



UNOSSC



South-South in Action
Special Edition

Pérez-Guerrero

Trust Fund (PGTF)

This publication was produced under the leadership of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees, Chair of the Group of 77 and Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, and Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). Special appreciation is also expressed to all PGTF partners that supported, advanced or collaborated on the activities described in this report.

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

South-South in Action (SSiA) is a UNOSSC publication series designed to share information about innovative developments and best practices in the field of South-South cooperation today. SSiA is intended to reach practitioners and scholars of South-South and triangular cooperation who are engaged in the implementation of programmes on the ground. This publication is designed to inform, among others, focal points for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in United Nations Member States, United Nations organizations, international financial institutions, government and civil society as well as private-sector partners and academia. This SSiA Special Edition provides an overview of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund since its creation in 1983. In addition, it features recent projects, elaborating on their activities and accomplishments. For more information about PGTF, visit: <http://www.g77.org/pgtf/>.

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As Fund Manager, we are pleased to provide this consolidated report presenting a detailed account of the numerous achievements of the Fund to date. For updates and inquiries, please contact Ines.tofalo@unOSSC.org.



SOUTH-SOUTH IN ACTION – SPECIAL EDITION

Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF)

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Foreword

Celebrating over three decades of operations, the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF) is a proven model and impactful tool for catalysing cooperation among developing countries. It is no surprise that the PGTF approach, its uniqueness and its broad reach across the South have been praised extensively at the highest political levels.

The distinguishing features of PGTF are:

- its focus on cross-country collaboration, which brings governments and institutions from the global South together through joint projects, increasing their capacities and activities thanks to their combined strengths;
 - its facilitation of cooperation by a minimum of three countries. While funding for national development projects is available from multiple sources, support for international cooperation is known to be scarce for institutions in developing countries and thus makes an important difference;
 - an endowment fund combined with yearly voluntary contributions from numerous States, which provides for a steady resource flow and continuous political engagement;
 - an emphasis on small-scale, catalytic projects producing concrete impact and meaningful results, particularly in the production and sharing of knowledge, support to policy-setting, capacity- and network-building, and incubation of broader cooperative initiatives;
 - an extensive constituency and wide participation, with 143 countries, large and small, least developed and middle-income, insular and landlocked benefiting from PGTF projects;
 - substantial cash and in-kind contributions by all project partners, which represent at least 50 per cent of the budget of each project and result in strong ownership by partners, management efficiencies and a lower administrative burden;
- governance and administrative responsiveness, since the Committee of Experts that leads PGTF consistently:
 - endeavours to accommodate all eligible funding requests by apportioning funds not simply as a matter of budget availability but also as a result of the total number of eligible proposals received, and
 - defers to the priorities and technical knowledge of implementing partners;
 - cooperation with and through the multilateral system, with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) serving as fund manager and co-secretariat of PGTF and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country offices acting as partners in the implementation and disbursement of PGTF funds;
 - strong partnership and coordination with the Group of 77 (G-77) through its Executive Secretariat, which serves as co-secretariat of PGTF activities; and
 - a commitment to full transparency, since proposals, approvals, project information, project outcome reports and financial data are regularly made available online through the PGTF-dedicated pages of the G-77 website.

This South-South in Action Special Edition report describes the widespread successes of PGTF, featuring the characteristics of its portfolio and describing recent projects and their impact. It presents compelling testimony to the great value of the cooperation model of this fund and its operative tools.

Convinced that PGTF has been highly instrumental in connecting Southern institutions through small-scale projects that result in broader impact, we congratulate regular PGTF partners on three decades of achievements and look forward to additional partnerships and contributions from member States in order to further support expanded collaboration.



Mr. Jorge Chediek,
Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation



H.E. Mr. Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees,
Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations and Chair of the Group of 77



Mr. Eduardo Praselj, Chair of the Committee of Experts of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund



Chapter I

The Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF)

The Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund

History, Vision and Mission

The Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF) supports catalytic projects carried out by three or more developing countries as well as activities that strengthen regional cooperation and provide mutual benefits across borders. Stressing that developing countries can leapfrog in their development if they learn from one another, PGTF supports South-South cooperation that can lead to mutual benefits for all.

Through 2017, PGTF enabled 311 collaborative projects, which have benefited 143 countries through activities such as joint research, publications, the building of South-South networks, workshops and technical assistance. PGTF activities have impacted a wide range of areas, all highly relevant to the global South, such as food and agriculture, trade, public service delivery, energy, technology, health and gender issues.

PGTF financing is preferentially provided to projects that will have the most significant impact and area of coverage and address priority areas agreed upon by Group of 77 (G-77) member States.¹ All projects are demand-driven, reflect the priorities of the partnering countries and address matters of critical importance to members of the G-77.

The United Nations General Assembly decided to create PGTF in 1983 in view of the need for a mechanism to support economic and technical cooperation among developing countries according to the priorities set by them. Every year, the G-77 approves project proposals at

the Ministerial Meeting. Thereafter, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) coordinates with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to channel funds and resources towards implementing projects around the world.

PGTF has utilized the interest produced by its \$7 million capital endowment, along with voluntary contributions from Member States – 48 contributing countries to date – to help partners across the developing South to achieve their sustainable development priorities.

PGTF currently contributes up to \$35,000 per project to match the financial contribution(s) already secured by the requesting institutions.² Project activities are advanced by Southern institutions, both governmental (60% of projects supported to date) and non-governmental (40%), which engage in joint research, come together in workshops, issue publications, develop common standards and organize educational activities. Thanks to these South-South collaborative activities, PGTF projects have created long-lasting, strengthened partnerships among hundreds of Southern institutions.

In addition to providing financial support, PGTF documents and shares knowledge about sustainable development practices in the global South. Final reports from completed PGTF-funded projects are published in original languages on the G-77 website³ and are publicly available to all those interested in replicating projects, reviewing case studies on South-South

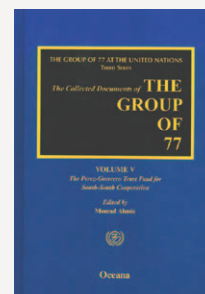
¹Key documents highlighting priority areas for South-South cooperation include the Caracas Programme of Action on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries and the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the First South Summit of the Group of 77.

²The financial ceiling per project is established every year in keeping with available resources.

³G-77 PGTF final project reports are available at <http://www.g77.org/pgtf/completedproj.php>.

cooperation for sustainable development, or forming new collaborations with PGTF partners. Project summaries and contact information for project managers are available in English, French and Spanish. In addition, in recent years,

the Executive Secretariat of the Group of 77 has published a compilation of PGTF activities⁴.



Manuel Pérez-Guerrero

H.E. Manuel Pérez-Guerrero
(1911-1985)



H.E. Mr. Manuel Pérez-Guerrero

The Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund was named in honour of Ambassador Manuel Pérez-Guerrero, a Venezuelan diplomat and lifetime international public servant dedicated to international cooperation. In his home country of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Pérez-

Guerrero held several ministerial positions, namely, in finance, planning, mines and hydrocarbons, and international economic affairs.

In the international arena, he held various high-level posts at the United Nations, including Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) from 1969 to 1974. In that capacity, he played a critical and impactful role in North-South and South-South negotiations and consensus-building. In addition, Ambassador

Pérez-Guerrero was the Co-Chairman of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (North-South Dialogue) from 1975-1977, and chaired the Group of 77 (G-77) in New York from 1980 to 1981.

Some of his key accomplishments included promoting the adoption of the Caracas Programme of Action on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries and leading the establishment of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. In addition, he is given credit by the G-77 for leading the process to create a trust fund for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries out of resources from the liquidation of the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund⁵.

In memory of his contributions towards international cooperation for development, in 1986, the General Assembly renamed the Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund⁶. Pérez-Guerrero's vision continues to live on through the activities of the G-77 and PGTF, instruments that promote greater collaboration and solidarity between developing countries of the world.

⁴In 2014 a comprehensive volume on the activities of PGTF entitled, "The Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation", was published by Oxford University Press as part of the series "The Group of 77 at the United Nations: The Collected documents of the Group of 77", edited by Mr. Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the Group of 77 and with a Foreword by Mr. Eduardo Praselj, Chair of the Committee of Experts of PGTF.

⁵United Nations General Resolution 38/201 on 20 December 1983.

⁶United Nations General Assembly Resolution 41/457.

Highlights

3 decades of operations



311 projects



\$14.2 million in financial support



131 countries participating directly in PGTF projects



143 countries benefiting from PGTF projects⁷



48 G-77 member States, the United Nations and one financial institution making 172 contributions



17 Advancing 17 Sustainable Development Goals



Country coverage

Interregional

41%
(107 projects)

Subregional

37%
(131 projects)

Regional

21%
(71 projects)

Action Committees

1%
(2 projects)

⁷Includes countries that are members of international, regional or subregional institutions that, following a mandate by their governing bodies, benefited from PGTF projects.

High-level Messages



Cooperation among developing countries is essential for the Global South to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and reach the prosperous world we envision by 2030. The Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) has long stood as a great support for South-South Cooperation, with nearly fifty Member States contributing to it. PGTF has served to promote the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing nations, in areas such as renewable energy, food security, and global partnerships. PGTF remains a valuable support mechanism providing the Global South with new opportunities to collaborate in the achievement of national priorities, thereby contributing to a more sustainable world.”

Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly



As the world and its challenges are increasingly global, partnerships and international collaboration have become ever more important. We need global responses based on commitment and multilateralism to ensure peace and security and the achievement of the SDGs. The Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) plays an important role in the implementation of this vision. It provides support to the global South by strengthening coordination and promoting accountability across countries and sectors which are key priorities I have outlined as Secretary-General. PGTF helps developing-country members of the Group of 77 assume a critical collaborative leadership role in realizing the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda for the benefit of not only their citizens but all citizens of the world. Such international cooperation in relation to development will only become more necessary in the years to come.”

Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations



The Group of 77 is fully committed to working tirelessly towards key United Nations objectives including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its pledge to leave no one behind. It is through collaboration that the G-77 can make strides towards the realization of the SDGs. Though there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to development, South-South cooperation enables developing countries to come together to address and explore their capacities, experiences and innovative solutions that can be adapted to their own unique circumstances.

Since the adoption of the guidelines for utilization of PGTF by the High-level Meeting on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Cairo, Egypt from 18-23 August 1987, PGTF has been supporting members of the G-77 and catalyzing the development process in the South. It has been providing a useful platform for the exchange of knowledge and resources among developing nations. PGTF has also been contributing to numerous aspects of the 2030 Agenda. In this context, it is particularly noteworthy that this year marks the thirty-fifth anniversary of the creation of the PGTF.”

H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Fathi Ahmed Edrees, Chair of the Group of 77



Against the backdrop of the immense development challenges that we face, including poverty and hunger, which are exacerbated by the effects of climate change, PGTF partnerships create cross-cutting solutions that benefit the vulnerable populations across the developing world. South-South cooperation allows countries to consolidate development solutions and share knowledge that will help them achieve more together than can be achieved alone. SSC creates partnerships that can last longer than the length of project timelines and continue on to build more peace and prosperity in the world.”

Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme



Partners

The **Committee of Experts** of PGTF is comprised of six delegates, two from each region of the South (Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean), appointed for a term of 5 years. Experts are nominated by interested governments but act in their personal capacities. They are responsible for reviewing all project proposals submitted to the Fund and providing recommendations on the initiatives that are selected to receive PGTF support. The Committee of Experts convenes annually and submits its recommendations to the Group of 77 for approval of the selected projects during the G-77 Ministerial Meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York every September. The Committee of Experts also plays a vital role in helping to mobilize additional resources for PGTF, ensuring a steady flow of support to the Fund. Moreover, the experts review progress in the implementation of the entire PGTF project portfolio as well as the performance of the PGTF capital endowment fund. The Executive Secretariat of the G-77 provides organizational support to the work of the PGTF Committee of Experts for both the holding of its meetings and the mobilization of resources for PGTF.



PGTF Committee of Experts meeting, 2017, including UNOSSC staff engaged in PGTF management.

**Plaque at the G-77
“PGTF Room” as
a tribute to H.E.
Merouane.**



Committee of Experts

Mr. Rabii Al-Hantouli, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Montenegro, Podgorica, Montenegro

Mr. Abdelhakim Mihoubi, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algiers, Algeria

Mr. Lizwi Nkombela, Counsellor (Economic Affairs), Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. Eduardo Praselj (Chairman), Former Vice-President of Petróleos de Venezuela, Former President of Petroquímica de Venezuela, Former Deputy Minister of Energy and Mines, Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Mr. Paisan Rupanichkij, Deputy Director-General of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok, Thailand

Mr. Marcelo Suárez Salvia, Ambassador of Argentina to Canada, Ottawa, Canada

UNOSSC staff, PGTF fund management and secretariat

The **Group of 77 (G-77)**. As the largest intergovernmental organization of developing countries in the United Nations, the G-77 is responsible for project selection, approval, follow-up and mobilization of resources for PGTF. The G-77 was established in 1964 by developing countries in order for them to voice their collective interests, which include promoting South-South and triangular cooperation for development. With enhanced joint-negotiation capacity, the Group contributes to discussions on all major international issues and also produces joint declarations, action programmes and agreements on development issues.



Mr. Lennart Bage (left), President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and **Ambassador Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo** (right), Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** works in some 170 countries and territories to achieve the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. UNDP helps countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, and institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results. It supports countries' efforts to achieve the new Sustainable Development Goals, or Global Goals, which will guide global development priorities for the next 15 years. In all its activities, UNDP encourages the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women, minorities, and the most vulnerable populations.

UNDP supports elections and improved governance.



The **United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)** is the Fund Manager of PGTF. Established in 1974, UNOSSC is a knowledge hub on South-South cooperation, providing advisory and consulting services to United Nations Member States, United Nations entities, civil society and other stakeholders on South-South and triangular cooperation. It works to enable developing countries to effectively face their development challenges and collectively harness opportunities to address them while monitoring progress on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy and the Nairobi outcome document. UNOSSC ensures that its Southern constituencies have timely access to high-quality analytical planning, mapping, programming and reporting on data, trends and opportunities that will advance South-South and triangular cooperation in ways that ensure success. In addition to PGTF, UNOSSC manages and supports implementation of other South-South cooperation trust funds, namely, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund), and the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC), which includes a number of dedicated facilities.



Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, at the Global South-South Development Expo 2016.

The **UNDP Treasury** is responsible for investing the resources of the PGTF endowment fund in line with the UNDP financial rules and regulations and within a long-term and a short-term investment strategy agreed upon with the PGTF Committee of Experts. The Treasury also manages the process of reporting on progress and follow-up of this investment strategy to ensure the sustainability of the Fund for future projects.



Ms. Laura Munisteri, Chief Investment Officer
Mr. Dwayne Brown, Investment Officer
Mr. Scott Mellinger, Investment Officer

Overview of PGTF Portfolio

Contributions

From its creation in 1983 through 2017, PGTF received 172 contributions from 48 countries, the United Nations, and one financial institution totalling **\$8,954,440** (table 1).

From that amount, **\$7 million** has been allocated to a capital endowment from which interest is used every year for projects. Of this total, the United Nations provided \$5 million to the capital endowment and G-77 member States provided \$2 million (table 2).

Since 1997, G-77 member States have additionally contributed about **\$1.75 million** to PGTF projects, and one international financial institution also made a contribution of **\$200,000** towards those projects. The interest accrued on the PGTF capital endowment since the Fund's establishment in 1983 amounts to over **\$12 million**, which has been used for projects. In total, PGTF has contributed approximately **\$14.2 million** to South-South cooperation projects around the world (table 3)⁸.

Table 1 » Total PGTF contributions, 1983-2017 (in \$)

Allocation of contribution	Contribution
To PGTF capital endowment	7,000,000
To PGTF projects	1,954,440
Total	8,954,440

Table 2 » Contributions to the PGTF capital endowment, 1983-2017 (in \$)

Entity	Contribution
United Nations	5,000,000
Oman	1,000,000
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1,000,000
Total	7,000,000

⁸Includes financial adjustments.



Table 3 » Contributions to PGTF projects, 1997-2017 (in \$)⁹

Contributor	Total Contributions
Afghanistan	3,000
Algeria*	142,000
Antigua and Barbuda	15,000
Argentina*	40,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	500
Brazil	22,000
Brunei Darussalam	2,000
Cameroon	8,976
Chile	20,000
China*	222,000
Cyprus	7,775
Democratic People's Republic of Korea*	14,000
Ecuador	1,000
Egypt	14,000
Fiji	10,000
India	2,000
Indonesia*	58,000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)*	33,000
Iraq	5,000
Jamaica	2,000
Kuwait	58,000
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2,000
Lebanon	2,000
Madagascar	1,000
Malaysia	2,000
Mauritius	500
Mozambique	5,000
Namibia	3,000
Nepal	5,000
Pakistan	6,000
Peru*	109,279
Philippines	18,000
Qatar*	60,000
Senegal	9,628
Singapore*	8,000
South Africa*	100,862
Sri Lanka	5,000
State of Palestine	1,000
Sudan	10,000
Suriname	1,500
Thailand*	526,290
Trinidad and Tobago*	24,130
United Arab Emirates*	100,000
United Republic of Tanzania	5,000
Uruguay*	20,000
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)*	45,000
Viet Nam	4,000
International financial institution (International Fund for Agricultural Development)	200,000
Total	1,954,440
Interest accrued from PGTF endowment	12,062,005
Grand total	14,016,445

