



العرفان الإسلامي للتجارة والصناعة والزراعة
Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture
La Chambre Islamique de Commerce, d'Industrie et d'Agriculture

**Report on the Activities of the
Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA)
for submission to the 15th Session of COMSTECH General Assembly and OIC
Summit on Science and Technology
to be held in Islamabad from 9th to 10th November 2015**

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Introduction:

The Private Sector is recognized as a driver for economic growth and is essential in achieving sustainable development. It is the primary source of economic growth, job creation and poverty eradication. Since the OIC countries cover a diverse economic group, some of them have a dynamic and resilient private sector. Whereas, some OIC Countries are not fully benefiting from the opportunities that can be generated by the Private Sector. There is a dire need to encourage Private-Sector-led economic growth. On the other hand, the Public-Private Partnership can be a most effective tool, when they work together. They have a significant role to play in creating a healthy environment for trade and investment promotion in OIC Countries.

The OIC Countries need a strong Private Sector that can lead to create vital links amongst the Member Countries through trade and investment. It has a fundamental role to play in harnessing these links, to contribute in achieving the level of Intra Islamic Trade to 20% by 2015.

Realizing the challenging economic environment, the ICCIA focuses on those activities that can best address the needs of the private sector. It has its Work Plan, which is made in consonance with the OIC Program of Action and keeping in mind the global economic challenges.

As the ICCIA represents the private sector within the OIC countries, it advocates the interests of the private sector at the various OIC Foras. Private Sector is the vehicle of economic growth and hence the role of the ICCIA bears more importance. ICCIA is striving to assist the entrepreneurs of OIC countries in developing capacities for sustainable trade promotion and industrial development.

Within the framework of the implementation of its Work Plan and in its endeavors to serve the Private Sector, the Islamic Chamber has developed many goals and also has drawn up ethical and practical aspirations upon which the advanced nations lean to go ahead towards further progress.

The General Secretariat of ICCIA has been undertaking activities in line with its objective by holding the following activities:-

- Organization of business forums for private sector
- Workshops, Training programs on capacity building, poverty alleviation, upgrading marketing and managing skills, value-addition, gender development, economic empowerment of women, promotion & development of Small & Medium Enterprises, utilization of microfinance, developing Entrepreneurship, particularly in women and the youth.
- Playing a role for increasing the level of Intra Islamic Trade to 20% by 2015.
- Creating awareness about the various OIC agreements for enhancing economic cooperation, particularly the Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (TPS-OIC).

- Implementing the relevant aspects of the OIC Program of Action
- Cooperating with OIC & other related International Organizations for the development of SMEs
- Setting-up of a Business Development Centre (Al-Masfaq)
- New Website
- Halal Market Study

Mentioned hereunder are the broad areas and salient aspects of the activities:

Private Sector Meetings/Businesswomen Forums:

- Under the agenda item No.6 of the 30th Session of the COMCEC, “Enhancing the Role of Private Sector in Economic Cooperation”, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) has been carrying out various activities. One of important activity is holding of Private Sector Meeting and Businesswomen Forums. Apart from this ICCI has been organizing Workshops, Training Programs on Capacity Building, Poverty Alleviation, Upgrading Marketing and Managing Skills, Value-Addition, Gender Development, Economic Empowerment of Women, Promotion & Development of Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Utilization of Microfinance, Developing Entrepreneurship, particularly in Women and the Youth. Through these activities, ICCIA strengthen economic cooperation among the private sector of the Member States so as to contribute in enhancing the level of Intra Islamic Trade.
- Given the resources, of the 57 member states of OIC, the level of economic cooperation, is not reflective of the potentials. This can be attributed to the geographical placement and the diverse and varied socio-economic level of development of the said member states. Perhaps a cross the board approach for the member states is not feasible and applicable. Therefore, member states are encouraged to work out bilateral arrangements on granting concessions for establishing businesses and expanding trade.
- In order to address the issue and bridge the gap of information, the ICCIA organizes Business Forums such as Private Sector Meetings and Businesswomen Forums. The ICCIA has so far, held sixteen (16) Private Sector Meetings and Seven (7) Businesswomen Forum.
- The 16th Private Sector Meeting for OIC Member Countries was held in collaboration with the Sharjah Chambers of Commerce & Industry in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates from 19th to 20th March 2014. The meeting was held under the kind patronage of His Highness Shaikh Doctor Sultan Bin Mohamed Al-Qasimi, Member of the Ruling Council of the UAE and Ruler of Sharjah Emirates, so as to mark the celebration of the occasion of Sharjah, being the Islamic Cultural Capital and the International Trade Week.
- The Theme of the 16th Private Sector Meeting was “Benefits of Trade Preferential System TPS-OIC for the Promotion of Intra-Islamic Trade”. The Meeting discussed and highlighted the benefits of Trade Preferential System TPS-OIC for the promotion of Intra-Islamic trade. Two Sessions had been dedicated in this respect; namely; “Introduction of the TPS-OIC, Outcome of the 1st and 2nd Round Trade Negotiations” and “Impact of the TPS-OIC on the Economies of the OIC Member States and the Legal Implications of the TPS-OIC”. The recommendations were adopted in the form of the Sharjah Economic Declaration.

