

**ISTANBUL INITIATIVE**  
**The Fifth D-8 Agricultural Ministerial Meeting on Food Security**

**03 December 2014**  
**Istanbul, Turkey**

We, the Ministers of Agriculture/Rural Development and Heads of the 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 in Istanbul on 03 December 2014 for the Fifth D-8 Agricultural Ministerial Meeting on Food Security;

***Underlining*** agriculture and food security on the high development agenda, through comprehensive reforms, improvements in the investment climate, supported by sustained social protection, to ensure self-sufficiency and self-reliance in the agricultural sector;

***Realizing*** that the D-8 agriculture sector has a huge potential as a driver of food security, environmental sustainability and economic opportunity which requires solid collaborative effort to consolidate agricultural policy, supply-chain and market access;

***Enhancing*** agricultural productivity and increasing food availability through accelerating investments in agricultural research and development as well as measuring environmental sustainability of farming, opportunities available to smallholder farmers, as well as women and young farmers and sustainability of entire food systems in D-8 Member States;

***Recognizing*** better governance of food systems at all levels, facilitated by high-level political support to build a common strategy that includes complementary interventions in food systems, public health and education;

***Considering*** shortfalls and volatility in global food supplies and prices are challenging issues due to higher costs of production, greater demand for food and energy, and climate change;

***Recalling*** the commitments and goals the previous works of Working Groups Meetings, Senior Officials Meetings, Ministerial Meetings, including Kuala Lumpur Initiatives (2009), Tehran Initiatives (2011), Mataram Initiatives (2012) and Abuja Initiatives (2013), to transform such decisions and recommendations into workable action-plans with mutual and coherent coordination at D-8 national levels.

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

1. **To enhance** the works of Working Group on Fertilizer by implementing common strategies toward the sufficiency of production, supply and distribution of quality fertilizers in D-8 Member States. Encouraging Public Private Partnership joint investment programs in the areas of fertilizer production, joint research, technology transfer and trade. Governments and private sectors to take active participation in formulating the structure and strengthening function of the D-8 Fertilizer Association (D8FA), including appointment of the national focal points and creating business-to-business collaboration.
2. **To promote** D-8 countries to exchange information among themselves; to harmonize their fertilizer standards and technical specifications aiming to remove trade barriers and enhance intra-trade; to provide business opportunities by entering the statistical data to D-8 website; to provide technical service to each other in order to update the fertilizer manufacturing plants and to increase technical expertise.
3. **To change** the name of Working Group on Seed Bank as Working Group on Seed Security and Trade in order to steer the direction of the functions of the Group towards facilitating seed trade, ensuring preservation of biodiversity and seed security, and fortifying its functions.
4. **To intensify** the functions of Working Group on Animal Feed in achieving optimum level of production and supply of quality animal feed by formulating workable strategies, which will rationalize implementation of common projects, including suitable systems for small scale livestock production, feasibility studies, common research and capacity building. To utilize D-8 Animal Feed Information Center (D-8 AFIC) as the main media to exchange data, information and products of animal feed.

5. **To utilize** fisheries and aquaculture as food and nutrient source by setting up a feasible work plan, including enhanced collaboration on aquaculture, fish utilization and processing, fish trade and commodities, small-scale fisheries management, and management of inland waters for fish. To facilitate collaboration, seminars, trainings, workshops and business forums might be main activities to exchange experience between member countries.
6. **To identify** selections of priority of food/agricultural and fisheries products subject for harmonization of standard regulations, the standards of food quality and safety refer to the existing codex standards. This priority can be used as the focus for capacity building and technical cooperation, including exchange of information along the supply chain of production, processing and labeling. By this harmonization, the trade barriers among member states can be reduced and thus economic activities can be improved.
7. **To formulate** a workable action-plan so that activities and projects under agricultural cooperation are in the right way and timely implementation. In this regard, the role of national focal points at senior level, who are eligible to make decisions to ensure the effectiveness, is imperative in order to follow up and assure effective implementations of all decisions.
8. **To commence** cooperation among the D-8 countries on the establishment of common policies with the aim of increasing trade in accordance with the common rules among D-8 countries based on international rules and norms on seed and plant materials for production.
9. **To reaffirm** the need for a common agenda to support rural development, creation of employment and income that is more equitable generation and distribution to overcome poverty and increase access to food. In this regard, each Working Group

shall work to increase public-private investment for rural infrastructure and support services.

**10. To increase** the level of effective coordination network and involvement of private stakeholders in their respective groups.

**11. To continue** the works towards finalization of the D-8 Programme for Food Security (D-8 PFS) as well as D-8 Information and Knowledge Management Network, which will serve, inter alia, as the guidelines for further activities of D-8 agricultural cooperation.

Ministers and Heads of Delegations conveyed their words of appreciation to His Excellency Mehmet Mehdi Eker, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey for his wisdom and chairmanship during the meeting, and expressed their high appreciation to the Government of Turkey for an excellent arrangement for organizing the meeting. The Meeting also appreciated the Secretariat for its valuable support rendered to the event.

The Meeting proposed Bangladesh to consider holding the 6<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and to inform the Secretariat in three (3) months of their readiness.