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AGRI-FOOD TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION. FOOD SAFETY AND HALAL FOOD DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

Food security in the world facing emphatic threat after the global data refer to 820 million people still hunger despite the Zero Hunger goal by 2030. The desperate facts that almost 2 Billion people are under moderate or severe food insecurity. With an estimate of the food produced globally, about one third goes to waste or being lost. Inseparable, Food security from Food safety, the right for safe and nutritious food is for everyone. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), unsafe food can cause more than 200 different diseases. And yet today almost one in ten inhabitants of the planet gets sick after eating contaminated food each year, unsafe food causes 600 million cases of foodborne diseases and resulting 420 Thousand death 30% of foodborne deaths occur among children under 5 years of age. WHO estimated that 33 million years of healthy lives are lost due to eating unsafe food globally each year. Without safe food, children cannot learn, and adults cannot work: a person cannot develop. Under the unprecedented conditions that the world is facing today with the drastic spread of COVID19 pandemic, the food chain situation expected to be affected.

2. Safe food production, process, and trade playing the pivotal role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Science and Technology Innovation (OIC STI 2026) Framework. The Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), a specialized institution of OIC, understands that food security always goes hand in hand with food safety.

3. Food safety and Halal food goes in tandemly as the companies that obtained Halal food likewise required to fulfill global food safety measurements pursuit to Halal food requirement along all value chain that draw the consumers to consider Halal food products as healthy, organic, ethical and more animal friendly. Those procedures attract non-Muslim consumers to Halal food and consequently its global market value is flourishing. Halal food is not just mean product or only restricted to the raw materials and ingredients per se but also involves the entire process of feeding, slaughtering, handling, preparation and storage of the Halal food before being consumed. The entire food supply chain from farm to table must comply with Shariah. As more countries are accepting Halal concept, Halal food market began to thrive, valued the at US\$ 1.37 trillion in 2014 and expected to reach a value of US\$ 3.3 trillion by 2025.

Safety Assessment and Halal Point of View of Genetically Modified Food

4. Genetically modified Organisms (GMOs) in which its genetic material has been modified using modern biotechnology techniques also known as recombinant DNA technology. These methods allow scientists to insert gene(s) from organism to another. The food produced through these methods called Genetically Modified Food. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) safety, assessment of the GM food should focus on:

- direct health effects (toxicity);
- potential to provoke allergic reaction (allergenicity);
- specific components thought to have nutritional or toxic properties;
- the stability of the inserted gene;
- nutritional effects associated with genetic modification;
- any unintended effects which could result from the gene insertion.

GM food could not be considered safe unless pass the mentioned safety assessment process¹. In some OIC countries, GM food is not allowed officially.

OIC Food Safety Vision

5. According to the OIC strategic health programme of action 2013-2022, considered that one of major challenges faced the OIC Member countries is the lack of strong coordination among the various partners at regional and national levels, especially for zoonotic diseases and other potential hazards, such as food safety events, chemical events and radiation emergencies².

6. In the resolutions on Science and Technology and Innovation; Higher Education; Health and Environment Sectors adopted to the 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh 05-06 May 2018, are aware of the importance of including assessment of food vulnerability, food safety as well as the OIC/SMIIC standards and national legislations of the Member States in concert with IOFS and SMIIC.

7. OIC STI Agenda 2026, the first OIC Summit on Science and Technology, Astana 10-11 September 2017, encourage Member States to consider implementing International Standards such as IFS (Food Safety initiative), BRC (British Retail Consortium), EurepGAP (European Retail Protocol for Good Agricultural Practice), and ISO 22000 (Food Safety).

Food Safety and Halal Food Status in OIC Member Countries

8. The Central Asia region has a significant export potential for Halal food products. Central Asian countries carry out fragmented work on the development of the Halal industry in their countries, in particular, the Republic of Kazakhstan has embarked on a comprehensive and large-scale modernization of this sector, and an appropriate Roadmap has been developed and is being implemented promotion IOFS activities are aimed to encourage member countries to develop Halal food industry infrastructure, market and trade. IOFS mandate extended to support regional cooperation for Halal food industry such as the Central Asian countries. In this regard, IOFS commences the discussions with various stakeholders to explore the main issues related to the development in Halal food industry in Central Asian countries and Kazakhstan as a pilot program.

