



TIJARIS



INTRA-OIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT MAGAZINE

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**HE. Mr. Yerlan
Baidalet, DG of
the IOFS “The first
OIC Regional Food
Security Reserve
is ongoing”**



**Ensuring food security, an imperative
in times of crisis**



Electric cars, a bet for OIC countries

Protected Areas at the heart
of the OIC's concerns

The United Arab Emirates
invests in Central Asia

Sustainable Implementation of
TFA in OIC Countries

The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)

is the subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, which has been entrusted with trade promotion among the OIC Member States.



Its main objectives are as follows :

- To encourage regular trade exchanges among Member States ;
- To promote investments likely to develop trade flows ;
- To contribute to the promotion of Member states' products and encourage access to foreign markets ;
- To promote trade information ;
- To assist Member States in the fields of Trade Promotion and international negotiations ;
- To extend assistance to enterprises and economic operators.
- To participate in the trade fairs organised by ICDT.

Trade Promotion :

- To promote contacts between Member States' Businessmen ;
- To ensure the promotion of Member States' production by regularly holding the Islamic Trade Fair and specialised showrooms ;
- To assist Member States with creating and organising Export Promotion Centres ;
- To extend consultancy and expert services to Member States in the field of trade promotion.

Trade Information :

- To collect and disseminate trade information ;
- To Develop Trade data bases and facilitate their remote access ;
- To Assist Member states with setting up and organising documentation and information centres and Trade Information Networks.

Investment Promotion :

- To encourage intra-O.I.C investments ;
- To promote foreign investments in the O.I.C Member States ;
- To encourage partnership between Member States' economic operators ;
- To provide consultancy and expert services to Member States in the area of investments promotion and in particular export oriented investments.

Studies and research :

- To publish an annual report on Intra-OIC Trade ;
- To undertake sectorial product and market studies ;
- To examine the ways and means likely to alleviate obstacles to trade among Member States.

Training :

- To organise seminars and training sessions ;
- To help Member States establish expert groups in the various fields of trade development.

International Negotiations :

- Assist Member States in trade negotiations ;
- Prepare and organize the Intra-OIC Trade negotiations.

EDITORIAL



FOOD SECURITY: AN INTRA-OIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Food security is a priority in light of the international juncture and its damaging impact on the food ecosystem. The collateral damage of the Covid19-, the instability of food markets, the various phytosanitary problems, and their negative effects on agricultural productivity, undermine the international community's efforts to feed the world's populations.

This vulnerability, exacerbated by the soaring demand for strategic foodstuffs, the abuse of natural resources, and the fragmentation of value chains, justifies the crucial importance of food sovereignty. Therefore, it becomes mandatory to rethink national agricultural strategies to orient them further towards the satisfaction of the countries' needs.

Some countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) are, of course, among the top exporters globally, mainly of pulses and cereals. Other countries, however, are net importers of foodstuffs to cover local demand, due to soil and productivity constraints.

In sub-Saharan Africa, agricultural yields remain below the region's natural potential. This situation is particularly crippling, given the very rapid population growth in African countries. Hence, there is an urgent need for action.

Strengthening the resilience of food systems is essential to cope with crises, according to a report by the FAO High-Level Panel of Experts. Indeed, international supply chains have been severely affected during the covid period. This explains the need for proactive policies to rationalize agri-food productivity in order to promote a well-thought-out local market balance.

The efforts made by the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) in this regard illustrate the concern of the OIC to ensure the agricultural development and food security of Member Countries.

Several assistance programs are deployed to support the most affected countries through the development of high-yielding agricultural subsidiaries. Meanwhile, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade is striving to make agricultural trade a vehicle for economic resilience and market development in the OIC.

The will of the OIC institutions and countries is explicitly expressed, but it is incumbent upon us to multiply the initiatives to move forward. We must act to enhance the natural and economic complementarities among OIC Member Countries, by encouraging investments in the agricultural field. For instance, the fertile lands of the African and Central Asian regions constitute a promising platform for higher productivity in strategic commodities, such as wheat, rice, corn, cassava, etc.

Indeed, it would be beneficial to consider a joint venture approach to the exploitation of cultivable land reserves in the OIC space, to constitute a sort of granary for the OIC region. In this regard, land development and technical and financial support to farmers are crucial to achieving food abundance, self-sufficiency, and building the basis for long-term economic resilience.

It is worth noting that the technical deficit and the lack of funds to support several OIC Member Countries can be remedied through a proactive policy of mutual assistance and solidarity among Member Countries and with the support of relevant international institutions.

Certainly, climate shocks, conflicts, economic turbulence, and recurrent pandemics will unquestionably continue to impact the international food market. Yet, they provide an opportunity to work in new ways to promote food resilience. So, it is up to us to be quick on the trigger.

Latifa Elbouabdellaoui
Director General of ICDT



The OIC pavilion was granted the Bronze Trophy in the category «Interpretation of the theme»

CONTENT

Expo 2020: Efforts paid off.....	5
ICDT holds its 39th Board of Directors Meeting.....	6
Protected Areas at the heart of the OIC's concerns.....	7
The United Arab Emirates invests in Central Asia.....	8
A Regional Plan for Sustainable Implementation of TFA in OIC Countries.....	10
Interview with HE. Mr. Yerlan Bidaulet, DG of the IOFS «The first OIC Regional Food Security Reserve is ongoing».....	12
Egypt has become the hub for Malaysian palm oil in Africa.....	17
Improving the business climate in Morocco.....	18
ISHTIAQ BAIG, To increase substantially the intra-OIC trade is the need of the hour.....	19
Ensuring food security is imperative in times of crisis.....	22
Electric cars, a bet for OIC countries.....	24
Women Empowerment.....	26
OIC Agenda.....	27

EXPO 2020 : EFFORTS PAID OFF



After 6 months exposition, the curtain fell on Expo 2020 Dubai on Thursday, March 31, 2022, with a magnificent closing ceremony that epitomized the spirit of unity, solidarity, and brotherhood among the world's peoples. This mega-event, the first of its kind in the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia region, has brought together 190 countries and welcomed 23 million visitors since its opening on October 1, 2021.

Held on the eve of the Expo's closing on March 30, 2022, at Jubilee Park, the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) Awards Ceremony included the

awarding of the BIE Trophies, celebrating all those who have made a major contribution to the success of the World Expo. Divided into five different categories depending on the size and type of the pavilion, the « Official Participants » Awards were based on three aspects of the pavilions: architecture and landscape, design and interpretation of the theme.

The participation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Expo 2020 Dubai through its pavilion was awarded at the BIE Day Awards. Indeed, the OIC pavilion was granted the Bronze Trophy in the category « Interpretation



of the theme» under the category «Mobility». The BIE Award acknowledges the efforts of the Organization and the staff in making major contributions to the success of the Expo.

Expo2020 Dubai was an excellent opportunity to recall the mission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as the collective voice of the Muslim world, whose interests it safeguards and protects in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among the diverse peoples of the world. Noting that the OIC is the second-largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations, with 57 Member States on four continents.

The OIC Pavilion was a real opportunity to present the main achievements of the OIC and its institutions in promoting the true image of Islam and encouraging intercultural dialogue, as well as the efforts made to improve the standard of living in the OIC countries, particularly in the areas of infrastructure and land development, trade, finance, empowerment of the vulnerable and initiatives for women and youth.

The OIC Pavilion «Iqra! (read) was conceived as a travel idea that transports the visitor from a binary (black and white) mindset that perceives only stereotypes... to an inclusive (multicolored) mindset that embraces curiosity, knowledge, and understanding. This simple prescription «Iqra!» goes beyond its literal meaning. Thus, the visitor begins his journey from a space that recalls the values and key messages that promotes the OIC, then as the journey continues his/her understanding deepens, and discovers a panoply of frescoes, images, and animations representing the great diversity, the melting pot of cultures, the mixing of people and ideas that makes the Muslim world.

ICDT HOLDS ITS 39TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



The Board of Directors of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade held its 39th Ordinary Session in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco on 4 Shaaban 1443 H (7-8 March 2022).

The meeting was attended by Mr. Naghi JABBAROV, representative of the OIC General Secretariat, and the Members of the Board of Directors

representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; the Republic of Cameroon; the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire; the Republic of Indonesia; the Kingdom of Morocco; the Federal Republic of Nigeria; the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; the Republic of Tunisia. The proceedings were led by the Kingdom of Morocco, in the person of Mr. Rachid Sarah, Director at

the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The Council invited the Centre to intensify its efforts to enhance intra-OIC trade; to participate in the organization of the OIC Private Sector Forum in collaboration with the OIC General Secretariat in Jordan in 2022, and to create and update databases on business opportunities in each Member State. These databases will contribute to facilitating the implementation of intra-OIC partnership projects.

In this respect, Mrs. Latifa ELBOUABDELLAOUI, Director General of ICDT, announced that the Centre will organize more forums on Doing Business, B2B meetings, and regional integration of OIC countries, and will integrate into its new strategy, activities related to niche products such as banana, honey, shea butter and other tropical products (mango, pineapple, coffee, and cashew nuts) as part of its efforts to empower the vulnerable populations. Finally, special attention will be devoted to measures to combat the high cost of living caused by the Covid 19 pandemic.

ICDT PARTICIPATES IN THE 48TH SESSION OF THE OIC COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation held its 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers under the theme: «Building Partnerships for Unity, Justice, and Development» in Islamabad, capital of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22-23 March 2022.

This session addressed several political issues including those related to the implementation of the resolutions adopted on various causes in the Islamic world, including the issue of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as well as the fight against Islamophobia. Furthermore, the OIC Foreign Ministers agreed to strengthen cooperation in the economic and commercial fields by encouraging the private sector and removing obstacles to the development of intra-Islamic trade, including the operationalization of the Trade Preferential System (TPS-OIC). It has also been decided to promote regional economic integration through the development of investment projects, technology transfer, and transportation. Lastly, priority was given to the development of the African continent, in particular the sub-Saharan countries, with a view to regional integration.



PROTECTED AREAS AT THE HEART OF OIC'S CONCERNS

Conservation of land ecosystems remains an unsolved global issue generally and in OIC countries particularly.

During the period 2000-2010, the rate of deforestation in the OIC countries was 0.27% per year, but it increased significantly to 0.44% for the period 2010-2020. OIC countries, on average, are also experiencing an increased risk of extinction for all species, albeit at a slower rate. The loss of biodiversity would be disastrous for human beings, as biodiversity provides them with ecosystem services that are essential for survival. Given the challenges faced by OIC countries, it is crucial for them to implement policies and programs aiming at preserving the environment and the species to avoid drastic ecosystem imbalance.

In this regard, the OIC has in recent years raised its interests in the fight against climate change and the preservation of the environment and species in Member Countries.

In this respect, Member Countries are invited to actively engage in various environmental programs organized by various OIC institutions such as the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COM-CEC), the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS).

Interestingly, among the solutions to environmental issues would be to tap into Green Tourism, a new niche that offers many opportunities. This approach in addition to alleviating the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will serve the best interests of Member Countries in terms of enhancing sustainability, innovation, and the well-being of the populations and would highly benefit their economy as well. Many OIC countries already pay great interest in Green Tourism. Several initiatives testify to the strong willingness of the OIC Member States



to develop green tourism. It is worth mentioning that Uzbekistan has offered to host the 25th UNWTO General Assembly in 2023, and the city of Bali in Indonesia will host the World Tourism Day in the year 2022 under the theme «Rethinking Tourism» while the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will organize the World Tourism Day in 2023 under the theme «Tourism for Green Investments».

Furthermore, Many African Member Countries have embarked on this path with the launching of the "Regional Project on Sustainable Tourism Development in a Network of Cross-Border Parks and Protected Areas in West Africa" that aims at commercializing the following protected areas: Djoudj - Diawling (Senegal / Mauritania); Niokolo Koba - Badiar (Senegal / Guinea); Gambia River Basin - Kayanga - Geba - Koliba - Corubal (Gambia/ Guinea-Bissau/ Senegal); Rios Kogon - Korubal - Nunez (Guinea Bissau / Guinea); Pinselli - Outamba - Kilimi (Sierra Leone / Guinea); Bafing - Faleme (Mali / Guinea); W (Benin / Burkina Faso / Niger).

Within the framework of the implementation of this Project, ICDT and SESRIC entrusted by the OIC General Secretariat and the UNWTO organized several steering committee mee-

tings on the sidelines of the Islamic Conferences of Tourism Ministers in Azerbaijan (2006), Syria (2008), and Gambia (2013). Following the validation of the Project Feasibility Study in 2009 at the UNWTO Headquarters, a Donors Conference was organized in 2011 in Senegal. Other meetings and workshops were also held at ICDT and SESRIC Headquarters or virtually in 2014, 2016, 2019, and 2022.

However, despite the continuous efforts of all stakeholders, the project still needs the financial support of OIC countries and institutions for its completion.

These projects and initiatives are all examples that demonstrate the indomitable will of the Member Countries to protect their environment while developing parallel activities aiming at promoting sustainable and inclusive Green Tourism. In the future, it will be a question of combining our efforts and draining the financial means to position ourselves in this market, it will also be necessary to develop other sectors with high potential such as sustainable tourism, health tourism, and e-tourism in order to overcome the negative effects of the pandemic and reinforce the resilience of our OIC Economies.

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES INVESTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

The Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan have expressed interest in emulating the development model of the Gulf States, using their energy wealth to become regional players.

The cultural similarities - especially in hunting, and equestrian activities - have fostered deep ties that are rooted in a unique family brand of Trans regionalism.

The UAE, in particular, was an early investor in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, two key states with ports on the Caspian Sea that constitute a vital factor in the development of the new silk road.

With more than 200 companies operating in Kazakhstan, the United Arab

Emirates is at the forefront. Investment funds and subsidiaries of the Mubadala Development Company have been created and allocated to the country for the financing of key projects such as the construction of a multi-billion dollar chemical complex in the Atyrau region in 2018.

There are several sectors that have been targeted. First and foremost, the energy sector takes into account the natural resources of each country. More than ten years ago, Mubadala signed an agreement with KazMunai-Gas for a 24.5% stake in an offshore field in the Caspian Sea.

It is worth noting that the logistics sector is equally important because of Kazakhstan's positioning, via Dubai's DP world acquisition of two special

economic zones in Kazakhstan on the Caspian Sea. DP World has purchased a 51% stake in the Khorgos special economic zone and a 49% stake in the Aktau zone which gives DP World the management and governance rights.

Over and above the growing trade ties, partnership relations between the two countries have been enriched by the creation of joint investment funds Kazakh-Emirates, and the establishment of cross-participants between Mubadala and the Kazakh sovereign wealth fund justifying real proximity between the two countries with common goals.

In the same spirit, the economic relations between the United Arab Emirates and Turkmenistan, augur a fruitful partnership, particularly in the exploitation of natural gas reserves.



Interestingly, a number of investments in infrastructure projects are underway with a view to Ashgabat's future role as a major exporter of natural gas through the TAPI pipeline. In fact, Dragon Oil, a subsidiary of Emirates National Oil Company (ENOC), has a significant presence in Turkmenistan and boasts of being alongside Petronas, the leading Malaysian company in drilling.

