



CCO BRIEF ON AGRICULTURE

**COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE
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CCO BRIEF ON AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION

I. Introduction

Agriculture remains strategically and historically important in the OIC countries. Macro agricultural indicators, sectoral indicators and state of food security shows that that agriculture is one of the leading sectors in most OIC member countries, providing people with food, income, and employment. Even though agricultural activity in most OIC member countries has been slightly replaced by services and industrial activity over time, the significance of the agriculture sector to national economies is still undeniable.

Recently, OIC countries have improved their agricultural production performance compared to other regions. In 2000, the OIC agricultural GDP was USD 197 billion with a share of 17.53 percent of world agricultural production. In 2020, OIC agricultural GDP reached USD 655 billion with a share of 17.8 per cent of world agricultural production. This ratio increased to 20,18 per cent in 2025 as USD 958 billion. It reveals that the agricultural GDP of OIC countries increased in absolute terms in the 2000-2025 period, but its share in global agricultural GDP followed a fluctuating course and tended to decline in the long run. This suggests that OIC countries may focus on policies focused on productivity, diversification and value-added in their agricultural development strategies.

In OIC member countries, the agricultural sector still provides a high level of employment. In 2025, the agricultural employment rate of 27.72%, which is close to the world average, is due to the high rural population density, the underdevelopment of the industrial and service sectors, and the fact that agriculture continues to be a source of livelihood. The total area of the OIC Member Countries is 3.137 billion hectares, which corresponds to 24.10 percent of the total area of the world. Approximately 1.42 billion hectares, corresponding to 45.43 percent of this total land area, is used as agricultural land by OIC Member Countries. The share of agricultural land in the total land area of the OIC is above the world average of 31.65 percent. OIC member countries have a total of about 1.42 billion hectares of agricultural land, of which 318 million hectares are arable land.

However, OIC member countries face challenges in ensuring agricultural development and food security for their populations. 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 the Agriculture Working Group (AWG) was established with the strategic objective of “Increasing the productivity of the 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.

In its previous gatherings, the AWG elaborated on the above-mentioned output areas and discussed irrigation systems, on-farm and post-harvest food losses, food waste, agricultural market institutions and market information systems, agricultural inputs, livestock production and fishery, food security, and good governance for ensuring food security and nutrition.

II. Agricultural Cooperation under the COMCEC

Considering the significant resilience of agriculture sector against climate change in the OIC Member States, the COMCEC AWG devoted its Meetings in 2026 to discuss "Promoting a Resilient Agriculture Sector against Climate Change in OIC Member Countries."

A. Promoting a Resilient Agriculture Sector against Climate Change in OIC Member Countries (26th and 27th Meetings of the Agriculture Working Group)

The 26th and 27th Meetings of COMCEC Agriculture Working Group (AWG) were held on 22 April 2026 and 21-22 September 2026, respectively, with the same theme "Promoting a Resilient Agriculture Sector against Climate Change in OIC Member Countries."

In this framework, a research report, which aims to examine strengthening the resilience of agriculture sector against climate change, was prepared for enriching the discussions for two consecutive COMCEC AWG Meetings (26th and 27th). While the preliminary findings of the report were submitted to the 26th AWG Meeting, the final version of the report was submitted to the 27th h AWG Meeting.

The report assessed methods to measure resilience and identified the factors that influence the resilience of the agriculture sector against climate change in the OIC member countries and came up with some policy options to provide permanent and feasible solutions to such problems.

The report examines potential for strengthening the resilience of agriculture sector against climate change in OIC Member Countries. The report focused on the analytical and policy linkages between risk analysis, planning, and incentives, within the broader goal of strengthening climate resilience in agriculture. Among the sectors most directly affected is agriculture, given its strong dependence on climatic conditions. Climate change is placing increasing pressure on agricultural production and food systems, contributing to greater uncertainty in yields and production patterns. Such disruptions can, in turn, cause to food price volatility and pose risks to food supply security, particularly in countries where agricultural production plays a central role in the economy. These challenges are particularly compelling in low-income and agriculture-dependent economies, where exposure to climate-related risks is often high while financial, institutional, technological, and human capacities for adaptation remain comparatively limited. In such contexts, the impacts of climate change on agricultural productivity can extend well beyond the farm sector, affecting employment, household incomes, economic growth, and rural development. However, agricultural planning in many OIC Member Countries still substantially based on historical climate patterns and short-term productivity considerations. As climate variability and uncertainty increase, approaches based primarily on past climate conditions may become less effective in anticipating and managing emerging risks. A further challenge is the limited integration of systematic climate risk analysis

into agricultural planning and policy processes. Where incentive mechanisms are not sufficiently aligned with adaptation objectives, public policies may also have limited capacity to encourage farmers and agri-businesses to undertake risk-reducing investments and adopt more climate-resilient practices. Within this framework, strengthening climate resilience in the agricultural sector requires a shift from predominantly reactive approaches towards more forward-looking, risk-informed, and adaptive policy frameworks. During the 27th Meeting, the participants elaborated on the main findings of the research report and discussed the policy options to contribute to agriculture sector against climate change. In line with the discussions, the Meeting came up with a set of policy recommendations to be submitted to the COMCEC Ministerial Session for adoption as below:

- *Strengthening Early Warning, climate induced hazards and Disaster Risk Management by utilizing low-cost and accessible digital instruments and empowered local networks to deliver timely and actionable climate advisories to farmers*
- *Integrating climate-responsive agricultural development planning by leveraging dynamic risk modelling to guide investments and supporting field-level implementation tailored to local context*
- *Developing climate-conscious investment frameworks by integrating climate risk analysis into project appraisals*
- *Promoting interconnection of land, water, energy, and food systems to eliminate policy fragmentation, protect groundwater resources, and strengthen rural livelihood resilience*
- *Developing/Improving agricultural risk protection mechanisms by expanding satellite-supported insurance frameworks and utilizing targeted public premium subsidies to safeguard smallholder livelihoods*
- *Promoting climate resilient agricultural incentive mechanisms by repurposing unsustainable subsidies toward performance-based financial support, verified climate-smart practices.*

All the documents and presentations made during the 26th^h and 27th Working Group Meetings as well as the above-mentioned research report are available on the COMCEC website. (www.comcec.org)

B. 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 OIC Member Countries and should 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” have been implemented by the Gambia with partnership of Nigeria. The project aimed at improving human and institutional capacities in efficient water management in rice production in OIC member states. Within the framework of the project, a training program was conducted and officials working in this area were trained on efficient water management in rice production.

The Project titled “Capacity Building on Adopting Water-Smart Agricultural Techniques for Paddy Production in Malaysia” has been implemented by Malaysia in partnership of Egypt. The project aimed at increasing technical capacity of the researchers in Malaysia on efficient water management practices for paddy production. Within the scope of the project, a peer-to-peer experience sharing study visit to Egypt was organized. During the visit, numerous technical discussions and field observations were conducted on water-saving rice production technologies, irrigation and water management practices etc.

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 at 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” has been implemented by Pakistan with partnership of Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, SESRIC and COMSTECH. The project aimed at increasing technical capabilities of scientists and policymakers from member countries in the field of genome editing applications. Within the framework of the project, an international training program was conducted with the participation of researchers, academics, and government officials, as well as young scientists from project partners. The program strengthened capacity in plant biotechnology and CRISPR for climate-resilient agriculture and food security.

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.



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