

**Statement by Ambassador Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam
Secretary-General of The Developing Eight Organization For Economic
Cooperation**

**Distinguished Participants,
Esteemed Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am happy to address you today at the Workshop on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Techniques and Projects Sharing Experience, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye within the framework of the D-8 organization. I thank the host for arranging this important gathering, a mark of our shared commitment to addressing the challenges of climate change through sustainable agriculture practices.

As we all know, climate change has been a pressing issue of our time. Climate change poses significant threats to food security, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic stability. The agricultural sector, being directly dependent on climate conditions, is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of global warming. Therefore, we must explore innovative approaches and exchange experiences to develop climate-smart agriculture techniques to enhance resilience, increase productivity, and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

The D-8 organization sees the importance of fostering sustainable agriculture and addressing climate change.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh virtually hosted the 7th D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Food Security from January 12-13, 2022. The Ministerial Meeting focused on the 'Promotion of Climate Smart Agriculture: Key Issues for D-8 Member States.'

The meeting produced a consensus on the pivotal role of collaboration and knowledge-sharing among member countries in making significant strides toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring a sustainable future for future generations.

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In the D-8 nations, more than 30% of the population relies on agriculture as their primary livelihood. The following statistics serve as evidence of our resilience in the agricultural sector, including:

- i. On average, the agricultural industry contributes 14% to the GDP Of ll D-8 member countries.
- ii. The agricultural industry employs almost **30% of the labor force**.
- iii. D-8 agricultural activity is projected to increase **by at least 25%** annually.
- iv. D-8 Member States have a **total of 274.25 million hectares** of agricultural land area.
- v. Aggregate value of Agri-Production of the Member States is- **\$531.76 billion in 2021**.
- vi. Major agricultural products are rice, wheat, potatoes, palm oil, fruit, maize, sugar cane, milk, poultry, eggs, vegetables, onions, jute, rubber, coconuts, bananas, and various types of fruits.

The D-8 established the D8 Research Center for Agriculture and Food Security in Faisalabad, Pakistan, to deepen our cooperation. The Center was officially launched in March this year.

Our leaders mandate the Center to fast-track Research and Development in agriculture to address the pressing challenges facing our countries in food security, agricultural productivity, and sustainable development. Therefore, the Center will be a hub for research and innovation in agriculture, bringing together the expertise and resources of our member countries to develop solutions that promote sustainable agricultural practices and enhance food security.

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I can advance our Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) initiatives by leveraging the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture resources in Faisalabad. Numerous measures can be implemented to address this initiative:

- i. **Establish a CSA Task Force:** The D-8 can establish a dedicated task force or working group focused on Climate Smart Agriculture. This group can consist of experts from member countries, including scientists, researchers, policymakers, and agricultural practitioners.
- ii. **Research and Development:** Member States must support the D-8 Research Center for Agriculture in Faisalabad as the center of CSA research and development excellence.
- iii. **Technology Transfer and Capacity Building:** Member States must empower the Center to facilitate the transfer of CSA technologies and practices through training programs, workshops, and knowledge-sharing initiatives to build capacity at the local level.
- iv. **Promote Sustainable Practices:** Member States must direct the Center to advocate for sustainable agricultural practices such as no-till farming, agroforestry, crop diversification, and organic farming. These practices can help sequester carbon, conserve water, and improve soil health.

- v. **Policy Recommendations:** Member States must also direct the Center to provide recommendations on CSA principles integration into their agricultural policies and plans.
- vi. **Pilot Projects and Demonstrations:** The Member States must engage with the center to initiate pilot projects on CSA practices.
- vii. **Collaboration with International Organizations:** The center will explore opportunities to collaborate with international organizations and initiatives focused on climate-smart agriculture, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and other relevant bodies.
- viii. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** through an appropriate mechanism, Member States must monitor and evaluate the impact of CSA interventions. This includes assessing changes in agricultural productivity, resilience, and environmental sustainability.

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Türkiye has been at the forefront of implementing climate-smart agriculture practices and has achieved notable successes. Their experience and expertise will undoubtedly serve as a valuable resource for all participants in this workshop. Türkiye can inspire and guide other member countries to adopt climate-smart agricultural techniques by sharing their best practices, lessons learned, and success stories.

Therefore, During this workshop, I encourage all participants to engage actively, exchange knowledge, and foster partnerships. Let us capitalize on this opportunity to learn from one another to formulate innovative solutions. We can develop effective strategies that harmonize agriculture, climate action, and sustainable development by leveraging our collective wisdom.

This will require collaboration within the D-8 organization and with international partners, research institutions, and relevant stakeholders. Together, we can create a network of knowledge and innovation that strengthens our collective capacity to address the challenges of climate change.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate my gratitude to Türkiye for organizing this Workshop on Climate Smart Agriculture Techniques and Projects Sharing Experience.

Thank you, and I wish you all fruitful discussions and successful outcomes.