Additionally, a loan agreement was signed between the government of Turkmenistan and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development to finance a project of the establishment of a chemical plant for the production of mineral fertilizers in the city of Turkmenabat. Furthermore, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the State Electric Power Corporation «Turkmenenergo» and Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC - Masdar in the field of

port operations and logistics between one of the largest port operators in the world DP World (Dubai Port World) and Turkmenbashi International Seaport.

Besides, an agreement was signed on the establishment of a joint investment company in Turkmenistan between the Abu Dhabi Development Fund and the State Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of Turkmenistan.

As for Uzbekistan, bilateral relations between the two countries date back more than thirty years and have been intensified over the last three years. In March 2019, we had witnessed the first official visit of Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the United Arab Emirates, which resulted in an unprecedented influx of Emirati investment. In fact, between March 2019 and August 2021, the amount of FDI from the

United Arab Emirates to Uzbekistan reached 4.5 billion dollars financing, among other things, the first ever solar power plant in Uzbekistan with a capacity of 100 MW.

Leadership programs are also initiated by the UAE for the benefit of Uzbek authorities to share their experience in terms of government services, smart services, institutional performance and innovation and excellence.

According to official statements, the results of 3 years of strategic partnership between the two countries are very encouraging. The joint actions of the two governments focused on 26 priority areas and 120 initiatives for exchanging experience and expertise within the framework of the organization of 130 workshops in various fields.

A REGIONAL PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPLEMENTATION OF TFA IN OIC COUNTRIES.



«The Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and the Benefits of a Regional Plan for its Sustainable Implementation in the OIC Countries» was the theme of a consultation workshop jointly organized by the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade and the Regional Integration and Cooperation Department of the Islamic Development Bank on 23-24 March 2022 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

This workshop is part of the consultations with the OIC Member States to identify their technical assistance needs regarding the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement.

These provisions concern various practical areas of international trade, namely the reduction and simplification of formalities that could constitute a hidden restriction to trade, the establishment of a single window, the reduction of customs clearance time, and the use of new information and communication technologies in the processing of import-export operations.

The workshop was attended by 15 OIC Member Countries and was moderated by experts from WTO, UNCTAD, the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, the League of Arab States, IsDB, and ICDT. Dis-

cussions focused on the obligations arising from the provisions of the TFA and in particular from Category C, as well as the importance of this Agreement for the development of intra-OIC trade. In this respect, OIC countries are currently applying 58% of the provisions of the Agreement, against 74.4% for all the WTO Member Countries. The African zone, in particular, has reached 39.9% of the implementation of the provisions of the TFA while the Arab-OIC countries and the Asian countries are at higher levels, i.e., 71.6% and 69.6% respectively. The agreement provides for a progressive application of the pro-

visions for developing and least developed countries. Three categories have been provided for in this sense: a first category A corresponding to measures to be implemented immediately upon entry into force; a second category B for provisions to be implemented after a transition period; and finally, category C for provisions requiring assistance and capacity building before implementation. Categorization is done by notification to the WTO with a closing deadline of 22 August 2022 for Category C.

The WTO, UNCTAD, and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation (GATF) have all announced their full readiness to provide the necessary technical assistance in

joint actions with ICDT and IsDB. Various technical assistance topics have been identified and they include:

- The interconnection of information systems of different organizations and publication on the Internet (Single Window, data exchange, regulation ...);
- The development of software and systems e-Phyto, eTIR/CMR, e-port, e-certificate of origin, BlockChain;
- Internet publication, software development, and exchange of electronic data related to TFA.
- Studies and analyses on the time needed for the Handling of Goods, the impact of TFA on intra-OIC trade, and the impact of COVID on the implementation of TFA
- Training on ICT, notification pre-

paration, risk management, project evaluation, needs formulation, institutional coordination mechanism, and strengthening customs control/inspection

- Awareness raising and upgrading on global issues for the members of the National Trade Facilitation Committees
- Development of cooperation between border agencies.

Therefore, it is necessary to encourage cooperation between the countries that are advanced in the implementation of the TFA and those countries that are in the preliminary stages, particularly in terms of the establishment or strengthening of single windows. The future of intra-OIC trade depends on it.



THE FIRST OIC REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY RESERVE IS ONGOING.



At the outset, Tijaris Magazine would like to thank Your Excellency, Yerlan Baidaulet, Director General of the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) for accepting our invitation to give your Excellency's point of view on food security issues

Tijaris 1: To ensure sustainable food security in OIC Member States, the IOFS launched 16 strategic programmes as the Action plans for wheat, rice, cassava or palm oil. To what extent, such strategic programs are integrated in the agricultural local policies of OIC Member States?

Allow me firstly to share that the IOFS core business is ensuring food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development in the OIC geography. The mission of IOFS is to safeguard sustainable food security in the OIC Member States through socio-economic development and systemic promotion of targeted programs related to agriculture, science and technology, humanitarian aid, trade and food export to the Member States.

Secondly, I would like to draw a difference between the "16 strategic programs", which were designed to respond challenges identified within 5 pillars towards boosting the cooperation with Member States, national, regional and international organizations for the benefits of agriculture sector and the welfare of the people in the OIC region, and Plan of Action for systemic development of strategic commodities that would need a close cooperation with Member States through dedicated Centers of Excellency of each commodity so as to ensure successful implementation of the same.

In this context, it is important to recall that the paragraphs 07-08 of the Final Resolu-

tion adopted by 8th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development, held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 25-27 October 2021, were clear in endorsing the OIC Programmes of Action on the Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities, namely: i) OIC Programme of Action for Development of Rice; ii) OIC Programme of Action for Development of Wheat; and iii) OIC Programme of Action for Development of Cassava; while requesting the IOFS, in collaboration with the concerned OIC Member States and relevant OIC institutions, to elaborate appropriate implementation plans for the effective realization of these OIC Programmes of Action on the Development of Strategic Agricultural Commodities, and periodically submit a report on their execution to the relevant OIC fora.

It should therefore be a joint effort for with Member States for the initiatives of the IOFS, as the sole and legitimate OIC Institution solely focused on the matters related with food security, to be included in their respective agricultural policies. We have been meeting several high-level delegations from different Member States and continuously requesting them to embrace IOFS Strategic Framework under IOFS Vision 2031 as their own documents, and as their tools to facilitate intra-OIC cooperation in the field of agricultural development and food security.

BIOGRAPHY

2001-2005 – IDB Group, Field Representative in Kazakhstan.

2006-2010 – Eurasian Development Bank, the Head of Representative Office in Astana.

2010-2019 – Ministry of Investments and Development of Kazakhstan, Adviser (out of staff) to the Minister (in charge of cooperation with OIC MCs)

I am happy to share that the Programme on Development of Strategic Commodities and the initiation of Creation of Centers of Excellence (CoE) within the OIC for development of certain commodities, including Wheat, Rice and Cassava was to provide the platform for interaction with Member States to enhance the current practices for reaching agricultural sustainability, through the sharing information, creation the opportunities for scientists, researchers, farmers and policymakers to find the best solutions and collect expert recommendations from different countries. We have some interesting examples of such interaction:

a. in 2021, we conducted a number of activities towards initiating CoE for Development of Rice in Kazakhstan, Bangladesh and Senegal. Also on 14-16 February 2022, Forum on Strategic Commodity development and Food safety was held in Doha, Qatar. This Fo-

rum welcomed representatives of 18 OIC Member States and research institutions. In 2022 the IOFS is expanding its activities in African Member States with the aim to develop and integrate best practices of rice production. Along with Asian eminent research institutions hands-on training would be provided by COE based in ISRA, Senegal.

b. As for Cassava, the IOFS jointly with Nigerian National Root Crops Research Institution (NRCRI) on 23 September 2021 held the First Meeting of CoE for Cassava for Sub Saharan Group II, with about 70 representatives of research Institutions, local authorities, and experts of the sector from Benin, Togo, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal, Uganda, and Nigeria. The event devoted to the innovations and technologies in the development of cassava through climate-resilient decisions and newly adopted varieties. We understand that cassava represents a valuable subsistence and cash crop in many African countries. Its starchy root represents a major dietary source for more than 500 million people globally and ranks fourth food crop in the developing countries, after rice, maize and wheat, while Africa accounts for over 50% of the total world production of cassava. For this reason, we will continue working with African Member States to ensure sustainable development of this important crop.

