

HOW TO ENGAGE IN SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Despite progress made in reducing chronic hunger and malnutrition in the last two decades, over 800 million people still go hungry every day. Given this situation, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has set ambitious but achievable targets through its renewed Strategic Framework to ensure food security for all.

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is a cost-effective mechanism for sharing knowledge, resources and developing capacities among countries of the global South. Global demand for successful SSC and Triangular Cooperation is at an all-time high and FAO's Corporate SSC Strategy aims to facilitate SSC development solutions to achieve food security, poverty reduction and sustainable agriculture.

FAO'S ROLE AS FACILITATOR

In order to harness the potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation¹, FAO is working to:

- **diversify the range of SSC modalities and solutions**, providing practical guidance and support to ensure the quality of the knowledge sharing (long-, medium- and short-term, learning routes, study tours and training);
- **connect South-South solution providers with seekers** (supply and demand), scaling up knowledge sharing and enhancing two-way learning among a wide range of southern actors;
- **facilitate upstream policy support**, including policy dialogue and knowledge sharing among policy-makers;

- **mobilize broader partnerships and resources**, and raise the visibility of the value of SSC.

HOW TO ENGAGE

A wide range of partners are invited to join hands in upscaling knowledge sharing and capacity development through SSC. Governments, Academia, Civil Society and the Private Sector have a role to play and can all contribute to mutual learning by:

- **providing financial resources** to enable the SSC knowledge sharing to happen, including funds for formulation, implementation and logistical support;
- **providing in-kind expertise**, through relevant government ministries, institutions, etc., to build capacities in a wide range of technical areas related to agriculture and food security;

TANGIBLE RESULTS OF SSC

Developing Aquaculture Capacity in Namibia

Since 2011, FAO has been facilitating knowledge sharing between Namibia and Viet Nam, with funding from Spain, through which eight Vietnamese experts were fielded to support the aquaculture sector. Early results show substantial improvement in the survival rates of catfish and tilapia. Through extension services provided by the Department of Aquaculture of Namibia, new practices in aquaculture and breeding were adopted by many local farmers.



- **expressing needs** as to what kind of technical support and know-how are required and from where;
- **jointly supporting** the SSC knowledge sharing to ensure it is of high quality and standard, and building on the momentum and lessons learned.

SOUTHERN INSTITUTIONS PROVIDING EXPERTISE

- **Five Chinese research and training institutions** have been recently certified and designated by FAO as Reference Centres. A new proposal aims to link these centres with 21 demonstration centres, established by China in Africa.
- **The Brazilian Agricultural Research Agency (EMBRAPA)** is providing technical assistance and short-term training to Angolan researchers, boosting veterinary and agricultural research capability in the country. In view of strengthening the existing partnership with FAO, EMBRAPA has also seconded a Liaison Officer to FAO headquarters in Rome.

RAISING RESOURCES TOGETHER

There are multiple ways to engage in SSC, for example:

Provider Countries

CHINA established a USD 30 million Trust Fund in support of SSC, including capacity development, knowledge and technology sharing, and policy dialogue among several developing countries.

BRAZIL supports several SSC programmes, totalling more than USD 50 million, including short-term capacity development and policy dialogue on sustainable agriculture, aquaculture, school feeding and food security in several countries in Latin America and Africa.

MOROCCO and FAO signed an SSC agreement of USD 1 million to benefit African countries, in collaboration with Morocco's private sector.

Host Countries

An agreement amounting to USD 2.2 million, plus USD 875 000 in-kind contribution from Brazil, was signed by **ANGOLA**, Brazil-EMBRAPA and FAO in support of veterinary and agricultural research, rehabilitation and capacity development in Angola.

NIGERIA launched a second phase of SSC through a USD 19.6 million agreement that supports capacity and knowledge sharing by fielding over 650 Chinese experts and technicians, in support of programmes on sustainable agriculture and food security.

Through a USD 2.5 million agreement, **CHAD** financed a first phase of SSC knowledge sharing by Vietnamese experts and technicians in support of the implementation of the National Programme for Food Security.

Triangular Partnerships

Since 2007, **JAPAN** has been supporting two triangular cooperation projects, totalling USD 8.8 million on rice and aquaculture, and strengthening agricultural statistics. These projects involve supporting short-term expertise from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to share knowledge with experts from 30 African countries through training workshops.

SAUDI ARABIA provided USD 350 000 to enable SSC between Djibouti and Morocco.

OMAN provided USD 650 000 to support SSC knowledge sharing between Algeria and Togo.



ATTRACTING ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO CATALYSE SSC

One of the biggest constraints to upscaling SSC is limited resources. Often seed or gap funds (e.g. costs for travel, insurance and installation grants for experts) are all it takes to make SSC knowledge sharing happen. For this reason, FAO aims to set up a South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility to strategically meet critical costs associated with SSC knowledge and capacity sharing for agricultural development and food security. Funds will support a wide range of SSC modalities, including costs associated with the formulation, implementation and monitoring of initiatives.

SSC Modalities of Exchange



CONTACT US

For further information on how to engage in South-South and Triangular Cooperation with FAO, please contact FAO's South-South Cooperation Team: TCS-Director@fao.org

or, visit FAO's SSC web pages: www.fao.org/southsouthcooperation/en



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations