initiatives across Central Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, and securing high-level international partnerships, the IOFS continues to translate the strategic mandates of COMCEC into tangible outcomes.

Central to this progress was the successful convening of the 7th Session of the IOFS General Assembly in May 2026 under the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan. Through the adoption of 13 landmark resolutions, including the establishment of the Morocco Regional Office, the endorsement of "IOFS-WAYA 2027", and the launch of the Food Security and Innovation Knowledge Hub, Member States established a clear, modernized roadmap for institutional growth, technological innovation, and strategic governance.

The expansion of partnerships with multilateral organizations, development funds, research institutions and regional bodies further enhanced IOFS's capacity to mobilize expertise and resources. Looking ahead, the Organisation will continue to focus on converting partnerships into joint programmes, strengthening monitoring of results, deepening Member State ownership and ensuring that food-security cooperation remains inclusive, science-based, climate-responsive and aligned with the priorities of the OIC.

Looking ahead, IOFS reaffirms its commitment to working alongside the Member States, COMCEC and all relevant OIC institutions to implement these General Assembly mandates, advance climate-resilient agricultural policies, empower rural communities, and ensure long-term food sovereignty across the OIC geography.



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