- As a follow-up the ICCIA requested:
 - ⇒ To call upon OIC member states who have not yet signed and ratified OIC-TPS to do so, and those who have, to kindly fulfill the requirements and thereafter create awareness of and encourage their private sectors to benefit from them and entrust ICCIA to formulate a specific training programs and courses that are directed to identified sectors.
 - ⇒ To implement the existing strategy on SMEs, which could develop the sector through nurturing entrepreneurship spirit and provide networking opportunities among SMEs and entrepreneurs in the Islamic World.
 - ⇒ Calls upon the ICCIA and other relevant stake holders to conduct regular training programmes focusing on knowledge sharing, adopting of best practices and exchange of technology. To call upon the Private Sector to emphasize the need of diversified products and find new markets in the Member States.

The Sharjah Economic Declaration is enclosed herewith.

- The OIC General Secretariat, ICDT and COMCEC Coordination Office in their capacity of Members of TNC and Secretariat are in contact the OIC Member States. The ICCIA, being a representative of the Private Sector, is promoting this agreement at the level of the OIC Private Sector in cooperation with ICDT and COMCEC Coordination Office.
- In order to contribute in attaining the set target 20% of intra-OIC trade by 2015, ICCIA has been carrying various programmes through the Private Sector. Trade Preferential System of the OIC (TPS-OIC) is one of the important tools in achieving the said target.
- The General Secretariat of ICCIA requested its Honorable Member Institutions to establish contacts with the policy makers to see how the agreements can be beneficial for the private sector, so as to facilitate the desired expansion of intra-OIC trade in line with OIC Ten Year Programme of Action.
- The outcome of these meetings has been productive, in establishing Banks, Incubation Center & Buying House and in addition providing a common platform for the business community of the 57 member states to explore greater opportunities for trading and investment. The ICCIA is undertaking these activities with the support and cooperation of IDB and relevant UN Agencies. They are result oriented and they are proving to be an important platform for the business community to interact and discuss on a bi-lateral and multi-lateral basis their avenues of cooperation. The share of intra-OIC trade in the Member States experienced an increase in 2012 to 18.45% from 17.80% in 2011. It is now hoped that this level of intra Islamic trade would further increase, with the coming into force of the Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation” (TPS-OIC).
- There is a need for the member states to actively engage the private sector and to provide them with a conducive environment for them to expand their business ties.

Business Development Centre (Al-Masfaq):

Al-Masfaq is an Arabic word for the place where transactions take place. It is a model for collaboration between the Chambers of Commerce and the ICCIA. The first implementation of the idea commenced in collaboration with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry (JCCI). The ICCIA major objective is to replicate this model with numerous OIC Member States.

Al-Masfaq is a Business Development Center, presently established in Jeddah in collaboration with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry. This model after its completion and successful implementation could be executed in collaboration with any of the Chambers of Commerce of OIC Member States. Its main goal is to develop the economy and to provide job opportunities by way of developing an investment map of the city, where Al-Masfaq operates, so as to give a clear picture to the potential investors to explore the real and feasible investment opportunities. It also aimed at being the one-stop-shop that provides all the needful permission, licensees and NOCs that are needed from the concerned governmental authorities. Al-Masfaq will be a place where youth with creative ideas can meet entrepreneurs who are willing to assist in investment and wellbeing of the community. The major role of Al-Masfaq is not only the investment, but also to gather people under one roof and to facilitate procedures and create development in the various fields of economic activities.

