

Activity	
Full Title	Training on “Genetic Resources and Genebank Management”
Acronym (or short title)	Training on Genebank Management
Duration of Activity	07 days
Starting Date	From 20 to 28 June 2022

### Activity Coordinators/Organizers

Activity Coordinators	
<b>1. Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS)</b>	
Name & Surname	Mrs. Makpal BULATOVA
Current position	Program Manager
Telephone	+7 701 777 36 49
Email	<a href="mailto:m.bulatova@iofs.org.kz">m.bulatova@iofs.org.kz</a>
<b>2. National Genebank of Tunisia (NGBT), Ministry of Environment of Tunisia</b>	
Name & Surname	Mrs. Yassine NAHDI
Current position	Documentation Manager
Country	Tunisia
Telephone	+21622611289
Email	<a href="mailto:yassine_nahdi@gnet.tn">yassine_nahdi@gnet.tn</a>
<b>3. The Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)</b>	
Name & Surname	Dr. Ayham Al-Homsi
Current position	Director of Economics and Planning Department
Telephone	+963 949 119 680
Email	<a href="mailto:ayhamalh@hotmail.com">ayhamalh@hotmail.com</a>

### Beneficiaries

1. Benin
2. Burkina Faso
3. Senegal
4. Republic of Guinea
5. Cameroon
6. Cote D'Ivoire
7. Mali
8. Niger
9. Chad
10. Togo
11. Gabon

## Activity Description

### Background

The strategic mission of the Islamic Organization for Food Security is to ensure sustainable food security in member states. It provides expertise and technical know-how to member states on various aspects of sustainable agriculture, rural development, food security, and biotechnology, It assesses and monitors the state of food security in member states to be able to identify emergencies, provide social safety nets, and humanitarian assistance through food security reserves, Coordinates, formulate and implement common agricultural policies, such as exchange and transfer of appropriate technology and public food management systems, Address problems posed by desertification, deforestation, erosion, and salinity;

To mobilize and manage financial and agricultural resources to enhance food security. Objectives of the IOFS Program on Development of National Gene Banks in the OIC Region are to facilitate the strengthening of the institutional and human capacity of the research institutes and gene banks through building a framework for constant collaboration among countries, planning and coordination with partners to bring the best expertise on the conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources with the aim of increasing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security in the OIC Member States. In this context, IOFS organized three regional training Webinars (ASIA Chapter, AFRICA Chapter and MENA chapter) on **“Acquisition, Conservation, Exchange and Safety Duplication of Plant Genetic Resources in OIC Member Countries”**, These workshops are culminating in an online conference on 11th November 2021, with the topic: **“COMSTECH-IOFS-BCI International Conference on Acquisition, Conservation, Exchange and Safety Duplication of Plant Genetic Resources in OIC Member Countries: The Way Forward”**. The goal of the Conference was to share the consolidated information about national and regional plant genetic resources, their presentation and exchange facilities. This enables the development of regional collaboration for extending and preserving the plant genetic resources of member states.

### Justification

National, regional and international research and development institutions are aware of the importance of conserving biodiversity for sustainable agricultural development, food security, and protecting the environment. Africa is a hot spot and a center of diversity for many species of global importance. This agrobiodiversity is under major threat, leading to losses of species and farming systems and genes needed to adapt to biotic and abiotic stresses.

The related African indigenous/traditional knowledge of local communities on the management of natural resources and the crop landraces and their wild relatives evolving under farmers and natural selections are invaluable components of local agrobiodiversity which have sustained the natural resource base and the livelihoods of local communities, and conserved in situ and on-farm genetic resources and traditional farming practices which can be valued in similar conditions over the world. Since the signature of the Convention on

Biological Diversity (CBD) (1992,1993), African countries have been trying to benefit from strategies that were developed to meet its three objectives: Conservation of genetic resources, sustainable use of genetic resources, and access and benefit-sharing. While the third objective is still under discussion, African countries are realizing a huge gap in appropriate technologies to be able to meet the three CBD's objectives.

In November 2007, the Government of Tunisia, through the initiative from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, established a National Gene Bank (NGBT) with the mandate to coordinate and promote all the activities of conservation and sustainable use of plants, animals and micro-organisms biodiversity. A gene bank with a capacity for ex situ conservation of 200,000 seed accessions is constructed at the NGBT headquarters in Tunis.

African Ministers of Environment, during their Conference in Windhoek-Namibia, (March 8-10, 2010) expressed their urgent need in building capacity and technology transfer in the field of genetic resources conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing.

Tunisia, a member of the Islamic Organization of Food Security, is willing to put its experience and technical and scientific facilities to meet the challenge of helping African countries build their capacities with an appropriate technology transfer in the field of genetic resources conservation and sustainable use.

### **Approach**

The main aim of this training is to present and familiarize African participants with the Genebank operations and Genetic Resources conservation during a training held in the National GeneBank of Tunisia. The main objective is to contribute to strengthening African capacity in genetic resources conservation and sustainable use through appropriate theoretical courses, presentations, and practical sessions under the guidance of specialized trainers.

### **Expected impact/outcome**

- Introducing the general context and the best practices of the Genetic Resources Conservation and Management within different conditions. Moreover, increase the knowledge of the participants on the Genetic Resources Utilization and Sustainable Use. Besides the acquisition of the theoretical background, the participants will have a chance to visit demonstration fields and familiarize themselves with the management of the collection.
- The training will result in increased knowledge about Genebank management amongst African PGR specialists, possibly followed by the building of Genebank in one or more participating countries and the subsequent improvement of food security in the African Region.
- Strengthen the collaboration among African genebanks and Genetic Resources Centers.

## Partners

The aforementioned training will be conducted with the support of partners of IOFS and Tunisian National Gene Bank for delivering high-quality learning and ensuring the success of the activities.

**The Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD)** was established in 1968 in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic. It is a specialized organization working within the framework of the League of Arab States (LAS) aiming at unifying national efforts to develop scientific agricultural researches in the arid and semi-arid areas and exchanging information and expertise in a way that ensures benefiting from scientific advancements and transferring, developing and localizing modern agricultural techniques in order to increase agricultural production in these areas.

The eminent experts from ACSAD will share the best practices and expertise that would be of interest to the member countries for adapting and integrating with local routine genebank operations, and raise awareness of international and national policy instruments and regimes governing genetic resource access and exchange.

The purpose of the Institutions to organize the joint event is to enhance the human and institutional capacity of the OIC/LAS Member States and build the constant cooperation between research centers and gene banks of the countries.

## Conditions for participation

The participant should fill out the form of application to participate in the training and give a presentation about the status of the Genebanks and /or Genetic Resources Centers in their countries.

## Outcome, output, activity

Knowledge of participants about the Genetic Resources Conservation and Genebank Management.