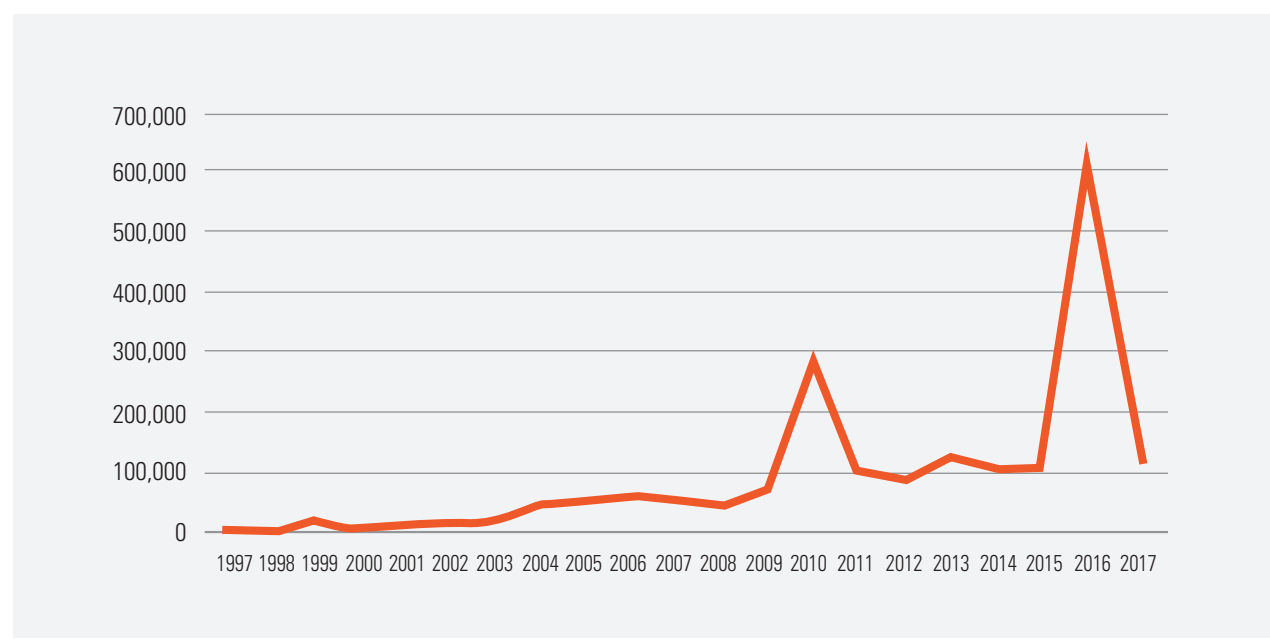
*Regular contributor to PGTF.

A total of 17 countries are regular contributors to PGTF.¹⁰ Important partners with 10 or more contributions are Algeria, China, South Africa, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Taking into account the diverse characteristics of G-77 member States, the Fund accepts contributions of all sizes. The fact that a large and varied range of countries contributes

financially to PGTF reflects widespread commitment to PGTF and the spirit of South-South solidarity in which it operates. In this context, it is particularly meaningful and a distinct feature of the Fund that 32 per cent of the countries that have contributed to it are least developed countries (LDCs) or small island developing States (SIDS).

Graph 1 » Total PGTF contributions to PGTF projects per year, 1997-2017 (in \$)



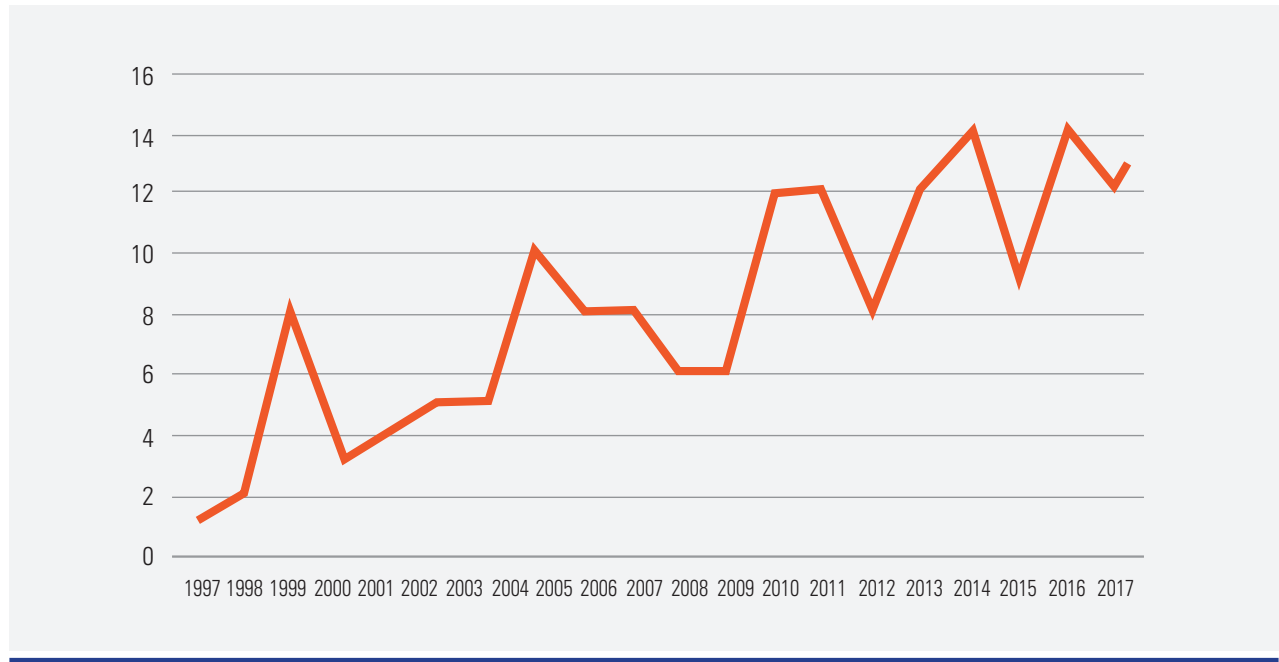
There has been an upward trend in both the amount of total contributions received by PGTF each year (graph 1) and the number of those yearly contributions (graph 2). This shows that there is increasing confidence in the importance of South-South cooperation and in the projects

and partners supported by PGTF. Contributions of G-77 member States to projects increased at a rate of about \$5,800 per year up to 2015 and then hit a peak in 2016 thanks to a \$520,000 contribution from Thailand.

⁹The status of contributions to PGTF is updated on a regular basis and published on the G-77 website (<http://www.g77.org/pgtf/contribution.html>)

¹⁰Algeria, Argentina, Chile, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) contributed four or more times to PGTF.

Graph 2 » Number of contributions to PGTF per year, 1997-2017



The number of contributions to PGTF projects has increased over the past two decades, with

12 times as many contributions in 2016 as there were in 1997.



Average PGTF contribution per project	\$46,000
Average contribution from additional sources per PGTF project	86,000
Average total financing per PGTF project	\$132,000

Implementation

PGTF projects have been implemented in partnerships with 113 national and 39 regional and international institutions of various sizes, thematic expertise and geographical coverage. The majority of projects are implemented by national institutions (63 per cent), followed by

regional and international institutions (37 per cent). The G-77 prioritizes national ownership of initiatives, and this is reflected in the large number of projects designed and implemented by national institutions. This also is consistent with one of the main principles of South-South cooperation, which stresses country ownership as a key element of collaboration.

