



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



هيئة أبوظبي للزراعة والسلامة الغذائية
ABU DHABI AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
SAFETY AUTHORITY

CONCEPT NOTE



**Regional training workshop
on strategic planning and policy
development in food security**



**24-25 May 2022
Abu Dhabi, UAE**



BACKGROUND

Following the food crisis in 2007-2008, the food security turned into one of the global issues that need to be addressed by international community. Despite the world efforts of tackling the hunger and malnutrition, food security remains highly important on the international agenda as it closely linked to other problems, such as climate change, energy market turmoil and global recession (Candel, 2014). Over the last years, the state of food security around the world has been severely exacerbated by the direct and indirect effects of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) that disrupted the food security systems and increased the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition (FAO, 2020).

These challenges showed that the food security demands the appliance of good governance at international, regional and national levels (McKeon, 2013) to ensure the sustainable food systems. In fact, certain studies indicated that most factors of food insecurity are results of poor governance (Sahley et al., 2005; Boyd, 2011). While good governance is able to counter a food crisis and tackle various issues of food insecurity, as well as maintain the sustainable food security systems and agricultural development (Pereira et al., 2012; UN HLTF, 2010). Therefore, the governance plays a key role in formulating food security legal frameworks and strategies, integrating inter-sectoral activities at all levels with the engagement of various stakeholders, as well as constantly monitoring and evaluating the results achieved to respond ever-changing and different socio-economic needs.

The framework of food security governance shall provide a broad diversity in its structure to include all social and political sectors. Complex social issues in food security, such as hunger, malnutrition, rural development and agricultural production can only be managed through cooperation and coordination among all actors at national and local levels and with the inclusion of interest groups. The international practices show the importance of the coordinating bodies of food security systems, in order to harmonize the inter-sectoral actions together with determining roles and responsibilities among stakeholders. In terms of implementation, it is necessary to implement mechanisms for transparency and accountability that builds a trust and creates the greater confidence among society members.

The IOFS emerges as a key regional opportunity for the OIC in ensuring good practices in Food Security Governance. With the increased participation of the OIC member countries, especially those that face food insecurity and malnutrition problems, IOFS establishing necessary programs that help coordinate a coherent action framework.



CONTEXT

The IOFS Program “Food Security Governance” had the unanimous support of member states within the 3rd General Assembly meeting of IOFS on 2-3 December 2020 in Ankara, Turkey, as well as further emphasized its implementation within the 4th General Assembly meeting of IOFS on 8-9 September 2021 in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

By implementing this program, IOFS is intended to:

- to build platforms and establish networks for exchange and accumulation of the OIC experience in food security governance;
- to facilitate the share of best OIC and international practices with all Member States;
- to assist the Member States in developing coherent policy frameworks and resilient inter-sectoral government systems to ensure the sustainable food systems of each country in the OIC region.

The Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) published the Report on “Good Governance for ensuring food security and nutrition in OIC Member States” in 2020. The conclusions of this study highlighted the importance of the role of IOFS in assisting member states building resilient food systems and implementing various activities in food security governance.

On 14 July 2021, the IOFS Secretariat in cooperation with OIC General Secretariat, UN Food Systems Summit, esteemed Member States and international organizations conducted the International Conference on “Best Practices for Building Sustainable Food Systems in the OIC Region”, as the Inter-regional Dialogue of South-South Cooperation. This event succeeded to bring over 200 top food system governance beneficiaries from 63 states, representing governmental authorities, international and regional organizations, research entities, academia, private sector, and civil society. Within this Conference, various best OIC and international practices were shared with OIC Member States on food security governance, the government’s role in ensuring food supply chains, and the state's support to local farming and the use of smart technology in agriculture. More information: <https://www.iofs.org.kz/post/475>, https://www.iofs.org.kz/video/dZe-RhF4_-E.

Also, on 22 December 2021, the IOFS Secretariat organized the online International Workshop on “OIC Country Experience in Food Security Governance for Strengthening South-South Cooperation” for more than 70 representatives of government agencies of OIC member states. The Workshop provided a great platform for presenting country experience in food security governance, namely best practices of Bangladesh, Qatar, Pakistan, UAE and outcomes of the publication of COMCEC on Good Governance for Ensuring Food Security and Nutrition in the OIC Member Countries. These presentations gave an overview of Food Security Strategies in member states and shared recommendations for their application in other countries. The event also received the feedback from participants regarding the organization of capacity-building training workshops with focus on “Strategic Planning and Policy Development in Food Security” in 2022 for concerned government specialists. More information: <https://www.iofs.org.kz/post/623>, <https://www.iofs.org.kz/video/1MmahfWRyqk>.

Considering the above-mentioned, the IOFS Secretariat plans to conduct the regional training workshop on strategic planning and policy development in food security in physical format to train concerned government officials of OIC member states in developing strategies and legal frameworks in food security and apply best practices in their respective countries.



OBJECTIVES

Main objective: Assisting OIC Member States in capacity-building of government agencies in strategic planning and policy development in food security.

Specific objectives:

- to present OIC country experience and international good practices in Food Security Governance (Strategies, Legal Frameworks, Government Mechanism, Achievements);
- to provide with in-depth background of the above country experiences, including prior analysis and needs assessment;
- to familiarize participants with the existing legislation/strategies of particular countries (OIC or non-OIC MCs) by providing the hard-copy of these documents;
- to build the capacities of participants on basics and practices of developing strategies, improving legislation, creating government inter-sectoral mechanism (council/commission on high-level) on food security;
- to raise awareness and expand participants' knowledge relating to important aspects addressing cross-sectoral issues that impact on the state of food security, including agriculture development, private sector empowerment, involvement of third parties (NGOs), science-technology-innovations, climate resilience, and other aspects;
- to incorporate participatory approaches in the event, through discussions and brainstorming for identifying issues and providing ways of solutions for existed problems in the governance of food security.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Welcoming Speeches
2. OIC country experience on Food Security Governance. Country cases of OIC member countries in implementation of policy reforms/strategies/mechanisms to address food security problems.
3. Sessions led by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI, <https://www.ifpri.org/>). IFPRI experience in the implementation of Country Strategy Support Programs (CSSPs).
4. Sessions led by Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFSI, <https://www.sfsi.ie/>). Practices and tools in action for sustainable food systems: the Irish case.
5. Discussions / Group Exercises
6. Conclusion / Recommendations

PARTICIPANTS

The target group of training workshop participants will include representatives of government authorities of OIC member states that are involved in the development of policy frameworks and strategies in food security, such as legislators, strategy developers, policy analysts, program planners.

Member States to participate:

ASIA: Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

MIDDLE EAST (Arab countries): Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen.



TRAINING WORKSHOP DETAILS

Date / Duration: 24-25 May 2022 / 2 days

Venue: Abu Dhabi, UAE

Format: In-person, with possibility of extension to online participation upon requests of member countries

More information: <https://iofs.org.kz/post/regional-training-workshop-on-strategic-planning-and-policy-development-in-food-security>

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