



19TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
28 Oct- 03 Nov. 2023
CAMEROON



المنظمة الإسلامية للأمن الغذائي
Islamic Organization for Food Security
l'Organisation Islamique pour la Sécurité Alimentaire



CONCEPT NOTE

Building Food Systems Governance and Policy Analysis Capacity in Africa

Date and Time: 1st November 2023 (14:00 – 16:00 GMT+1)

Venue: Meeting Room A, Palais Des Congres, Yaoundé, Cameroon

Language: English (*interpretation into Arabic, French upon request*)

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/3FvgOZp>

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Food Security Challenges

Food crisis remains the top major problem faced by the world population that suffers from acute hunger and malnutrition largely because of global recession, conflicts, and climate change effects. The situation day by day has been even worsening due to direct and indirect consequences of COVID-19 and, the current Ukraine crisis, as they are following with border lockdowns that disrupt the food supply chains, increase the costs of food for vulnerable households, and overall, intensify the vulnerabilities and inadequacies of national, regional, and global food systems.

Food insecurity is mainly defined as a lack of consistent access to enough and adequate food for an active, healthy life. It is commonly described in terms of food availability, food access, and food utilization, as well as the sustainability of these three aspects. In recent years, two pillars, namely “sustainability” and “agency” have been included emphasizing stakeholders’ engagement and long-term viability of the environmental and social factors of food systems. Food insecurity is also at the heart of the international movement to overcome hunger and poverty. In fact, UN SDG 2 focuses explicitly on food by seeking to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”, at the same time, multiple other SDGs relate to challenges in the food system in broad.

Global food insecurity unfortunately might be present everywhere around the world: from overpopulated urban areas in developing countries to post-industrialized cities in developed countries. In this context, defeating hunger and food insecurity needs qualified people with skills to analyze, evaluate, and then suggest strategic moves.

Food Security Education

In addition, food insecurity is closely linked with under-education that both are common in many

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countries. The challenges are enormous, especially in rural areas where food insecurity, poverty and educational deprivation often create a vicious circle. Designing food security and education programs with an explicit recognition of these positive linkages can benefit both sectors and contribute directly to achieving food security and nutrition.

Education has multiple individual benefits. It increases present human capital and future earnings. In this context, universities play an important and largely unfulfilled role in the well-being of small-scale farmers and the economic development of countries. Globally, there is a justified recent trend for universities to establish Institutes or Centers of Food Security considering its commitment to help the government identify the current challenges, review the food insecurity problems from wide range of perspectives, and propose ways of solutions to address the problems of food systems and the challenge of feeding the exponentially growing population. There is also a strong demand for strengthening the cooperation among universities and research entities because researchers need to be able to better communicate to effectively inform policy makers.

At the same time, currently, universities provide education on many agricultural aspects, including agricultural science, natural resources, land management, agricultural management, food safety and food innovation. However, the ongoing global challenges necessitate the teaching on basics of food systems, food security and food supply chains. Because food security and food systems are cross-dimensional subjects and require the coverage of multiple subject areas. To meet the demands and address the food security problems, universities shall consider establishing a Faculty of Food Security by designing a specific syllabus and education program on food systems.

IOFS PROGRAM “OIC FOOD SYSTEM TALENT DEVELOPMENT”

The core objective of the IOFS is to ensure the Food Security and promote agricultural and rural development in OIC member countries. Moreover, the IOFS puts the topic Food Security Education as a priority at the IOFS Agenda. In the framework of the IOFS Strategic Vision 2031 and within the implementation of the Program “OIC Food System Talent Development”, the IOFS Secretariat pays the significant attention to the development of human capital for sustainable Food Security, supporting smallholder farmers through extension, strengthening the role of universities, raising awareness on food and nutrition security from the early ages among member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Along with this, universities currently provide education on many agricultural aspects, including agricultural science, natural resources, land management, agricultural management, food safety, and food innovation. However, the ongoing global challenges necessitate the teaching of the basics of food systems, Food Security, and food supply chains. Because the Food Security and food systems are cross-dimensional subjects and require the coverage of multiple subject areas. To meet the demands and address the Food Security problems, universities shall consider establishing a Faculty of Food Security,

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designing specific syllabi and education programs for a degree in Food Security or applying courses on food security at the bachelor and master levels.