Engaging Diplomatic Missions:

Apart from the regular modalities of approaching and serving the Private Sector, the ICCIA under the chairmanship of the H.E. Shaikh Saleh Kamel, President of the ICCIA in February 2014 also engaged the Diplomatic Missions accredited in Jeddah. The objective was to brief the Consul Generals on the objectives of the ICCIA and how to enhance greater commercial exchanges among member countries. As a pilot project ICCIA will focus on enhancing the economic ties between Saudi Arabia and other Islamic Countries. The idea of Al-Masfaq was presented as a practical model for realizing this objective.

In order to have information, the ICCIA prepared a questionnaire on the major import & exports of the Member Islamic Countries with the objective of collecting accurate updated information. The data collected so far study the same and implement activities for increasing the commercial ties among the Member States. It was decided to target Saudi Arabia during 2014 and an opportunity will be given to the businessmen in the field of food products (Importers/Exporters). Based on the data collected, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture in collaboration with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce & Industry is organizing the Food Trade Exchange Meeting between Saudi Arabia and other Islamic Countries, to be held on 5-6 November 2014 at Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

New Web Portal:

The use of Information Technology in doing business and communication can be considered one of the most important tools. In this context, the ICCIA is in the process of developing a new web portal aiming to provide the best services to its members as well as the business community.

The idea is to operate an interactive portal that interacts with the local and international clients, taking into consideration the various categories/interests of users/clients in accordance to the services that are provided to them in an interactive and user-friendly approach. The objectives of the new website are:

- Means for introducing the ICCIA and its activities, accomplishments and news.
- Database providing information, figures, statistics and relevant reports on intra-Islamic trade and investments based on the status of the economy.
- Platform for launching new projects and ideas and publicizing investment and business opportunities.
- A place for introduction and interaction among members with mutual interests.

- Medium for publicizing the activities of the Member Chambers and their Countries as well as their projects.
- To provide a multi-lingual website.

The said portal is being developed using the latest advancements in web technologies and will constitute a number of information-rich sections that will include a wide spectrum of information resources. The new portal will be focusing on the economic relations between the member states.

Halal Market Study:

- As per the Resolution No.135 of the Eleventh Session of Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar, Senegal in March 2008, as well as Resolution No.35/7 issued by the 35th Council of the Foreign Ministers held in Kampala, Uganda in June 2008, ICCIA is the authorized entity that is entrusted with the Halal Market from the perspective of the Private Sector of the Member Countries.
- Upon the desire of the ICCIA to activate its role in the Halal Market in such a manner that adds real value to the Market and assist in improving the same without putting additional financial burden on the Chamber. The General Secretariat of the ICCIA entrusted one of the specialized consultancy companies to conduct study on Halal Market and to prepare working strategy that suits the status of the market and to provide a role that is appropriate to the ICCIA, and enable it to generate enough income that would ensure the contribution of its role.

The work of the company covers three major phases:

- 1) To propose strategy to work in the Halal market;
 - 2) To prepare work plan for the 1st year; and
 - 3) To give estimations for the expected revenues and costs related to the implementation.
- In the year 2014 the ICCIA will sign MOU with THIQA of the IDB Group, in the area of exchange of information and implementation of projects in collaboration with the OIC Member States and to organize conferences and seminars for the benefit of the private sector of the OIC Member states.
 - In the year 2014 the ICCIA will also sign MOU with Jeddah Chamber of Commerce, so as to host ICCIA Regional Office and to cooperate in the area of exchange of information on the investment opportunities that could be implemented jointly between the businessmen in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and their counterparts in the other OIC Member States, organizing training programs, exchanging trade delegations and also in the field of research and studies.

