

In the Name of God

**The statement of H.E. Mr. Hojjati, the honorable minister of
Jihad- e Agriculture of the I.R. Iran in the D-8 5th Agriculture Ministerial
Meeting**

(1-3 Dec. 2014, Istanbul, Turkey)

Mr. Chairman,

Honorable Ministers,

D-8 Secretary General,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of myself and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran I should express my appreciation on the Turkish government for hosting the 5th D-8 Ministerial meeting. I hope that this meeting can provide practical mechanisms for the expansion of agricultural relations among member states.

Distinguished delegates,

As you know nowadays we are faced with various phenomena like climate change, drought, price fluctuations of the agricultural products and food stuff and population growth. Therefore we are required to pay due attention to the issue of food security. In such circumstances the agriculture sector can play a vitally important role in providing food security.

In our country, providing food for the people is pursued based on domestic resources and major documents such as the 20-year development programme document. In our 5th five-years economic and development programme of the

country special attention has been paid for the issue of food security based on the principles of sustainable development.

Excellencies,

In order to enhance productivity in the agriculture sector, we have previously ratified the law for the enhancement of productivity in this sector.

One of the major elements of this law is the emphasis on the role of private sector and limitation of the role of government to the formulation of policies.

Secondly to oblige the active sectors to provide agricultural inputs and production utilizing the mechanism of mercantile exchange market.

Thirdly to oblige Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture to shift the responsibilities to the non Government active organizations.

In addition, the Iranian government expressed its support of the idea of land-lease farming last year. According to this idea, the government provides diplomatic and financial support to investors and companies who are interested in farming activities abroad. The fifth development program emphasizes on the economy and production that is based on knowledge, educated human resources, and modern technology. This is dependent on a constant and effective interaction between the production of knowledge and production and distribution of products. This important issue can be pursued through constant interaction with scientific and academic centers. For the enhancement of food security, a law has been ratified that concentrates all the activities of the agriculture sectors in the Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture. As a result, all policies and programs in this sector are formulated and implemented by this ministry.

Dear Friends,

The major activities that the Islamic Republic of Iran, has carried out for the implementation of the agreements of the past four ministerial meetings are as follows:

Pursuant to the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Agricultural Ministerial meeting held in Indonesia in 2012 it was approved that the fertilizer consortium being established among stakeholders of fertilizer production and trade in member states.

For being acquainted those stakeholders to each other my country welcomed to host the first D8 Ad hoc meeting on fertilizer. The consequence of that proposal and first D8 ad hoc meeting on fertilizer in Kish Island Iran 2013. 2nd Ad hoc meeting Antalya-Turkey 2013 and the ministerial meeting Nigeria 2013 was led to MOU for establishing of the consortium on fertilizer production and trade among member state as road map and articles of association on fertilizer as an executive structure. Insha Allah the D8 fertilizer Association and establishing the fertilizer consortium among members states would be the source of strong transformation to develop the agricultural relations in respect of different commercial financial and scientific areas especially on food security.

Within the seed working group, it was agreed in this working group meeting to change the name of the working group on seed bank as working group on seed security and trade in order to steer the direction of functions of the group towards facilitating seed trade ensuring preservation of biodiversity and seed security and fortifying its functions. The first meeting of the mentioned working group will be held on May 2015.

In the area of fisheries, the concerned working group made necessary coordination's and prepared the context for joint cooperation among D8 member states in this regard.

Islamic Republic of Iran has tabled specific proposals for carrying out joint projects in this area, especially in the field of in-cage aquaculture.

These proposals have been proposed to the D8 secretariat. This requires further cooperation among D8 member states for training and investment.

In the Animal feed working group the Islamic Republic of Iran has also submitted its proposals to the AFIC website but no feed backs received from the other member states as yet.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the active and innovative member of the food security programme the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently planning and justifying the necessary approaches within the context of 5 year development plan. So that it can find out a sustainable mechanism for the enhancement of production and productivity of agricultural activities.

Implementation of this idea can increase the food security among the citizens of the D8 member states.

Regarding the development of trade and standards, we can refer to Iranian initiatives in the enhancement of the trade of organic crops.

For instance, we can refer to the international fair of the organic agricultural products and the initiatives of the Association of Organic Products of I.R. Iran.

Regarding the issue of halal food, the International Halal Institute has initiated its efforts for the enhancement of the "Culture of Halal food" "Standardization of Halal food" "regulation of Halal food" and " commercialization of Halal food" in various sectors.

Regarding the establishment of the Knowledge Management Network, the Islamic Republic of Iran has provided a proposal and submitted it to the secretariat of D8 and the feedbacks of the other countries on this proposal await and should be submitted.

Mr. Chairman,

Considering the above arguments, D8 member stated can embark on different sorts of cooperation, especially preparation for the security of investment by private sector in the area of agriculture and transfer of knowledge and technology in this sector. For the implementation of their plans, the D8 member states are required to engage their private sector more than before. Government can merely work as facilitators which prepare the context for these initiatives . Therefore, it is proposed to engage the private sectors, business communities, and non -governmental companies in the following meeting of the D8 ministers.

At the end, I should express my sincere appreciation of the Turkish government, especially the honorable chairman of the session for hosting this ministerial meeting. Also I should express my gratitude to the D8 secretariat for its good initiatives for holding the meeting.

Thank you