



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



OCTOBER 2020 – ISSUE №1

FOOD SECURITY HUB

► THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO BE
HELD IN DECEMBER 2-3, 2020

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1ST EDITION IN ENGLISH



Welcoming Address by H.E. Mr. Saparkhan Omarov Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The establishment of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), a specialised institute of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation was initiated by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Leader of the Nation, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev to consolidate regional and global ways of addressing modern challenges in food security.

Despite its young age, IOFS has become an influential international organisation, headquartered in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. By now, 34 out of 56 member states of the OIC joined IOFS; the priority tasks have been defined, the strategic programmes are being developed, the relationship between the states and international organisations have been established.

Overall, the government of Kazakhstan and Ministry of Agriculture provide comprehensive support to IOFS and its programmes that aim to build a strong foundation for sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas, and promote self-sufficiency of the member states of OIC.

Considering current difficulties, it is necessary to view the issue of food security within both national and international frameworks, leaning on the principles of mutual benefit and solidarity. This emphasizes the role of IOFS in amelioration of inter-governmental interaction for ensuring food security and developing a single agrarian market of the OIC member states.

I would like to wish IOFS to achieve leadership at the international arena, yield impressive results and become a reliable partner in the development of food policies and the OIC food market.



Introduction by Director-General of IOFS

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh

I am delighted to launch the IOFS Bulletin 'Food Security Hub' as a voice and platform for discussion of food systems and food security among the OIC Member States. It is no coincidence that the bulletin arrived during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is deemed one of the biggest challenges the food systems and the food supply chain experienced in recent human history. We realized how fragile the existing global food system is and how necessary it is to strengthen it to handle the unpredictable challenges more effectively. We need to reconstruct our vision of a food system in a more environmentally friendly way and utilize technology that would allow us to minimize food loss and food waste. A food system we need must employ innovative tools to maximize the benefits of our strategic commodities and increase yields with less water and better irrigation systems.

Earlier at the pandemic, IOFS promptly responded to the crisis by unfolding its multilevel strategy to address food insecurity in the OIC Member States. In addition to the ongoing programmes on food safety and the development of the halal market, IOFS is planning to accelerate the take-off of the International Islamic Food Processing Association (IFPA). At the intra-OIC level, IOFS wishes to pursue the implementation of the various OIC agreements on free trade and investment promotion. IOFS commends the gracious efforts of the member states for hosting the meetings of Centers of Excellence on strategic commodities in Kazakhstan, the Workshop on National Gene Banks in UAE in 2020. In addition, IOFS held a series of webinars on institutional capacities and food systems, and participated in online activities with the OIC institutions on the food security and halal topics. We look forward to mobilisation of our efforts in addressing main the challenges facing the OIC region.

YERLAN A. BAIDAULET

Mali, Turkey and Pakistan ratified the Statute of IOFS in 2020

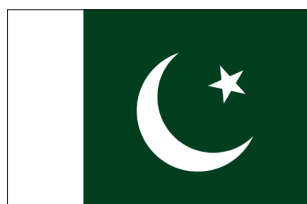
This year three IOFS member states ratified the IOFS Statute:

Republic of Mali – May 17, 2020

Islamic Republic of Pakistan – July 13, 2020

Republic of Turkey – October 22, 2020

At the moment, the IOFS Statute is ratified by 15 and signed by 34 OIC Member states.



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING (ONLINE) EVENTS

OCTOBER 14, 2020 – Meeting of Asia Group II for Wheat:
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

OCTOBER 21, 2020 – Meeting of Asia Group II for Rice:
Kazakhstan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran

OCTOBER 28, 2020 – Sixth Executive Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 4, 2020 – Meeting of Experts on ‘Food Safety and Halal Food’

NOVEMBER 9, 2020 – Meeting of Experts on ‘Food Security Reserves’

DECEMBER 2-3, 2020 – Third General Assembly

COOPERATION WITH OIC INSTITUTIONS

JULY 22, 2020 – IOFS participated in webinar arranged by the **ICCIA**: “Quantity vs. Quality”.
Enhancing the Halal Food Value Chain

JULY 27, 2020 – IOFS participated in Virtual Meeting on “Water Security for Peace & Development in the Islamic World: Preparation for the 9th World Water Forum, Dakar 2021” with **ICESCO**

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 – 15th Meeting of Agriculture Working Group Meeting with **COMCEC**

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 – Steering Committee for the 2nd Ministerial Meeting with **COMSTECH**

Preparing report for the Sub-Committee of Annual Coordination Meeting of OIC Institutions (ACMOI) on Finance, Development and Private Sector (FISEPS)

IsDB Taskforce for cooperation on IOFS Programmes from 7th October 2020

Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIIC), the 9th Session of OIC-StatCom from 28th September to 1st October 2020.

