

Assessing the contribution of **South-South and Triangular Cooperation** to development results in agriculture, rural development, food security and nutrition

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 20-22 March 2019

Background

The 2030 Agenda highlights the key role played by South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among others, target 6 of SDG 17 (on the revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development) calls for “improved coordination between existing mechanisms of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation” and “increased sharing of knowledge on mutually agreed terms”. Moreover, the achievement of many additional SDG targets would greatly benefit from SSTC partnerships.

SSTC is increasingly recognized as a key development cooperation modality. As holds true for other development instruments, developing capacities to demonstrate how SSTC contributes to improving livelihoods in developing countries is of paramount importance. The three Rome-based agencies (RBAs) – FAO, IFAD and WFP – share a common vision and complementary approaches for delivering on the SDGs, and have agreed on a Joint Roadmap to guide their collective efforts to facilitate SSTC towards achieving the SDGs by 2030. Through the Joint Roadmap, the RBAs have committed to “conduct joint SSTC assessments, research, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)”, to improve their capacities to collect evidence on the benefits, comparative advantages and effectiveness of SSTC in agriculture, rural development and food security projects and programmes.

From the RBA angle, which focuses on food and nutrition security, agriculture and rural development, this warrants the development of tailored M&E methods and processes for assessing the contribution of SSTC in promoting rural transformation and meeting the SDGs. Of particular importance is the need to identify, analyse and assess the development results achieved by SSTC initiatives the RBAs take part in, facilitate and support.

Robust monitoring and evaluation systems and methods are required to promote accountability and learning for better development effectiveness, and reassure multiple stakeholders on the advantages and value for money of SSTC initiatives. However, the lack of a common conceptual framework among the RBAs makes assessing its contribution a challenge, which is further exacerbated by evidence gaps and the lack of specific and reliable data.

Evaluating and assessing SSTC has long been recognized by the development community as an area requiring improvement. The initiative described in this concept note is the first of its kind, as the RBAs will jointly develop innovative methods and processes for evaluation of SSTC in agriculture, food and nutrition security, and rural development that will bring about a substantial leap forward in this field.

Objectives

The objective of the event is to present the progress in the development of an RBA M&E methodology for assessing the contribution of SSTC in agriculture, rural development, food security and nutrition, which aims to apply robust methods and processes to assess the contribution that SSTC makes to development results. The methodology will review already existing M&E practices in the RBAs and will

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also build on a comparative analysis/desk review of similar methods and processes in a number of selected organizations, which will complement the findings of the analysis.

The side-event will deliver the following key messages:

- a) Assessing ways in which SSTC influences development results in agriculture, rural development, food security and nutrition is key to understanding how it helps countries achieve Agenda 2030 and its sustainable development goals.
- b) Developing robust methodologies and processes that explore – beyond mere outputs – how SSTC contributes to humanitarian and development results is a crucial component of any results measurement framework. They provide a better understanding and assessment of the impact on the ground of humanitarian and development interventions that utilize SSTC as part of its operations.
- c) The introduction of commonly agreed M&E methods and processes will facilitate the benchmarking of results among the RBAs and with other organizations.
- d) Evaluating results of SSTC-enabled programmes represents an opportunity for the RBAs to engage with more partners and achieve greater impact on food security and nutrition.

Speakers

- **Shengyao Tang**, Director, Office of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, FAO;
- **Ashwani K. Muthoo**, Director, Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division, IFAD; and
- **Stephanie Hochstetter**, Director of Rome-Based Agencies and Committee of World Food Security, WFP
- **Fernanda Barreto**, Programme Coordinator, ILO
- Representative from the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC) (tbd);

Programme

08:00 – 08:30	Registration and welcome coffee
08:30 – 08:35	Opening by moderator
08:35 – 09:10	Panel session
09:10 – 09:25	Open discussion and questions from the audience
09:25 – 09:30	Closing remarks

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Coffee will be served ahead of the side-event