

Concept Note

Launch Event of the Global Project Supporting the Implementation of FAO One Country One Priority Product Initiative under the Framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme

6 December 2023

Background

FAO has developed the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative to build more sustainable food value chains of Special Agricultural Products (SAPs), increasing access to healthy diets, improving farmers' livelihoods and economic growth, while minimizing the use of chemical inputs and natural resources, reducing food loss and waste, as well as minimizing negative impacts on the environment.

The SAPs have unique qualities and special characteristics that are associated with economic value, geographical locations, farming practices and cultural heritages. Compared to staple food crops, SAPs have not yet fully benefited from agricultural and rural development programmes, and include all kinds of agricultural products, with the potential of being utilized and promoted in local, national, regional and global markets. Therefore, the OCOP helps countries leverage their unique potential by identifying relevant SAPs and ensuring improved access to stable markets, opportunities to improve farmers' livelihoods, and entry points for reaching their defined country priorities.

The OCOP was launched by the FAO Director-General in September 2021 and has been launched in all five FAO regions between March and July 2022. In November 2022, the first round of OCOP Country Projects were launched in Bangladesh, Egypt, Malawi, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uzbekistan to promote jackfruit, date palm, banana, cocoa, and sweet cherry, respectively. Since then, regional launch events and implementation workshops at country level were held to share knowledge and scale up best practices.

As of November 2023, 83 Members across all five FAO Regions have committed to promoting the sustainable development of 53 SAPs, and all of them have been recognized as potential OCOP project countries. To date, over USD 14 million from various resources have been mobilized to support the implementation of the OCOP initiative.

The government of the People's Republic of China has pledged USD 5 million – the largest single contribution to the OCOP initiative received to date – to focus on global capacity building and in-country demonstration activities through the South-South Cooperation. South-South Cooperation has been used by FAO for more than 20 years to support knowledge and technology transfer and mutual collaboration and sharing. With this new contribution, 15 countries from the tropics, drylands and mountainous zones have been identified to support. They are:

Africa

- Congo
- Ghana
- Lesotho
- Malawi
- Tanzania

Asia and the Pacific

- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- Samoa

Europe and Central Asia

- Georgia
- Uzbekistan

Latin America and the Caribbean

- Chile
- Mexico
- Trinidad and Tobago

Near East and North Africa

- Egypt
- Iraq

Objective of the Event

The event will provide more information on the support being provided through the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme, including:

- Announce* the additional OCOP project countries and their respective SAPs;
- Share* experiences and best practices from the first round of OCOP project countries;
- Brief on* the progress made through the OCOP initiative and the way forward; and
- Call on* FAO Members and relevant stakeholders to actively support and engage in the OCOP initiative.

Proposed Format of the Event

The event will be organized in hybrid modality on Wednesday, 6 December 2023 from 12.30 to 13.30 hours (CET), on the sidelines of the 174th Session of FAO Council to be held from 4 to 8 December. The event will be held in the Sheikh Zayed Centre at FAO headquarters, while connection details for virtual attendance are indicated in the meeting agenda (**Annex**).

Given the broad interest that has been expressed in the OCOP initiative, interpretation services will be provided in the six official languages of the UN.

Expected Participants

The event will be attended by OCOP focal points at national, regional and global levels, and government officials and FAO Country Offices in 15 recipient countries, as well as partner agencies and entities (e.g., academia, donors, the private sector, beneficiary farmers).

Expected Results

It is expected that the event will create a better understanding and a broader recognition of the South-South Cooperation Programme and the OCOP initiative worldwide, synergies between FAO flagship initiatives and programmes, and support the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and achievement of SDG targets and indicators, in line with national priorities.

Annex. Launch Event of the Global Project Supporting the Implementation of FAO One Country One Priority Product Initiative under the Framework of FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme*

Wednesday, 6 December 2023, from 12:30 to 13:30 hours (CET)

Hybrid Event

Sheikh Zayed Centre at FAO headquarters, Rome

Zoom/Webcast link for online participation:

https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jjErny_1RkOt0s-bKTcPFQ#/registration

Agenda

The launch event will be moderated by Ms Beth Bechdol, FAO Deputy Director-General

ITEM	PRESENTER	TIME
1. Opening Remarks	Mr QU Dongyu , FAO Director-General	10 min.
2. Short Video on the OCOP	OCOP Secretariat	2 min.
3. Announcement of the OCOP Country Projects under the framework of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme	HE Mr GUANG Defu , Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to FAO	8 min.
4. Experiences on the implementation of the OCOP initiative from the five selected Demonstration Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RAF: Malawi (Banana) - RAP: Bangladesh (Jackfruit) - REU: Uzbekistan (Sweet cherry) - RLC: Trinidad and Tobago (Cocoa) - RNE: Egypt (Date Palm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Honorable Sam Kawale, Minister for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture of Malawi <i>(virtual participation)</i> - HE Ms Wahida Akter, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh <i>(virtual participation)</i> - HE Mr Nuriddin Kushnazarov, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan to FAO - Senator The Honorable Kazim Hosein, Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries of Trinidad and Tobago <i>(virtual participation)</i> - HE Mr Bassam Essam Rady Abdelhamid Rady, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to FAO 	25 min. (5 min. each)

5. Global Progress on the implementation of OCOP and the Next Steps	Mr Hafiz Muminjanov , Global Coordinator, OCOP Secretariat, FAO	10 min.
6. Concluding Remarks	Ms Beth Bechdol , FAO Deputy Director-General	5 min.

***Light lunch** will be provided in front of the Sheikh Zayed Centre from 12:00-12:30.