



Islamic Organization
for Food Security

Mangilik Yel ave.
55/21 AIFC, unit C4.2
Nur-Sultan, 010000
Republic of Kazakhstan

l'Organisation Islamique pour
la Sécurité Alimentaire

Mangilik Yel ave.
55/21 AIFC, unité C4.2
Nur-Sultan, 010000
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المنظمة الإسلامية للأمن الغذائي

AIFC, unit C4.2
21/55 Mangilik Yel
010000
بنية
نور سلطان
جمهورية كازاخستان

info@iofs.org.kz tel: +7 (7172) 99-99-00 fax: +7 (7172) 99-99-75 www.iofs.org.kz



EXPLANATORY NOTE: AGENDA ITEM 5

IOFS PROGRAMMES UNDER OIC SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIONS AGENDA (STI 2026)

- a. **Workshop on Development of National Gene Banks**
- b. **Roundtable on Increasing Water Use Efficiency and Modern Irrigation Systems**

Preamble

It would be recalled that the 4th Executive Board approved the 2020 Programme of Activities, featuring the above two events. Following due coordination by the Secretariat and thanks to the greater support of our respective Board Members, the Governments of United Arab Emirates, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have graciously agreed to host both events respectively in Dubai and Jeddah. Both programmes fall under the OIC Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Agenda 2026, which was adopted at the First OIC Summit on Science and Technology held in Nur Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan on 10 September 2017.

Follow-Up

The Workshop on the Development of National Gene Banks is being organized by IOFS, in collaboration with the Government of United Arab Emirates, the OIC Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). It is scheduled to hold in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on 5-7 July 2020.

The 3-day Workshop upon the Development of National Gene Banks is expected to examine various thematic issues relating to the acquisition, utilisation and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Accordingly, IOFS Secretariat has duly circulated the Concept Note on the Workshop, after receiving some inputs from member states on their national experiences on the operations of Gene Banks and plant and animal genetic conservation mechanisms. Furthermore, the Secretariat engaged all partnering institutions on the details and modalities aimed at ensuring seamless arrangements and preparations for the Workshop.

With regard to Roundtable on Increasing Water Use Efficiency and Modern Irrigation Systems, the Secretariat has circulated the Concept Note to member states, requesting inputs bearing on their national experiences in the domain. The Roundtable would review the state of water management, use and conservation for agriculture in member states and would be taking place as a side-event during the 8th OIC Conference of Ministers Responsible for Water, scheduled to hold in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in October 2020. Furthermore, the Roundtable is expected to propose a mechanism for sharing best practices among member states in the area of efficient water use and management, including recommendation of modern cutting-edge irrigation systems.

Conclusion

The General Assembly is being invited to review all background documents on the aforementioned events and consider the Draft Resolutions on the actualization of the outcomes of the Workshop and Roundtable respectively.