The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC): Review of Halal and food safety concept note of IOFS.

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
H.E. MR. KASSYM-JOMART TOKAYEV

AT THE 75TH SESSION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2020:

“Restoring the previous pace of joint work within the framework of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals will require prompt and well-coordinated steps. In this context, the next 10 years are critical for our generation. The fundamental goal – a complete eradication of hunger across the globe must be achieved unconditionally. In this regard, we note the importance of convening the Food Systems Summit in 2021. The Islamic Organization for Food Security, established upon the initiative of Kazakhstan, is eager to provide comprehensive support in the development of food reserves to implement a large-scale international humanitarian campaign.”

OUR PROGRAMMES

The Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) runs a number of strategic programmes aimed at strengthening food security in the IOFS/OIC member states and intensifying South-South cooperation in agriculture, rural development and trade.

The programmes seek to address various global food security challenges facing most OIC member states, such as increased hunger, malnutrition and food deficit, low investment in agriculture, economic and political crises, natural and man-made disasters, poor and dilapidated infrastructure, archaic and inefficient agricultural production methods, among many others.

CURRENT PROGRAMMES:	NEW PROGRAMMES (TO BE ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN DECEMBER 2-3, 2020):
1-3. OIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC COMMODITIES (WHEAT, CASSAVA, RICE	1. DEVELOPMENT OF PALM OIL
4. OIC FOOD SECURITY RESERVES	2. GRAIN FUND
5. INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC FOOD PROCESSING ASSOCIATION	3. TRANSBOUNDARY PEST CONTROL MANAGEMENT
6. DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL GENE BANKS	4. FOOD SECURITY GOVERNANCE
7. FOOD HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME «FLOUR FOR HUMANITY»	5. FOOD HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME «QURBANI MEAT»
8. FOOD SAFETY AND HALAL FOOD DEVELOPMENT	6. NATIONAL FOOD SECTORS DEVELOPMENT IN COOPERATION WITH STATE INVESTMENT AGENCIES
9. IOFS FOOD BALANCE DATABASE	7. WATER MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE

Organizational Structure of IOFS

In October 2020, the Secretariat of IOFS was restructured and organised into three offices for better efficiency, accountability and operation. Those are the **COUNTRY & PROTOCOL OFFICE**, the **PROGRAMS & PROJECT OFFICE** and the **CABINET**. The offices are headed by relevant Directors who allocate tasks and supervise the personnel.

The **PROJECT OFFICE** was formed to build the institutional and operational capacities of the subsidiary entities. The Project Office is needed to conduct pre-study of endeavours or other initiatives and play the role of a think-tank to tailor further operationalization of any opportunistic entity under IOFS umbrella. The Project Office is envisaged to link the IOFS programs into the real economy and various food industries through founding and structuring far-reaching special purpose vehicles or projects. It also provides due diligence and viability research upon those initiatives along with international consulting firms in order to go for the right dimensions and take the right decisions from the starting point in order to ramp-up food industry potentials across the OIC throughout value-chain and supply-chain lines.

The **PROGRAM MANAGERS** run the strategic programs of IOFS, while the Country Liaison Officers establish, maintain and coordinate relations between IOFS and the member states. The Cabinet consists of the Finance Manager, Accountant, Legal Counsel, Marketing Officer and Office Manager.

The **DIRECTOR-GENERAL** remains the highest authority in the Secretariat and controls the activities of all subordinate organs.

