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**South - South and Triangular Cooperation: Good Practices and Prospects
at Country Level in Africa**

Executive Summary

Despite the political will in the Global South and Africa to South-South Cooperation (SSC), commitments seem to have lagged behind its potential to bridge the widening technological gap in countries of the South. SSC is the mutual sharing and exchange of development solutions - knowledge, experiences and good practices, policies, technology and resources between and among countries in the Global South.

FAO plays an important role as SSC facilitator; through fostering South-South knowledge management and networks, connecting Southern solution providers with seekers (matching supply and demand), scaling up knowledge sharing and enhancing two-way learning among a wide range of actors.

This paper sets out the context for SSC in Africa and achievements, examines the opportunities and challenges (how SSC can contribute to revitalizing agribusiness, food and agricultural systems in Africa), and key prongs of a FAO Regional Office for Africa SSC roadmap, in order to meet countries' needs and priorities through SSC.

Overall, the paper is an attempt to highlight how African countries might better engage in SSC to bring it to scale in bridging the technological gap in food and agriculture, as well as the rural economy in general. FAO has a clear role as facilitator to mobilize policy makers and practitioners in Africa, as well as multilateral and bilateral organizations, to share their experiences, identify cooperation areas and chart the way forward to scale up SSC.

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Matters to be brought to the attention of the Regional Conference

- 1) SSC is a key delivery mechanism and effective means of increasing Africa's agricultural productivity.
- 2) Past and ongoing SSC projects and programmes have produced good practices and results, which should be upscaled and shared between African countries.
- 3) FAO will continue to promote SSC and stands ready to support and partner with MICs in the region to mobilize technical and financial resources for the support to the agriculture projects and programmes in the Low Income Countries (LICs).
- 4) FAO and its member countries in Africa should jointly aim to engage more partners for the development of Triangular Cooperation (TrC) in support to SSC.
- 5) FAO will promote the African Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF), and invite African countries to partner in sharing their expertise and best practices in agriculture as well as their financial resources.
- 6) African countries are encouraged to use FAO's new tool, the SSC Gateway, which is an online platform designed to promote SSC and facilitate SSC networking. It provides information about Southern countries' expertise and institutions in the realm of food security and agriculture, enabling countries to cooperate bilaterally or engage FAO to facilitate an SSC exchange.

I. South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC): Good Practices and Prospects at Country Level in Africa

African SSC Context and Achievements

1. FAO considers SSC as an effective and efficient means of exchanging knowledge and experience among countries of the Global South in support of national development objectives, and by extension of FAO's Strategic Objectives (SOs). FAO has one of the longest-standing SSC programmes among the UN agencies and has gained significant experience in facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience among equal partners.
2. In line with the UN Global SSC Strategy, the FAO SSC framework facilitates the exchange of technological know-how and experiences among countries in the Global South. SSC is considered cost-effective, offering appropriate knowledge and technologies from countries which have more recently overcome agricultural development challenges.
3. Since its inception in 1996, FAO has facilitated the deployment of over 2 000 experts and technicians in 53 countries. These SSC exchanges initially focussed on specific technologies and employed a direct outreach approach to farmers. SSC was successful in proving to be relevant to local conditions (culturally and socially sensitive, cost-effective), and enhancing outreach to farmers. More recently, interest in SSC has increased and a wider set of modalities for SSC exchanges are being demanded, spanning the grassroots, institutional and policy level.
4. In 2014-15, the number of SSC projects rose steadily, as did the volume of resources mobilized, reflecting the growing role of FAO as facilitator and the repositioning of Middle Income Countries (MICs) in the global development landscape. The commitments of oil producing countries, however, have been tempered by fluctuations in their economies, particularly due to the drop in oil prices. SSC country demand has been growing. Resource mobilization for SSC (new approvals and commitments) has increased, and through these funds FAO is currently (as of preliminary closure in December 2015) facilitating over 35 ongoing SSC projects spanning Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Approximately 50 percent of these projects benefit over 30 African countries. In 2014-15, SSC projects in Africa included approximately USD 28 million from both Southern and Triangular resource partners, such as Angola, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.
5. The Regional Office (RO) for Africa hosts almost 80 percent of FAO's SSC projects, which has been a trend now for over ten years (see list of projects and prospects in annex 1). More SSC projects will continue to be launched in the region, considering the growing demand from FAO member countries, increased interest in the Global South and Triangular partners' willingness to finance SSC projects in Africa.

