



SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION



There is a growing consensus around the world, affirming South-South and Triangular Cooperation as effective instruments for catalyzing agricultural development. South-South Cooperation (SSC) is widely accepted as a complementary model of development cooperation to the traditional North-South model, in overcoming common challenges and achieving food security, poverty reduction and the sustainable management of natural resources.

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

Triangular Cooperation involves two or more countries of the global south in collaboration with a third party, typically a traditional donor, emerging economy or multilateral organization, facilitating SSC exchanges through the provision of resources.



FAO'S ROLE

- Facilitate mutual learning through the exchange of development solutions
- Provide technical oversight and quality assurance
- Provide use of FAO's extensive country level presence allowing for engagement with national authorities and other relevant stakeholders
- Ensure that cooperating partners adhere to mutual commitments
- Ensure that technology and knowledge are adaptable to local conditions and are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable and socially inclusive
- Promote partnerships and facilitate resource mobilization



EXAMPLE OF TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Raising Fish in Dry Lands: Aquaculture Development in Namibia

In 2011, an FAO-facilitated SSC exchange was launched to improve the aquaculture sector in Namibia through aquafeed production, species diversification and the development of aquaculture in dry lands. Viet Nam supplied three long-term experts and five technicians who were supported by funding from the Government of Spain.

Early results show a substantial improvement in African catfish survival rates, by increasing feeding frequency and the use of live food and artificial feed. Success has also been recorded in the breeding and rearing of catfish as well as three-spotted tilapia. The exchange enabled the Department of Aquaculture (DoA) to identify and promote improved aquaculture practices and technologies at the national level, through effective extension services, which led to their uptake by the local fish farmers.



EXAMPLE OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Rice and Fish Flourish Together in Paddies: An Exchange Between China and Nigeria

A traditional Chinese farming technique that cultivates rice and fish side-by-side, was introduced through an FAO facilitated SSC initiative in Nigeria. Rice-fish co-cultures lessen the environmental impact of agricultural chemicals and help make rice farming more profitable. Through a Unilateral Trust Fund, Nigeria supported the project through which eight Chinese experts were fielded to launch pilot activities and provide training in over 30 states. As a result,

Rice-Fish Culture (RFC) has been introduced successfully in more than 10 000 hectares in Nigeria. The project has led to locally produced rice and fish being available both in rural and urban areas and rice yields reportedly increased by 22 to 100 percent.

The RFC expert exchange in Nigeria not only introduced new technologies, but also demonstrated sustainable solutions through SSC in order to strengthen food and nutrition security. RFC proved to be an effective way to increase rice production and farmers' income, reduce rural poverty, improve living standards and provide high quality, fresh protein for local consumers. The net income of smallholder farmers increased by 29 to 96 percent, and following successful uptake in Nigeria, RFC has since been replicated in Sierra Leone and Mali.



THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE SSC 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 facilitate demand-driven and responsive SSC 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 regional rosters of experts, institutions and good practices

3. Mobilize upstream policy support for SSC

- Enhance policy advice and support to member countries
- Facilitate SSC policy dialogue and exchange among policy-makers

4. Foster an enabling environment for effective SSC

- Broaden partnerships and strategic alliances
- Mobilize adequate and sustainable resources

South-South and Triangular Cooperation are efficient and effective means to:

- help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- reduce rural poverty
- enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters



Find out more

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