Sheikh Bilal Khan



Sheikh Bilal Khan MBA is a new member of the IOFS team, who leads the Project Office. A Pakistani citizen, business leader, lawyer, arbitrator/judge and former Chief Islamic Finance Officer at the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC). Sheikh Bilal is involved in many geo-strategic projects in different parts of the world including the United Kingdom and other regions, namely Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East including the GCC. He is globally respected in Western markets as a leading personality and in the Asian and Arab markets as an award-winning Sheikh.

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS



The Islamic Organization for Food Security hired a number of international consultants to lead and guide the Project Office.

LATTANZIO ADVISORY, ANALYTICAL CENTER OF ECONOMIC POLICY IN THE AGRO-INDUSTRY (ACEPAS) and **UNICASE** assist IOFS with the institutional development of the organisation, analyse challenges and the strategic programmes, give recommendations on improvement. The consultants operate within the IsDB technical grant.

DINAR STANDARD is a well-known international company that is preparing a robust business plan about the establishment of IFPA that will engage and facilitate private sector-led trade and food security across the OIC.

A working meeting on development of Halal food industry in Kazakhstan held at headquarters of IOFS

12 FEBRUARY 2020
NURSULTAN, KAZAKHSTAN

On 12 February, a meeting on development of halal industry was held at IOFS headquarters. The representatives of Ministry of Trade and Integration, Ministry of Agriculture, the Kazakhstani Institute of Standardization and Certification, Atameken and Halal Damu LLP under the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan attended the meeting.

Director-General of IOFS Mr. Yerlan Baidaulet spoke about the need to coordinate efforts of all interested parties in the implementation of an effective halal-standardized system in Kazakhstan. IOFS offered to assist in the development of the industry at both national and regional levels through the exchange of experience, training, and consultations with renowned experts and events. IOFS unites efforts with structures of OIC such as IsDB group, SMICC, ICCIA, Fikh Academy.



Second Brainstorming Session on OIC Comprehensive Reform

24 FEBRUARY 2020
DHAKA, BANGLADESH

The IOFS delegation led by H.E. Mr. Yerlan Baidaulet, Director-General, accompanied by Mr. Nursalim Suleimenov, Legal Counsel, participated at the Second Brainstorming Session on the Comprehensive Reform of OIC held in Dhaka, the People's Republic on February 19-20, 2020. The Session took place in follow-up to the implementation of Resolution 11/45-LO of the 45th CFM (Dhaka, 5-6 May 2018), which recommended to hold two brainstorming sessions, and in furtherance to resolution 8/46-LO of the 46th CFM (Abu Dhabi, 1-2 March 2019). 35 Member States and 10 OIC organs attended the session.

The Chairman of the session representing the OIC, H.E. Ambassador Yusuf bin Muhammad Al-Dobeay, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, highlighted the importance of this session as it collects the ideas and views for further reforming the governance of OIC while explaining the vision of GS on future of OIC.

The session was co-chaired by esteemed Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Bangladesh and revolved around three main topics: Politics, culture and economics; Finance and administration; Structural and organizational issues.

THE OUTCOME OF THIS BRAINSTORM SESSION:

The participation of IOFS at the Second Brainstorming Session on the Comprehensive Reform of OIC gave Director-General the opportunity to review the mainstream, administrative and legal challenges of the OIC and share his vision on further reform upon governance of OIC.

- Similarly, the side meetings of DG of IOFS with the officials of the People's Republic of Bangladesh stimulated IOFS to cooperate with the member state more closely; ensured wide support of IOFS programmes and built new relations with the state within the framework of public, research and business establishments.
- Director-General of IOFS presented the foundation of an advanced and well-structured system of national food security and its brief history.
- Bangladesh revealed its huge agricultural potential in rural development, trade and economic domains and demonstrated commitment to any kind of intra-OIC interaction.

'IFPA: Export Promotion and Investment Opportunities' Webconference Promotes intra-OIC Trade

28 MAY 2020
NUR-SULTAN, KAZAKHSTAN

On May 28, 2020, IOFS organised a videoconference 'IFPA: Export Promotion and Investment Opportunities' to introduce its IFPA programme to major representatives of the Kazakhstani food industry. The objective of the conference was to examine and elaborate methods aimed at the development of the Kazakhstani segment of IFPA.