II. Opportunities and Challenges

6. Opportunities:

- Political will and renewed partnership for food security and nutrition, and ending hunger by 2025
- Regional priorities identified and streamlined as Regional Initiatives (RIs);
- Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) aligned to national priorities available for all the countries;
- High demand for capacity strengthening and institutional building;
- Growing expressed interest for SSC as potential providers;
- Increasing demand for Intra-Regional SSC;
- The ASTF holds much potential to promote SSC on an Intra-African basis, by inviting African countries to partner in sharing their expertise and best practices in agriculture and rural development as well as their financial resources;
- Linked to the above, the concept of an African Centre for Best Practices, Capacity Development and SSC (under the SO1 SSC initiative) will help network and take stock of African expertise and institutions of excellence, which is a further opportunity to promote SSC.

7. Challenges:

- Funding to address the growing demand for SSC in the region;
- The region has a large proportion of LICs (34) and a lesser number of MICs (ten). The majority of MICs are heavily dependent on oil production and other natural resources (agricultural products and minerals), which are currently encountering a contraction in their economies;
- Private sector and research and extension institutions buy-in;
- Advocacy and communication for SSC to raise awareness and secure support.

III. Key prongs of an FAO Regional Office for Africa SSC roadmap

a) Expanding resource partnerships:

- FAO will continue to promote SSC as an effective and efficient means to achieving to bridging capacity and technology gaps in agriculture and food security, in order to meet Africa's regional and country priorities.
- FAO stands ready to support and partner with MICs in the region to mobilize technical and financial resources for the support to agriculture projects and programmes in the LICs.
- FAO and its member countries in Africa should jointly aim to engage more partners for the development of TrC in support to SSC.
- FAO will promote the ASTF, and invite African countries to partner in sharing their expertise and best practices in agriculture as well as their financial resources.

Key partnerships and resources for SSC include:

8. **Host country contributions:** in 2003 and in 2007, Nigeria established two UTFs totalling approximately USD 42.3 million. These funds enabled the fielding of over 650 Chinese experts and technicians to support projects in sustainable agriculture and food security. In 2013, Angola provided

USD 2.2 million and Brazil contributed expertise from the EMBRAPA, amounting to USD 875 000, in support of veterinary and agricultural research, rehabilitation and capacity development in Angola.

9. **Provider Country contributions:** in 2008, China established a USD 30 million Trust Fund in support of SSC. To date, nearly 1 000 experts have been fielded in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. China signed a new SSC Framework Agreement with FAO for USD 50 million to support countries' requests and FAO Strategic Objectives. SSC providers of technical expertise include: Africa Rice, Benin (Songhai Centre), Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Israel, Japan, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa, the Republic of Korea, Tunisia, Turkey and Viet Nam. SSC providers of financial resources include: Algeria, Angola, Brazil, China, Cameroun, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, South Africa, the Republic of Korea and Venezuela.

10. **TrC:** Japan has been supporting three TrC projects since 2006, totaling USD 10.2 million. They have included rice and aquaculture production and the support to agriculture statistics in the rice producing countries in Africa. Other partners include the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union-African, the Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, European Union-Bilateral partners (Germany and Spain), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Bank, regional economic organizations, private sector and regional banks.

11. **Other sources/seed funding:** the ASTF, of which partial resources have been allocated to support the RIs through SSC modalities. Through these resources, countries are benefiting from the SSC-ASTF activities. Where a willing Southern provider is offering its expertise to meet host country priorities, TCS, together with the FAORs, will promote the use of the TCP to address the host government's request for technical support. This is a cost-effective use of the TCP as the technical services are covered by the provider and the TCP is used to mobilize the exchange and meet capacity development needs.

b) Making the match and networking

12. FAO will continue to support the concept of an Africa Centre for Best Practices, South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development, which will help network and take stock of African expertise and institutions of excellence. Linked to the above, FAO will work with its member countries in the region to highlight and promote their SSC potential, good practices, institutions of excellence and achievements in the region, and build on the concept of the SSC Gateway.