Photo legend :
H.E. Yerlan Baidaulet, DG of the Islamic organisation for food security

c. It is known that Palm oil production is one of the main staples and export commodities in major OIC Member States. With Indonesia topping the global list of palm oil exporters, followed by Malaysia and Nigeria, the importance of Palm Oil within the OIC region is very considerable. Consequently, there is a need to develop a multilateral cooperation framework that would assist in the value-chain development, to provide mass employment creation, rural development, and poverty reduction in OIC geography. We are planning a number of activities in the second semester of 2022 to develop CoE for Palm Oil.

d. Finally, as Wheat is considered as one of the important crop varieties for any food secure system, the IOFS has been providing a platform for breeders and scientists to exchange cultivation and production practices of new resilient, climate tolerant varieties that add value to the development of wheat production. IOFS evaluates various policies and strategies for wheat developing, hence related authorities and governments of member states are involved in IOFS programs and activities to ensure effective implementation.

To conclude, it is important to note that the development of the sustainable agriculture sector and food systems in OIC Member States is mired by a multitude of constraints

concerning agricultural resources, infrastructure, policy and international commodity markets. Member States therefore are urged to work closely with the IOFS towards addressing such constraints delaying their agricultural efficiency for it to be used as the basic tool for ensuring national food security in OIC geography.

Tijaris 2: Given the current critical state of affairs caused by the global pandemic, we understood that IOFS actively works on the Program National food sectors development in cooperation with state investment agencies. The program encourages intra-OIC investments and trade to build up value chain of domestic food processing and develop food clusters. Perhaps, Your Excellency could tell us more about this. How do investment promotion agencies respond to that?

Allow me to revisit the IOFS Strategic Framework as of 2020 to mention that Pillar D is devoted to Private Sector Driven Agro-Food Trade and Investment Promotion, which is the foundation of relationship between the IOFS and Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs).

It is my strong belief that national food sectors development in cooperation with IPAs is a platform that has the potential for initiating programs towards increasing intra-OIC trade and

investments to build up value chains of domestic food processing, sales networks and develop food clusters, including basic agriculture and logistics. We are therefore in consultations with some important IPAs from OIC Member States, including Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates, and Turkey where we in fact signed an MoU the Investment Office of the Turkish Presidency in November 2021 for them to share their valuable experience for developing the OIC directory on food-related project investments and conceptualize together on appropriate investment promotion strategies to support local food clusters.

Another important avenue for our cooperation with IPAs from Member States is within the activities of the International Islamic Food Processing Association, which is 100% subsidiary and B2B arm of IOFS to strengthen food industry in OIC region. Herewith, International IFPA would arrange the needed match-making process between project owners and institutional investors and activate investment flows between OIC Member States.

Additionally, we intend to establish a database for investors, which is a special OIC-wise list of institutional investors and business partners on the basis of the already developed IOFS Food Balance Database. This digital platform would enable a common intra-OIC FDI vision

through operating an accurate data and providing an objective approach by ranking (white vs. black list) of registered and non-registered agri-food sector companies.

It is important to note that currently the IOFS is also actively working on implementing the Sheep Farming Fund investment project. This year, IOFS shall facilitate a pilot supply of premium quality lamb from Kazakhstan to the GCC countries. It is now a favorable moment to kick-start this project, since the imports from Australia, which constitute a major share in the local market, significantly dropped in volume and rose in price. In 2023, the project shall move to an investment stage, which entails building up innovative sheep farms with intensive feeding lots and processing plants fully complying with Halal standards.

This project shall provide sustainable intra-OIC supplies of top-quality meat with the planned capacity of 40 thousand tons per year. Investment needs for one case project are preliminary estimated at USD 100 million. IOFS shall facilitate financing from institutional investors of OIC Member States with the support of member countries' IPAs. Upon successful implementation, this fund is to be replicated in other OIC countries, such as Somalia, Sudan, etc. Finally, I should mention that the IOFS is arranging intra-OIC supplies of

frozen premade bakery. IOFS is now working on integrating all interested Central Asian grain growers, flour mills, bakeries and other related businesses in a production cluster for providing stable supplies of high-quality bread and pastries with an export potential. This year IOFS is planning to facilitate a pilot shipment of frozen croissants and other pastries to Qatar. When this project

WE ARE PLANNING A PILOT PROJECT TO ESTABLISH THE FIRST REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY RESERVE WHICH WILL COVER THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: KAZAKHSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, AZERBAIJAN, IRAN, TURKEY, ALBANIA AND PAKISTAN.

reaches an investment stage, IOFS shall also cooperate on this with the Member States' IPAs.

Tijaris 3: The Food Security reserve and Grain Fund are a vital and core component of the IOFS programmatic strategy and response for securing food self-sufficiency and the prevention of malnutrition and hunger across OIC countries. In which way IOFS can help the least developed countries of OIC to finance their food storage capacities?

Before dwelling on the question,

itself, it is critical to understand that the IOFS is not a funding Institution, it is a programme one. The IOFS however is immersed itself in ensuring that the OIC Food Security Reserve System (FSRs) sees the light of the day without delay, as it has been on the OIC agenda since 1981.

The main purpose of the FSRs is to facilitate access to food in the Member States by forming regional food reserves to guarantee supplies in times of food shortage and by monitoring and forecasting the situation. The IOFS Secretariat, following a research study, proposes the establishment of six regional Food Reserves. The proposed structure of the FSRs would consist of two parts: the Food Reserve, formed by contributions from member states, and the Humanitarian Reserve, formed by voluntary aid. Conditions for withdrawal of stocks from the FSRs are envisaged in two ways, on a reimbursable basis (based on pre-agreed arrangements between the Member States) and on a non-reimbursable basis (in humanitarian emergencies).

But for this ideal plan to become a reality, Member States have to adhere to the Charter document (Memorandum) and a Steering Committee must be established to approve further organizational and institutional decisions. If such will of Member States is achieved, then we are plan-

ning a pilot project to establish the first Regional Food Security Reserve which will cover the following countries : Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkey, Albania and Pakistan. Our focus to start in Central Asia is particularly Afghanistan, after the IOFS was mandated to initiate and implement an Afghanistan Food Security Program (AFSP) by 17th Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on the Situation in Afghanistan, held on 19 December 2021 in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Grain Fund however is almost in its final stages, and I believe that the IOFS 5th General Assembly will come up with a decision to finally establish it for also increasing intra-OIC economic cooperation particularly in the field of agricultural development and food security with emphasis on funding and grain supply. It should be underscored that the Grain Fund may be an important tool for Member States to avoid different factors that destabilize the grain market price policy, while reducing the price risk of purchase of agricultural products, as well as currency risk in attracting loans from foreign financial institutions. We also hope that this Fund, when fully replenished, would provide for strengthening ties with Islamic financial institutions through the IOFS to attract investment in agricultural development and food security, including the development of food safety production and value chain.

Tijaris 4: Many OIC countries are facing tremendous challenges due to their dependence to the Ukrainian and Russian wheat. At the same time, some OIC countries are among major wheat and flour producers. In which way, can the IOFS, as food security responsible and action-oriented OIC specialized institution, can foster solidarity among OIC countries?

