



## CONCEPT NOTE OF THE CONFERENCE

### **IOFS-COMSTEC-BCI Conference on Acquisition, Conservation, Exchange and Safety Duplication of Plant Genetic Resources in OIC Member Countries: The Way Forward**

#### **Background**

The IOFS, COMSTEC, and BCI have completed a series of regional workshops on the themes of Acquisition, Conservation, Exchange, and Safety Duplication of Plant Genetic Resources in OIC Member countries (MC). These workshops not only included training on the various aspects of Genebank establishment, management, and operations but also enabled the collection of valuable data on the available human and material resources for managing plant genetic resources and genebanks in various countries and regions of the OIC. The workshops also enabled the identification of countries that have well-developed facilities towards these ends and can act as focal points for respective regions viz. Asia, Africa, and MENA. At the same time, the workshops also provided gathering of information on the challenges being faced by several countries in developing their gene banks or preservation and exchange of genetic resources.

#### **Objectives. Further Actions.**

As a culmination of the efforts described in the preceding section, an online conference is now being organized to consolidate the information gathered in the three training workshops and have experts explain and respond to the various issues and questions raised by the participants. A further objective of the conference is to identify working groups and potential collaborations among regional countries where technical know-how and resources can be shared by more developed and less developed partners. The conference is expected to play a significant role in urging the OIC MC for the need of regional genebanks as well as of upgrading the existing respective national genebanks and developing partnerships to ensure both varietal enhancement and preservation of plant genetic resources. The Conference will be a manifestation of the

continued collaboration of COMSTECH and IOFS towards developing a more food secure future of the OIC MC.

**Areas of discussion:**

1. Discussion on training conducted by IOFS, COMSTECH and BCI;
2. Discussion on ways to enhance the institutional and human capacity of National Institutions and Gene Banks in OIC MC;
3. Further Plan of Action and interaction with among National Gene Banks and Research Institutes of OIC MC;
4. Safety duplication of genetic resources in OIC region.

**Participants**

The Conference is expected to be participated by the following representatives:

- ✓ All participants of the training, as well as representatives of ministries of agriculture, National Gene Banks and Research Centers of OIC MC;
- ✓ Selected regional and international organizations working in the domain of development of PGR;
- ✓ Relevant OIC Institutions.

**Format**

- ✓ The event will be convened on 11 November 2021 in an online format using the Zoom platform;
- ✓ The registration will be available on the IOFS and COMSTECH websites;
- ✓ The event will be conducted in the English language with simultaneous translation into Russian, French, and Arabic;
- ✓ The event will be open to all registered participants of OIC MC.