

Third General Assembly Meeting of Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS)

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Address by

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

It is a great pleasure for me to address the 3rd General Assembly Meeting of the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS). At the outset, I avail myself of this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey for hosting this important meeting.

As a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, SESRIC is looking forward to further enhance its cooperation with the IOFS and together contribute to the joint action towards addressing the wide spread challenges of our Member States in the areas of food security and agricultural development.

In line with its mandate, SESRIC is undertaking various activities and implementing programmes in the areas of statistics, research, and training, aiming to sustain stability, unlock the development potentials and enhance institutional and human capacities in our member countries.

As a response to the evolving needs of OIC member countries over the past four decades, our Centre proved capable in guiding policy making process and achieving practical results in a wide range of socio-economic areas and field in our member countries.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to share with you a very brief snapshot of what SESRIC is doing in areas supportive to the goals and objectives of the IOFS.

- SESRIC is hosting and managing the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat), the first and only international official statistics repository on the OIC member countries with more than 1,134 indicators under 25 categories including 205 indicators related to agriculture, water and environment.**
- Furthermore, SESRIC contributes to the efforts of the member countries towards developing and enhancing the technical**

capacities of their National Statistics Offices by organizing statistical training courses on agriculture, food security, water resources and environment sectors including climate change.

- Being the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission, the only OIC official cooperation fora in the domain of statistics, SESRIC also facilitates the discussions for cooperation and sharing of experiences among the NSOs of OIC member countries concerning the up-to-date international statistical agenda in the domain of food security and agriculture development such as the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture 2020, Food Balance Sheets, and Generating SDGs Indicators from Agriculture Census Data.
- SESRIC also conducts research in agriculture, food security, water and environment related issues for the OIC member countries, with a view to analysing the current situation and suggesting the appropriate policy actions that need to be taken in order to face the challenges and strengthen the intra-Islamic cooperation for sustainable development of agricultural and food sector.
- In the area of research, we have recently prepared the 2020 edition of our regular and comprehensive report on

"Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries", the technical background document, which will be submitted to the upcoming 8th Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agriculture Development.

- **SESRIC has also contributed to the production of the OIC Plan of Action on Development of Strategic Commodities (Wheat, Cassava and Rice) by providing research inputs and analysis on production, consumption and trade in these three strategic commodities.**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

- **SESRIC has achieved meaningful results by the successful implementation of many training and technical cooperation activities through its capacity building programs on agriculture, cotton, water and environment. These programmes and activities provided a platform to the OIC member countries to work together and share their best practices and technical expertise with each other to attain higher socio-economic development.**
- **Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, holding physical training courses and capacity building activities were not feasible anymore. In order to respond to this extraordinary situation, SESRIC**

undertook the necessary preparations to utilize the available digital platforms for conducting its training and technical cooperation related activities and programmes.

- In this regard, I am pleased to inform your august Assembly that, we have, so far, successfully organised 4 online training courses and 2 training workshops within the framework of our capacity building programme on agriculture, water and environment with the participation of more than 130 trainees from 15 OIC member countries.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Against this backdrop, I would like to underline that our activities and programmes in the domain of agriculture, food security, water and environment are well aligned with various action plans of IOFS. And this commonality of goals offers a unique opportunity to streamline our agendas and work together for the socio-economic prosperity of our member countries.

I strongly believe that based on our experience in collecting and disseminating statistical data, SESRIC could support the IOFS in the enhancement of their Food Balance Database. Furthermore, SESRIC can also collaborate with the IOFS to conduct research on topics of mutual interest related to food security and agriculture

development. We are ready, at SESRIC, to welcome any of your proposals for joint activities to further consolidate the existing SESRIC-IOFS collaboration.

Before concluding, I would like to express once again our readiness at SESRIC to strengthen our cooperation and partnership with the IOFS and all other relevant OIC institutions, national, regional, and international organizations to support the efforts of our member countries in the domain of food security and agriculture development.

Thank you for your kind attention!

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته