

**International Conference on “Best Practices for Building Sustainable
Food Systems in the OIC Region”**

Organized virtually by IOFS on 14 July 2021

Address by

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

It is a great pleasure for me to address this important Conference, which is organizing by IOFS on one of the most important challenging issues for the OIC Member Countries in the domain of food security and agricultural development. I really congratulate the IOFS for organizing this Conference and thanking them for inviting SESRIC to participate in it.

As a subsidiary organ of the OIC, SESRIC is looking forward to further enhance its cooperation with the IOFS and together contribute to the OIC-joint action towards addressing the challenges of our MCs in the areas of food security and agricultural development, particularly through implementing sustainable food and agricultural practices in the OIC region.

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 MCs.

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 theme of this Conference, building sustainable food systems in the OIC region.

- **In the area of statistics, SESRIC is hosting and managing the OIC Statistics Database (OIC-Stat), the first and only international official statistics repository on the OIC MCs with 1,375 socio-economic indicators under 26 categories including 169 indicators related to agriculture development, including food security, water and environment.**

- **Furthermore, SESRIC contributes to the efforts of the MCs towards developing and enhancing the technical capacities of their National Statistics Offices (NSOs) by organizing statistical training courses on agriculture, food security, water resources and environment sectors including climate change.**

- **An example of this is the Training Workshop on “Compilation and Analysis of National Food Balance Sheets in OIC Countries”, which we will organise in collaboration with FAO in October this year.**

- **In the area of research, we have recently published 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.**

- **The report presents an in-depth analysis of the most recent trends in agriculture and food security in the OIC region. Following my short remarks, our Researcher Dr. Fahman will make a brief presentation on the main findings of this report.**

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

- **This year, SESRIC will also prepare and publish two important reports on relevant important issues, namely the OIC Environment Report 2021 and the OIC Water Report 2021.**

- **In the area of training and capacity building, SESRIC continued to implement specific training and capacity building activities within the framework of its capacity building programs on agriculture, cotton, water resources management, and environment. These activities facilitate the exchanging and sharing the knowledge, experiences and best practices among the MCs in these important areas.**

- **Just to mention the most recent examples since the beginning of this year, we have organised 2 online training courses, 1 training workshop and 1 webinar within the framework of our capacity building programmes on agriculture and food security, water, environment, and Statistics with the participation of 152 experts and professionals from 27 OIC MCs.**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, I would like to underline that our activities and programmes in the domain of agriculture, food security, water and environment are well aligned with the main action plans and programs of the IOFS. This commonality of goals offers a unique opportunity to streamline our agendas and work together to build Sustainable Food Systems in our member countries.

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 MCs in building Sustainable Food Systems in the OIC Region.

Now, with your permission Mr. Moderator, I would like to give the floor for our Researcher Dr. Fahman to make in few minutes a brief presentation on the main findings of SESRIC Report on “Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries”.

Thank you for your kind attention!

و السلام عليكم و رحمة الله و بركاته