Cooperation with SS-Gate:

- In order to expand its activities to cover not only the OIC region but other regions, where there is a large Muslim population, the ICCIA is cooperating with South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE). It is a virtual and physical platform where entrepreneurs in developing countries can interact and obtain needed technology, asset and finance in a secure environment. SS-GATE facilitates realization of actual business transaction through a market mechanism, offering both on-line and off-line end-to-end supporting services.
- The ICCIA receives projects from the private sector of the member countries and uploads them on the SS-Gate System for possible financing or joint venture partners.

- The SS-Gate Website on projects is ready to receive any projects from the member chambers of ICCIA. It is also ready to impart training to the Chamber personnel as to how to upload projects as per their format on the SS-Gate system.
- Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) being a Participating Organization of South-South Global Assets & Technologies Exchange (SS-GATE), is serving as gateway to the 57 OIC Member Countries. Through its expanding network of Country Centers (CCs), ICCIA is endeavoring to promote partnerships and joint ventures among business enterprises of the OIC Member Countries, and between them and business enterprises of other developing countries covered by the SS GATE network. Under this system, the CCs register partnership proposals of local business enterprises and, following initial screening, upload the proposals on to the SS GATE website. The staffs of SS-GATE establishment in Shanghai then identify potential partners and facilitate the negotiations leading to the conclusion of mutually advantageous joint ventures or partnerships. Within the SS-GATE framework, ICCIA is promoting the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) sponsored One Million Businesswomen of the Global South On-Line (OMBOL) Initiative in OIC Member Countries thereby involving, and benefitting, women-led businesses in the partnership process.
- Under the present project, ICCIA, in collaboration with UNOSSC, seeks to strengthen the work of SS-GATE CCs and through them, the OMBOL Initiative, initially in 5 selected OIC Member Countries – Egypt, Pakistan, Sudan, Turkey and Uganda – to serve as models for others to follow in the future.
- In this context, a Training Program of the Country Centre was held during the “10th China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair (CISMEF)” in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China on 24-28 September 2013, where representatives of the Country Centers from Egypt, Pakistan, Sudan and Uganda as well as ICCIA representative participated. The said Training Program was conducted by the South-South Global Assets & Technology Exchange (SS-GATE). The expert trainers from SS-GATE imparted training on the management principles to operate the Country Centers, the project management, registration process, online and off-line project matchmaking and project negotiation process.
- The ICCIA has also submitted 21 projects received from the Country Centers of Egypt, Pakistan, Sudan and Uganda. These projects were also displayed during the 10th China International SME Fair and now SS-GATE will be finding relevant partners.
- In its capacity as the Participating Organization (PO) of the SS-GATE, the ICCIA played an active role in the Global South-South Development Expo, which was held recently in Nairobi-Kenya from 28th October 2013 to 1st November 2013. ICCIA provided an opportunity to the private sector representatives to display their projects and services, in its booth. This was a very effective platform for the Country Centres to market their projects and discuss undertaking joint activities with interested counterparts. It is pertinent to mention that during the Business Matchmaking Sessions organized by the ICCIA and SS-GATE, four (4) MOUs for four projects from Uganda and one MOU for five projects for Egypt were signed in the presence of high officials of SS-GATE, UNDP and ICCIA. This initiative would facilitate in the setting up of projects, which would ultimately lead to the realization of the objectives for South-South Cooperation which ICCIA has undertaken under the aegis of United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

- In view of the success of the Nairobi Expo, ICCIA also assisted and participated in the First Arab States Regional South-South Development Expo 2014 in Doha, Qatar from 18th – 20th February 2014. The event was organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Arab States and hosted by the Government of State of Qatar.
- As a representative of the OIC Private Sector, the UNOSSC invited the ICCIA to organize and coordinate a Special Plenary Session on the “Role of Private Sector in Scaling-up South-South Cooperation in People-Centered Investment”, in the Arab region. The speakers highlighted the role of Private Sector in promoting South-South Cooperation and the contribution of their respective organizations in undertaking projects and programmes which focused on people centered investment for scaling-up the economies. They highlighted the challenges faced by the economies of countries of the Arab region and underlined that promotion of trade and development of SMEs was important for south-south cooperation. In addition, there was a need for private sector, to take-up a more proactive role, both locally and regionally.
- To further promote the work of SS-GATE, Country Centers were also established in Bangladesh, Iran, Qatar, Turkey and Yemen. Training was imparted to the representatives from the Country Centers of the mentioned countries during the Expo held in Doha.
- The Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) was held from July 28-31, 2014 in Cotonou, Benin under the theme “New Partnerships for Productive Capacity Building in the Least Developed Countries(LDCs)” with the objective of reviewing the implementation of Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA), adopted in 2011 at Istanbul with the overarching goal to overcome the structural challenges faced by the LDCs in order to eradicate poverty and achieve internationally agreed development goals. The IPoA aims to enable at least half of the LDCs to graduate to middle income status by 2020, by strengthening their productive capacities. The representatives of the ICCIA Country Centers and SMEs from Benin, Gambia, Pakistan, Sudan and Uganda actively participated in the said Meeting.
- On the said event, the United Nation Office for South-South Global Asset and Technology Exchange (SSGATE) organized a side event which involved B2B meetings and business match-making sessions between the business communities from different parts of the world.
- Uganda Chamber submitted 12 Project Proposals; three matched, two MOUs were signed and one service agreement was signed between Zigoti Coffee Works Ltd and SSGATE for promoting Zigoti Coffee to the international market. One of the MOUs, signed between representatives of the Songhai Centre in Benin and Bio- green Investments East Africa Ltd in Uganda, represents a potential investment of \$10 million with the support of Ugandan government. The agreement, which was witnessed by Hon. Matia Kasaija, Ugandan State Minister for Finance (Planning) which aims to replicate the successful Songhai model in Uganda. The MOU signed between the Nigerian and Ugandan enterprises is worth approximately \$2 million.

Cooperation with International Organizations:

- ICCIA continues to explore new avenues of cooperation with international organizations, such as:
 - Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF);

- United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC));
 - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group.
 - United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Investment & Technology Promotion Office (ITPO), Bahrain
- As a result of this cooperation, the above Institutions, whenever possible, extend technical support in organizing Training Programs and Workshops and by sponsoring the participants and resource persons.
 - In order to promote women-led business enterprises in OIC Member Countries, the ICCIA, in collaboration with Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) for South-South Cooperation, would be organizing a programme on 'Development of a Mechanism for Joint Ventures and partnerships among Women-led Enterprises through South-South Cooperation' which would be held in the 1st Quarter of 2015 in one of the OIC Countries. The objective of the event is to strengthen the partnership amongst the women entrepreneurs through mobilizing resources and joint efforts with similar entities with the objective of strengthening economic cooperation, transfer of technology, technical know-how, expertise and best practices. The event will be very beneficial for the women-led enterprises, women organizations working for the economic and social empowerment of the women as well as the institutions working towards women empowerment.

SME Development among Member States:

- In the area of SMEs the ICCIA has several initiatives and is in the process of realizing them.
- In cooperation with Small and Medium Enterprise Development Organization of the Republic of Turkey (KOSGEB), a 2-day Training Program for the Development of SMEs was held in Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan on 2-4 July 2013. The program helped promoting, sharing of knowledge, expertise and capacity building, between Turkey and Kazakhstan in the area of SME Development.
- In view of the success of the Training Program in Kazakhstan, the ICCIA will be organizing a similar Training Program in Uganda in 2014 on the invitation of Uganda National Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Negotiations are going on for finalizing the dates of the program.

Seminar on Introduction of Islamic Banking and Finance Kampala-Uganda, 28th April 2014

As part of its efforts to provide the private sector, facilities that would enable them to expand their trade linkages and also broaden their investment base, the ICCIA in collaboration with Uganda National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UNCCI) and of Islamic Research & Training Institute (IRTI) of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group had organized a Seminar on Introduction of Islamic Banking and Finance in Kampala, Uganda on 28th April 2014.