Implementing partners:

113

National institutions

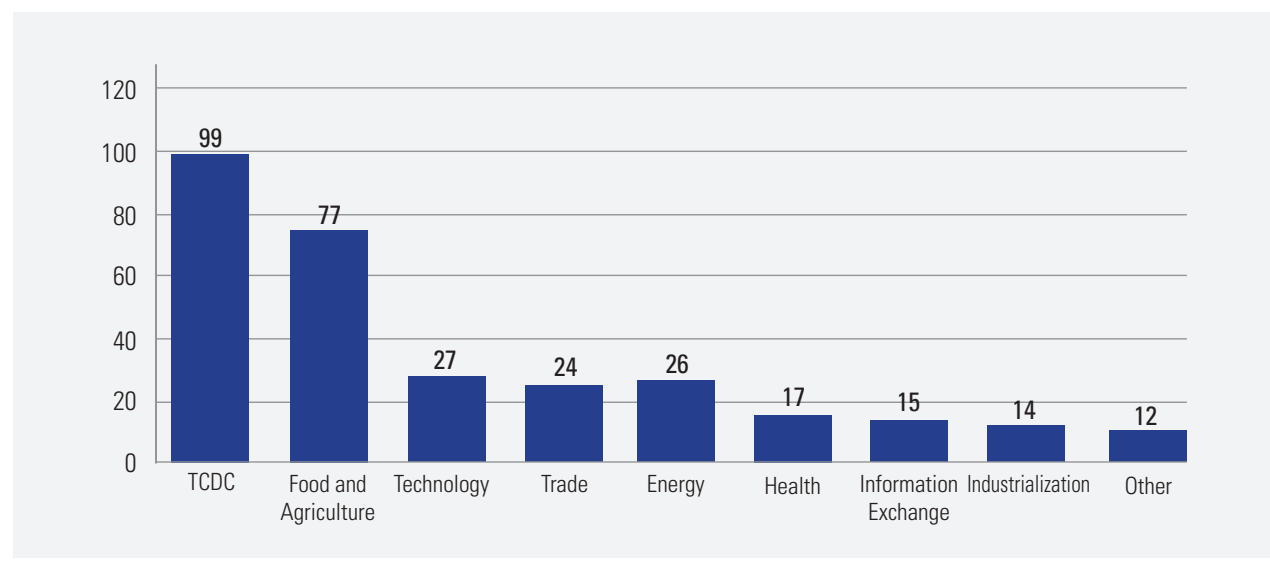


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Regional and international institutions

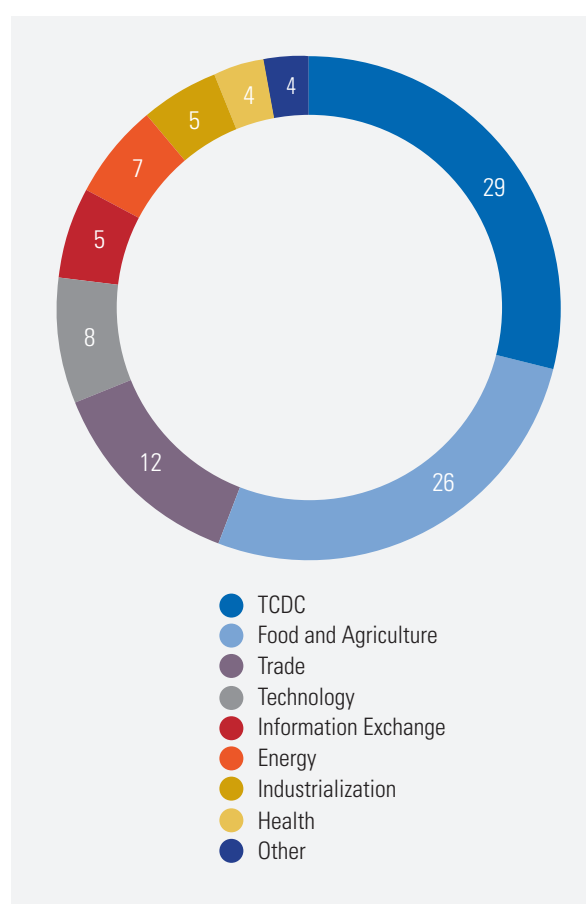


Graph 3 » Number of PGTF projects, by priority area, 1986-2017



The highest number of PGTF projects is in the priority area of technical cooperation among developed countries (TCDC) (e.g., capacity-building, training, sharing of experience and knowledge, consultancy and feasibility studies), followed by food and agriculture, and technology (graph 3). These three priority areas have received about 64 per cent of the total PGTF support (graph 4). This is consistent with the internationally agreed upon priorities for South-South and triangular cooperation in the Caracas Plan of Action (trade, technology, food and agriculture, energy, raw materials, finance, industrialization and technical cooperation) and the Havana Programme of Action, which additionally highlights the importance of health and environmental issues, globalization through trade, investment and capital flows as well as technology and knowledge exchange. Member States confirm that engaging more in South-South cooperation contributes to the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development. These are simultaneously priority areas for national governments that submit proposals to PGTF and agreed upon promising areas for South-South engagements.

Graph 4 » PGTF financial resources allocated, by priority area, 1986-2017 (as a percentage)



National governments have utilized PGTF financing foremost to engage in technical cooperation, which primarily takes place through consulting services and training programmes. These programmes range from areas such as entrepreneurship and leadership to technical research and development and integrated resource management. Additionally, food and agriculture projects have been a major area for South-South cooperation through PGTF and include projects focused on water management for agriculture, development of crops (such as maize, rice, mushrooms, groundnuts and quinoa) and livestock management. Trade includes negotiation of trade preferences among developing countries, knowledge exchange about new markets, economic integration and incorporation of digital technology to facilitate better trade.

The largest percentage of PGTF financing (41 per cent) has been provided to interregional

projects (graph 5) because many countries submitted interregional project proposals in the early years of the Fund. This reflects their interest in sharing knowledge and expertise from across vast areas and different continents. Over time, countries became more inclined to submit subregional projects owing to similarities between countries in terms of geographic conditions, climate, language, and economic and governance structures as well as an interest in implementing small projects that would produce faster results. Subregional projects also tend to require less financing than interregional projects due to the proximity of the countries, which has enabled PGTF to fund more projects at this level of cooperation without allocating the largest share of resources to them. Through these levels of cooperation, diverse knowledge and experience are shared not only within but also between continents.

Levels of PGTF Cooperation

Interregional cooperation =

Cooperation between a minimum of three countries from two different geographic regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean



Regional cooperation =

Cooperation between a minimum of three countries within the same region



Subregional cooperation =

Cooperation between a minimum of three countries within the same subregion

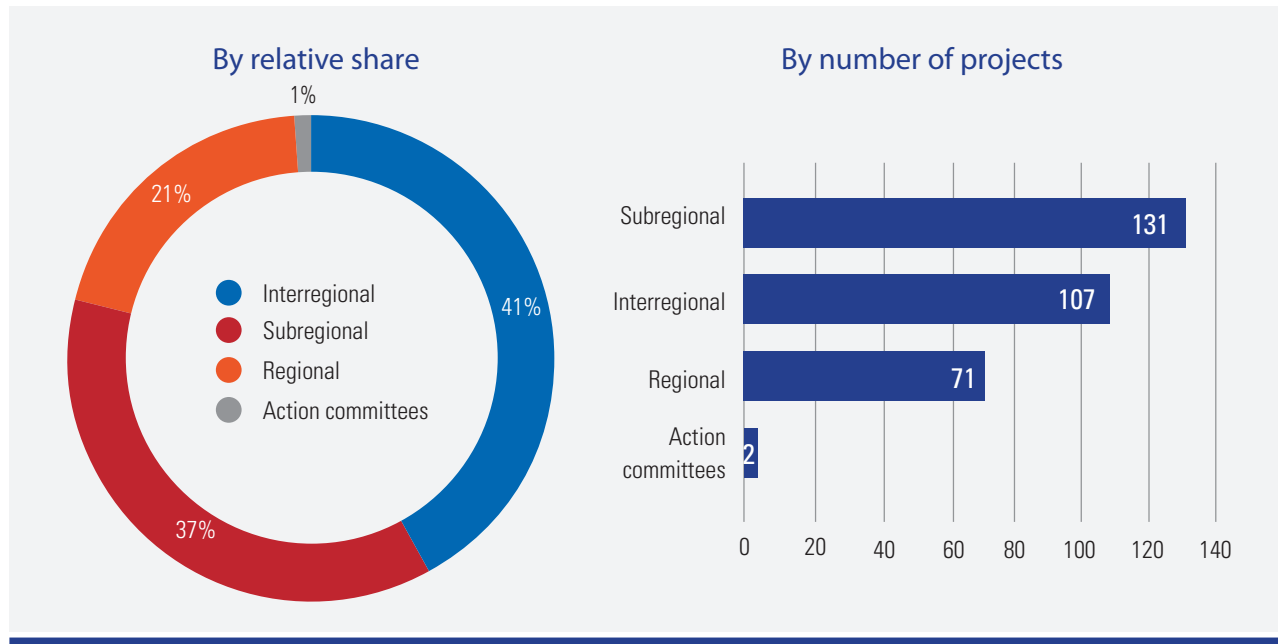


Action committees =

Groupings of a minimum of three countries organized to carry out specific cooperation activities



Graph 5 » PGTF financing, by level of cooperation, 1986-2017



Direct and Collective Participation in PGTF Projects

6 average number of countries **directly participating** in a PGTF project

25-30 number of countries that participate in projects with a regional focus

G-77 all member States benefiting from PGTF projects

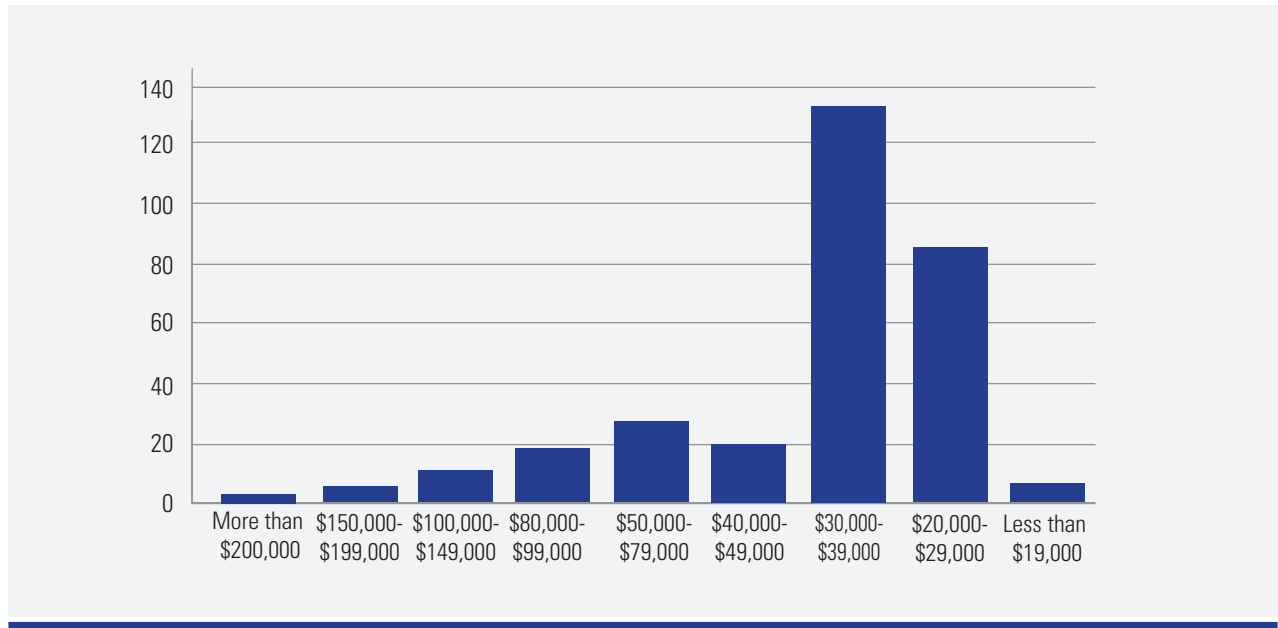
5-10 number of countries that participate in projects with a subregional focus

Member States benefit from PGTF support in multiple ways. When they are direct participants in projects, they participate in training, seminars, workshops, lectures or other gatherings and discussion forums under the PGTF project. Member States also benefit collectively when they participate in projects intended for all G-77 member States, regions or subregions.

received PGTF funding of about \$20,000 to \$39,000. This budget size allows PGTF to support around 10 or more projects every year, given the current level of available resources. What PGTF projects can do and the impact that they can have with this funding are noteworthy, as evidenced by the projects featured in this report.

Graph 6 indicates that most PGTF projects have

Graph 6 » Number of projects funded, by budget size, 1986-2017





Chapter 2

Featured PGTF Projects

Featured PGTF Projects

G-77 Online Journal Promotes Dialogue within the International Community



Developing countries continue to have low visibility, media attention to them remains scattered, and they are frequently underrepresented. Their own perspectives on the issues directly impacting them are often not well covered, and analysis of the interests, preferred approaches, and best policies and decisions for Southern countries receives limited space in international news and editorial pieces. Moreover, mainstream global media coverage of topics of interest to developing countries, particularly development issues, tends to reflect media approaches and perspectives rather than those of actors on the ground, especially when the news is processed through traditional media centres, which remain the main distributors of news globally.

In line with new digital technologies and the importance of social media, civil society organizations, including Inter Press Service (IPS), as well as governments are making more information available online rather than in print to widen their reach and expand their impact. Social media in particular has become a crucial tool for organizations to connect with and engage citizens. In addition, world leaders have ready access through social media to information that they need to make the most informed decisions.

In response to this need, IPS launched the G77 Newswire, an online journal that provides the most updated information on areas of relevance to the global South. Funded by PGTF, the G77 Newswire covers areas such as trade, aid, development financing, climate change and sustainable development. It enables G-77 members to keep track of political and socioeconomic developments in the world, especially in the context of

Partner:	Inter Press Service	
Budget:	PGTF input:	\$30,000
	Other inputs:	\$30,000
	Total:	\$60,000
Approval Year:	2015	

economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC) and technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC). It also enables G-77 representatives to enhance their participation during negotiations by providing key information on various issues. In addition, the journal highlights the participation of the G-77 in high-level United Nations meetings and the unique developing-country-centred perspectives that it has brought to the table in the 50 years of its existence. The journal is disseminated electronically to the 193 Member States of the United Nations as well as among United Nations officials, civil society organizations and academics around the world.

Since its inception, the G77 Newswire has covered a range of meetings and topics including meetings on South-South cooperation and its role in catalysing the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda, United Nations negotiations on oceans, potential new areas for economic growth in the South, and the PGTF 2017 call for project proposals. It has presented viewpoints of G-77 ministers as well as how the United Nations works with developing countries to provide practical support for sustainable development. The journal has also covered major meetings, such as the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the hopes and goals of the members of the G-77.

The G77 Newswire began publication in July 2016 and offers a free e-mail subscription in

addition to having information available on the IPS website.

About the Partner

Inter Press Service presents news and views from the global South, focusing on three main areas of work:

- **providing news and content:** producing stories and analyses that explain how events and global processes affect individuals and communities, especially the marginalized and voiceless;
- **capacity-building:** empowering journalists, media organizations and civil society to be better able to communicate effectively by leveraging the unique character of the IPS as a Southern-focused news agency offering a different kind of training and follow-up; and
- **dissemination and networking:** building an information bridge linking civil society, international institutions, policymakers, donors and individual readers to promote an ongoing dialogue about communication and development for a better world.



The G-77 Newswire has covered a range of meetings and topics key for developing countries, highlighting the viewpoints of G-77 member States.”

– Inter Press Service

Advocating for Competition and Regulatory Reforms in Developing Countries in the Sustainable Development Era

A large percentage of developing countries experienced significant deregulation, even if unevenly, across sectors in the 1990s, impacting competition across markets. In the context of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, safeguards for competition coupled with sound policies on regulatory burdens can be an effective way to contribute to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

That was the central theme during the workshop “Relevance of Competition and Regulatory Reforms in Pursuing Sustainable Development Goals in Developing Countries” held on 12-13 December 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop was organized by two offices of the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) – one based in Nairobi, Kenya, and the other in Jaipur, India – with the support of PGTF as well as the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the development agencies of Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Participants debated several diverse case studies and policy recommendations from countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and shared technical knowledge as well as policy and advocacy insights on the topic. A panel discussion on “Government Policy Promoting Competition, Innovation and Jobs” included subjects ranging from Mexico’s 2014 legislation aimed at strengthening the Federal Commission of Economic Competition, to China’s distinct model for “scientific development and socialist harmonious society”, to competition reform in secondary education in Nigeria.

Participants from government, academia and civil society advocated for balanced approaches to competition and regulation so as to ultimately enhance both consumer and

Partner:	Consumer Unity and Trust Society	
Budget:	PGTF input:	\$30,000
	Other inputs:	\$47,000
	Total:	\$77,000
Approval Year:	2015	

producer welfare, particularly in sectors that most impact the poor and the vulnerable. Other key highlights included: a call for the establishment or strengthening of sector regulators and competition authorities to cope with different market distortions; an emphasis on understanding the complex market interactions between large enterprises and smaller businesses; and appeals to involve the private sector in the categorization of priority areas for targeted innovation programmes that can serve as drivers of competition.

Mr. Pradeep S. Mehta, Secretary General of CUTS International, stressed the value of having the right regulatory safeguards. “Although subsidies are generally a departure from normal competition principles, they can assist farmers in remote areas where the private sector might generally not be willing to participate”, Mehta said. “Government procurement institutions whose mandate... is to ensure a strategic grain reserve, as in Ghana, will cause minimum competition distortions in the market”, he added.

Other discussion topics included approaches towards appropriate targeting of subsidies to attain public policy objectives while minimizing distortions and avoiding cartelization as well as the importance of collaboration between national research institutions and the private sector.

