

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CITIES CONFERENCE REPORT

CONFERENCE;

NAME: INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CITIES
CONFERENCE

PLACE: RAMADA HOTEL ASSEMBLY HALL – KONYA

SUBJECT: INITIATING THE ESTABLISHMENT PROCESS OF
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL
CITIES or PREPARATIONS WITH RESPECT TO
SUSTAINING THESE SHARINGS WITH MEETINGS

DATE: 22.03.2017

1- INTRODUCTION

Konya Metropolitan Municipality considered agricultural organizations is an important need and held a consultation conference to initiate the establishment process of the International Association of Agricultural Cities or to sustain sharings by way of meetings. Representatives of 10 foreign countries and 13 Metropolitan Municipalities in Turkey attended the conference.

Assistant Secretary General of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, Abdulmelik Ötegen, made a speech at the opening of the three-day conference hosted by Konya Metropolitan Municipality and pointed out that it is necessary to initiate the establishment of International Association of Agricultural Cities if requested or sustain sharings by organizing this kind of meetings. Reminding that Konya has an important place in Turkey's agriculture, Ötegen added that foundations of a better agriculture, better humanity and better future would be laid by cooperating, joining forces, acting with solidarity and sharing experiences with leniency in these meetings. Abdulmelik Ötegen said "Organizations to be held are a stance against dominion on behalf of future generations and the poor. Signatures to be put at the end of the conference will be a declaration, statement and clarification of goodwill."

Schedule of the conference is as follows: Opening speech was made by Assistant Secretary General Abdulmelik Ötegen, the moderator of conference.

First session was completed in the following order: Presentation of Head of the Agricultural Services Department, Konya Metropolitan Municipality; presentation of Deputy Manor of Vinnytsia, Ukraine; presentation of Manor of Mykolayiv, Ukraine; presentation of the Head of Neighborhood Units , Food, Agriculture and Livestock Department, İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality; opinion sharing of the Head of External Affairs Department, Konya Metropolitan Municipality; presentation of the Mayor of Konjic, Bosnia Herzegovina; opinion sharing of the General Manager of Water and Sewerage Administration, Konya Metropolitan Municipality (KOSKİ); presentation of Head of Economy and Finance Department, Khatlon Municipality, Tajikistan; presentation of Chief of Development Department, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality; presentation of Agriculture Department Head, Al-Khalil Municipality, Palestine; presentation of Kenya; presentation of Kabul Municipality, Afghanistan; presentation of Sudan Ambassador and presentation of Iraq Ambassador.

Second session was completed in the following order; Presentation of Rural and Agricultural Services Department Head, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality; presentation of Agricultural Services Department Head Bursa Metropolitan Municipality; Rural Services Department Head, Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality; knowledge sharing of Agricultural Services Department Head, Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality; knowledge sharing of Agricultural Engineer from Trabzon Metropolitan Municipality; presentation of Environmental Protection and Control Department Head, Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality; presentation of Agricultural Department Head, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality; knowledge sharing of Agriculture and Livestock Department Head, Ordu Metropolitan

Municipality. After consultations regarding the subject, final declaration is read and signed and the session is adjourned.

PARTICIPANTS;

Osman ELDİRDİRİ-ELMÜBAREK (Ambassador of Sudan)

Hisham AL-ALAVİ (Ambassador of Iraq)

Alexander SYENKEVYCH (Mayor of Mykolayiv, Ukraine)

Tahir SADRİDİNOV (Expert, Mykolayiv Municipality, Ukraine)

Rustamdzhán SADRİDİNOV (Expert, Mykolayiv Municipality, Ukraine)

Andrii GYZHKO (Deputy Mayor, Vinnytsia Municipality, Ukraine)

Yuriy PONOMAR (Council Member, Tavria Regional Council, Ukraine)

Dmytro KOHAN (First Clerk, Embassy of Ukraine)

Olha BOHONSKA (Undersecretary, Embassy of Ukraine)

Rustam NEMATOV (Deputy Chairman, Kulob Municipality, Tajikistan)

Mahmad Said ZUHUROV (Economy and Finance Department Head, Khatlon Municipality, Tajikistan)

Firdavs HOLIKOV (Third Clerk, Embassy of Tajikistan)

Emir BUBALO (Mayor, Konjic, Bosnia Herzegovina)

Vahid ALİBEGOVIÇ (Deputy Mayor, Konjic, Bosnia Herzegovina)

Sahar HAMDARD (Director, Kabul Municipality, Afghanistan)

Charles Sifuma WANJALA (Board Member, National Irrigation Association, Kenya)

İsmail VALİYEYEV (Director of Local Administrations, Neftchala Governorate, Azerbaijan)

Salah MÜCAHİD (Head of Agriculture Department, Al_Khalil Municipality, Palestine)

Mevlüt OĞUZ (Head of Development Department, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality)

Erol ARIK (Head of Agricultural and Livestock Support Department, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality)

Bayram Ali ÇAKIROĞLU (Head of Neighborhood Units, Agriculture and Livestock Department, İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality)

Türker EROĞLU (Head of Agriculture and Aquaculture Department, İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality)

Yetişkan KESKİN (Head of Agricultural Services Department, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality)

Mustafa BEKTAŞ (General Manager, Agriculture Corp., Bursa Metropolitan Municipality)

İbrahim YILMAZ (Head of Agricultural Services Department, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality)

Erhan ÖZTÜRK (Head of Rural and Agricultural Services Department, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality)

Temel FİDAN (Agricultural and Livestock Breeding Development Chief, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality)

Sayın Bayar ÖZSOY (Head of Rural Services Department, Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality)

Duran SAFRANTI (Head of Agricultural Services Department, Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality)

Ahmet Mekin TÜZÜN (Head of Rural Services Department, Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality)

Mehmet PİŞKİN (Head of Agricultural Services Department, Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality)

Yusuf ÇELEBİ (Head of Agricultural Services and Neighborhood Unit Affairs, Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality)

Yılmaz KURTULMUŞ (Head of Agricultural Services Department, Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality)

Ahmet KILIÇ (Head of Environmental Protection and Control Department, Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality)

Ahmet Çağrı BİRDAL (Head of Veterinary Affairs Department, Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality)

Çetin GÜVEN (Head of Agriculture and Livestock Department, Ordu Metropolitan Municipality)

Nuri KUZU (Head of Environment and License Department, Ordu Metropolitan Municipality)

Yakup SEYMEN (Agricultural Engineer, Trabzon Metropolitan Municipality)

2- SESSION ONE (SUMMARY)

KONYA METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY AGRICULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SPEAKER: RAŞİT TURAN (Head of Agricultural Services Department, Konya Metropolitan Municipality)

Turan gave information regarding population and geopolitical structure of Konya. He explained the new Law for Metropolitan Municipalities and commented the activity fields of Agricultural Services Department. He stated that these activities include support services, training of farmers, projects, irrigation and pond projects.