The purpose of the said seminar was to introduce the concept of Islamic Banking and Finance to the business community in Uganda and to cooperate with the legislative and executive authorities in the country so as to pave the path for allowing operation of the Islamic Banking and Finance in Uganda. As a result of these efforts, the Financial Institutions Amendment Bill 2014 has been endorsed by the Ugandan Cabinet and forwarded to the First Parliamentary Counsel for drafting and it is on the order paper for

presentation (first reading) by the Hon. MFPED scheduled in early October 2014. Thereafter the Speaker of Parliament would refer it to the Standing Committee of Finance & National Economy for scrutiny. Then the second reading will be done in Parliament by the Chairperson of the Committee for debate to ensure its realization. Depending on the appreciation of MPs, it could be easily passed if there is support or delayed if many issues are raised.

In the context of the follow-up of the seminar held on 28th April 2014, the ICCIA is collaborating with the Uganda National Chamber and IRTI in organizing the “Training and Capacity Building for High Level Practitioners in Uganda” in the last quarter of 2014, in order for the trainees to have access to all areas of Islamic banking and finance industry.

Creating awareness of the utility of the various OIC Agreements:

- The ICCIA also organized a Seminar for the private sector to explain to them the utility and benefits of the various OIC Agreements for the promotion of intra-Islamic trade. In this context, the ICCIA allocated two special sessions within the 16th Private Sector Meeting and the International Trade Week held in Sharjah on 19-20 March 2014. The Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT) and Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry collaborated with ICCIA in this respect.

Promotion of Entrepreneurship in OIC Member States:

- Entrepreneurship is an important aspect of economic growth and the backbone of any country for its development. It is one of the most important vehicles for improvement in the economic wellbeing of individuals and societies. Studies have shown a positive relationship between entrepreneurship and aggregate economic growth. Fostering entrepreneurship in the OIC Member States is part of ICCIA's capacity building policy that aims at by providing networking opportunities to enter and expand business.
- The ICCIA is undertaking activities that would directly or indirectly lead to develop the economies of the Member states. In line with Resolution No.78 of the 28th Session of the COMCEC, which calls on the ICCIA to increase its capacity building programmes, B2B and Public Private Partnership events, the ICCIA has been undertaking relevant activities.
- In order to create in-depth understanding of entrepreneurial skills as a contributor to self-reliance, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) has organized Training Workshops on Enterprise Development in Karachi and Islamabad, Pakistan in April and June 2014 respectively. The Training Workshops were attended by participants from various cities of Pakistan, representing business and trading firms, Members of Chamber of Commerce & Industry, youth graduates from Universities with an interest to setup their own businesses, functionaries of NGO's and microfinance organizations, women and young entrepreneurs, who want to improve entrepreneurship skills as well as Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- The Training Workshops were designed to develop entrepreneurship among youth and women, who are doing business or are planning to establish enterprises in near future. Participants were introduced to national and international best practices, and the latest concepts of enterprise development through economic empowerment, working with people with varied skills, establishing forward-backward linkages within a community for setting-up their small scale business ventures. These training workshops were very useful in research and consultation work for university students.

- As a result of the success of these workshops, ICCIA intends to cooperate with the interested Member Institutions, in organizing similar workshops at the level of their local chambers for the benefit of the above said segments.

Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business in 2014

- As per the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) 10-Year Program of Action and the role assigned to the Islamic Chamber for alleviating poverty and capacity building in the OIC Countries, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) has been conducting several Training Programs / workshops and that could lead to increasing the level of trade among the OIC countries. Moreover, ICCIA's corporate strategy is to focus on activities that help to develop a competitive economy and promote sustainable trade and industrial development.
 - Following this mandate, the ICCIA has embarked on numerous capacity building programmes for 2014:
 - One of the outcomes of the Workshop on Food Security and Agribusiness for OIC Countries held in Uganda, in October 2011, ***was to organize workshops on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business.***
- The ICCIA will be organizing a Workshop on Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agri-Business for OIC Countries in collaboration with the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) and Statistical, Economic & Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) in Ankara-Turkey in December 2014.
- The primary purpose of the Workshop is to promote exchange of experiences and discussion of best practices among primary producers and small-to-medium scale entrepreneurs engaged in first, second and third level agro-processing activities that provide value chain concept to the farmers, create off-farm employment, help stabilize local markets, improve hygienic standards for marketed products and/or facilitate market access. The main focus will be on value-chain, agro-processing Farm-to-Fork spectrum activities that can be carried out using relatively simple technologies.