IFPA is a transcontinental association of investors, entrepreneurs, major agricultural producers, processors and professional unions that would work collaboratively towards the development of the food industry and food security. IFPA would enable a favourable environment for the growth of international intra-OIC food trade, facilitate networking within trade corridors and advance the supply food chain with higher value-added products. The IFPA members would also be able to exchange information and experience on innovative technologies and scientific research in the food industry. Furthermore, the membership in IFPA would facilitate access to financing instruments and market of the OIC countries.



5-6 JUNE 2020

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Workshop on Development of National Gene Banks Proposes Innovative Methods of Increasing Biodiversity in OIC Member States

مجلس الإمارات للأمن الغذائي
EMIRATES FOOD SECURITY COUNCIL



The virtual Workshop on the Development of National Gene Banks in the member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was conducted online on July 5-6, 2020 under the chairmanship of the UAE. The list of participants included over 160 experts and representatives from 30 member states of OIC institutions and 10 international organisations.

The Workshop participants examined various issues of the development, conservation and exchange of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture intending to promote strong and resilient food systems in the OIC member states. The Workshop sought to encourage OIC members to employ modern scientific methods to build a more robust food value chain and increase the resiliency of food systems and crops. The stimulation and coordination of national actions for the acquisition, sustainable utilisation and sharing of plant and animal genetic resources would increase food production and agricultural development in the OIC countries and help fight malnutrition and hunger.

To achieve its goals, the Workshop proposed a number of international initiatives to preserve and facilitate agricultural biodiversity.

Given the newfound popularity of the traditional Islamic finance instruments such as wakf (endowment), the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS) called for the creation of a **SEED WAKF** as an endowment fund by net-worth philanthropists, which could support research and development of new stress-tolerant varieties of crops, and physical infrastructure for conservation and exchange.

The Workshop also submitted a proposal to establish a **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE** with membership from member states, private sector and national Gene Banks or research institutions. The Committee would oversee the implementation of action plans and related issues, in collaboration with the IOFS Executive Board and Secretariat.

The IOFS praised the role of the key partners of the Workshop, namely the OIC General Secretariat, COMSTEC, IsDB, ICBA, ICARDA and FAO, and called on the more endowed and experienced member states to share their expertise and know-how in the Gene Bank field through the instrumentality of sub-regional Centers of Excellence.

The Workshop was held in line with the OIC Agenda on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI Agenda 2026), the OIC Agenda 2025, and within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

DUBAI DECLARATION

ISSUED AT THE END OF THE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL GENE BANKS IN OIC MEMBER STATES, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

“ ” *We examined and elaborated on the various issues relating to the development, conservation and exchange of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture in all their ramifications, with a view to promoting strong and resilient food systems in OIC member states and confront the various challenges confronting lives and livelihood of our teeming populations.*

We underscored the importance of regional and international collaboration to ensure strong participation of OIC member states in the numerous international efforts to promote conservation and exchange of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including the utilisation of modern scientific methods for the promotion and development of a robust food value chain.

We called on the governing organs of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security to adopt relevant resolutions in line with the outcome of this Workshop, including creation of a Technical Committee with membership from member states, private sector and national gene banks to oversee the regional cooperation on the development of Gene Banks in OIC member states.

Finally, we expressed our appreciation to all resource persons and rapporteurs for the quality of their presentations, which contributed to the success of the Workshop.

For full details, please visit www.iofs.org.kz/page/dubai-declaration

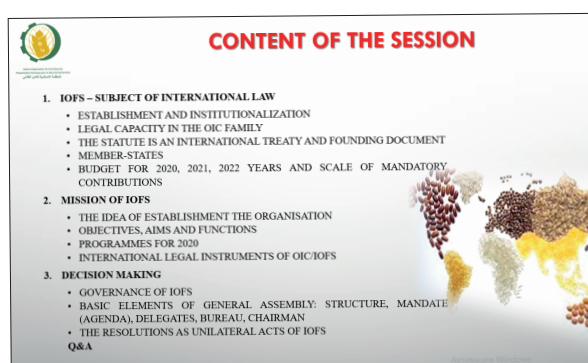
IOFS WEBINARS

JUNE 2020

The pandemic prompted many institutions around the globe to organise online events to disclose various aspects of their activities. IOFS started its own webinar series too to explore its vision on food security in the member countries.