- 1) The need for regulation systems for organizations certifying Halal, with determination of areas of responsibility;

¹ https://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/food-technology/faq-genetically-modified-food/en/

² https://www.oic-oci.org/subweb/ichm/4/en/docs/1_OICSHPA-draft-1-v3.pdf

- 2) IOFS encourage the initiation of proper regulation that lead to maximum the benefit of Halal food industry in Central Asian Countries;
- 3) The major challenges facing the development of Halal industry in Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries is the reluctance of Member States in adopting uniform standards and harmonization on legislation of Halal food products. This may vigorously affect its unified market and intra-OIC trade. Ultimately, will add extra costs and decrease the potential to invade the international markets;

9. In this regard, an important stage in the development of the Halal food sector needs an appropriate framework. It is planned to implement this initiative in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the further dissemination of successful experience to all countries of the Central Asian region, including Afghanistan. IOFS has arranged several events in Kazakhstan during 2019-2020 regarding the Halal food with special focus on Central Asian countries:

- Conference, gathering Halal-related institutions of CIS (including Muslim minorities of Russia) in July 2019, at Astana International Financial Center, in Nur-Sultan, with the participation of Secretary General of SMIIC (MoU signed) and large international, domestic companies and organizations, experts, representatives of government agencies.
- Meeting of Halal certification agencies in Sept 2019. This meeting was attended by the main Halal organizations in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, Halal-related scientists, representatives of universities, government agencies, as well as halal products manufacturers.
- Meeting of regulatory bodies on Halal development in Feb 2020 was devoted to the systemic development of the Halal industry in Kazakhstan with the participation of responsible government bodies, the Mufty of the Republic of Kazakhstan, state companies, the national chamber of entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan “Atameken”, was held at the IOFS headquarters.
- IOFS participated in online webinar arranged by ICCIA “Quantity vs Quality” enhancing the Halal food value chain, 29 July 2020.

IOFS fully supports the role of SMIIC, however, due to importance of Halal principles for food industry of OIC countries, IOFS would continue to play a role entire Halal food market Development. SMIIC has published the latest editions of the OIC/SMIIC Halal standards of which initial works started under the OIC in 2008. The efforts led to the release of the first edition in 2011 commenced by the Standardization Expert Group (SEG) comprised 39 OIC member countries and International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA). The following standards focus on the management and control system to ensure that the Halal food, food additives, are produced under the Islamic Rules³.

IOFS proposed expert meeting in November 2020 for OIC/IOFS member states regarding the enhancement of Halal food with support of its strategic partner SMIIC. This activity will be implemented jointly with other OIC institutions, governmental bodies and private sectors. Furthermore, IOFS could add value to elaborate a joint action plan with SMIIC to develop regulatory and legislative framework for OIC member countries on Halal Food and Food Safety system regarding production and marketing matters.

OIC Member countries experience in Halal food

10. Turkey established Halal Agency (HAK) to operate in the field of Halal in Turkey and globally based on OIC/SMIIC standards, with a fundamental duty to provide professional services to the

Halal conformity assessment bodies located both in Turkey and abroad, enhance trade and international relations and to create awareness about Halal food concept⁴.

Malaysia created the Halal Malaysia official portal to gather all national authorities related to Halal in one gate. The Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM) is the agency responsible for the Islamic affairs including Halal in Malaysia and to assure the Malaysia consumers to seek for Halal products as urged by Shariah. JAKIM representatives to monitor/verify the Halal status of raw materials and products and ascertain the Halal status of the product at every stage and at every process involved. JAKIM is to assure that the foreign Halal imports comply with the Malaysian procedures & guidelines⁵.

Indonesia has issued the Halal product law for the year 2014, that manage the Halal Examination Agency, Halal Supervisor and establishing an auditing system for Halal products. At the Halal Economy Strategy Roadmap Indonesia officials concentrated on what they call the 5C bases on Halal products. These 5Cs fulfill the requirement to face the challenges of global Halal industry⁶.

Indonesia with the largest Muslim population (273million) is the largest OIC-based exporter of Halal Economy Products to the broader OIC, but only with 3.3% of Halal exports global share (\$7.6 billion). Indonesia's Halal consumer spending \$214 billion in 2017 with a growing at a projected 6.0% CAGR to reach \$330.5 billion by 2025. The country focus on the 5Cs to expand the gain from the Halal market that is totaling 1.84 billion Muslims (24.4% of the global population). Other sector of Halal industry will attract the economic sector namely the Halal tourism that worth 264 billion USD and the Halal fashion industry worth USD361 billion and the major domain is the Halal food industry that will worth 1.8 trillion USD by 2030. The success of this strategy needs cooperation between different sectors, such as Bank Indonesia, the Indonesia Fashion Chamber (IFC) and Indonesia Halal Lifestyle Centre (IHLC).

