



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



South-South and triangular cooperation

+Cotton Project:

Working for the sustainable development of Caribbean and Latin American cotton

Development challenge

In the last 20 years, project partner countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru, where 80 percent of cotton production is in the hands of family farmers or small-scale agriculture, have faced a decrease in cotton production, affecting the potential of thousands of farming families to generate income. South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) represents an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge and experiences, generating innovation in terms of technology and management of the cotton sector in the countries involved in the +Cotton Project.

Through the +Cotton Project, a regional network of more than 70 public and private sector actors have been mobilized in the partner countries, uniting efforts to make the cotton value chain competitive, and supporting family farmers' access to markets, resulting in an increase in their quality of life and their livelihoods.

In order to face this challenge, cooperation was established between the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC / MRE) and its Brazilian cooperating institutions (Embrapa, Abrapa, Empaer-PB, Asbraer, solidarity economy organizations and universities) in conjunction with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the governments of seven partner countries. The +Cotton cooperation aims to consolidate production systems in the cotton territories, adapting them to different types of producers, as well as to agroclimatic and technological contexts.

Development solution

Through the SSTC mechanism, the +Cotton Project promotes sustainable and inclusive production systems and inclusive markets, including the participation of rural women, with decentralized governance and adaptive management of local food systems, contributing to poverty reduction, social development and environmental sustainability as well as creating opportunities for new generations.

Key results

More than USD 14 million invested to expand Government's technical and management capacities towards a sustainable cotton sector in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Paraguay and Peru;

- **Income generation:** Cotton as an integrated crop in a diversified production system plays an important role in income generation, with potential by-products and new uses in the value chain. There are 36 demonstration and validation best practices in cotton production.
- **Capacity development:** Provide more than 70 public institutions in partner countries with new capacities, knowledge and levels of public and public/private coordination to support the development and organization of the cotton value chain.

- **Agricultural techniques:** Under the perspective of good agricultural practices supported by rural extension, efficient use of inputs, integrated pest management, mechanization as well as development of the first prototype of a one-line cotton-harvesting machine for small areas, in collaboration with Embrapa.
- **Strengthen biodiversity:** Rescue the ancestral identity of countries, their indigenous, and rural and artisan communities, through the recovery of cotton varieties, training in production and processing, value addition, management and sale.
- **Access to market:** Connecting production to the market by expanding certification alternatives for fibre and its processed products, and taking advantage of the diversity of cotton in the region looking for niche markets.

Solution exchange

The cooperation in the +Cotton Project takes place through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC/MRE) and its Brazilian cooperating institutions (Embrapa, Abrapa, Asbraer, Empaer-PB, solidarity economy organizations and universities) in conjunction with FAO and the governments of seven partner countries, and the financial support of the Brazilian Cotton Institute (IBA). The +Cotton cooperation aims at consolidating production systems in cotton territories, adapting them to different types of producers as well as agroclimatic and technological contexts. The project is based on four conceptual axes: Sustainable technologies; Strategic Alliances; Social innovation; Inclusive Markets, while crosscutting issues include Gender, Rural youth, Indigenous peoples, and Climate change, contributing to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Potential for upscaling

Through SSTC mechanism, the +Cotton project has developed a model of sustainable system of cotton production, adaptable to other countries and other crops with family farming production.

Recovering cotton production systems on sustainable bases has a social connotation that adds to the economic and environmental perspective. As a crop resistant to climatic adversities, it can be planted in dry and arid zones, reducing the vulnerability of families to climate change, turning it into an alternative for communities that inhabit indigenous territories, communities displaced by conflicts, and where there is a high level of rural poverty.

Connecting production to the market by expanding certification alternatives for fiber and its processed products, taking advantage of the diversity of cotton in the region.

Safeguard indigenous peoples' ancestral identity and rural and artisan communities, through the recovery of cotton varieties, training in their production and processing, value addition, management and sale.



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