

22nd Session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation – Side Event

“South-South and Triangular Cooperation Gateway: facilitating access to digital and innovative technologies for more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient, more sustainable agrifood systems”

New York, United States of America,
Thursday 29 May 2025



Concept Note

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“South-South and Triangular Cooperation Gateway: facilitating access to digital and innovative technologies for more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient, more sustainable agrifood systems”

Thursday, 29 May 2025, from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Conference Room 8 - United Nations Headquarters, New York – [UN Web TV](#)

The event will be held in English.

Background

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has embraced South–South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) as a key delivery modality to catalyse agricultural development, food security, and rural development. With over 40 years of experience, FAO is a leading promotor and facilitator of SSTC in agriculture, food security and nutrition. SSTC is also fully integrated in [FAO's Strategic Framework](#) and is a key delivery modality in the implementation of FAO's projects and programmes.

In 2024, the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution on South-South Cooperation ([A/RES/79/236](#)), recognized the key role of South-South and triangular cooperation in **enhancing connectivity and digital transformation within and among developing countries**. The resolution therefore encourages developed countries to provide increased financial, scientific, and technological support to developing countries.

In line with the UNGA above-mentioned resolution, and with the overall thematic discussions of the 22nd session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, FAO has set up a series of SSTC initiatives, aimed at **facilitating access to digital and innovative technologies, ultimately bridging the digital divide and advancing sustainable development**, particularly for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlock Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The year 2025 will also mark a historic milestone for FAO - its 80th Anniversary - which will **highlight emerging science, technologies and innovations (STI) to accelerate actions to tackle present and future agrifood systems challenges**.

In order to further promote the fundamental role of SSTC in addressing these global development challenges and accelerating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) achievements, FAO and the

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United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) are **jointly organizing a side event on the occasion of the 22nd Session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation: “South-South and Triangular Cooperation Gateway: facilitating access to digital and innovative technologies for more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient, more sustainable agrifood systems”**.

The side event will **launch the new FAO SSTC Gateway Platform**. Leveraging SSTC for sustainable development, especially through science, technology, and innovation – including the **application of Artificial Intelligence (AI)** via other FAO platforms such as the Agrifood Systems Technologies and Innovations Outlook (ATIO) platform - is one of the aims of the platform. The SSTC Gateway Platform will also:

1. **Promote dialogue, knowledge sharing, networking, partnerships and collaboration** for capacity building and uptake of good practices and innovations from the agrifood sector – in close collaboration with the [UNOSSC Galaxy portal](#).
2. **Facilitate more effective SSTC exchanges and matchmaking between Solutions Seekers and Providers**, as partners interested in showcasing their institutions and expertise in the areas of agriculture and food security, will have their own space to showcase this information.

Objectives:

The overall objectives of the event are:

- **to promote SSTC** and its contributions to alleviating hunger and malnutrition and inclusive and resilient agrifood systems transformation in countries across the Global South – leaving no one behind;
- **to showcase successful SSTC rural and agricultural digitalization projects/case studies** in the Global South;
- **to learn and exchange knowledge on how SSTC is bridging digital and technological divides** and ensuring that STI, including AI, serves as a driver of equitable and sustainable development;
- **to reaffirm FAO and UNOSSC’s joint SSTC commitments** towards the achievement of the SDGs, especially SDG 1: No poverty and SDG 2: Zero hunger;
- **to pave the way for further SSTC discussions and concrete actions towards cross-collaborations** with other **SSTC digital multistakeholders’ platforms**.

Followed by the formal launch of the SSTC Gateway platform, representatives will be invited to present successful SSTC rural and agricultural digitalization projects/case studies, to overcome STI-related challenges and promote partnerships to scale innovative solutions.

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AGENDA

Moderator: Zanofer Ismalebbe, Chief, Knowledge Management, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Agenda Item	Title	Speakers	Time
Opening ceremony		<p>Beth Bechdol, FAO Deputy-Director General Video message</p> <p>Dima Al-Khatib, Director, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)</p> <p>SSTC Gateway promotional Video</p>	13:15-13:30
FAO SSTC Gateway		<p>Michela Baratelli, FAO Programme Officer, South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division (PST)</p> <p>Naveeda Nazir, Knowledge Management Platform Coordinator (UNOSSC)</p>	13:30-13:40
UNOSSC South-South Galaxy			
SSTC in FAO – SSTC Guidelines for Action		<p>Nafis Khan, FAO Senior Programme Officer, South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division (PST)</p>	13:40-13:45
Presentations of SSTC rural and agricultural digitalization projects		<p>Presentations from Implementing Partners</p> <p>Peter Anaadumba, South-South and Triangular Cooperation Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa - Virtual attendance</p> <p>Veronika Sherova, Digital Agriculture Specialist, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</p> <p>Maha Zaki, Technical Programme Associate, FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa Virtual attendance</p>	13:45-14:10
Q&A / Statements from the floor		<p>Moderator: Zanofer Ismalebbe, UNOSSC</p>	14:10-14:25
Closing remarks		<p>Anping Ye, Director, FAO South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division (PST)</p>	14:25-14:30