ROUNDTABLE FOOD SECURITY EDUCATION

The current regional trends require a new education program to train new generations of specialists in Food Security. It should teach modern approaches in finding new strategies to protect and improve rural livelihoods, equity, and social well-being of nations. Learn methods to improve efficiency in the use of resources crucial to sustainable agriculture. The new experts in FS are supposed to be capable of building robust business models throughout the food supply chain, leveraging urban environments to produce and distribute locally sourced food, and evaluating governance mechanisms in getting sustainable food production responsibly and effectively through private and public sector partnership.

The IOFS Secretariat aims to actively work with higher education institutions to develop the framework of the education program on Food Security (FS), as well as piloting the process teaching the program in one of the universities. After completion of the pilot project, the IOFS Secretariat will share this practice with other member states and international organizations, to further get involved for contributing to the development and implementation of similar education programs for universities, schools and other institutions.

RUFORUM AGM -- ROUNDTABLE FOOD SECURITY EDUCATION

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a consortium of over 160 African universities with the aim to strengthen the capacities of universities to foster innovations responsive to demands of small-holder farmers through the training of high- quality researchers, the output of impact-oriented research and the maintenance of collaborative working relations among researchers, farmers, national agricultural research institutions and governments.

RUFORUM conducts the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to forge new partnerships, network, discuss emerging issues, share lessons, and establish the potential to adopt best practices across the RUFORUM member universities from African countries. This year 2023 AGM will emphasize the link between universities and agriculture and their potential synergy for agricultural transformation. The AGM will also be a platform for dialogue on issues impacting Agricultural Higher Education, Science, Technology Innovation, and Industrialization in Africa.

In the framework of close cooperation between IOFS and RUFORUM, as well as practical implementation of the Memorandum and Joint Action Plan signed on 09 September 2022 in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda, the IOFS Secretariat plans to conduct the “Roundtable on Food Security Education”, as a side-event of the RUFORUM Annual General Meeting on 2 November 2023 in

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Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Roundtable objectives

- To discuss the challenges and perspectives in the cross-sector of education and food security, as well as the role of universities in the domain of food security.
- To build a platform for agricultural universities to share experience and practices of developing and implementing higher educational programs on interdisciplinary subjects of food security.
- To review the importance of incorporating into education programs subjects related to policies, strategies, legal frameworks, government mechanisms addressing food insecurity issues.
- To share experience of maintaining courses on food security, developing syllabi, identifying lecturers, supporting materials and extracurricular activities;
- To present practices of establishing Centers on food security within different faculties and enhancing research networks and research projects among academia, post-graduate and students.
- To identify a gap analysis of the existing objectives and curriculum of food security to check for coherence and relevance to the African context, as well as introducing a context of a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food system.
- To present the IOFS initiative on establishing a platform of AAA (Association of Agricultural Academies) for enhance the cooperation on agricultural science of research institutions of OIC Member States.

Draft Programme

<u>WEDNESDAY, 1 November – 14:00-16:00</u>		
Moderator: Mr. Bakytzhan Arystanbek, IOFS Program Manager		
14:00-14:02	Words of introduction	Moderator
14:02-14:10	Welcoming Remarks	Mr. Sofian Ben Mouaddeb Advisor of the Cabinet to the Director-General of IOFS
14:10-14:20	RUFORUM Vision on Building food systems governance and policy analysis capacity in Africa	TBC
14:20-14:35	The first interdisciplinary Food Security Education Program in the MENA region: Food Policies and their Planning Process	Dr. Rami Zurayk Professor at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut
14:35-14:55	Food Policy and Food Security Studies through the broader perspectives: Teaching Social and Environmental Policy; Social	Dr. Mohamed Elkaramany Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Policy The American University in Cairo

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	Entrepreneurship; and Governance, Accountability and Stakeholder Negotiations.	
14:55-15:15	Food Security Policy and Governance System	Dr. Asif Kamran Professor of Agriculture Policy, Law and Governance Center, Institute of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Agriculture Faisalabad.
15:15-15:25	TBC	Dr. Sa'd Shannak Expert of Economics and Policy Research at Qatar Environment & Energy Research Institute, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
15:25-15:35	Inclusion of Good Practices in Education of Food Policy and Governance	Mr. Bakytzhan Arystanbek , <i>IOFS Program Manager</i>
15:35-15:55	Panel Discussion Q&A	
15:55-16:00	Vote of thanks & Photo	Moderator
END of DAY 1		