Turan finished his speech by saying: “KOP (Konya Plains Project) Administration which is established by the Ministry of Development and Konya Metropolitan Municipality specified some principles in accordance with general agricultural strategy. Land consolidation operation in plain region north of Konya continues. This region will be equipped with closed cycle pressured irrigation system and irrigation ponds will be created on mountainside. Thus the farmers will be supported and encouraged to grow crops with high added value such as strawberries, cherries etc. Agricultural Services Department has been in service for the last 3 years with its Support, Surveys and Projects and Agricultural Publication Directorates. Our current and planned projects are as follows:

PROJECTS:

- Irrigation and pond projects (pressurized system irrigation projects, irrigation and Livestock Drinking Water “HİS” ponds projects).
- Machinery, equipment and facility subventions (selector machine, milk collection centers, cow nail cutting machine).
- Fish farming in ponds (baby carps are dropped into the pond).
- Contractual medical and aromatic plant growing (black cumin farming is made with farmers).
- Environmentalist Generations Grow Up with Seeds (a social project to raise seed awareness of primary school students).
- Bee keeping project and support (2 thousand bee hives are divided among 400 farmers).

- Mushroom cultivation.
- Safe Food from Rural to Urban Project (Activity of Local Products Sales Center, products are sold on behalf of farmers and revenue is paid them).
- No Handicap for Agriculture Project (a social project intending to bring together handicapped children with soil and rehabilitate them).
- ÇİTEP (Farmer Experience Share Project).
- Silkworm Rearing Project.
- E-Pattern Project for Rural Settlements in Konya (product pattern mapping in rural neighborhoods).
- Natural Soap Making Project.

CONTINUING PROJECTS:

- Lavender cultivation and lavender oil production project (establishment of a production plant in Güneysınır County with support from IPARD).
- Natural Product Market Project.
- Farming training support for 64 thousand people in 15 branches in 2 years.

SUBVENTIONS:

- Semi-dwarf apple sapling,
- Cherry sapling,
- Semi-dwarf cherry sapling,
- Vine stem,
- Strawberry seedling – mulch nylon,
- High system vineyard apparatus support”.

VINNYTSIA MUNICIPALITY, UKRAINE

SPEAKER: ANDRII GYZHKO (Deputy Mayor, Vinnytsia Municipality, Ukraine)

Gyzhko briefly made the following speech; “Vinnytsia is located in the middle of Ukraine. The region has a great agricultural potential. 8% of Ukraine’s agricultural production comes from this region. There are 700 agricultural establishments in the region where the production is especially focused on agriculture for the last 5 years. Grain production of the region is approximately 5 to 6 million tons. 2.3 million tons of this total production is wheat, 2.6 million tons is corn, 2.6 million tons is sugar beet and 800 thousand tons is sunflower. The region is also the biggest producer of sunflower seed oil with 300 thousand tons per year in country. Grain export was 123 million euros. Sugar beet yield of 8 big establishments in region was 433

thousand tons. The horticultural area in the region is 25 thousand hectares and the amount of exportation to 40 countries is 138 thousand tons, which worth 68 million USD. There are 72 warehouses in the region with a total capacity of 78 thousand tons, 41 thousand of which is apples. Meat products and meat market are improved and developed a great deal. 84% of meat products is poultry products. The biggest poultry farm in Europe is located here. Total amount of foreign investment in the region is 1 million euros. Daily production of 4.000 establishments in this field is 2.500 tons. There are plants dealing with milk and milk products in the region with a production of up to 850 thousand tons. Total value of exportation to 57 countries 20 million USD.” Gyzhko also stated that he liked Konya Agricultural Machinery Fair very much and he wanted to cooperate with Turkey.

MYKOLAYIV MUNICIPALITY, UKRAINE

SPEAKER: ALEXANDER SYENKEVYCH (Mayor of Mykolayiv, Ukraine)

Syenkevych briefly said the following in his speech: “Mykolayiv is a city where there are many engineers, ports and big marinas. We have a great potential for agriculture in our region. We don’t have very modern companies and agricultural machinery production. We have seen many beautiful examples for our region when we visited Konya Agricultural Machinery Fair. I can speak on behalf of city council and say that we are ready for all kinds of long term cooperation. We believe that primarily agricultural machinery is a profitable sector in the region.”

İSTANBUL METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

NEIGHBORHOOD UNITS, FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT

SPEAKER: BAYRAM ALİ ÇAKIROĞLU (İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Head of Neighborhood Units, Food, Agriculture and Livestock Department)

Çakiroğlu’s speech was as follows: “The project was initially a village administrative model but then it is revised as a neighborhood administration model. Literature scanning is conducted for this project. Examples in Turkey and all around the world are examined. After the completion of field studies, surveys and inventory studies, project was commenced. A survey was conducted with 4.500 respondents in 151 rural neighborhoods and with 1.550 respondents in 68 central neighborhoods in İstanbul. Within this framework, 6 shared wisdom conferences and 18 workshops were held with the participation of local communities to discuss rural problems and their solutions. At the end a conceptual design including applicability,

sustainability, accessibility, environmental quality, familiarity, reliability, productive use of energy, rural development and supporting is agreed on. As different potential characteristics are brought into the forefront, village types are determined in terms of their primary characteristics and a neighborhood typology is formed. Coastal villages, fishing villages, youth villages, historic villages, voluntariness villages, model villages, nostalgic and ecological villages, culture and art villages, event and festival villages are determined in terms of different characteristics in İstanbul. Beekeeping is in the forefront in 17 villages among them, 4 villages deal with fishery, 3 villages with mining, 50 villages with stockbreeding, 2 villages with forestry, 19 villages with agriculture, 33 villages with agriculture and stockbreeding and 23 villages with tourism. In general 2 different administrative systems are constituted for İstanbul; “Administrative System for Rural Areas” and “Administrative System for Central Neighborhoods”. While focal points of Administrative System for Rural Areas are emerged as agriculture, stockbreeding, tourism, energy etc. they are municipal activities, water, energy, natural gas, environment, transportation, real estate, social services etc. for Administrative System for Central Neighborhoods.

Our continuing projects are below:

PROJECTS:

- Endemic plants,
- Encouragement of coastal fishing,
- Festivals,
- Being a Slow City Project,
- Communal Academies (agricultural trainings),
- Establishment of a seed bank,
- Establishment of private and communal gardens.”

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER (MODERATOR): ABDULMELİK ÖTEGEN (Assistant Secretary General of Konya Metropolitan Municipality)

“As a metropolitan municipality, we consider sister cities in international arena important. We see that this program also place emphasis on sister cities. We have made serious contributions to Sarajevo Municipality in the field of transportation. Vocational courses are held in Sarajevo and Prizren and Pristina, Kosovo. Students are invited from Iraq to Turkey for vocational courses. Similar trainings are provided in Korea and Spain (Madrid). We would like to take real action and don’t want these promises to stay on paper,” Ötegen said.

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: İSMAİL VALİYEV (AZERBAIJAN NEFTCHALA)

“We have learned too much here and we are ready for everything as a sister city,” Valiyev said.

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: SELİM GÜLEÇ (External Relations Department Head, Konya Metropolitan Municipality)

Güleç said; “We should not be content with presentations and publicities but make assessments from time to time. E-pattern project of Agricultural Services Department of Konya Metropolitan Municipality sets an example. The values revealed in the presentation of Vinnytsi Municipality, Ukraine share similarity with Konya. We would like to benefit from their experiences. Works of Mykolayiv Municipality, Ukraine with regard to water came to our attention. Mykolayiv Municipality would be taken as an example for the works regarding the freshwater lake in Beyşehir. Since the presentation of İstanbul is on an academic level when compared with similar presentations all around the world, a detailed report might be requested from them.”

KONJIC MUNICIPALITY, BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA

SPEAKER: EMİR BUBALO (Mayor of Konjic, Bosnia Herzegovina)

“Konjic is one of the biggest cities in Bosnia Herzegovina. Its population was 45 thousand but it dropped to 27 thousand after the war. We have 2 large lakes, 1 bridge and three big rivers in our city. These are very important in terms of tourism and history. Especially our three rivers are regarded as most beautiful rivers in the world. Graveyards from Ottoman and Seljuk eras are important for tourism. Bullets are being produced in Konjic. Forestland in our city is very big and metal industry is extremely developed. Our city is located between Sarajevo and Mostar,” said Bubalo.

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: ERCAN USLU (General Manager of KOSKİ under Konya Metropolitan Municipality, Honorary Consul of Bosnia Herzegovina)

Uslu went on saying “I wish the Agricultural Cities Conference would be an important beginning for following meetings and conferences. We have significant opportunities to improve cooperation for the optimization of agricultural production and assist some of the cities in underdeveloped countries. We are happy to see that an association which is very important for mankind is about to be established. Following this conference, we would like to cooperate

to provide drinking water to other cities along with agriculture and take necessary measures to disinfect water, implement projects with regard to hygiene, sanitation and prophylaxis. We also would like to technically support the municipalities in need. I wish these conferences would gain significant favors.”

KHATLON MUNICIPALITY, TAJIKISTAN
ECONOMY AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT

SPEAKER: MAHMAD SAİD ZUHUROV (Economy and Finance Department Head, Khatlon Municipality, Tajikistan)

“I would like to express our happiness for being invited to Agricultural Cities Conference held in our esteemed sister city, hometown of his Highness Mevlana. We consider these initiatives are very important with regard to development and secure sustainment of agriculture, which is the primary strategic target of our country and reinforcement of our cooperation. Tajikistan doesn’t need land but we need to benefit from experiences of cities like Konya. As Tajikistan, we believe this conference provides various experiences and we are hopeful that these experiences will be implemented. We present our thanks to Mr. Tahir Akyürek, Metropolitan Mayor of Konya,” said Zuhurov.

ANKARA METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SPEAKER: MEVLÜT OĞUZ (Head of Development Department, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality)

Oğuz briefly said, “Population of Ankara is 5346 thousand. It has 25 counties, 8 of which are central and 17 are rural. Half of the 25 million 437 bin decares of area is agricultural land. The total number of farmers who are registered to ÇKS (Farmer Register System) is 46 thousand 593 and the total agricultural area is 817 thousand 345 decares. We also have 356 thousand 771 cattle and 1 million 183 thousand 522 small cattle registered.”

PROJECTS:

- Active Hive Support Project (within the scope of first biggest active hive support project 10 thousand hives with bees are distributed to 1.400 people. In order for the bees to adapt the region, they are provided from beekeepers in Ankara).

- Shearing Championship (A competition was organized to provide angora re-gain its premiumization and it will be organized this year as well. Moreover, we are the main sponsor of “International Goat Raising Congress” held in Antalya.)
- Good agriculture certificates are given to 320 farmers in order to support sustainable agriculture.
- Proper nutrition and hygiene training is provided for students and parents.
- Hobby gardens are built for children around the schools in the city center. Applied training is provided to show how to grow vegetables.
- Wood shaping training is provided for women in rural areas to provide employment opportunity. Toys made during this training are granted to foundations and associations.
- Illustration map of Ankara is made (a map to promote counties with their products).
- Rural products sales point is opened.
- Solid wastes are converted into energy and this energy is being used in greenhouses.
- There re geothermal areas (12 in total).

SUBVENTIONS

- Honey analysis in laboratories.
- Breeding ram and goat support (1412 rams and 237 goats are distributed among 752 farmers).
- Supporting reverse migration (distribution of 3 thousand brood sheep and 1600 goats).
- Shearing machine support (8 in total).
- Forage plant seed support (749.873 kg forage plant seeds are distributed among 6354 farmers to put empty lands to good use and increase quality).
- Silage and stone picker support (13 tons silage corns are packed with 4 silage packaging machines. Stone picking service is provided by using 10 stone pickers).
- Certificated vegetable seedling support (2.122.410 vegetable seedlings to 240 thousand farmers).
- Fruit sapling support (46.330 fruit saplings to 471 farmers).
- Seed support (89.000 kg of forage plant seeds to 286 farmers, 700 tons of seed support to farmers who suffered from disaster).
- 5 seed screening plants.

- Milk tank support to cooperatives.
- Fishing boat support (for 12 fishers), fishing gear support for fishery in dam reservoirs.

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: YAKUP SEYMEN (Agricultural Engineer, Trabzon Metropolitan Municipality)

Seymen asked the following question: “How the farmers are selected for support and what is the criteria?”

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: MEVLÜT OĞUZ (Head of Development Department, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality)

Oğuz answered the above question: “County municipalities or county agriculture directorates are asked to collect the records of farmers. Then the farmers who are registered to ÇKS, have private-registered land and reside in region are determined according to these records. Sometimes farmers who comply with required specific qualifications might also be selected.”

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: RAŞİT TURAN (Head of Agricultural Services Department, Konya Metropolitan Municipality)

Turan also replied the same question: “Farmers are officially convoked via our web site in July and August every year. Official applications are evaluated. Following this evaluation, farmers who deposit 1/4th of the product support as initial contribution are supported and they are distributed in March, the following year.

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: EROL ARIK (Head of Agricultural and Livestock Support Department, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality)

Arık added to this reply by saying “In case there is a huge demand, we determine the farmers to support by lot.

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: ERHAN ÖZTÜRK (Head of Rural and Agricultural Services Department, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality)

Öztürk answered the same question: “A commission is set up before distribution. This commission assess the applications on the scale of 100 in line with specific criteria. Some of these criteria are civil registry, criminal record and being young. Applications are ranked in accordance with assessment scores to make a fair distribution.”

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: MEVLÜT VANOĞLU (Konya Plains Project, Regional Development Directorate)

“Rural development program model is constituted. If requested, we can share these information with municipalities,” said Vanoğlu.

AL-KHALIL MUNICIPALITY, PALESTINE

DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

SPEAKER: SALAH MÜCAHİD (Head of Agriculture Department, Al-Khalil Municipality, Palestine)

Mücahid briefly made the following speech: “Products raised in Palestine differ from region to region in accordance with its coast, topography, mountains-hills, temperature and rate of rain fall. Grape and other fruits grow in Al-Khalil and various citrus fruits and green salad plants in coastal regions. But there are problems in agricultural works. As there is an unfair situation with regard to sharing water with Israel, we have drinking and irrigation water shortages. Other serious problems that our people face are marketing, collecting water and high cost of digging a well. Even though Al-Khalil is the capital of trade, nothing can be done in this respect. Investment in these fields could be made in Al-Khalil. We would like to benefit from exchange of ideas and new technologies. We also want to initiate the application of sister city.”

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: SELİM GÜLEÇ (Head of External Relations Department, Konya Metropolitan Municipality)

“Al-Khalil and Konya are now sister cities. During the visits with three representatives of Middle East and West Asia Association it is decided to train the trainers of vocational courses and share experiences with young municipal employees regarding water and sewerage works,” said Güleç.

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: CHARLES SİFUMA WANJALA (KENYA)

Wanjala briefly made the following speech: “We are thankful to Konya Metropolitan Municipality for their honorary invitation. Kenya is a country known with its perfection in sports. We have learned many things in today’s meeting and from yesterday’s exhibition and believe that we will learn many more from Konya. More than half of the agricultural land in Kenya are in use today. We invite you all to Kenya to benefit from advises. We have difficulties

with regard to irrigation, increasing agricultural production and usage of technology. Kenya is a country of opportunities and we are open to relevant contributions.”

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: SAHAR HAMDARD (Manager, Kabul Municipality, Afghanistan)

“Afghanistan is an agricultural country. A wide array of products is raised in majority of agricultural land. The most important product is saffron demanded all around the world. It is used in different ways. I consider these meetings very beneficial. We are open to offers with regard to products and agricultural machinery,” said Hamdard.

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: OSMAN ELDİRDİERİ-ELMÜBAREK (AMBASSADOR OF SUDAN)

Eldirdieri-Elmübarek made the following speech: “We would like to make a general assessment instead of considering agricultural cities only. This meeting bases on both values and expectations. Establishing Agricultural Cities Association is a smart and very important initiative. I believe this meeting will end with a declaration of goodwill and focus on ultimate matters. First of all, we all have a moral responsibility for food safety. There is lack of food in some African countries. In this respect food safety is very important and agricultural cities have a duty to assist them in this respect. Subventions might be available if the association is established. Secondly, we should be able to share our experiences. Ideas should be exchanged with agriculturally developed cities. We have gained favor particularly from Turkey’s presentations. This declaration is not enough to achieve the objectives in future. Agricultural Cities Association should be established.”

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: HİSHAM AL-ALAVİ (AMBASSADOR OF IRAQ)

“Konya is a city which made a distinguished name for itself all around the world in terms of history, tourism, culture, religious values, agriculture and industry. We have learned many things with regard to agricultural and industrial development from Konya. Iraq is an important player in oil export but we intend to invest in different sectors such as agriculture, industry and tourism. Development is very important for Iraq due to the losses and damages of war. The land between Euphrates and Tigris had always been the cradle of civilization. These lands are very fertile in agriculture and industry. We didn’t lose our hopes for future yet and would like to share experiences in this respect,” said Al-Alavi.

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER (MODERATOR): ABDÜLMELİK ÖTEGEN (Assistant Secretary General of Konya Metropolitan Municipality)

Ötegen: “The subjects requested to be included in final declaration up to now are as follows;

- Cities which participate or declare to participate the International Agricultural Cities Conference should establish an association,
- Konya Metropolitan Municipality will do its part,
- It is necessary to inform other cities about positive agricultural developments and fight with hunger all together,
- It is necessary to draw attention and interest of people by organizing meetings and conferences till the establishment of association,
- All countries should share food and experiences.”

Then participants are invited to the stage and they are presented their participation certificates and gifts. Thereby 1st Session is concluded.

3- SESSION TWO (SUMMARY)

KOCAELİ METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

SPEAKER: ERHAN ÖZTÜRK (Head of Rural and Agricultural Services Department, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality)

Öztürk made the following speech: “Metropolitan municipality initiated an immense work in contemplation of “villages will have what cities have”. 12 agricultural engineers and 9 veterinarians are commissioned for 244 villages as agricultural consultants within the scope of the project titled “There is Life in Villages”. Our projects and SUBVENTIONS are as follows:

PROJECTS:

- Map of agriculture and stockbreeding is prepared (statistical data in fields of agriculture and stockbreeding are collected and a map which is updated on a yearly basis is prepared).
- On site consultancy services (veterinarians and agricultural engineers apply modern stockbreeding techniques and conduct R&D studies).
- Training activities (4000 farmers in 217 villages are trained).

- Farmer training centers are established (They are established as Agriculture Academy and applied training is provided).
- My Farmer Sibling Project (the projects bring together people who live in city center and interested in farming even if they don't have a piece of land with farmers).
- Agricultural publishing (executed to inform farmers).
- Usage of biological trap. (Application of 265 biological traps in 23 production areas to reduce usage of chemicals).
- Supporting Seed Growing of Forage Plants Project (700 tons of forage plants composed of 9 varieties are distributed to 2260 farmers, 50% of which was granted. Sown pastures are created by using mixed pasture seeds).
- Project with regard to common use areas of our farmers (mechanization support and feed grinder and mixer, local products market, vegetable and fruit washing and packaging facility, meteorological station equipped with early warning system, biogas plant).
- Animal shelters project (inspection, licensing, maintenance and repair of shelters).
- Cage-free laying hen project (initiated to increase farmers' revenues).
- Project to develop sheep and goat breeding (Tahirova Sönmez sheep and Aleppo goat are brought in our county).
- Solar energy based animal trap wire fence project (it is ensured that the breeders will not be damaged because of wild animals).
- Using medical aromatic plants in economy (Honey Forest Projects of the Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs are being supported).
- Introducing novelties in the world to farmers (farmers' day events, trade shows and fairs are organized).

SUBVENTIONS:

- Free-of-charge soil, leaf, water and residual analyses are made (1980 soil analyses are made).
- Afforesting unused village lands (8700 saplings are planted on an area of 364 decares).
- Sapling support (in order to develop fruit rowing, walnut being in the first place, 16 different fruit saplings are being distributed since 2014).

- Distribution of genetically unmodified vegetable seedlings (24 thousand seedlings are distributed in 12 neighborhoods with the intention of encouragement).
- Supporting strawberry field lay out (250 thousand strawberry seedlings, mulch nylons, drip irrigation pipes, shading nets, organic fertilizer and low tunnel greenhouse nylons are distributed to 30 farmers. 50% of this support was grant).
- Greenhouse support (in order to improve modern greenhouse cultivation, 41 farmers are supported to establish greenhouses and 470 farmers, whose greenhouses were damaged are supported with free-of-charge greenhouse nylons).
- A buffalo association is established and buffalo breeding is supported.
- Kandıra Goat breeding is being supported within the scope of works regarding production increase and development in stockbreeding.
- Beekeeping support (Number of beekeepers is increased to 700 from 400. We brought in Yıǵılca bees to our city. 500 hives are given to 1.417 farmers. 15 thousand hive bottoms are given to 250 beekeepers. In order to prevent mobile beekeeping, seeds and saplings of pollen plants to produce honey in all seasons are being distributed).
- Maintenance and repair support for ponds.
- Irrigation channels inherited from Village Affairs which cannot be reached by General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works are renewed, maintained, repaired and new irrigation channels are built.
- 62 reservoirs are being built to prevent the waste of local water resources.
- 1450 km of field paths are opened. (They are opened to reach the unreachable areas and existing operational paths are maintained).

Municipal council made a decision in 2014 to support agriculture and stockbreeding on a 50% basis. This decision is included in all tenders and procurements.

BURSA METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

SPEAKER: YETİŐKAN KESKİN (Head of Agricultural Services Department, Bursa Metropolitan Municipality)

Keskin made the following speech: “We are the first municipality which established the Agriculture Corporation. Tenders and other operations can be conducted over the companies we have established. Other municipalities gradually establish agricultural companies, too. We

cooperate with non-governmental organizations in our works. Activities of agricultural services are as follows;

- Milk collection centers are established. (Milk collection centers are established to eliminate difficulties regarding milk collection and pricing and milk cooling tanks are provided where appropriate).
- Product collection centers are established. (5 to 10 centers are established in every village to eliminate the market problem).
- Pepper drying plant is established. (Parks and Gardens Directorate is building the plant, cost of which is 5 million TL).
- Sunflower seed drying areas are built.
- Black fig exportation. (Black figs ranking first in Turkey are exported over Agriculture Company we have established).
- Quince, pepper, raspberry export.
- Blueberry growing is supported. (Seedlings, saplings and seeds are provided to new gardens and facilities where the citizens cannot reach easily).
- Raspberry saplings are distributed. (95% of raspberries are raised in Bursa. 150 saplings are given to farmers).
- Stevia and lavender seedlings, which are medical and aromatic plants are given to farmers.
- Jujube, black cumin, chestnut, cranberry and strawberry raising are supported.
- Pheromone support is provided for biologic fight against vineyard moth.
- Seed cleaner and grading machine, tomato paste machine, greenhouse nylon and mulch laying machine support.
- Trainings are provided for all supported agricultural products.
- Livestock, bee hive, silkworm breeding support.
- 20 million TL will be invested in olive processing, export plant and irrigation ponds.

BALIKESİR METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL SERVICES

SPEAKER: AHMET MEKİN TÜZÜN (Head of Rural Services Department, Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality)

Tüzün made the following speech: “Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality’s Department of Rural Services is composed of 5 branch offices. 4 of them are located in the center and 1 is in rural area.

- 1- Rural Area Planning and Rural Development Branch Office.
- 2- Plant Production and Markets Branch Office.
- 3- Animal Production and Slaughter Houses Branch Office.
- 4- Farmer Training and Production Branch Office.

We have 6 markets (5 fruit and vegetable markets, 1 water products market) and 19 slaughter houses (7 of them are leased, 12 are our own establishments) under these branch offices.

The area of Balıkesir is 1.8% of total surface area of Turkey. Forest land in Balıkesir is 2.83% of the total in Turkey and 9% of olive grove is in Balıkesir. Half of the area of our city is forested. There are 439 bin hectares of arable lands. With 620 thousand livestock, our city is above the average in Turkey. Seedling, sapling and seed production in our city is in good shape. Our activities include supporting, progressing projects, works, events and inspections.

- Seed cleaners, calf sheds, septicemia vaccines and hive bottoms with pollen trap are distributed.
- Milk collection centers are established.
- Sapling support.
- Trials of medical aromatic plant growth (Pilot project included 13 counties, 36 farmers and 42 decares. Trials made to see which species could be raised where, by using which active ingredients and in which volume in different ecologies.
- Farmer training and production center (it includes laboratories, training application areas and medical aromatic plants center).
- Olive fruit fly disinfestation (11 million trees are pest controlled).
- Main bee production center is opened and pollen plants are planted. The aim of this center is producing bees and products like pollen, bee gum, bee venom and royal jelly and provide applied training to beekeepers.
- As there are many cheese types in the region, a book about cheese will be published soon.
- 2 books about medical aromatic plants are published.
- Works regarding to bring Kaz Mountains to forefront in terms of tourism continue. (Another project within the scope of this work is binding children with autism and leukemia together).

- Consultations are conducted by meeting once every 6 months with farmers from 20 counties.

KAYSERİ METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

SPEAKER: DURAN SAFRANTI (Head of Agricultural Services Department, Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality)

Safranti's speech went as follows: "With the intention to feed people where they have born, our department is established in 2015 under Agricultural Services Department. We will determine which products will be supported in which county via the agricultural master plan we will draw up. Current and future projects and subventions are as follows:

PROJECTS:

- Slaughter houses in 7 counties (tender phase).
- Beekeeping support (bulk beekeeping in 1 county. Under development).
- Maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of irrigation and livestock drinking water facilities.

SUBVENTIONS:

- Distribution of raw milk cooling tanks ("Raw Milk Tracking System" is established in cooperation with Provincial Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Livestock. 26 raw milk cooling tanks are given to raw milk producers).
- Agricultural equipment support (Fixed and mobile agricultural machines which would be needed only once a year such as stone pickers, selector machines, solid fertilizer distribution trailers and **gobler** are delivered to chambers of agriculture)."

TRABZON METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

SPEAKER: YAKUP SEYMEN (Agricultural Engineer, Trabzon Metropolitan Municipality)

Seymen briefly expressed the following: "Our department was established in 2015 under Department of Parks and Gardens and went into action in 2016. Our projects and subventions are as follows:

PROJECTS:

- Implementing agricultural strategies mainly for hazelnut production. (We don't have a variety of agricultural products like other metropolitans in Trabzon.

Hazelnuts constitute 80-85% of our production and so we will keep focusing extensively on hazelnut from now on).

SUBVENTIONS:

- Macro plant nutrients are analyzed. (Worm humus and agricultural lime support is provided according to the results of soil analysis).
- Organic agriculture support (Organic agriculture support is provided to our farmers who produce hazelnut in the area below the 0-300 meters of protected area around Atasu Dam, the drinking water source of Trabzon).
- Fruit sapling grant (2000 apple, 2000 pear and 4500 plum saplings will be distributed to re-produce local fruits which are sinking into oblivion in Trabzon”.

ERZURUM METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONTROL

SPEAKER: AHMET KILIÇ (Head of Environmental Protection and Control, Erzurum Metropolitan Municipality)

Kılıç spoke as follows: “We have been continuing our activities regarding agriculture and stockbreeding for one year. We are seeking for the most suitable agricultural activities for Erzurum, as the altitude of the city is 1860. Our projects and subventions are below:

PROJECTS:

- The biggest integrated meat plant in Turkey is under construction (the plant will cover an area of 64 thousand square meters, 21 thousand 300 square meters of which will be indoor space).
- Livestock market (capacity of the facility to be built on an area of decares is 1000 cattle and 3000-7500 small cattle).
- Livestock markets are established in 3 big counties.
- 54 animal drinking water ponds (their total water storage capacity is from 60 thousand cubic meters to 2 million cubic meters).
- 96 irrigation ponds in 2 years (total water collection capacity is 17 million 535 thousand cubic meters).
- 12 slaughter houses (a total of 12 slaughter houses with the same model are built in every county between 2016 and 2017).

- Stockbreeding village (60 feeding pens for 50 animals, 10 for 100 animals and one for 200 animals will be built on an area of 387 decares).
- Erzurum hobby gardens (400 hobby gardens are planned to be built on an area of 170 decares at the altitude of 2000).
- Animal slaughter facilities to serve during the feast of sacrifice in 10 regions, each having the capacity of 100 animals. (1000 animals per day).
- Indoor irrigation facility (We have built 111 facilities on a rural area of 462 thousand 326 square meters starting out with slogan of “Water is Life, We Bring Our Villages to Life”).
- Watering hole facility (3500 galvanized and concrete watering holes are built in the region to develop stockbreeding. It is also planned to build 1500 more watering holes in 2017).
- R&D studies (we carry on works to grow Taşkent peas as a forage crop at high altitudes, to spread endemic buckwheat cultivation which is very important for coeliac patients, to produce organic worm humus in order to convert waste water mud into organic fertilizer).
- Organic meat and milk project (Leader farmers determined within the scope of this project have taken a one-week training in Germany).

