

## Training Course on “Application of Advanced Technology for the Enhancement of Cotton Productivity”

### Welcoming Remarks

Director General of SESRIC

H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualikom, and Very Good Morning

- I am pleased to welcome you all to this training course on “Application of Advanced Technology for the Enhancement of Cotton Productivity”, which we at SESRIC are proud to organize it online due to the difficult times that our member countries and the world at large are living because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- At the outset, I would like to extend my deep thanks to Prof. Idrees Ahmad Naser, from the Centre for Excellence in Molecular Biology of Pakistan for accepting our invitation to provide this important training course online for the benefit of participants from the Agricultural Research Institute (IIAM) and the Cotton Research and Seed Multiplication Centre of Namialo (CIMSAN) of Mozambique. We thank him for designating 5 days from his valuable time for this purpose.
- My thanks are also extended to Dr. Antonio Chamuene, Director General of the Agricultural Research Institute (IIAM) of Mozambique for accepting our proposal to organize this training course for the benefit of staff from both the Agricultural Research Institute (IIAM) and the Cotton Research and Seed Multiplication Centre of Namialo (CIMSAN) through distance learning.
- We at SESRIC have initially planned as usual to organize this training course physically through sending the expert (Prof. Idrees Ahmad Naser) to

Mozambique. However, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and in attempt to responding to this extraordinary situation, we preferred not to wait for another future postponed date. Therefore, today I am glad to initiate our first training course to be conducted through a distance-learning platform for the first time in the history of our Centre.

- As you all know, cotton is one of the most important agricultural commercial commodities in many OIC Member Countries, where some of which are amongst the world's largest producers. Recognizing the significant role of Cotton in the economic growth and development in many of our Member Countries, we, at SESRIC, have initiated many years ago the "OIC Cotton Training Programme" with the aim of enhancing technical cooperation among the OIC Member States in the field of cotton through facilitating the transfer and exchange of knowledge and experience among the national Cotton Institutions using different training and capacity building modalities, such as training courses, study visits and training workshops.
- Within the framework of this capacity building programme, I believe that this training course, which aims to provide insights into the role of advance technologies in improving cotton cultivation and the effect of biotic and a-biotic stresses on cotton crop, will make a positive impact and add value to the work and experience of your Esteemed Centres.
- Before concluding, I would like to thank you all once again and wish you a fruitful exchange of experiences and a successful training throughout the upcoming days.

Thank you Wassalamoalikom.