United Arab Emirates: According to the UAE Scheme for Halal Products the Emirates Authority for Standardization & Metrology (ESMA) is the state authority to issue, approve and update the UAE standards and to supervise the verification of conformity of the products, services or systems to the requirements of hereunder and attainment of Halal or Halal national mark. ESMA web-site contains enormous source of data regarding Halal products and list of over 800 endorsed international authorities to export Halal products to UAE⁷. Important to note, that in UAE established The International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF) as an independent, non-government network of accreditation bodies to construct a solid foundation for the global industry and to harmonize accreditation practices in halal filed globally.

³ <https://www.smiic.org/en/content/573>

⁴ <https://english.hak.gov.tr/>

⁵ www.halal.gov.my

⁶ www.bi.go.id

⁷ www.esma.gov.ae

IOFS activities on Food Safety and Halal food

11. Among its activities for Agri-Food Trade and Investment through OIC Member Countries, the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) focus on Promoting the development of investment on Safe and Halal food production and enthusiasm the OIC member countries would gain from the global Halal food market share. Currently the major part of this market is owned by suppliers from third countries. IOFS focus on allowing OIC countries with high agro potential to develop own domestic food processing and increase competitive advantages of the intra-OIC food supply chains. These factors would surely lead to stronger and sustainable long-term food security of all OIC region.

This concept note shades the light for IOFS activities and emphasis on the urgent need for safe and Halal food to facilitate, promote, harmonize and enhance the cooperation between OIC member countries along all food supply chain “from gene to fork”. The proposed activity for 2020:

- Expert Meeting «The way to Safe and Halal food in OIC: one step forward», November 2020 Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. The Expert Meeting on food safety is being organized within the framework of OIC Agenda on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) 2026, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, interested IOFS/OIC member countries, and OIC specialized institutions

The above-mentioned activity will converge the key drivers of food safety complied with Halal principles food processing in OIC member countries. This will approach harmonization of food safety and Halal food policies, institutions in different OIC member countries, ethical and mutual trade issues. This expert meeting will be held in cooperation and sponsored by several expected partners such as IsDB, SMIIC, ICCIA, Private sectors, and Institutional Halal Authorities in Member Countries.

Objectives and Rationales

12. The proposed Expert Meeting would aim at achieving the following objectives, among other issues:

- Working closely with national food manufacturers to prevent or minimize food hazards;
- Delivering expertise about food chain production, regulation and storage of food using non-GMO methods;
- Pushing state bodies to establish/adopt food safety and quality standards, as well as OIC/SMIIC Standards regarding Halal food production;
- Promoting Halal food standards and developing the export of Halal products;
- Studying the obstacles and challenges facing the OIC in the field of production of food safety and Halal industry;
- Raising awareness on the issue of food wastage, food safety and how to achieve zero hunger in OIC member countries;
- Enhancing collaboration between government agencies, consumer bodies, academia, industry and international organizations;
- Educating consumers to raise their awareness of food safety issues along with right Halal food understanding.

Level and Structure of the Expert Meeting

13. The above meeting is proposed to be held at high-level eminent experts from OIC member countries as well as relevant OIC institutions to cover:

- The challenges and objectives of the global food market as linked to safe and Halal food with special emphasis of the current food safety situation in OIC member countries;
- Presenting the current status of the global Halal food industry and market with special focusing on production in OIC;
- Draw outline draft guidelines for encouraging investment in this industry;
- Create a draft framework for the future related activities.

Expected Outcome

- The International Expert Meeting is to make recommendations and propose a Plan of Action for the implementation of its recommendations, including a mechanism that developed and enhance Safe and Halal Food Concept in OIC member states;
- Initiating discussions on merging general Food Safety with Halal principles within the “from gene to fork” modality and elaborate on basic Safe and Halal food concept;
- Raising the Halal food awareness among OIC countries (in cooperation with SMIIC);
- Ensuring the harmonization of the implementation of Halal conformity assessment and activities among OIC member states based on OIC/SMIIC standards as per the relevant OIC CFM resolutions;
- Drafting guidelines to enhance the investment and to attract the Islamic financial sector in this industry;
- Experience and technology transfer among OIC member countries in the field of food safety.

The Secretariat,

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