A: Number of countries with vulnerable economies suffering from consequences of wars and natural disasters, who excessively rely on food exports from both Russia and Ukraine. This dependency covers a wide range of crops, together, Russia and Ukraine produce 30% of the world's volume of wheat. By March 22, global wheat prices had already gone up by 19% due to the war in Ukraine. Egypt, Indonesia, and Bangladesh are among top OIC importers of wheat from Ukraine, followed by Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey. Also Egypt, Turkey, and Bangladesh are main importers of Russian wheat. At the same time among OIC countries, Pakistan (25.2 mln tonnes) is leading in production of wheat, followed by

Turkey (20, 5 mln tonnes), Iran (15 mln tonnes) and Kazakhstan (14,2 mln tonnes). For producers and traders is urgent task for now is to finding alternative markets. The IOFS would respond to the call from the countries to facilitate the necessary arrangements within its competency and mandate.

It is therefore very important for OIC Member States to scale up their intra-OIC cooperation in this particular field, as well, and the IOFS, as always, is ready to support the Member States by providing the platform for business exchanges, particularly, through its Subsidiary Institution, IFPA. Last, but not least, let me again reiterate that IOFS Group is your institution and cannot move without close cooperation with its member states and their related national agencies. Here I am inviting to join you all our efforts and programmes, share your own concerns and interests and align them with our long-term strategy. The results upon would be soon with such close solidarity in sha Allah. membres permettront de voir des résultats très prochainement Inch Allah.

Ukraine's top export partners: wheat and maize

Top ten countries based on total value of exports, 2016–20

Top destinations for wheat exports		Top destinations for maize exports	
	Total		Total
Egypt	\$2.34B	China	\$3.32B
Indonesia	\$2.23B	Egypt	\$2.30B
Bangladesh	\$1.47B	Netherlands	\$2.27B
Philippines	\$876.39M	Spain	\$2.26B
Morocco	\$857.40M	Italy	\$1.10B
Thailand	\$789.14M	Iran	\$1.05B
Tunisia	\$770.09M	Turkey	\$938.56M
South Korea	\$611.57M	Israel	\$723.43M
Turkey	\$562.03M	Portugal	\$610.78M
India	\$537.26M	Germany	\$496.76M

EGYPT HAS BECOME THE HUB FOR MALAYSIAN PALM OIL IN AFRICA

Palm oil is the most produced and commercialized vegetable oil in the world. Cultivated only under tropical weather, Palm oil is widely used in the manufacture of many products, such as margarine, cosmetics, cookies, candles, chocolate, detergent, washing powder, cosmetics, and, to a lesser extent, biofuels, and animal feed.

Widely grown in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, its cultivation is characterized by a much higher yield than other vegetable oils and contributes to poverty alleviation and rural development in many OIC regions. Egypt's geographic and cultural proximity to its major export markets, including the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), facilitates its trade. In addition to that, Egypt is part of several preferential trade agreements that offer tariff reductions and rules of origin for products. These include access to Europe, Arab countries, and sub-Saharan Africa through the Egypt-European Union Partnership Agreement; the Greater Arab Free Trade Area; and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

Given this potential, Egypt plans to become the hub for re-exporting Malaysian palm oil to Africa and more specifically, to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). COMESA's resolutions this year allowed many incentives which

have been enabling Egypt to export Malaysian palm oil to other African countries. Palm oil factories and storage areas are now almost operational in Egypt.

For processors, accustomed to the cyclical variations of this raw material, palm oil has the advantage of being destined for the local market, unlike cash crops that are mainly exported, such as cocoa or rubber. The evolution of African markets should therefore be substantial. According to a study by the Farm Foundation in February 2020, demand in the main consumer countries of sub-Saharan Africa is expected to increase by nearly 50% by 2030, compared to 2017, and cannot be fully met by local production.

Egypt is interested in working with Malaysia to develop a palm oil storage, distribution, and marketing facility to meet the needs of neighboring markets. Rising prices have boosted the willingness of manufacturers, because, at the end of the chain, demand remains exponential. In the front, there is still plenty of room for improvement in yields. The idea aligns with Malaysia's efforts to tap new markets for its main commodity exports. Certainly, population growth coupled with rising levels of palm oil consumption per capita, especially as purchasing power increases, will ensure a very dynamic future for palm oil in Africa.



While the high cost of fertilizers, end-of-year floods and omicron's impact on the availability of labor have already affected Malaysian production, the Russian-Ukrainian conflict added more uncertainty in the palm oil market.

Indonesia, another OIC member country and the world's largest exporter of palm oil, has put in place a temporary ban on all exports. Indeed, the decline in sunflower oil exports, of which Russia and Ukraine produce more than 80% of world demand, had a substitution effect in favor of palm oil, which resulted in a sharp increase in demand and prices on the international market..

ENHANCING THE BUSINESS CLIMATE IN MOROCCO :



The improvement of the various components of the business climate in Morocco has always been at the heart of the Moroccan authorities' concerns. In this sense, Morocco has initiated several projects to ensure a favorable

climate for foreign investment, particularly through the launch of major institutional reforms. Henceforth, the Kingdom has a solid network of conventions relating to the promotion and protection of invest-

ments and conventions of non-double taxation. Morocco is currently in free trade with 55 countries, which gives it access to a market of more than one billion consumers. These agreements have made Morocco the 2nd most open African and Arab country in the world.

It should be noted that the economic dynamics that Morocco is experiencing would not have been possible without the Royal determination to place the country among the world's emerging countries. Numerous projects have been carried out to promote human development and fight against poverty and exclusion, through the programs of the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), the development models of the southern provinces, the development programs of rural and mountainous areas, as well as the adoption of a new development model (NMD).

FROM RECOVERY TO RESILIENCE, UNCTAD REPORT 2021

As the global economy recovers from the economic paralysis caused by the pandemic, there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel. The opportunity arises to rethink the model of global governance that has guided the world economy for some 40 years now, largely failing to fulfill its promise of prosperity and stability.

According to the same publication, a better world will only emerge from the pandemic if robust economic recoveries are encouraged and sustained in all regions of the global economy if the economic gains of the recovery are biased in favor of middle- and

low-income households, if the provision of health care, including easy access to vaccines, is treated as a true global public good, as well as if there is a strong, coordinated investment push in all countries towards carbon-free energy sources.

There are signs that 2021 could mark the beginning of a more equitable and resilient global economy, one that can withstand shocks and cross-crises, and that rests on a new consensus regarding the balance between state, market, society, and environment.

After decades of growing inequality, polarizing pressures, and a pandemic that has destroyed jobs on an unprecedented level and in light of UNCTAD's recent Trade and Development Report, the economic recovery offers an opportunity to rebalance the distribution of income within and between countries.



ISHTIAQ BAIG, TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALLY THE INTRA-OIC TRADE IS THE NEED OF THE HOUR.



I am the Vice Chairman Baig Group a leading business group in Pakistan engaged in diversified industrial and commercial activities. The group has earned credibility and reputation in the business community of Pakistan, the credit of which goes to our team of professionals and dedicated personnel who have proven to be asset to the group and created a name for its commitment for quality and delivery. Research and development and the new markets is the area where the group is focusing on.

Moreover, the group also believe in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and a percentage of our profit spent on social welfare work through its NGO Make-A-Wish Foundation dedicated to grant the last wishes of terminally ill children.

I have served as a Vice President of Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) an apex body of leading businessmen of the country. I am playing vital role in resolving various issues of the business community. I play role of a bridge between the business community and the Governmental organizations to resolve their issues at different forums. I also appear regularly on different media channels to talk about economy and the challenges faced by Pakistan.

Your Excellency, you are the Vice Chairman of Baig Group, a multinational conglomerate engaged in diversified industrial and commercial activities operating in Pakistan, U.A.E. and Morocco.

Your Excellency, you have been also appointed Hon. Consul General of Morocco in Karachi and was conferred

with prestigious Civil award "Tamgha-e-Imtiaz" by President of Pakistan in recognition of his social services.

Tjjaris 1: Your Excellency, you have strong credibility and reputation in the business community in Pakistan & overseas. How have you been able to gain such notoriety over the years ?

Tjjaris 2: Your Excellency, you have certainly faced a lot of obstacles to export goods to OIC Countries, what was the biggest challenge and how did Your Excellency overcome it?

70% of Pakistan export is towards European Union and USA and it's unfortunate that the trade among the Muslim countries with Pakistan are not significant. It's a need of the hour that the trade between the Muslim countries should increase substantially. Our export strategy should be based on an assessment of our own position and research into promising opportunities. We will need to think long term about how to reach new customers by participating in exhibitions in Muslim countries.

Expanding into new markets involves a great deal of market research in addition to target customers. When going into international markets, we need to be aware of the different cultures.

Tijaris 3: Your Excellency, you are an example for all young entrepreneurs in the Islamic world. If you want to give advice to them, what would it be?

No one is born as an entrepreneur - we all learn by making mistakes. Experts say that making mistakes early in life is much better than making the same mistakes years after and losing money in the process. While 'making mistakes' is one way to learn, another great way of gaining knowledge is through learning from the mistakes of others. Most entrepreneurs are too self-conscious in sharing their ideas. This is the wrong approach because,

TO THE SERVICES OF OTHERS.

Ishtiaq Baig is actively engaged in social welfare work in Pakistan. He is the Founding President of Make-A-Wish Foundation Pakistan, an affiliate member of Make-A-Wish Int'l, the largest wish granting organization in the world, dedicated to grant the last wishes of the terminally ill children. He is also on the board of directors of Make-A-Wish Foundation Int'l USA.

Ishtiaq Baig is also the Hon. Consul General of Kingdom of Morocco by the Government of Morocco since 2007. As Hon. Consul General, he is instrumental in enhancing the bilateral trade between Morocco & Pakistan. In recognition of his services His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Kingdom of Morocco has conferred upon him with "Wissam" in the year 2012.

He is the former Vice President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry, an apex body of trade & industry of Pakistan. He has also served on FPCCI various standing committees as Chairman.

He was also conferred with prestigious Civil award "Tamgha-e-Imtiaz" by the President of Pakistan in recognition of his social services through Make-A-Wish Foundation Pakistan.

if they don't share their ideas, there is no way of knowing whether they are on the right track. Similarly, without sharing the idea, the startup founders couldn't meet with like-minded people. In order to succeed in businesses, we need to have a growth strategy in place.

60% of Pakistan population consist of youth below 30, however, after COVID the economy of every country has affected and youth finding it difficult to get good jobs. The IT export has increased tre-

mendously, India IT export has crossed 150 billion USD, I will advise youth to acquire IT knowledge and adopt the profession to contribute their share in IT industry.

Tijaris 4: Your Excellency, OIC member countries abound with considerable potentialities in terms of trade and investment. What is your experience in these countries?

The trade between OIC countries is not substantial and its needs to be increased. I would like to congratulate ICDT for playing their role in this regard to increase the trade between Muslim countries.

In the light of the current situation, Member States should continue collaborating with each other in order to facilitate trade and investment among OIC countries by organizing more activities targeting the promotion, facilitation, financing and insurance of trade between countries and regions of OIC zone. It is worth mentioning that OIC member States invest in the progressive creation of a Free Trade Area, and adhere to the guiding principles of facilitating investment and the integration of intra and interregional value chains of OIC countries in the domain of Halal industry, logistics, and transportation, agribusiness, textile, pharmaceuticals, leather, automobile, renewable energies of which the Member States have a substantial potential.

OIC AND ITS INSTITUTIONS AT A GLANCE

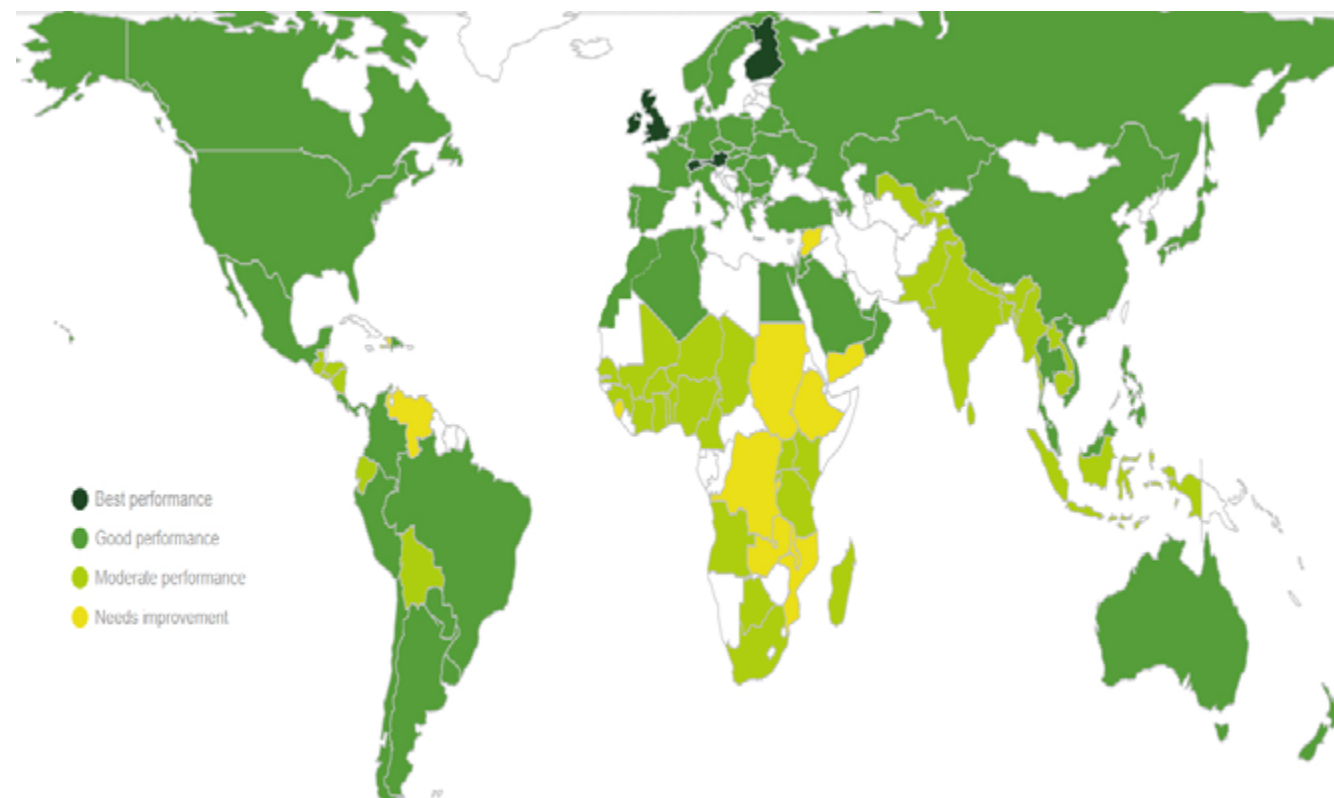


ENSURING FOOD SECURITY IS AN IMPERATIVE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

