

**REPORT OF THE  
THE MEETING BRINGING TOGETHER THE SIX CENTERS OF  
EXCELLENCE AND THE R&D CENTERS IN THE OIC MEMBER  
COUNTRIES**

**(İzmir, 2-5 February 2009)**

1. The Meeting Bringing Together the Six Centers of Excellence and the R&D Centers in the OIC Member Countries was held on 2-5 February 2009 in İzmir, the Republic of Turkey.
  
2. The following OIC Member States attended the Meeting ;
  1. Republic of Azerbaijan
  2. People's Republic of Bangladesh
  3. Arab Republic of Egypt
  4. Republic of Indonesia
  5. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
  6. Republic of Senegal
  7. Syrian Arab Republic
  8. Republic of Tajikistan
  9. Republic of Tunisia
  10. Republic of Turkey
  11. Turkmenistan
  12. Republic of Uzbekistan
  
3. The following Centers of Excellence attended the Meeting ;
  - Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (TURKEY)
  - Cotton Research Institute (EGYPT)
  - Cotton Research Administration Ministry of Agriculture (SYRIA)

- Agricultural Research Institute of Senegal (Experimental Unit of Velingara) (SENEGAL)
- Central Cotton Research Institute (PAKISTAN)

4. In addition to the OIC General Secretariat and the COMCEC Coordination Office (CCO), the following OIC Institutions attended the Meeting ;

- Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)
- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)
- International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC)

Representatives of the following international organizations and institutions attended the Meeting as well:

- Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)
- Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)
- West African Development Bank (BOAD)

(The List of Participants is attached as Annex I.)

5. Following a recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an, H.E. Assoc. Prof. Masum BURAK, Director General of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Turkey, made a statement. Welcoming the delegates, he emphasized that the cotton industry in many OIC Member States is still characterized by several production, processing, institutional and structural weaknesses that jeopardize its viability in an era of increasing globalization and competition in world cotton industry. On the other hand, some OIC cotton producing countries such as Turkey, Pakistan and Egypt have accumulated a vast experience in efficiently producing and processing high quality cotton. Ass. Prof. BURAK announced that the meeting place, Agro-hydrology Research and Training Centre, will be converted to an International Agricultural Research and Training Centre.

(A copy of the Statement of H.E Ass. Prof. Masum BURAK is attached as Annex-II.)

6. H.E. Mehmet Vehbi GÜNAN, General Director for Organisation, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Turkey, addressing the meeting, expressed his

hope that these meetings would be useful in order to develop possible cooperation opportunities activating the OIC Cotton Action Plan to put forth concrete steps to have beneficial outcomes.

(A copy of the Statement of H.E Mehmet Vehbi GÜNNAN is attached as Annex-III.)

7. H.E. Ferruh TIĞLI, Head of COMCEC Coordination Office and Director General of Foreign Economic Relations in State Planning Organization of the Republic of Turkey, addressing the meeting, underlined the importance of speedy implementation of the OIC Cotton Action Plan with concrete projects and programmes in the field.

He expressed his hope that this meeting and the following meetings of the Project Committee and Steering Committee will help launching the projects for introduction of better yielding cotton varieties, modernization of processing plants, and establishment of trade infrastructure in cotton including stock exchanges in the Member States. He also stated that COMCEC Coordination Office will continue to support OIC Cotton Cooperation Programme and initiatives under the Programme with every possible means.

(A copy of the Statement of H.E. Ferruh TIĞLI is attached as Annex-IV.)

8. Ambassador Nabika DIALLO, Adviser to H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC, delivered the message of H.E Prof. Ekmeleddin IHSANOGLU. In his message, H.E Prof. IHSANOGLU expressed his deep gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey, for the hosting and successful organization of this important Cotton Meetings as well as for all the arrangements made to ensure their success. He also expressed his appreciation to the Islamic Development Bank for its contribution towards the organization of this event.

He mentioned that these cotton meetings will look into all the challenges facing the Member States in cotton sector and evolve ways and means to allow for an optimum development of this important sector. He also emphasized that these meetings are very important for cooperation, coordination and ease communication between the Centers of Excellence and the Cotton Research Centers of the Member States. He hoped that decisions of these meetings will contribute to the timely implementation of the OIC 5 Year Cotton Action Plan (2007-2011). H.E. IHSANOGLU pointed out that we need to develop joint projects and make full use of the natural, financial, technical and technological resources available to us within the framework of our States and institutions in order to achieve our objectives.

(A copy of the Statement of H.E Prof. Ekmeleddin IHSANOĞLU, Secretary General of the OIC is attached as Annex-V.)

9. H.E. Mustafa Cahit KIRAÇ, Governor of İzmir, the Republic of Turkey, made inaugural statement. He expressed his pleasure to host this Meeting in Izmir and affirmed that the objective of the Cotton Workshop was to convert a big potential to an economic success. He gave information on the importance of cotton production and the rich agricultural potential in the Aegean region. He also stated that Turkey is ready to share its sound commercial and industrial infrastructure and experience with Islamic countries and to cooperate with them.

(A copy of the Statement of H.E. Mustafa Cahit KIRAÇ is attached as Annex-VI.)

10. The Meeting elected the Council as follows:

- Chairman: Republic of Turkey
- Vice Chairman: Republic of Senegal
- Vice Chairman: Syrian Arab Republic
- Rapporteur: Islamic Republic of Pakistan

11. The Meeting was chaired by Prof. Oktay GENCER, Head of Cotton Research and Application Center, Çukurova University, Turkey.

12. The Meeting adopted and considered the Agenda and the Work Programme, presented in the Annex-VII.

13. H.E. Mehmet Vehbi GÜNAN, General Director for Organization, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Turkey briefed the Meeting on the background of the OIC Cotton Cooperation Programme.

14. In the Meeting, Heads of Delegation of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Turkmenistan made presentations on Country Report of their respective countries.

(Copies of the Country Reports are attached as Annexes.)

15. A presentation was delivered by Mr. Nazeem NOORDALI on the role of International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) in trade financing with particular focus on the trade financing extended in the cotton sector in the OIC Member States in 2008.

He placed emphasize on the use of Structured Trade Finance (STF) technique and tools to provide a complete supply chain financing solution, with the example of Burkina Faso implemented last year for an amount of € 44 million.

This presentation shows how financing is provided for purchasing of fertilizers to produce cotton and to pay for the cotton seed to the farmers until repayment is obtained from export of the cotton fiber, with a description of security in form of warehouse receipt and monitoring by a collateral farm management company designated by the ITFC.

(A copy of the presentation of Mr. Nazeem NOORDALI is attached as Annex-VIII.)

16. Mrs. Dilek KAHRAMAN, Manager of Agro-hydrology Research and Training Center (ARTC), gave brief information about the ARTC. Mrs. KAHRAMAN called all relevant research centers, institutions and individual researchers from OIC Member States to cooperate and make use of the resources of the center. Turkey declared that they could offer training programmes on cotton for the Member States.

17. The meeting called upon the utilization of the Agro-hydrology Research and Training Center that is going to be transformed into the International Agricultural Research and Training Center for future OIC conventions in the field of agriculture.

18. The Meeting took note of the call of Syria for cooperation in heat-tolerant genotypes of cotton, machinery, early maturity, marketing, biological combat, and organic production.

19. The representative of Egypt also declared a need for cooperation in the heat-tolerant varieties of cotton.

20. Representatives of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan requested cooperation in alternative irrigation systems with lower amount of water to overcome the salinization problem.

21. Representative of Senegal also underlined the problem they faced due to high dependency on unstable rainfall and called for cooperation in alternative irrigation systems and in mechanized agriculture in the field of agricultural operations.

22. BADEA declared their readiness for support in terms of co-financing, training, and technical assistance in cotton sector for African Member States of the OIC.

23. FAO-Central Asia Office expressed their readiness for technical and financial support to cotton producing countries in Central Asia.

24. Mr. Yüksel KABAKÇI made a presentation on the working rules and procedures for the Centers of Excellence.

(A copy of the presentation of Mr Yüksel KABAKÇI is attached as Annex-IX.)

25. The meeting decided that the Centers of Excellence, after consultation among themselves, will determine their working rules and procedures.

26. The Meeting determined the countries each Center of Excellence is responsible for:

- Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (TURKEY)
  - Azerbaijan
  - Kazakhstan
  - Uzbekistan
  - Turkmenistan
  - Tajikistan
  - Iran
- Cotton Research Institute (EGYPT)
  - Sudan
  - Morocco
  - Yemen
- Cotton Research Administration Ministry of Agriculture (SYRIA)
  - Tunisia
  - Iraq
  - Algeria
- Experimental Unit of Velingara (SENEGAL)
  - Guinea
  - Togo
  - Mali
  - Burkina Faso
  - Ivory Coast
  - Benin
- Central Cotton Research Institute (PAKISTAN)
  - Malaysia
  - Indonesia
  - Bangladesh
- Institute for Agricultural Research (NIGERIA)
  - Cameroon
  - Uganda
  - Chad

27. Mr. Vehbi ESER, Head of Field Crops Department, Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs of Turkey, presented a SWOT analysis collectively prepared for the cotton producing states of the OIC. The meeting took note of this analysis and requested that the Centers of Excellence and R&D centers in the OIC Member States make use of the said analysis in their activities.

(A copy of the presentation on the SWOT analysis is attached as Annex-X.)

28. The meeting agreed to associate WAEMU in the future activities of the OIC cotton related programmes.

29. Mr. Mousa TRAORE, Senior Agriculturalist Expert, Country Operation Department-2 of the IDB, chaired the First Project Committee Meeting on Cotton. Turkey (3), Senegal (1), Egypt (2), Bangladesh (1), Uganda (1), BOAD (2), and ICDDT (1) submitted 11 project proposals for consideration of the Committee.

(The report of the Project Committee Meeting is attached as Annex-XI.)

30. The Second Steering Committee on Cotton was held on 4 February 2009 in Izmir on the sidelines of the Meeting Bringing Together the Six Centers of Excellence and the R&D Centers in the OIC Member Countries. The report of the said meeting will be submitted separately.

31. The Meeting expressed its gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to the participants and for the excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of the Meeting.

32. The meeting expressed its thanks to the General Secretariat of the OIC under the able leadership of its Secretary General H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, for his dedicated and tireless efforts for the OIC Five Year Cotton Action Plan. The participants also expressed their appreciations to the General Secretariat of the OIC and the IDB for their financial support provided for the organization of this Meeting.

33. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the chairman of the Project Committee and the members of the Committee for the quality of their work.

34. The meeting expressed its thanks to international organizations namely FAO, BADEA, BOAD, and CFC for attending to the meeting and for their valuable contributions.

35. At the end of the proceedings, the participants addressed their thanks to the Chairman of the First Meeting of the Centers of Excellence/the Cotton Research Centers for his excellent steering of the debates.

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