



Organisation of Islamic Cooperation  
STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH  
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES  
"Cooperation for Development"



## **Fourth General Assembly Meeting of Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS)**

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Address by

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

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

السلام علیکم ورحمة الله وبرکاته

**It is a great pleasure for me to address the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting this important meeting and inviting SESRIC to participate.**

**I would also like to congratulate and welcome the new Chairman of the IOFS General Assembly H.E. Mr. Yerbol Karashukeyev, Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Kazakhstan and commend the outgoing Chairman H.E. Dr. Bekir Pakdemirli, Minister of**

Agriculture and Forestry, Republic of Turkey, for successfully steering the IOFS, with remarkable results that are reflected here.

As a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, SESRIC is looking forward to further strengthening its cooperation with the IOFS and contributing 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 development potential, and enhance institutional and human capacities 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.

- **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 member countries 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 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 environmental 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", which will be submitted to the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agriculture Development.
- Furthermore, the Centre also published the OIC Water Report 2021, which, among others, emphasized the important link between the agriculture and water sector in the OIC region.

- **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.**
- **This year, we will also publish another important relevant report, namely the OIC Environment Report 2021.**
- **SESRIC has also 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 activities facilitate the exchanging and sharing of the knowledge, experiences and best practices among our 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,**

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. This commonality of goals offers a unique opportunity to streamline our agendas and work together for the socio-economic prosperity of our member countries.

In this regard, SESRIC held two virtual coordination meetings with the IOFS in February this year to further discuss and evaluate opportunities for technical cooperation in common mandated areas of food security and agricultural development.

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 MCs in the domain of food security and agriculture development.

Thank you for your kind attention!

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته