

**Training Course on “Developing Livestock Production and
Animal Husbandry to Foster Food Security”**

20 May 2021, 11:00 AM Turkey Time

Opening Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR

Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Very Good Day to All of You

I am pleased to welcome you all to this Training Course on “Developing Livestock Production and Animal Husbandry to Foster Food Security”, which we are organising within the framework of SESRIC’s Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme. Thank you for accepting our invitation and designating your valuable time to participate virtually in this important training course.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E Dato' Dr. Norlizan Bin MOHD NOOR, Director General, Department of Veterinary Services at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries of Malaysia, for accepting our invitation and nominating competent experts to provide the training for the benefit of participants from relevant national authorities responsible for agricultural development and food security in the OIC member countries.

We are organising this online training course with a view to supporting and contributing to the efforts of our member countries towards enhancing the technical capacities of their human resources on livestock management, including good animal husbandry practices, certification, meat inspection and auditing processes during this critical time in which the global food supply chains are adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dear Participants,

During the last few decades, the rapid growth in technological innovation has led to significant structural changes in the global livestock sector, including, among others, the movement from smallholder mixed farms to large-scale specialized industrial production systems. This, in turn, has led to a shift in the demand and supply in the developing countries and an increasing emphasis on global sourcing and marketing.

These changes have resulted in positive implications for the ability of the livestock sector to, sustainably; expand production in ways that promote food security, poverty reduction and public health.

According to the last year's edition of SESRIC report titled "Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries", OIC countries, as a group, have witnessed a significant increase in the production of livestock products in the last two decades. During the period 2000-2018, production of meat, milk and eggs in OIC countries increased by 85%, 69% and 98%, respectively. Accordingly, the share of OIC countries in the global production of livestock has also increased to 13% in 2018, compared to 11.0% in 2000.

However, according to FAO latest data, almost 48% of the total population of the OIC countries are still suffering food insecurity-related problems. In particular, the state of food insecurity is critical in some OIC countries, which are experiencing internal conflicts and displaced population, pest/locust swarms, and extreme weathers such as drought and heat wave. For example, several OIC countries in East Africa are currently fighting to control the desert locust swarms' outbreak, which threatens the agriculture sector and thus food security in the region.

In addition to these threats, the unprecedented situation since March of the last year, due to COVID-19 pandemic, has seriously affected food and agriculture systems in almost all countries around the world. Negative impacts were seen on agriculture production and consumption chains, which caused food price volatility in the market and thus exacerbated the pressure on food security.

Distinguished Participants,

Considering the importance of agricultural development in the OIC member countries and its impacts on food security, employment, alleviating poverty and eradicating hunger, SESRIC initiated its Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme (Agri-CaB) in 2012 in order to support and contribute to the efforts of our member countries towards achieving their national sustainable agricultural development and food security targets.

Within the framework of this programme, we have, so far, organized many capacity building training activities to enhance the institutional and human resources capacities of the relevant national institutions in our member countries covering a wide range of subjects such as efficient techniques of land, water and livestock management, fisheries and aquaculture and food security.

I believe that this training course will make a positive impact and add value to the work and experience of all the participants through familiarising them with the livestock management processes and good practices of Malaysia.

Before concluding, I would like to state that, as SESRIC, we are very glad to collaborate with the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries of Malaysia. We trust their vast experience in this field, and we look forward to furthering our collaboration with them in the future.

Thanking you once again, I wish you fruitful discussions and productive exchange of experiences throughout the upcoming days.

Thank you all for your kind attention. والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته