



العرفة الإسلامية للتجارة والصناعة والزراعة
Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture
La Chambre Islamique de Commerce, d'Industrie et d'Agriculture



Islamic Organization for Food Security
l'Organisation Islamique pour la Sécurité Alimentaire
المنظمة الإسلامية للأمن الغذائي

CONCEPT NOTE ON CREATION OF AN ISLAMIC FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION (IFPA)

Introduction

Developing competitive agro-industries is crucial for the generating employment and income opportunities in majority of IOFS member states, considering the fact that more than 52% of the OIC and indeed IOFS populations live in rural areas and depend on agriculture. Potentially, agro-industrialisation presents valuable opportunities and benefits for OIC countries, in terms of overall processes of industrialization and economic development, export performance, food safety and quality. However, full potentials of agro-industries as engine for economic development has not yet been realized in many OIC countries. This potential could be used advantageously to achieve multiple goals such as increased income for farmers, rural industrialization, rural employment, better quality products to consumers, and indeed eradicating post-harvest losses. The latter problem has continued to pose a serious challenge to the socio-economic development in IOFS member states.

2. To address these issues, the Forum on Development of Agro-Food Industries in OIC Member States was organized in Kampala, Uganda on 11-12 October 2011. The Forum recommended, among other issues, the establishment of an Agro-Industrial Association that would promote agribusiness and a value-chain approach to agricultural development in OIC countries.

Rationale for the Creation of IFPA

3. In the line with the various demarches of the OIC on preventing post-harvest losses and developing an intra-OIC mechanism for a value-chain development of the agro-food sector, a consultative meeting was also held in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman on 14 May 2013.

4. The recommendations of the Forum held in Uganda centered mainly on the following:

- Enhancing intra-OIC investment in agro-food processing sector as well as creating a dedicated fund for agro-industrial development within the existing IsDB funding windows for agricultural development;

- Governments should encourage creation of platforms for grassroots participation in the agricultural policy advocacy and access to investment funds through the formation of farmers' cooperatives and similar formal farming communities;
- Addressing the constraints of inadequate farm inputs through popularizing micro-leasing and similar financing mechanisms;
- Ensuring that research, extension, educational and farmers' institutions offer skills that are relevant to the needs of farming communities, including necessity for transfer of those technologies, which are appropriate and relevant to existing conditions and realities of the farming population;
- Conducting a comprehensive study on modalities for the creation of an agro-Industrial association within the OIC system and determine the specific activities and priorities for public-private partnership among the various stakeholders within the OIC system for the promotion of agro-industrial development;
- Supporting research that will enhance the development of agri-food industries in OIC member states; and
- Developing effective mechanisms to promote access to credit and markets within the framework of the OIC Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC).

5. Similarly, the Muscat Consultative Meeting on this issue:

- considered the various presentations made on activities relating to the mandate of the proposed Association. They particularly put emphasis on the need for a robust Private Sector support for the various OIC programmes and activities;
- .took note of the draft Statute of the of Agro-Food Industries Association and expressed its appreciation to the following member states which were able to give their valuable comments and feed-back on the draft and other correspondences concerning the matter: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladeshi, Cameroun, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Turkey and UAE; and
- made further comments on the draft statute and recommended it to be circulated widely for other stakeholders to make their comments and enrich its contents. The General Secretariat took note, with appreciation the valuable and comprehensive comments on the draft statute made by the delegates from Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

6. Having had a lively debate and deep consideration of the Background Report, the daft Statute and the presentations, the Meeting made the following recommendations:

- To continue with the efforts the General Secretariat is making to ensure that objectives enunciated in the draft Statute of the Association are attained.
- To immediately establish an e-mail group among the stakeholders to enrich the draft statute and plan for future activities.

- To address the critical issues of technology transfer, research and networking among private sector entities with a view to increasing productivity and competitive of the OIC member states in the field of Agro-Industries.

Revised Zero Draft Statute of Association

7. The Executive Board is invited to consider the need for the creation of the Association based on the attached Zero Draft and make necessary recommendation to the General Assembly with a view to authorizing IOFS Director General to consult widely among the prospective members of the Association from both the Public and Private Sectors in IOFS member states. It should be feasible to convene a constituent meeting of the Association to determine the best way to actualize its objectives as enunciated in the Draft Statute.

The Secretariat

Islamic Organisation for Food Security

Nur Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan