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Concept note Qurbani meat initiative

Introduction

The main goal of Qurbani meat project is facilitate and create conditions for the sacrificial slaughter of livestock in accordance with Halal principles, as well as the efficient distribution of sacrificial meat.

The successful experience in this area is the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) ADAHI project. Since 1983, the IDB has been operating ADAHI in Makkah (the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) on sales of animals to pilgrims through special coupons. The advantage of this project that allow Muslims to delegate the functions of compulsory and voluntary slaughter of animals. This program is especially popular with pilgrims who came to make the Hajj to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. More than half of the pilgrims performs their duties through this program.

The project makes it possible to sacrifice animals in a centralized manner. Considering that the number of pilgrims to the Holy places of Islam is growing from year to year, the organized action of livestock in the large slaughterhouses helps to maintain cleanliness in places where pilgrims crowd, and also makes it possible to dispose of the sacrificial animals' meat as efficiently as possible in accordance with Islamic norms.

Project-to-date, about 20 million heads of livestock have been used. In the period from 2016-2019, about 3.5 million heads of sheep were distributed among needy people in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2.5 million heads of sheep) and 27 Muslim countries (936 thousand heads of sheep), including in 2019, 907 thousand heads of sheep were distributed.

It should be noted that in many OIC member countries similar programs are being implemented at the national level, including Kazakhstan: in 2020, the Muslim Spiritual Authority of the Republic of Kazakhstan initiated a program for the online sale act of slaughter and distribution of sacrificial animals at Eid Al-Adha. In 2020, about 20 thousand people of Kazakhstan took advantage of this program, about 16 thousand animals were slaughtered for more than 1.6 million US dollars.

Potential cooperation into OIC Member States

For the OIC countries, sheep breeding is one of the main branches of animal husbandry, and MS has a huge potential for the development of the sheep breeding industry. There are important factors of this are large grazing lands (for example, Kazakhstan owns 80% of all natural grazing in Eurasia, 187 million hectares, this is the 4th place in the world), centuries-old traditions, and human capital in IOC region.

The world number of sheep at the beginning of 2018 amounted to 1,202 million heads. The industry recovery over the past 15 years after a period of stagnation from 1991 to 2003 has reshaped the geography of sheep breeding in the world. The main livestock used to be in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, and the Americas nowadays allocated in regions of Southeast Asia and Africa.

The TOP 20 countries¹ of the world with the largest sheep population include 11 OIC Member States (Sudan, Nigeria, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Algeria, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Argentina, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan), the total volume of which is 323.5 million heads of sheep, which is about 27% of the number of sheep in the world.

However, as statistics shown, in the global sheep meat (also live sheep) market the OIC member countries are insignificant players (except for the countries of Sudan and Nigeria), despite a large number of sheep and the production output of mutton meat. This indicates a high demand, first of all, in the domestic market and going into export orientation with a glut of the domestic market.

OIC leaders in the export of live sheep are Sudan (about 2.3 million heads per year) and Nigeria (about 40 thousand heads per year), these countries mainly export the livestock (live sheep) and to a lesser extent, the prepared mutton and they are practically not represented in the world market. This indicates the weakness of the market infrastructure for slaughtering and supplying finished products to the markets.

As of today, the sheep breeding industry is export-oriented for all producer countries, since the concentration of livestock is geographically directly expressed in the Oceania, Europe, South Africa, Central, and South-East Asia, and consumption is growing in another location - in the markets of Central Asia, North Africa, China, South, and North America. A clearly defined geographical location is associated with the fact that sheep breeding traditionally in all countries relies on distant-pasture keeping and requires significant agricultural land resources. Therefore, the shift in the traditional area of sheep breeding on the world map over the past 50 years has been under the influence of the main factors of production - the cost of grazing land, the availability of freshwater, the availability of demand - approaching the main growing consumer markets.

Creating additional demand for livestock products is the main issue for the stable development of competitive agro-industries, crucial for the generating employment and income opportunities in the majority of IOFS/OIC Member States, considering the fact that more than 52% of the OIC and indeed IOFS populations live in rural areas and depend on agriculture.

IOFS' proposal

The IOFS Secretariat proposes the creation of an international system (on-line platform) to organize the slaughter of sacrificial animals and the distribution of meat to needy.

This platform will simplify and facilitate a Muslim from anywhere in the world to make a ritual sacrifice (for example, during Eid al-Adha, etc.), through delegating the IOFS' obligations.

The project will be implemented through a network of trusted livestock companies (farms, feedlots, slaughterhouses, etc.) located on the territory of any OIC MS. Operator of the project will monitor the implementation of the obligations assumed for slaughtering animals, in compliance with Islamic principal and sanitary and hygienic standards, as well as a distribution the meat to needy intra OIC. This approach will significantly reduce transport costs for the supply and distribution of animal meat. During the implementation of the project, the role of close cooperation with national humanitarian authorities is highly important.

The platform will be a centralized database that will enable its users to track the chain of slaughter and distribution of meat (where, when, at what time the sacrificial animal was slaughtered, to which countries the animal meat was sent in the form of assistance, etc.) with photo and video confirmation.

¹ calculations based on FAOSTAT data

The platform will also receive and process data on the assistance of needs for OIC member countries (suffering distress), charitable foundations, refugee organizations.

An important component of the project is interaction with the successful IDB Adahi project. As a result, it is planned to create a widely used globally popular information platform for carrying out Islamic sacrifices.

As an operator for this project, it would be possible to consider the Islamic Food Producers Association (IFPA), which is establishing under the auspices of the IOFS.

The necessity for this step is required by many objective factors:

- difficulties of sacrifice for Muslims living in Western countries, as well as some countries in the western world, have banned or severely restricted the sacrifice at Eid al-Adha. In addition, in many European countries, animals are killed in ways contrary to Halal;

- support for the rich livestock resources of the IOFS/OIC Member States in the form of creating the additional demand for producing in these countries, primarily by small and medium-sized farmers;

- expedite the distribution and minimize the delivery transport costs of humanitarian food products in the form of meat to needy.

Algorithm of the «Qurbani meat» system:

