



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

# SOUTH-SOUTH cooperation STRATEGY

for a world without hunger

**Find out more:**

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**SOUTH-SOUTH  
cooperation**

## What is South-South Cooperation?

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is the mutual sharing and exchange of key development solutions - knowledge, experiences and good practices, policies, technology, know-how, and resources - between and among countries in the global south.

SSC is not new to FAO. The Organization has been using SSC mechanisms since 1996. Since then, FAO has facilitated exchanges of technical experience and know-how, fielding over 1 800 experts and technicians in more than 50 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East.

## Key Drivers of SSC in FAO

- Growing consensus around the world, affirming SSC as an **effective instrument** for catalyzing agricultural development
- SSC is widely accepted as a **complementary model** of development to North-South cooperation
- SSC is **helping developing countries to jump-start** and benefit from innovations, lessons and good practices, tried and tested elsewhere in the south
- An **urgent call to FAO**, other UN agencies and non-state actors to take concrete measures to support SSC

South-South Cooperation is a key implementation mechanism to achieving a world without hunger. FAO believes that countries of the global south exchanging development solutions will strongly contribute to the accomplishment of food security, poverty reduction and the sustainable development of natural resources.

## The Four Pillars of the South-South Cooperation Strategy

- 1. Facilitate the exchange and uptake of development solutions**
  - Deploy experts in the long- and short-term, enable educational and technology exchanges
  - Develop and implement demand-driven and responsive SSC programmes at country and regional level, building national and institutional capacities
- 2. Promote platforms for knowledge networking**
  - Identify, promote and strengthen existing SSC knowledge platforms
  - Develop and maintain FAO SSC webpages and regional rosters of experts
- 3. Mobilize upstream policy support for SSC**
  - Strengthen policy awareness creation and advocacy
  - Enhance policy advice and support to member countries
  - Facilitate SSC policy dialogue and exchange
- 4. Foster an enabling environment for effective SSC**
  - Mainstream SSC as a key delivery mechanism across FAO
  - Enhance technical SSC capacity at FAO headquarters and decentralized offices
  - Broaden partnerships and strategic alliances
  - Mobilize adequate and sustainable resources

## Expanding SSC at FAO

Recent changes inside and outside FAO offer new opportunities for the Organization to play a wider role in SSC by:

- broadening the range of modalities for SSC
- ensuring greater flexibility and responsiveness
- focusing more on the decentralized offices
- maintaining a dedicated team at headquarters – with staff also outposted in each region
- increasing the global importance and local relevance of SSC

## Working at three interrelated levels

- **Grassroots:** reach individual farmers and practitioners (local change agents)
- **Institutional level:** strengthen organizational capacity through networking among institutions, innovation generators, SSC promoters and knowledge users
- **Policy level:** target decision makers as an important pathway to achieving agricultural development impact