13. FAO launched the South-South Cooperation Gateway during the 2015 Conference (6-13 June 2015). The SSC Gateway is a new online platform designed to promote SSC and facilitate SSC networking. It provides information about Southern countries' expertise and institutions in the realm of food security and agriculture, enabling countries to cooperate bilaterally or engage FAO to facilitate an SSC exchange.

14. The SSC Gateway is a service for member countries from which they can benefit, not only by searching expertise from other countries in the global south, but also by showcasing and giving visibility to their own institutions. Key areas of expertise are profiled with links to the institutions' web sites for further information. In some cases, rosters of experts are also provided.

c) Developing capacities in SSC

15. FAO launched the “Quick Guide to SSC” for FAO employees to better support governments to engage in SSC. The Guide has been made widely accessible to all employees through the FAOR Programme and Community staff learning platform. Furthermore, an SSC e-learning is being developed.

d) Communication and Outreach

16. FAO will continue to raise the profile of SSC and collaborating countries through events organized and or attended, including high-level meetings of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation; FAO’s Council and Regional Conferences side events on SSC; and annual Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expos.

17. All communication channels – ranging from publication material to regularly updated web pages, as well as an FAO-SSC presence on social media platforms, including Twitter, Instagram and Facebook – will be used to showcase development results and lessons learned through SSC. All of this, with a view to building SSC momentum to deliver on Africa’s development priorities.

ACRONYMS

ASTF	African Solidarity Trust Fund
AfDB	African Development Bank
DFID	Department for International Development, United Kingdom
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
LIC	Low Income Countries
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAOR	FAO Representative
CPF	Country Programming Framework
EMBRAPA	Brazilian Agriculture Research Agency
MICs	Middle Income Countries
RAF	FAO Regional Office for Africa
SSC	South-South Cooperation
TrC	Triangular Cooperation
SO	Strategic Objective
RI	Regional Initiative

Annex 1

Ongoing projects:

- Brazil: Exchange of Experience and Dialogue about Public Policies for Family Farming in Africa (USD 4 million);
- the Republic of Korea: Capacity Development and Experience Sharing for Sustainable Rice Value Chain Development in Africa through SSC (USD 1.8 million); “Project duration from 2015 to 2017”
- Africa Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF) - Africa’s South-South Cooperation Facility for Agriculture and Food Security (USD 1 million); “Project duration from 2015 to 2016”
- South-South Cooperation Technical Assistance Programme with the People’s Republic of China: (Uganda [Phase II; USD 1.68 million]); the Democratic Republic of the Congo (USD 1.5 million); Mali (Phase I); USD 350 000); Namibia (Phase II); “Project duration from 2015-2019”
- EMBRAPA-Angola Strengthening research capacities of the agricultural and veterinary institutes (USD 2.2 million); “Project duration from 2014 to 2017”
- JAPAN (JICA): (USD 2.5 million); Strengthening Agriculture Statistics in Rice producing in CARD countries; “Project duration from 2013 to 2018”
- South-South Cooperation Technical Assistance Programme between Namibia and Viet Nam (inland fishery operations) – resource partners: Spain (USD 1.8 million); “Project duration from 2010 to 2015”
- SSC projects and programmes are mainstreamed in the RIs and directly address countries priorities. “Project duration from 2015 to 2016”

Projects/Programmes under preparation:

- the Partnership Programme for Rice Systems Development in Africa (PARDA), USD 500 million;
- under the China Trust Fund Programme Phase I, China provided technical support to the following countries: Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Nigeria (Phase II), and Senegal); “Project duration from 2015 to 2022”
- new projects are currently under preparation for Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Morocco and Namibia;
- Venezuela’s support for sustainable rice system development in Sub-Saharan Africa; (USD 5 million); “Project duration from 2016 to 2018”
- the Republic of Korea’s support for rice germplasm development in Africa (USD 18 million).