

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ministers, Ambassadors, Representatives of International Organizations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Peace be upon you.

It is a privilege to join you on this important occasion and to convey the warm greetings of the people of Iran, the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, and especially the olive growers of my country. I congratulate all of you on World Olive Day.

Olives are far more than an agricultural crop. They are essential to food security, human health, rural livelihoods, and environmental sustainability. Olive orchards contribute significantly to soil conservation, the fight against desertification, biodiversity protection, and carbon sequestration—making them an important part of the global response to climate change.

In Iran, olives occupy a special place in our Seventh National Development Plan, where sustainable production has been identified as a national priority. Across regions such as Gilan, Zanjan, Qazvin, Fars, and Golestan, olive cultivation forms part of our cultural and economic heritage and supports thousands of rural families. With high-quality production and diverse cultivars, Iranian olives also hold strong potential in international markets.

Dear colleagues,

Today, strengthening the olive sector as a sustainable food system is more urgent than ever. Nearly one billion people worldwide face hunger or malnutrition. Ensuring a future with sufficient, healthy, and sustainable food requires international cooperation, innovation, and knowledge-based agriculture. Modern technologies—including artificial intelligence—can play a transformative role in this path.

The International Olive Council is a unique platform for advancing these goals. By sharing our scientific, technical, and practical experience, we can collectively enhance sustainability, improve global access to olives and olive products, and protect the quality and health standards that the world depends on.

I express my sincere appreciation to the leadership and staff of the IOC, especially His Excellency Dr. Jaime Lillo, for their efforts in updating methodologies, improving statistics, strengthening technical guidelines, and advancing international standards.

May the olive tree continue to symbolize peace, resilience, and sustainable life for all nations.

I also extend my gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Zabib, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Spain, and to the Government and Minister of Agriculture of Spain, His Excellency Dr. Luis Planas, for their valuable support to the olive sector and the IOC.

Thank you.

Mohammad Mehdi Boromandi

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Jihad

Islamic Republic of Iran