




Food and Agriculture  
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**IFAD**  
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# Highlights of the Rome-based Agencies on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

2017-2018



# Strengthening Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

During the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo 2017 in Antalya, Turkey, the United Nations Rome-based agencies (RBAs) - namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) - emphasized that all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are interlinked, indivisible and interconnected, and that their approach to address these commitments must be multi-sectoral, requiring widespread strategic partnerships. This rationale informed the signature of the Joint RBAs Roadmap, in which the agencies committed to strengthen their collaboration to facilitate South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).

This partnership leverages synergies and complementarities between the RBAs, as well as increases SSTC visibility. In light of the above, consultations at working and Directors' levels are taking place regularly, creating the conditions for a more harmonized and structured collaboration.

In particular, the RBAs strongly collaborated on the organization of the following events:

- In September 2017, the **UN Day for South-South Cooperation (SSC Day)** was commemorated by the RBAs at IFAD. Discussions focused on the opportunities and challenges in promoting SSTC for sustainable and inclusive rural transformation;
- In November 2017, IFAD, in partnership with FAO, organized an international conference on SSTC in Brasilia entitled “**Leveraging Innovations from the Global South to Support Rural Transformation**”;
- In June 2018, the RBAs organized the seminar “**Promoting Partnerships and Knowledge Sharing to meet SDG1 and SDG2**”, in partnership with the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) and the China Internet Information Center (CIIC). The main objectives of the event were to engage countries and development partners to share successful models, good practices and enabling policies for poverty and hunger eradication; enhance knowledge cooperation between the People's Republic of China and the RBAs; and establish a regular forum to convene representatives of government agencies, academia and civil society to discuss and share experiences on SDG1 and SDG2.

In addition, the RBAs committed to carry on the following joint activities:

- The three agencies will gather at FAO's headquarters on 10 September to **celebrate the SSC Day** by addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation through SSTC, as one crucial element of the 2030 Agenda. This event will also represent an opportunity to raise awareness on the strategic importance of SSTC as a delivery mechanism, particularly towards the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation BAPA, to be held in March 2019;
- On 1-2 November, a **Ministerial Level Forum on Global SSC in Agriculture** will be jointly organized by FAO and China, in collaboration with the two other Agencies. The event will be hosted by the



city of Changsha (China), and will aim at reaching a consensus on the role of SSC for the future of the agricultural sector, further promoting the 2030 Agenda. The outcome document of the Forum, “Changsha Declaration on Global South-South Cooperation in Agriculture” will be presented at the BAPA+40 Conference;

- Preparations are underway for the **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annual GSSD Expo**, which will take place at the United Nations Headquarters on 28-30 November, to showcase developing countries sustainable innovations. For the occasion, the RBAs will prepare and host a joint session at this event, as done in the previous years;
- The RBAs established a joint working group that is developing a **Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit of SSTC initiatives and projects**, with a special focus on SDG1 “No Poverty” and SDG2 “Zero Hunger”;
- Finally, the RBAs are also exploring concrete triangular cooperation opportunities at country level to enhance collaboration.

As reflected in the recently signed **Memorandum of Understanding** (June 2018), the RBAs reinforced their commitment towards a common vision for achieving food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture through comprehensive and holistic approaches. Recognized as an effective delivery mechanism to confront these closely interlinked issues, SSTC has been gaining momentum with increasing collaboration, coordination and synergies among the RBAs, in light of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the BAPA.



# Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



For more than 20 years, FAO has been facilitating SSTC in the areas of food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture and rural development. SSTC has become a key instrument to implement the Organization's mandate, and is currently being mainstreamed in every facet of FAO's work.

The SSTC corporate strategy, which is fully reflected in FAO's Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan, is an efficient and effective delivery mechanism to pursue the Organization's Strategic Objectives in order to better serve member countries. FAO's SSTC initiatives are proven to be essential in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals while providing an opportunity to reach new resource partners, and diversify funding sources. FAO is actively involved in two new funding opportunities: the China SSC Assistance Fund and the UN QIAO Plan on Climate Change and Nature Conservation.

## Main achievements in 2017-2018

Under the **FAO-China SSC Programme** - with a total amount of USD 80 million -, more than 1 000 experts and technicians were deployed to 28 countries. Twelve national projects and five global/inter-regional projects on thematic areas covering agriculture, aquaculture, policy, marketing, and food value chain were directly implemented, benefitting over 3 million people. In 2017 and 2018, a national SSC project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and four global/inter-regional projects were launched and implemented. The first intra-regional SSC project on cross-border animal diseases was officially signed. Additionally, joint formulation missions of national SSC projects were successfully conducted in Cabo Verde, Namibia (Phase II), and the Sudan; while a triangular cooperation project is ongoing in Ethiopia, with the support of the Netherlands. The total funding commitment in 2017 and 2018 was over USD 23 million.

As of 2018, the **FAO and Brazil partnership to promote SSC in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa towards the achievement of the SDGs** has implemented 38 projects in 33 countries, mobilizing USD 60 million in favor of food security and rural development. The second Advisory Committee meeting was held in June 2018 to present main results from 2008 to 2018 and discuss challenges and opportunities, including food systems, eradication of hunger, obesity and overweight, agroecology, youth and rural women, and territorial strategies of actions against poverty. In 2017-2018, four new projects were launched, focusing on rural development, family farming, school feeding and land tenure governance in Latin America, jointly amounting to more than USD 8 million.

The **Mesoamerica Hunger Free Cooperation Agreement** was signed between the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) and FAO in 2014, establishing a USD 15 million Trust Fund (2015-2019), aiming to strengthen national and local institutional and policy frameworks for food security and family farming in nine countries. During the 2018 Regional Conference in Latin America and Caribbean, the "Mexico-CARICOM-FAO Initiative, Cooperation for adaptation and resilience to climate change in the Caribbean" was introduced, and a Framework Agreement for USD 5 million was signed in June 2018 with equal parts contributions, including funds to implement SSTC initiatives.

Following the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) launched at Expo 2015, FAO developed the **City-to-City Initiative to empower local governments to make their cities and interconnected regions more food secure**. Main activities in 2017 included a project on micro gardens involving Dakar (Senegal) sharing its experience with Douala (Cameroon) and Praia (Cabo Verde), and the launch of the Urban Food Actions Platform. In 2018, City-to-City exchanges and awareness raising events were organized, including the City-to-City Food System Forum for Eastern and Southern Africa in Durban, and the *Forum des Maires de l'Afrique francophone signataires du MUFPP* in Brazzaville.

# International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFAD leverages SSTC as a key instrument to promote sustainable and inclusive rural transformation.



The Fund's commitment to SSTC is embedded in its Strategic Framework 2016-2025 and in a dedicated strategy (IFAD's Approach to SSTC, December 2016), which both underline the importance of SSTC as a means to enhance production and productivity, food security and nutritional levels.

In addition to sharing knowledge and innovative solutions across regions and countries and providing technical assistance, IFAD's SSTC activities aim to promote business-to-business links as well as investments across developing countries.

## Main achievements in 2017-2018

International SSTC Conference on “**Leveraging Innovations from the Global South to support Rural Transformation**”, November 2017. Co-organized by IFAD and the Government of Brazil, in partnership with FAO, UNOSSC and ILC, the Conference was an opportunity to identify and discuss innovative solutions focusing on agricultural production and productivity, investment promotion and inclusive information and communications technologies, with a special focus on rural youth and women. The main outcome of the Conference was the Brasilia Declaration and Action Agenda on SSTC.

Launch of the **China-IFAD SSTC Facility**, February 2018. The Facility's main objective is to mobilize knowledge, expertise and resources from developing countries for improved rural transformation. It also aims to establish business-to-business links among institutions including private sector actors. The Facility is devoted exclusively to smallholder agriculture and rural development, with specific attention to reducing poverty, fighting malnutrition and promoting rural youth employment in developing countries. The first call for proposals for funding of projects from the Facility was issued in June.

High Level International Seminar on “**Preparing Rural Communities to Cope with Climate Change through SSTC**”, March 2018. Co-organized by IFAD and the Government of Pakistan in Islamabad, the seminar presented an opportunity to exchange experience and knowledge on climate-related issues and to discuss the role of SSTC in furthering the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, it was an important step toward the implementation of the Brasilia Declaration and Action Agenda on SSTC.

Launch of the **Rural Solutions Portal**, June 2018. The Rural Solutions Portal is a web-based knowledge-sharing platform giving access to information on innovative solutions, success stories and case studies in rural development. They are concrete initiatives, which solve specific development challenges to promote sustainable and inclusive rural transformation. The Portal currently includes 31 solution stories from IFAD's projects and programmes, and will be further populated with innovative solutions from IFAD operations and other development partners.

Establishment of three **IFAD SSTC and Knowledge Centres in Brazil (Brasilia), China (Beijing) and Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)**. As part of IFAD's ongoing organizational decentralization, the SSTC and Knowledge Centres will support the implementation of IFAD's corporate SSTC Strategy and the Brasilia Declaration and Action Agenda, further strengthening the linkages between IFAD's country, regional and global activities. The SSTC and Knowledge Centres will assist development partners, inter-alia, in increasing their access to agricultural and rural development solutions, technical assistance and technology, good practice and lessons, and resources from developing countries. They will also focus on evidence-based knowledge sharing for improved rural transformation.

# World Food Programme



Assisting 80 million people in around 80 countries each year, WFP has stepped up its approach to broker SSTC for progress on SDG2 in the context of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. WFP's SSTC approach is focus on achieving results in the field and builds on a variety of SSC mechanisms and modalities, including WFP Centres of Excellence in China and Brazil, study visits, expert deployment, demonstration sites, peer coaching networks, technology transfer, knowledge transfer, and policy dialogues. The aim is to reach people in need and achieve programme effectiveness and impact on social protection and safety nets (including school meals), empowering small holder farmers and access to markets; vulnerability analysis and food security; nutrition, emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction and resilience and climate adaptation.

## Main achievements in 2017-2018

SSTC initiatives promoted through WFP's network of Centres of Excellence in China and Brazil:

- The **WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil** is a global hub that promotes policy dialogues tapping on the Brazilian experience in food and nutrition security and that provides continuous South-South technical assistance and knowledge sharing in home-grown school feeding and safety nets for 28 countries to develop nationally-owned programmes.
- The **WFP Centre of Excellence in China** sets up its services and programmes to help governments to tap into China's expertise in value chain development and access for smallholder farmers, supply chain, including processing, post-harvest loss management and storage systems, climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience building and zero hunger strategies and nutrition.

Ten country-specific "**WFP South-South reviews**" in Latin America, Asia and Southern Africa, and two **regional SSC mappings** in Southern and Western Africa as a basis for identifying and realizing SSTC opportunities on school meals, rice fortification, post-harvest management, nutrition, food security analysis and emergency preparedness in the field.

Some examples from WFP's work on SSTC in the regions:

- **Regional peer learning and knowledge transfer:** Uganda has been facilitating intra-African South-South peer learning on post-harvest management through the set-up of a "Post-harvest Knowledge and Operation Centre".
- **Study visits and field demonstrations:** Sri Lanka has conducted a study tour to Rwanda on the production and distribution of fortified blended foods produced through African Improved Foods factory.
- **Policy dialogue and training:** One of WFP China Centre of Excellence's recent initiatives was the organization of a seminar on building smallholder farmers' resilience through value chain management in 2017, followed by a practical training on value chain management in 2018 for Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal.
- **Expert deployment:** In 2017-2018, with the direct support of WFP Centre in Brazil, Burundi, Kenya and Zimbabwe developed policy projects and approved frameworks for national school feeding programmes alongside African Union-WFP Centre in Brazil continental actions for school meals.
- **Technology transfer:** Technology transfer was facilitated from Bangladesh to Bhutan in order to promote rice fortification and support small- and medium-size millers.



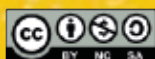


## Contact us

FAO: [South-South-Cooperation@fao.org](mailto:South-South-Cooperation@fao.org)

IFAD: [SSTC@ifad.org](mailto:SSTC@ifad.org)

WFP: [Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org](mailto:Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org)



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