SUBVENTIONS;

- Insecticides are applied to 230 thousand decares.
- Mobile cattle hospital (conducted to fight with agricultural and livestock diseases).
- Beekeeping support (beekeeping training is given within the scope of project titled 1000 beekeepers in 20 counties and necessary materials are distributed).
- Trainings (trainings regarding livestock diseases and agricultural support are given).
- Yellow pine support (100 thousand yellow pines are distributed within the scope of the project titled “A forest in every village, a cure for every grievance”).

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER (MODERATOR): ABDULMELİK ÖTEGEN (Assistant Secretary General of Konya Metropolitan Municipality)

Ötegen explained how they have prepared the Draft Final Declaration of International Agricultural Cities Conference.

“International Agricultural Cities Conference is held in Konya on March 21 and 22 Mart 2017 with the participation of international and national participants. Opening session was held on 21 March 2017, importance of agriculture for mankind and problems and future of agriculture are emphasized in protocol speeches. Moreover, attention is called to the meaning and importance of this conference held via initiatives of local administrations. Following the session all participants visited International Konya Agricultural Fair organized in TÜYAP International Fair and Exhibition Center to attend the opening ceremony of fair and visit the stands to observe the latest developments in agriculture.

During the session held on 22 March 2017, representatives of Ukraine, Bosnia Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Sudan, Azerbaijan, Kenya, Iraq and Palestine along with Turkish representatives of the metropolitan municipalities of İstanbul, Ankara, Trabzon, Kahramanmaraş, Erzurum, Gaziantep, Bursa, Sakarya, Kocaeli, Balıkesir, Ordu, Kayseri and Konya presented case studies regarding agriculture and stockbreeding implemented in their cities and made evaluations.

World population has reached to 7 billion 500 million today and the rate of increase is 1%. Every year approximately 80 million people are added to world population which is equal to the population of Turkey. In spite of that, agricultural lands diminish day by day due to implementation of faulty agricultural techniques or soil and wind erosion. Countries which are developed in the fields of energy and industry are able to feed only their own people with this wealth. But when we consider the world as a whole, we see that 10% of the world population, approximately 750 million people are still fighting with starvation and poverty. Almost 30 thousand people unfortunately die every day of starvation. It is of course impossible to think that mankind would stay silent or emotionless against such a calamity. Agriculture is one of the most important sectors to reduce starvation and poverty all around the world. Because adequate nutrition of mankind largely depends on agriculture engaged in right environment, at right time and with right tools and techniques. This makes the sharing of agricultural experiences and techniques between countries and cities indispensable. Therefore, we have to consider agricultural sector as one of the most important ones and take action to improve it. It is observed that the representatives of participating countries and cities have emphasized the necessity of the establishment of a common ground where agricultural experiences and techniques would be shared between members in their evaluations during the sessions.

In conclusion, it is decided by participating countries and cities that;

- AGRICITIES “International Association of Agricultural Cities” should be established by participating countries and cities along with other countries and cities wanting to be founding members and structured in a way to allow the association to expand and grow in future,
- It will be appropriate for Konya Metropolitan Municipality to follow and finalize official establishment and operations,
- Agriculture and food sector is a strategically important one in future world and therefore all countries and cities should interact with each other and positively contribute to this sector,
- All countries and cities should inform other member countries and cities about the positive developments in agriculture and publish notices to collectively fight with starvation,
- It will be appropriate to hold meetings and conferences in participating countries and cities to attract attention of mankind to agriculture till the association is established,
- It will be appropriate to establish “International Association of Agricultural Cities” in the fastest way possible and announce the establishment to the world within 1 year with a press conference to be organized in Konya.

These decisions are signed by participating countries and cities. Final declaration of “International Association of Agricultural Cities” conference is drawn up as two copies, one in Turkish and the other in English respectively and both copies are signed.

Declaration is open to opinions of delegation till signature. It is conveyed to all participants in Turkish and in English.

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: SELİM GÜLEÇ (External Relations Department Head, Konya Metropolitan Municipality)

Güleç briefly made the following speech: “As it is emphasized in all speeches made today, agriculture is above everything else. Life of living creatures and human life depend on meeting of increasing needs adequately by agriculture. There is already an international initiative under the umbrella of United Nations. But there are no local initiatives yet. Our intention is commencing such an initiative at a local level. Because we are closer to community, people and producers. Commencing this initiative also suits to other countries but it suits to Turkey more. It is important to prepare a prototype and then open and expand it to all local administrations

who suffer from the same difficulties and problems all over the world. Even if a local initiative seems as a small step in agriculture, actually it is a big step for us. This will be a first for local administrations. We can announce our intention and start working. As Konya, we can follow the procedures. Then we can continue to discuss more specific and common topics in the next meeting. This will be a good start for all of us.

GAZİANTEP METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

SPEAKER: İBRAHİM YILMAZ (Head of Agricultural Services Department, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality)

Yılmaz made the following speech: “Gaziantep’s surface area is only 1/6th of Konya’s and its population is almost 2.5 million with guests from Syria. 300 thousand of this population are employed in agriculture.

There are 5 organized industrial sites in Gaziantep and they cover a total area of 50 million square meters. We have more than 250 food processing companies, more than 1000 factories and agricultural exportation amounting 1.5 billion USD. 1/3rd of agricultural area is used for pistachio production. Gaziantep is one of the biggest flour producing cities in Turkey. It is also one of the biggest 3 regions of flour production in the world. Mostly cultivated agricultural products are wheat, grape, barley, olive, cotton, chickpea and red pepper. The number of cattle is 5162 and of small cattle is 520 thousand. The objectives of our department are activating in line with agricultural policies of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock; conducting guiding implementations to put the agricultural potential of city into good use and develop various projects. Our department has three branch offices, namely Plant Production, Animal Production and Food. Our projects and subventions are as follows;

PROJECTS:

- Pistachio trees yield fruits in an irregular way. This irregularity is caused by nutrients at the rate of 40%. A scientific study is conducted in this respect for the first time. A fertilizer called “Green Gold” is found and provided to producers.
- Project to protect local varieties; Gaziantep is included in UNESCO’s list of Producer Cities in the category of gastronomy. Gaziantep has a very important cuisine culture and all products used here are cultivated in the region.

