



Evaluation of FAO's South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC)

INSIDE THIS BRIEF

- Why an evaluation?
- What will be covered?
- What will the process be and who will be involved?

Why an evaluation?

The Programme Committee at its 129th session requested an evaluation of FAO's work on South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC). FAO's involvement with South-South Cooperation started in 1979. As a facilitator of South-South Cooperation (SSC), FAO brings together countries that have development solutions with countries that are also interested in applying them. Overtime the SSTC mechanism evolved within the organisation to encompass both South-South and triangular cooperation.

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is defined as mutual sharing and exchange of key development solutions— including knowledge, experience, good practices, policies, technology and resources— between and among two or more countries in the global South. Triangular cooperation happens when a third party is involved – typically a multilateral institution, a traditional resource partner or an emerging economy, providing the SSCs with technical or financial resources.

There has not been a comprehensive evaluation of FAO's work on SSC since its inception. Although SSC has been featured in several evaluations – the latest in 2020 a brief study was conducted as part of the evaluation FAO's contributions to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. The evaluation will build on this brief study on SSTC.

What will be covered?

The evaluation will cover the totality of FAO's work on SSTC since 2012. It will assess the effectiveness of SSTC facilitated by FAO, as well as the organization's work in promoting the mechanism among members.

The evaluation will also examine how SSTC has been strategically positioned within FAO, identify good practise and synergies with other

CALENDAR

Preparation phase:

February – May 2021

- Desk Review
- Launching of the evaluation
- Preliminary data collection and identification of key stakeholders
- Drafting of terms of reference

Assessment phase:

June – October 2021

- Case studies
- Preliminary debriefing

Report writing and dissemination:

November 2021 – March 2022

- Stakeholder workshop
- Draft report
- Final report
- Report dissemination and management response

FAO-led interventions, as well as challenges regarding its operationalization and how to make it an even more useful mechanism for the membership.

What will the process be and who will be involved?

The evaluation was launched in February 2021 and will be managed by Office of Evaluation (OED). It will be conducted in three different stages:

- I. Preparatory phase (February – May 2021)
- II. Assessment phase (June – October 2021)
- III. Report writing and dissemination (November 2021 - March 2022).

During the preparatory phase, OED will meet with key stakeholders and undertake exhaustive desk reviews to scope the evaluation. This will include reviewing documents related to SSTC interventions and synthesising findings from past evaluations.

During the assessment phase, OED will interview FAO staff at headquarters, regional and country levels as well as partners (National and International UN agencies, the private sector, parliamentary forums, and recipient countries and provider countries' governments) involved in the SSTC modalities. Country case studies might be conducted in a sample of countries in order to gather more detailed information as per the effectiveness and synergies of SSTC interventions. The findings from the desk review, field visits and case studies will be consolidated and discussed with key stakeholders at the end of the assessment phase in a preliminary debriefing.

OED will draft the evaluation report and present the findings, conclusions and recommendations in a Workshop, and will ensure wider dissemination of the report.

CONTACTS

Arwa.Khalid@fao.org

All FAO evaluations and management responses are public documents and can be found at:

www.fao.org/evaluation



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