

ISLAMABAD INITIATIVES

Sixth D-8 Agricultural Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Food Security
(Sustainable agro-industry development and smallholder farmer integration in the
global value chains: Key issues for D-8 Member States)

16 December 2020
Virtual

We, the Ministers of Agriculture/Livestock/ Rural Development and Heads of Delegation of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Turkey met virtually on 16 December 2020 for the Sixth D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Food Security;

Taking into account more than one billion people living within D-8 Member States and facing daunting challenges of supply chains and dwindling food production and food price volatility;

Reiterating the need to boost agricultural yield in order to ensure adequate availability of food through joint agricultural production-oriented research, innovation and development in D-8 Member States;

Considering the fact that adequate nutrition is a vital requirement for human existence, development and productivity;

Identifying the need for better cooperation through adoption, utilization, expansion and transfer of agricultural technologies among D-8 Member States on mutually agreed terms;

Mindful of the need to strengthen dialogue and facilitate sharing of experiences amongst the D-8 Member States and between the Member States and global institutions such as the FAO and the IsDB as well as the private sector on concrete actions that are needed to support sustainable agro-industrialization and smallholder integration in global value chains;

Recalling the commitments and goals agreed to during the previous Working Groups Meetings, Senior Officials Meetings and Ministerial Meetings, including the Kuala Lumpur Initiatives (2009), the Tehran Initiatives (2011), the Mataram Initiatives (2012), the Abuja Initiatives (2013), and the Istanbul Initiatives (2014), and the utmost desire to transform such decisions and recommendations into workable action-plans with mutual and intelligible coordination at national levels;

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With regard to the above, we the Ministers of Agriculture/Livestock/Rural Development and the Heads of Delegation agreed upon the following:

1. Welcome the establishment of the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security situated in Faisalabad, Pakistan. We appreciate and acknowledge the kind gesture of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for providing excellent facilities and infrastructure for joint research on this very important sectoral track of cooperation of the Member States. We call on the Ministries responsible for Agriculture and Food Security and other relevant authorities and institutions to take advantage of this institution and embark on joint research and development programmes and develop policies that promote partnerships and collective benefits and trade opportunities as well as ensure food security for our citizens.
2. Promote Agribusiness and Value Chains in the D-8 Member States.
3. Establish the D-8 Agriculture Center in order to enhance communication and coordination among the Member States.
4. Establishment of Contract Farming Centre (CFC) Under Global value Chains in Iran.
5. Boost trade and investments in agricultural sector through participation in exhibitions, trade fairs and investment fora. The D-8 Member States are encouraged to host important international agricultural fairs and exhibitions such as the exhibition of agricultural investment projects and agribusiness forum.
6. Carry out agricultural human resources sharing in a variety of forms, including establishing research and development centres and joint laboratories, creating cooperation platforms, implementing joint research projects, organizing exchange visits and adopting joint post-graduate programmes. In short, the expertise in D-8 Member State in agricultural research will be utilized in order to facilitate technical exchanges and develop human resources that excel in modern agricultural technologies.
7. Encourage the sharing of information concerning common problems faced by D-8 Member States in agricultural development; the establishment of information sharing mechanism to exchange agricultural data on regular basis; the construction of an

agricultural information and digital agriculture platform; and the gradual enrichment and improvement of the food security information system based on transparent principles.

8. Encourage the governments and stakeholders in D-8 Member States to promote Agricultural, Knowledge, Science and Technology (AKST)), Nutrition Standards and strategies along with relevant investments, including agricultural infrastructure and well-functioning markets.
9. Persuade the D-8 Member States to come up with project proposals along with feasibility studies for further agricultural cooperation, bilaterally and multilaterally. These Includes Halal Products and promotion of intra D-8 horticulture trade.
10. Prepare a workable action-plan that will help monitor the activities and projects under agricultural cooperation in order to steer them in the right direction and ensure timely implementation. In this regard, the role of establishing focal office is imperative in order to follow up and ensure effectual implementation of all decisions taken.
11. Enhance the level of effective coordination and networking and active involvement from stakeholders in respective Working Groups by emphasizing the crucial role of national focal points in each Working Group to follow up and ensure well-timed implementation of all decisions and commitments.
12. Explore opportunities for partnerships between and among the D-8, IsDB, FAO and other potential partners in order to support inclusive, sustainable and resilient agriculture and agro-industry development; and the generation and sustenance of productive and decent rural employment for youth and women, including capacity building;
13. The Ministers and Head of Delegations expressed their words of appreciation to His Excellency Syed Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for adroitly steering the deliberations of the Meeting and registered their immense gratitude to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for the excellent arrangements in organizing the meeting. The

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Meeting also appreciated the D-8 Secretariat for its valuable support rendered to the event.