

Report of

The Workshop on Exchange of Information on Rural Tourism Policies between D-8 Countries and the Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution (ARDSI) 13-14 April 201 Trabzon, Turkey

The Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution (ARDSI) of Republic of Turkey hosted the Workshop on Exchange of Information on Rural Tourism Policies on 13-14 April 2016 in Trabzon. Delegates from the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey and a delegation from African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) attended the workshop. The list of participants is attached as in Annex I.

1. Opening Session

Opening Remarks & Statements by:

- Dr. Ahmet Antalyalı, the President of Agriculture and Rural Development Support Institution (ARDSI) of the Republic of Turkey, briefed the workshop regarding the role of ARDSI in agricultural sector of Turkey, including rural tourism policies applied in domestic programmes and projects.
- H.E. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary-General, made a statement.
- H.E. Abdil Celil Öz, Governor of Trabzon made a statement. He briefed importance of rural development and rural tourism projects in Trabzon. He also stated that Trabzon is one of the most important destinations for rural tourism. He expressed his gratitude to host the delegations of D-8 member countries in Trabzon.

2. Presentation on Turkish Rural Tourism Policies and Implementations

Mr. Onur Kurt, Expert from Ministry of Tourism and Culture of Turkey made a presentation regarding Turkish Rural Tourism Policies and Implementations including

where to invest rural tourism projects, differences between rural tourism and other types of tourism activities.

3. Presentation on Implementation Process of Rural Tourism Projects by ARDSI

Mr. Hakan Aksoy and Mr Hakan Efendi Özat, Experts from ARDSI, made a presentation about structure of ARDSI, critical and main points to be considered during preparation and implementation of Rural Tourism Projects.

4. Presentation on tourism of Trabzon and Tourism Marketing Methods

Mr. İsmail Kansız, Director of Culture and Tourism of Trabzon Province, made a presentation regarding tourism potential of tourism.

5. Presentation on Rural Tourism Policies of D-8 Member Countries

Dr. Nirwan Noh, Undersecretary Industry Development Division Ministry of Tourism & Culture of **Malaysia** made a presentation on Malaysian experiences on rural tourism.

Mr. Malik Muhammad Asim, Assistant Director in Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Pakistan** made a presentation on rural tourism potential and activities in Pakistan.

Mr. Henky Hermantoro, Team of Acceleration of Rural and Urban Tourism Development, Ministry of Tourism **Indonesia** made a presentation on Rural Tourism policies in Indonesia.

Mr. O. Akeju, Director of the Department of Rural Development of **Nigeria** made a presentation on rural tourism policies in Nigeria.

Mr. Mohammad Jahanshahi, Dept of Tourism, Department of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism of Kerman Province in **Iran** made a statement on rural tourism policies and he proposed creation a fund for rural tourism projects of D-8 member countries and an awarding mechanism for successful projects in member countries.

6. Exchange of Views on Potential Collaboration in D-8 Rural Tourism

After exchanging views by the delegations on various aspects of the issue under discussion, the following conclusions were highlighted upon:

- D-8 Member States were encouraged to explore possible collaboration with ARDSI in order to strengthen rural development through capacity building, projects financing, technical assistance and viable projects/programmes;
- The workshop emphasized the need of investment in agricultural sector as part of supporting food security within D-8 Member States; and
- D-8 Member States were encouraged to hold similar workshop so that exchange of experiences in the field of rural development and rural tourism can be maintained and followed up.

7. Next Steps of Collaboration

The participants expressed their demands for organisation of a workshop on rural tourism in 2017. Malaysian delegation proposed to organise the next workshop in Malaysia.

The participants stated that creation of a network on rural development and rural tourism between member countries would increase the opportunities of close cooperation.

The Delegation from AARDO expressed AARDO's readiness for a close cooperation on rural development with D-8 countries and ARDSI.

8. Technical Visits to Sites supported by ARDSI

The participants had technical visits to some sites which supported by ARDSI such as hotels, restaurants etc. located in Trabzon. Şansal Aydogdu, Coordinator of provincial Coordination Unit of ARDSI in Trabzon, presented the rural tourism facilities and gave detailed information regarding preparation and controls on these projects. The visits were meant to provide participants clear picture on how ARDSI activities proceeded.

9. Closing Session

The ARDSI expressed their gratitude and appreciation to all delegates for the constructive ideas as well as fruitful discussions and deliberations.

The participating delegates also conveyed their profound gratitude to the Republic of Turkey, governorship of Trabzon and ARDSI Turkey for excellent arrangement and hospitality extended during the workshop. They also expressed their gratitude to the Secretary General of D-8 for organization of the workshop.