'IOFS from Legal and Institutional Perspective'

10 JUNE 2020



The first webinar was organised by the IOFS Legal Counsel Mr. Nursalim Suleimenov on June 10.

The webinar focused on major juridical and institutional aspects of the IOFS activity intending to facilitate solid understanding of the objectives, goals and functions of the IOFS, its programmes, budget and organizational governance. Mr. Suleimenov explained in detail the institutionalization processes of IOFS, its legal instruments and the Statute, upon which the IOFS grounds its work. He stated that at present, only 15 out of 34 member states ratified the Statute with Mali being the most recent one. The webinar was opened by the welcoming speech of IOFS Deputy Director-General, Hameed Opeloyeru, who called on the Muslim world to unite and leverage its vast resources to overcome hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. The session was closed by final remarks of IOFS Director-General, who stressed the value of south-south cooperation in the food security domain.

Building More Resilient Food Systems in OIC States: One Step Forward

24 JUNE 2020



The second webinar 'Building More Resilient Food Systems in OIC States: One Step Forward' was launched on June 24, 2020 by Dr. Ismail Abdelhamid, the IOFS Adviser on Research and Technology.

He spoke about the exceptional challenges that the food systems around the world faced this year, namely the pandemic and severe locust outbreaks in some of the OIC countries. The challenges exposed the vulnerabilities of the food supply chains and exacerbated hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity worldwide. Thus, food security is becoming increasingly important and the need for stronger, more resilient food systems more apparent. Dr. Abdelhamid stresses that strong collaboration between the OIC countries, OIC partner institutions and international organizations is essential for achieving food security. The presentation illustrates case studies from OIC Member countries. The webinar also raised discussions on food security measures taken by the OIC institutions. The webinar praised the OIC efforts to help cushion the pandemic effects as the International Trade Finance Corporation allocated \$850 mln. In turn, the IsDB established a special Strategic Preparedness and Response Facility worth \$730 million to mitigate the negative socioeconomic impact of the pandemic.

IOFS and ICCIA sign a Joint Action Plan for Sustainable Food Security

27 JULY 2020



The COVID-19 situation around the world showed that it is important to be able to maintain and strengthen cooperation on a sustainable food supply chain. For this purpose, a Joint Action Plan for sustainable food security was signed today, on July 27, by the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCA).

The signing ceremony took place following the results of the International video conference 'Development of a single market of food products with added value in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member states.' Director General of the IOFS Yerlan Baidaulet noted in his speech the need for cooperation between the business sector and agriculture ministries of Islamic countries.

"We should develop the food industry by developing a single value-added food market in the IOFS/OIC countries. Among the business structures of these countries, we need to create favorable conditions for expanding mutual trade, attracting Islamic finance, and increasing exports and imports. We also need to establish a system of production, processing and certification of organic and halal products in order to increase food supplies to Islamic countries with the

aim to activate our own agricultural production and reduce post-harvest losses of products," Baidaulet said.

He also stressed that the IOFS supported the initiative of Kazakhstan to establish the Islamic Food Processing Association (IFPA), which was announced by Kazakh Minister of Agriculture Saparkhan Omarov at the second session of the IOFS General Assembly in August 2019 that was held in Jeddah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where the Resolution on the establishment of the IFPA was adopted.

"The Islamic Organization for Food Security invited the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCA under OIC) to a strategic partnership to implement the main objectives of the IFPA and create effective mechanisms for interaction between the private and public sectors," Baidaulet added.

The main task of the IFPA is to create favorable conditions for the development of the food industry of the IOFS/OIC member states by addressing the legislative and regulatory issues at the interstate level with the aim to expand mutual trade, attract Islamic finance, exchange information, as well as establish mutually beneficial contacts and solve transport and logistic issues.

More than 50 participants took part in the event, including Kazakh Agriculture Minister Saparkhan Omarov and the ICCIA Secretary General Yousef Hassan Khalawi. All meeting participants supported the proposed initiatives.



The Islamic Organization for Food Security expresses sincere congratulations to its partner – the World Food Programme for winning the Nobel Peace Prize 2020. It is indeed a humbling recognition of the noble and extremely dangerous work the WFP staff does to combat hunger and alleviate lives of millions of people in conflict-affected areas.