- Milking machines are distributed to women within the scope of “Hygienic Milk, Happy Women” project.
- We have cooperated with the association of breeding sheep and goats within the scope of our stockbreeding projects and provided 500 kg of dairy sheep feed to every farmer who applied to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock for subvention the previous year, with 80% subvention.
- Beekeeping Subvention Project (a honey forest is established and phacelia is distributed. 6 thousand hives are given to beekeepers).
- Farmers are trained.
- Female farmers are taken to greenhouse cultivation and other fairs in Antalya every year within the scope of social responsibility project.
- Breeding livestock center is established.
- Training of Syrian guests.
- Seed cleaning project.
- Development of water management project.

SUBVENTIONS:

- Male pistachio saplings and budding support.
- Biotechnical fight for agricultural pest control and pheromone trap implementation.
- 30% of red pepper flakes production in Turkey takes place in Gaziantep. Pepper seedling subvention is granted to improve agricultural techniques, increase production and the number of new varieties at a rate of 80%.
- High-wire system viticulture subventions. It is performed to revive viticulture in the region as it is one of the important products.
- Wheat and barley seeds have been distributed to farmers to reduce the impact of drought between 2014 and 2016. We have cooperated with chambers of agriculture in this project and every applying farmer was given 500 kg seeds.
- Cherry production is supported.
- Forage plants subvention project.
- Kilis goat distribution.
- Supporting individual irrigation activities.
- Subventions for improving production of olive, chickpea and lentil.

ORDU METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
AGRICULTURE AND STOCKBREEDING BRANCH OFFICE

SPEAKER: ÇETİN GÜVEN (Head of Agriculture and Stockbreeding Branch Office, Ordu Metropolitan Municipality)

Güven made the following speech: “There is not much product varieties in Ordu. It receives much rain. Generally, hazelnut is produced. Another product is kiwi. We rank number two in kiwi cultivation after Yalova and we take place near the top in Turkey in beekeeping and honey production. The first Beekeeping Research Institute in Turkey is established in Ordu. Our projects and subventions are as follows;

PROJECTS:

- Royal jelly production project (it is conducted to bring female beekeepers in production. As a beginning training is given.)
- Developing organic egg production (10 thousand organic pullets are distributed to 35 persons.)

SUBVENTIONS:

- Vaccination and medical controls of 114 thousand cattle (Being conducted within the protocol signed with Provincial Food and Agriculture Directorate).
- Support of tomato and cucumber seedlings in small greenhouses (Being conducted to support vegetable growing).
- Cutting rose seedling subvention (50 thousand rose seedlings are distributed in Central Black Sea region).
- White potato growing subvention (works have been performed and seeds are distributed to increase product range).

SAKARYA METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES AND NEIGHBORHOOD UNIT
AFFAIRS

SPEAKER: YUSUF ÇELEBİ (Head of Agricultural Services and Neighborhood Unit Affaris, Sakarya Metropolitan Municipality)

Çelebi made the following speech: “Hazelnut production area in Sakarya is 72 thousand hectares. This is much above the average in Turkey. We have commenced a demonstration study to increase production and quality of hazelnut. Moreover, we will establish a tissue-

culture laboratory. There are fertile lands in Sakarya, Akova and Pamukova plains. Our main concern is how to establish communication between rural and urban areas. We are investigating which agricultural services should be addressed in order to develop rural areas. The most important part for us is not employment, production increase, productivity and quality increase only. We also work on projects to enable these people support themselves in agricultural sector.”

KAHRAMANMARAŞ METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY
AGRICULTURE AND STOCKBREEDING BRANCH OFFICE

SPEAKER: MEHMET PİŞKİN (Head of Agricultural Services Branch Office, Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality)

Pişkin made the following speech: “Altitude of Kahramanmaraş changes from 180 meters up to 2 thousand meters. Product range changes depending on altitude and climate. Kahramanmaraş became a metropolis in 2014 and Agricultural Services Branch Office is established in 2015. Our activities include;

- Agricultural infrastructure (irrigational works),
- Supporting agricultural production (works related with supporting plant and animal production).

SUBVENTIONS:

- 297 thousand walnut, olive and apple saplings are distributed (60% of the cost is covered by municipality and 40% by farmers).
- Plant production is supported by laying out fruit gardens covering an area of 13 thousand 600 decares.
- Irrigation works (92 thousand meters irrigation pipes are used in 70 neighborhoods).
- 34 bin decares of land obtained the opportunity of easy irrigation.
- Cold storage depot subvention (a cold storage depot with the capacity of 3 thousand tons is built).
- Materials are distributed to farmers. Irrigation ponds are built.
- 135 thousand flower seedlings are distributed.
- 5 thousand 800 meters of irrigation channels are built.
- Stone pickers and welding machines are provided.
- Farmers are trained.”

INTERMEDIARY SPEAKER: HISHAM AL-ALAVI (AMBASSADOR OF IRAQ)

Al-Alavi made a brief speech and said: “There are 3 important issues to discuss in the next meeting:

- 1- Utilization of advanced techniques in agriculture,
- 2- Utilization of water resources more efficiently,
- 3- Engaging in environment friendly and sustainable agriculture”.

The Ambassador said the next conference should be titled as “Smart Agricultural Cities Conference” and finished his speech.

Final Declaration of the Conference is finalized in the light of proposals made and printed in English and in Turkish and handed out to participants. Participants reviewed the declaration. Then participants are invited to stage one-by-one to sign the final declaration. The meeting is adjourned.