4th International Conference on
Agriculture, Food Security and Biotechnology

November 12 – 13, 2018, Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
Climate-related natural disasters, emerging diseases, rapid growth of World population, and political and social conflicts poses growing threat to food security. These havoc have incapacitated the food availability chain ensuing hunger, poverty and malnutrition around the globe. It is a debilitating fact that globally 815 million people, accounting 11% of the world population, were undernourished in 2016 (FAO 2017) wherein the third-world is bearing the brunt. This scenario, calls for more proactive, innovative yet sustainable approach for attaining and sustaining food self-sufficiency. Besides, the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” is a call for action ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

The rapidly pacing scientific advancements in the field of biotechnology can offer promising tools, techniques, methods and practices for enhancing agricultural productivity while conserving the natural resources in their best form for the future generations. Agriculture biotechnology – one of the arms of biotechnology – is the key to sustainable food systems, value-added crop production, improved nutrition and green economy.

Keeping in view the importance of above-mentioned issue, Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT), in collaboration with the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) is organizing 4th International Conference on ‘Agriculture, Food Security and Biotechnology’, on November 12 – 13, 2018 in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco. The Conference aims to provide an interactive platform to academicians, scientists and researchers to deliberate upon the burning issue of food insecurity while underpinning the significance of Agriculture, Food Security and Biotechnology.

Academicians, researchers, scientists, policy makers and implementers, and government officials working in the field of Agriculture, Food Security and Biotechnology in the developing countries are encouraged to participate in this international Conference.

OBJECTIVES
The key objectives of this international Conference are to:

- Provide a forum to scientists, researchers, technologists and faculty members to update their knowledge and share know-how on the recent developments in the field of agriculture and biotechnology;
- Build and strengthen linkages among R&D/S&T organizations working in the field of agriculture, biotechnology and food security for effective South-South cooperation;
- Make recommendations to the policy-makers for developing policies and strategies in order to support biotechnology for food security in the common Member States of INIT, COMSATS and ISESCO.

HOW TO REGISTER
Applications for participation are required to be submitted through duly filled-in prescribed form to INIT at the contact addresses given at the end of this announcement before October 8, 2018.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT
Travel grants and boarding and lodging will be provided by INIT, ISESCO and COMSATS to a limited number of selected individuals from the member countries of INIT, ISESCO and COMSATS.

CONFERENCE THEMES

The INIT welcomes innovative ideas for inclusive role of Information Technology and its associated systems in bringing change. Following would be the themes of the Conference:

**Agriculture**
- Crop breeding, improvement, protection and management
- Agriculture and sustainable development
- Agricultural innovation and technology
- Agriculture Engineering and Agronomy

**Food Security**
- Trends and challenges to food security
- Food Nutrition Security: new concepts and strategies
- Food safety regulation and standards
- Food sovereignty, heritage & industry
- Non-timber forest products and food security
- Ecosystem based adaptation for food security

**Biotechnology**
- Genetic improvement of crops using plant biotechnology
- Functional genomics using genome editing technology
- Industrial biotechnology
- Food and bioprocess technology
- Patent, biosafety, biosecurity, plant breeders rights

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