

REPORT

ECO-RCC Third Programme Steering Committee Meeting

(Antalya 13 March 2019)

Opening of the Meeting

- The Third Steering Committee Meeting of Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security (ECO-RCC) was held in Antalya on 13 March 2019.
- The following countries attended the meeting as members of the Committee: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Uzbekistan and Turkish Cypriot State as observer. The list of participants is provided in Annex I.
- The Meeting was officially opened and welcomed by Mr. Ahmet Volkan GUNGOREN, Deputy Director General for EU and Foreign Relations of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Turkey. The ECO Agriculture, Tourism and Industry Director Mr. Memduh UNAL and FAO Sub Regional Coordinator for Central Asia and FAO Representative in Turkey, Mr. Viorel GUTU joined in welcoming participants to the Meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

- The Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meeting adopted the agenda without changes.

Review of the recommendations of the last PSC and follow up actions taken by ECO-RCC

In this session, Ms. Ozlem HICCAN, technical expert in ECO-RCC, made a presentation about review of the recommendations of the last PSC of ECO-RCC and follow up actions. The presentation is attached in Annex II.

Discussion

- Delegations appreciated ECO-RCC for the efforts and achievements since the last PSC. The Project proposals received earlier were discussed. And the delegations of the member states have been informed about the project evaluation process.

Planned activities of ECO-RCC in 2019-2020

In this session, Ms. Burcu SERIN, technical expert in ECO-RCC, made a presentation about the planned activities of ECO-RCC for 2019-2020. The presentation is attached in Annex III.

Discussion

- Planned activities were endorsed and following proposals have been made to be included in the agenda of ECO-RCC;
 - Enhancing to support food security, organic production and usage of biological fertilizers in the region.
 - Taking into account the recent developments and innovations regarding food losses and waste (FLW).
 - Contribution of all Member Countries particularly in the subject of FLW.

Brief introduction of the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme

Brief information was presented on FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme by Ms. Leyla AKYUZ SONMEZ, Liaison Officer for FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme. The presentation is attached in Annex IV.

Recommendations and Resolutions;

- It was suggested to focus more on the two dimensions of food security which are accessibility and utilization.
- ECO Secretariat called for Member Countries to join its training activities.
- Also importance of logistics to prevent FLW was mentioned.
- It was suggested to pay more attention about raising awareness on FLW through visual materials.
- All Member Countries expressed their willingness to participate to the Project on FLW which will be conducted within the framework of FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP).
- It was also decided to prepare a preliminary report regarding the promotion of agricultural trade to be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting which is planned to be held in November 2019 in Azerbaijan.

- ECO Member Countries were suggested to make a contribution to FAO Projects related to the sustainable resource management with emphasis on food security.
- Member Countries agreed to identify the priority thematic areas of the next Steering Committee Meeting and the second review report to exchange country experiences including projects that are being carried out with international or national partners.
- Delegations from the Member States were confirmed as National Focal Points.
- For the next Steering Committee Meeting it was decided to enhance the exchange of experiences with the Member Countries particularly sharing good practices conducted in ECO Region.

Date and agenda of the next meeting

- Date of the next Steering Committee Meeting was decided to be held on 4-5 March 2020.