

Training Course on “Food Waste Reduction”

10-12 August 2021, 9:00 AM Turkey Time

Opening Statement of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR

Director General of SESRIC

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Excellences, Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

السّلام علیکم ورحمة الله وبرکاته

Very Good Day to all of you

I am pleased to welcome you all to the training course on “Food Waste Reduction”, which we are organising within the framework of SESRIC’s Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme (Agri-CaB).

Let me, at the outset, express my sincere thanks and appreciation to H.E. Dato' Dr. Mohamad Abdul GHANI, Director General of Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute and H.E. Mr. Tuan Haji Ismail Bin MOKHTAR, CEO of the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation of Malaysia for accepting our invitation to collaborate with SESRIC in this training opportunity. We highly appreciate the technical contribution of both institutions through the nomination of competent experts to deliver this important training course.

We are delighted to organise this training course, which carries great importance at the individual and national levels not only due to the impact of food loss and waste on the state of food security, but also due to the multidimensional effect of this issue, which includes, among others, the environmental impact through the pressure on the natural resources, and, ultimately, the consequences on the economy as a whole.

Dear Participants,

The increasing growth in world population and scarcity of renewable resources are raising concerns about various crises worldwide. In this context, food insecurity stands as a serious challenge to many countries around the world, including many of the OIC member countries.

According to the latest SESRIC report on Agriculture and Food Security in OIC member countries, being a substantial part of the developing countries, the OIC countries are no exception from prevalence of undernourishment. In 2018, the OIC member countries were a home of almost 176 million undernourished people (i.e., 10.5% of the total population of the OIC member countries), and that is corresponding to 26% of the world's total undernourished people.

Given this state of affairs, the efficient management and control of food loss and waste become, among others, a crucial issue to be considered in the efforts of the OIC member countries towards improving their state of food security level.

According to the FAO, nearly one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally, which amounts to about 1.3 billion tonnes per year. The global dilemma of food loss and waste could be controlled and addressed at both micro and macro levels by adopting pertinent policies and raising awareness.

The responsibility falls on the shoulders of all stakeholders, including consumers, manufacturers and governments, through collective efforts towards achieving more sustainable patterns of production and consumption to ensure more food for all, better livelihood, and economic growth.

It is worth mentioning here that through wise management of food loss at harvest level and early stages of the supply chain and shifting the behavioural norms of the consumers away from waste, communities can positively contribute to two SDGs. These are SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption).

This would also contribute to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the negative environmental impact on food that are threatening our planet and the sustainability of the food sector.

Dear participants,

Within the scope of its mandated areas of statistics, research and training, our Centre (SESRIC) has, over the years, initiated and implemented many programmes and activities in the domain of Agriculture development and Food Security for the benefit of the OIC member countries.

Mainly, within the framework of our Agriculture and Food Security Capacity Building Programme, we have been, for almost two decades, organising training courses, training workshops, and study visits on various technical aspects related to agriculture sector development.

In so doing, we believe that we contribute to the efforts of our member countries towards enhancing the human and institutional capacities of their institutions working in the domain of agriculture thorough facilitating the exchange and sharing of knowledge, experience and best practices among the relevant national institutions in the member countries.

SESRIC also prepares various technical background reports and research studies to analyse the current situation of agriculture and food security at the OIC level and to suggest appropriate policy actions that need to be taken to face the challenges and strengthen the intra-OIC cooperation in this domain.

Dear Participants,

One of the lessons that we have learned from the coronavirus pandemic is that pursuing joint action and demonstrating intra-OIC solidarity is needed more than ever before to create a broader impact, address our common challenges, and catch up with global developments.

We at SESRIC spare no effort towards the continuation of our role in facilitating the transfer of knowledge and experience among our member countries through various south-south cooperation modalities. We look forward to furthering our collaboration with MARDI, SWCorp and other relevant national authorities towards assisting our member countries in achieving better food security levels.

I believe that this training course, which aims to provide insights on how to manage and control food loses and waste along the production and supply chains and at the consumption level, will make a positive impact and add value to the work and experience of all the participants.

I am confident that the Malaysian experience in converting food waste into compost and animal feed would enlighten the participants and guide them towards wiser use of resources and innovative recycling solutions.

Before concluding, I would like to seize this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Hijri New Year, hoping that it would bring peace, prosperity and blessings to the Islamic Ummah and the world at large.

Thank you all once again. I wish you a fruitful exchange of experiences and successful training throughout the upcoming days.

و السلام عليكم و رحمة الله و بركاته