The Covid-19 pandemic has put all systems in jeopardy, above all the food security system. Indeed, due to the closure of borders and the disruption of value chains, many world markets have been affected, leading to several supply shortages

the internationalization of markets prevent certain segments of the population from gaining access to food due to a lack of financial means. Therefore, Food security is as much a societal issue as a sovereignty issue. Since the 1970s, se-

Regarded as a national cause, governments have been quick to take control of the agricultural sector by administering prices and creating giant public farms to produce and store as much as possible, thus halting any plans to reform African



in OIC Member Countries. Food security is always defined as the physical and economic ability of people to purchase, acquire, or consume sufficient food for an active and healthy life. Based on this observation, adopting a strategy to achieve food self-sufficiency based on local production is not sufficient, since the policy of supply and demand and

veral strategies have already been implemented in Africa, particularly in the Sahel, but these strategies, which advocate a nationalist and interventionist approach to agriculture, have had the opposite effect. Indeed, African imports have never been so high. Côte d'Ivoire, like Senegal and Cameroon, imports more than \$500 million worth of rice to cover its deficit.

agriculture and encourage investment, innovation, and productivity. It would be more appropriate to ensure food security through the combination of high productivity agriculture while accelerating institutional reforms (land tenure, taxation, credit, marketing, etc.) and subsistence agriculture to raise farmers' incomes and fight poverty. Nigeria has followed this path and it

seems to be successful. Abuja has encouraged the private sector to invest through a series of measures (guaranteed minimum price, provision of inputs, agricultural loans, tax exemptions). Consequently, this has led to an improvement in the productivity of small-scale farmers, who represent almost the majority of the sector, and the creation of large farms. The launch of a \$1 billion investment plan in 2017 by Aliko Dangote's group to cultivate 150,000 hectares and install ten factories with the ambition of reaching one million tons of rice per year by 2022.

The Malaysian experience is also instructive. To ensure food security, the country committed itself since independence to increasing rice production by introducing Green Revolution practices in both large-scale irrigated rice fields and small-holder farms. The government has introduced new high-yielding rice varieties and encouraged mechanization and the use of chemical inputs. This has resulted not only in a six-fold increase in the total irrigated area but also in an increase in average paddy yield from 1.2 tons per hectare in 1965 to 3.7 tons per hectare in 2011.

Interestingly, the use of digital technologies can also be essential as they help build farmers' capacities through agricultural extension. Digital technologies are also a source

PLANTIX

Plantix is a mobile crop advisory application for farmers. Based on artificial intelligence, the app assesses the damage caused by plant diseases and nutrient deficiencies affecting crops and proposes corresponding treatment measures.

Downloadable for free, farmers can send photos to have their plantation diagnosed, access local weather, get good farming advice throughout the season and receive disease alerts when a disease is spreading in their environment.

monitoring tools, automated irrigation systems, and soil quality sensors are all means to increase production efficiency.

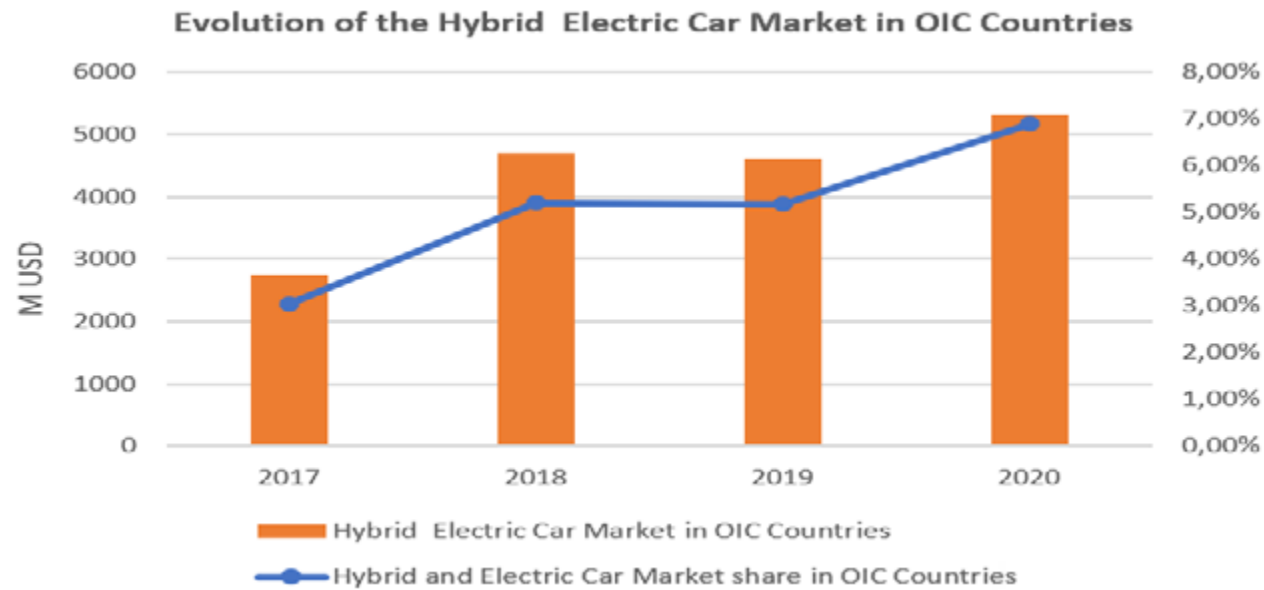
Several start-ups specializing in these areas have emerged, such as «Hello Tractor», which connects tractor owners and farmers in Nigeria, or «Plantix», which identifies diseases, pests, and nutritional deficiencies.

Climate shocks, conflicts, and economic turbulence will continue to cause food insecurity in many OIC countries. Therefore, there is an urgent need for concrete action.

The OIC Member States and institutions are strongly committed to the elimination of hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2.



P20-21 HYBRID ELECTRIC CARS MARKET: 2.8 BILLION USD OF TRADE BALANCE SURPLUS FOR THE OIC COUNTRIES



Climate emergency is at the root of strong initiatives for ecological solutions free from fossil fuels. The subject is so worrying that the automotive industry has found itself obliged to move towards hybrid or even totally electric technologies.

In 2020, three million electric cars were sold worldwide, recording a 43% increase in difficult market conditions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. A trend that is also observed in the OIC countries, both in terms of sales and manufacturing.

Indeed, the market for hybrid electric cars in OIC countries will reach more than 5,320 million dollars in 2020, i.e. an increase of more than 94% in less than 4 years. The share of electric and hybrid cars in the overall automotive market has also increased from 3.04% in 2017 to

6.89% in 2020, an increase of 127%. This development is remarkably seen in Turkey, the number of registered electric and hybrid cars was 17,749 in February 2020 and amounted to 36,487 by the end of the year. In February 2021, Turkey added 44,291 cars, an increase of 150% over the same period last year. It can be noticed that electrification of the transportation sector has become a «strategic priority» for the country.

Furthermore, the electric hybrid car market is a source of growth as several OIC countries have manufacturing and assembly plants for electric and hybrid cars.

In Turkey, where companies such as Ford, Fiat Chrysler, Renault, Toyota, and Hyundai have supply lines to export cars to Europe, the number

of locally manufactured hybrid cars has increased by 150% from 2020. In Morocco, the German car manufacturer Opel will start producing electric cars soon. The Rocks-e model, an upgraded version of Citroën's Ami EV microcar, will be the first fully electric passenger car to be manufactured in North Africa.

Interestingly, the advent of electric vehicle production in Morocco was quite unexpected. The recent inauguration of a production line for electric vehicle microchips by European semiconductor manufacturer STMicroelectronics at its Moroccan plant has put Morocco on a rapid path to welcome electric vehicle production.

In Egypt, authorities are also setting their sights on becoming North Africa's leading producer of electric

cars and thus becoming the region's next automotive manufacturing hub. In a major breakthrough for Cairo, Chinese carmaker Dongfeng signed a framework agreement in January 2021 with Egypt's state-owned El Nasr Automotive Manufacturing Company to jointly produce electric vehicles in Egypt. The agreement between Dongfeng and Nasr calls for 55% of the vehicles' components to be manufactured locally. These investments justify a trade balance surplus of up to 2,808 million USD in 2021.

By the same token, the hybrid, as well as the electric car, can also be a catalyst for the automotive industry in general, allowing the various OIC

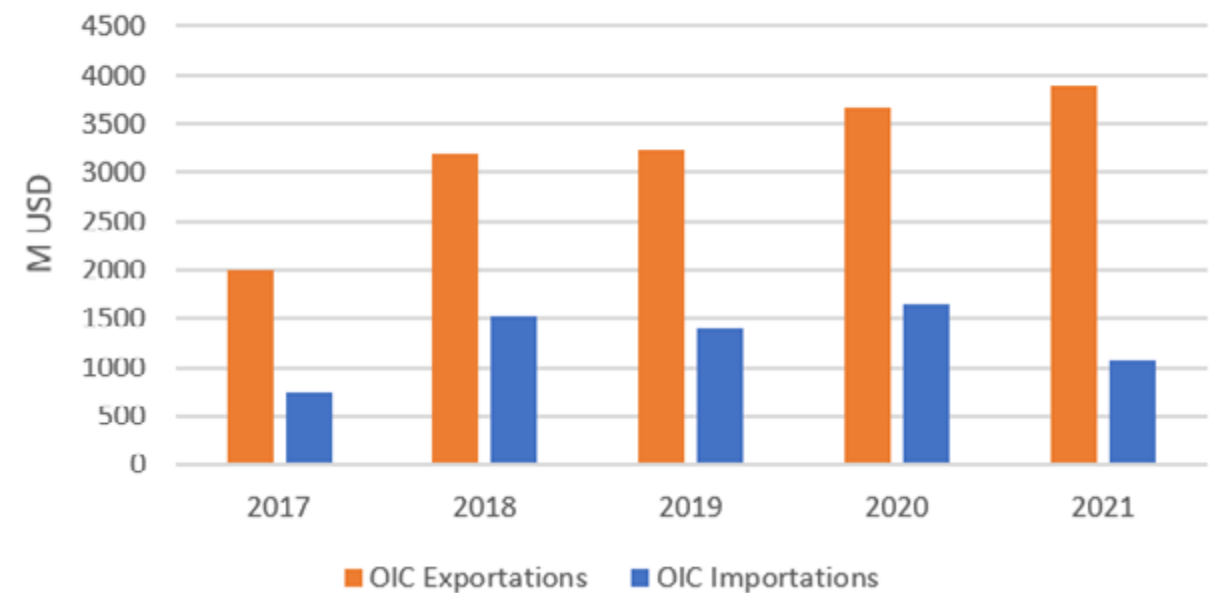
member countries to move from being assemblers to manufacturers. The electrification of the transport sector has indeed become a «strategic priority» for Turkey, and the introduction of the first locally produced all-electric domestic vehicle in Turkey is clear living proof of this.

In fact, five industrial giants (Anadolu, BMC, Kok Group, Turkcell and Zorlu Holding) supported by various professional associations, have joined forces to produce five different models by 2030: SUV, sedan, c-hatchback, b-SUV, and b-MPV under the brand TOGG created in 2018. The manufacturing plant, which is expected to cost USD 3.7 MM, will employ over 4,300 people.

TOGG engineers are responsible for the complete design of all original and patented electric vehicle platforms for the five models.

Likewise in Morocco, the German company's new two-seater electric vehicle marks the advent of a new generation of cars developed by the country's engineers. The Rocks-e model was developed at the Moroccan Technical Center (MTC), the R&D design and engineering laboratory originally founded by the Peugeot Group Société Automobile. The improved design has actually minimized production costs and ensured a more competitive position in the European market for electric two-seaters without a license.

Evolution of the trade of hybrid or electric cars between the OIC and the world



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



Recent studies show that Women-owned businesses represent between one quarter and one-third of enterprises in the World, and in developing countries around 36% of MSMEs are partially or fully owned by Women. Although this is very encouraging, it is worth mentioning that Women entrepreneurs are invisible in global value chains and fail to access international markets. This is largely related to the lack of managerial skills and support from private and public institutions, and it is also related to financial and legal constraints encountered by Women during their daily activities.

In OIC countries, Women entrepreneurs suffer from the same problems as their counterparts in the rest of the World in addition to having limited access to education, training, and financial support, especially in developing countries. To address those issues, the OIC has

made the socio-economic empowerment of women and the protection of their rights a top priority and has paved the way for the elaboration of the OIC Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women (OPAAW), which led to an unprecedented interest of OIC Authorities on important issues relating to Women.

The organization of the 8th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women organized from 6th to 8th July 2021 in Cairo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, under the theme « Preserving the Achievements of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in light of Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond » illustrates the high interest of the OIC countries and institutions towards Women situation and empowerment in OIC Countries. Another testimony is the Conference which registered the participation of delegations from 48 OIC Member States, which was

marked by the presence at the opening ceremony of HE Abdel Fattah El-Sisi – President of the Republic of Egypt, HE Dr. Yousef A. Al Othaimeen – Secretary-General of the OIC, HE Madam Helene Marie Laurence – Minister of Women National Solidarity Family and Humanitarian Action of Burkina Faso, and HE Dr. Maya Morsi – President of the National Council for Women of the Arab Republic of Egypt and elected as Chair of the 8th OIC Ministerial Conference on Women.

It is worth mentioning that ICDDT has been commended for its efforts and has been mandated to prepare a study on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women's entrepreneurship in the OIC countries. It has also been entrusted with the organization of a Forum dedicated to women's cooperatives in Sub-Saharan Africa

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, putting Women entrepreneurs at the center of national policies and programs would guarantee a rapid return of sustainable economic growth in OIC countries.

In this connection, Brunei Darussalam and Djibouti have also made girls' formal education compulsory for up to 9 years and 16 years, respectively. Senegal and Turkey also launched initiatives to reduce the dropout rates for female students by keeping them in schools. Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and UAE have national strategies and plans to improve women's and girls' education at various levels. Indonesia has schools dedicated to women belonging to vulnerable groups and Morocco provides direct financial support to needy families (through Tayssir Programme). This financial support is meant to facilitate sending girls to school.

CALENDAR

Activity	Date	Lieu
Webinar on green tourism	1-2 June 2022	Online
17th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States	13-19 June 2022	Dakar - Republic of Senegal.
Uganda Coffee day	11-12 July 2022	Republic of Uganda
Visit of a delegation of businessmen from Sharjah to Tangier, Kingdom of Morocco	September 2022	Tangier, Kingdom of Morocco
9th Exhibition of Halal Products of the OIC Member States,	September 14-18, 2022	Tunis - Republic of Tunisia
Bahrain Halal Expo,	October 6-8, 2022	Sakhir Region - Kingdom of Bahrain
Coton textiles and clothing Expo	28 September-2 October 2022	Abidjan , Cote d'Ivoire
10th Exhibition of Halal Products of the OIC Member States	November 24-27, 2022	Istanbul - Republic of Turkey
18th Trade Fair of the OIC Member States	December 2022	Lahore - Islamic Republic of Pakistan



Centre
International
du Commerce
Extérieur du Sénégal

17TH TRADE FAIR OF OIC MEMBERS

June 13th-19th, 2022 DAKAR SENEGAL



THEME

FACILITATING INTRA-OIC TRADE:

WHICH TOOLS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE EXCHANGES ?