About the Partner

The **Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS)** is a non-profit, non-governmental organization working on public-interest issues since its establishment in 1984. The CUTS programme areas and mission focus on:

- **consumer protection and good governance:** enabling consumers, particularly the poor and the marginalized, to achieve their right to basic needs, sustainable development and good governance through a strong consumer movement;
- **international trade and development:** pursuing economic equity and social justice within and across borders by persuading governments and empowering people;
- **competition, investment and economic regulation:** promoting fair markets to enhance consumer welfare and economic development;
- **human development:** serving as an innovative centre for strategic interventions to raise the living standards of people; and
- **consumer safety:** promoting economic equity and sustainable development within and across borders through evidence-based advocacy and consumer empowerment.

CUTS has offices in Ghana, India, Kenya, Switzerland, Viet Nam and Zambia.

“

We should advance greater awareness of the impact of competition policy and knowledge about how its benefits are expected to materialize.”

– Dr. Ekwow Spio-Garbrah of the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Ghana



Using Digital Technology to Increase Port Efficiency in Latin America and the Caribbean

In 2013, intraregional trade in Latin America and the Caribbean reached 18.7 per cent, whereas in other regions, such as Asia and the Pacific, it rose to 50 per cent, and in the European Union, it increased to 59 per cent. This disparity, according to the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) study “Digital Ports in Latin America and the Caribbean: Situation and Prospects”, is due to the fact that Latin American countries have both competitive and hidden costs, which can make them less competitive in foreign trade.

PGTF facilitated a meeting on ports with SELA in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on 23-24 April 2015 for organizations to discuss how to increase cooperation among countries and lower costs associated with port management. Five multilateral agencies, five national port authorities and 14 member States contributed to deliberations that aimed to map current trends, share best practices, and promote sound and cooperative policies for ports in the region.

Focusing on digital ports, the meeting encouraged a new phase of port modernization, with increased incorporation of digital technologies in Latin America and the Caribbean. That would enable countries to streamline ports and global value chains, move towards new standards of service in maritime and terrestrial transport, and thereby reduce costs and increase competitiveness for international trade in the region.

“With the growing importance of South-South trade and maritime transport, there is a clear need for significant investment to improve port infrastructure and digital cooperation”, said Mr. Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations and then-Chair of the G-77.

Mr. Temístocles Montás, Minister of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican

Partner:	Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)	
Budget:	PGTF input:	\$35,000
	Other inputs:	\$40,000
	Total:	\$75,000
Approval Year:	2014	

Republic, said that the meeting highlighted the need for cooperation on both “hard” infrastructure components affecting ports such as roads, telecommunications and storage as well as the advantages of upgrading “soft” elements essential to port activities, including the organization and management of transportation, packaging and inventory practices, and tracking and location services.

Discussions on adequate public policies for optimization of port services through the increased digitalization of port activities were complemented by exchanges of information on successful practices.

Representatives from Ecuador and Peru shared their experiences in the creation of virtual portals for integrated procedures encompassing customs, health and sanitation, licensing, and logistics known as “port single windows”. Data shared digitally through the port’s integrated portal support the various services provided to ships prior to arrival and thus facilitate port logistics chains.

The representative of Chile explained the recent efficiency gains of its Valparaiso port involving constant digital monitoring to prevent bottlenecks during the inspection, storage and dispatching of cargo.

The representative of Mexico discussed how information and communication technologies

have made its port services more efficient by streamlining the operational and administrative procedures of ports and significantly reducing transaction times.

The PGTF-facilitated meeting successfully broadened the dialogue on the role of ports, notably digital ports, in facilitating trade and

development across Latin America and the Caribbean and enabled decision makers to share and learn about best practices in the region. For the International Cooperation Directors, it also shed light on the role of increased cooperation on port optimization in advancing sustainable development in the region.

About the Partner

The **Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)** is a regional intergovernmental organization that groups 27 Latin American and Caribbean countries. SELA was established on 17 October 1975 by the Panama Convention, with headquarters in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Its current membership comprises Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

SELA provides the Latin America and the Caribbean region with a system of consultation and coordination for the adoption of common positions and strategies on economic issues in international bodies and forums and before third countries and groups of countries.



“ There is a clear need to improve digital cooperation.”

– Mr. Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations and then-Chair of the G-77

Strengthening South-South Cooperation among Women-led Enterprises in Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Countries

Underscoring the key role that women play in socioeconomic development as well as the role of the private sector in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, participants from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) gathered for a workshop focused on developing a mechanism for South-South partnerships among women-led enterprises.

Supported by PGTF, the workshop brought together 44 participants from 11 OIC member States – Bangladesh, Benin, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Sudan, Tajikistan and Uganda – in Kampala, Uganda, on 28-29 October 2015. It was hosted by the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and organized by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

Two interrelated platforms for South-South cooperation among businesses were presented:

- OIC Businesswomen Information Network – an interactive database that facilitates cooperation among the 57 OIC member countries and their diaspora; and
- One Million Businesswomen of the Global South Initiative of the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE), an institution comprised of a network of Business Development Centres at the country level as well as business opportunity match-making

Partner:	Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)	
Budget:	PGTF input:	\$35,000
	Other inputs:	\$35,000
	Total:	\$70,000
Approval Year:	2014	

software and best practices provided from its headquarters.

The workshop provided training and facilitated dialogue on how best to utilize those platforms to cultivate business partnerships. It also sought feedback and gathered recommendations on how to improve and further develop the South-South cooperation mechanism.

“The SS-GATE mechanism will strengthen partnership between women enterprises and other relevant enterprises through the transfer of technology, technical know-how, expertise, mentoring and best practices”, said Mr. Mahadhe Hasan, Manager of Enterprise Development at the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Participants found presenters’ experiences informative, the mechanisms for business matching helpful, and one another’s recommendations for the enhancement of those platforms constructive.



We must continue to support and empower women and girls.”

– Mr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation



About the Partner

The **Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)** is an affiliated organ of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). It represents the private sector of the 57 OIC member countries, striving mainly to strengthen private-sector economic collaboration among those countries. Its activities include the organization of business forums, workshops and training programmes on capacity-building and poverty alleviation; value-addition, agriculture and rural development; promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and use of microfinance; and development of entrepreneurship, particularly among women and youth. In all these programmes, special emphasis is given to South-South and triangular cooperation.

Increasing Awareness and Preparedness against Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Middle East and North Africa

Foot-and-mouth disease is one of the most contagious viral ailments in animals. Widespread among livestock, the illness is responsible for significant production losses and is a major barrier to international trade in animal products. Such economic losses and impairments caused by foot-and-mouth disease impact developing countries in particular owing to their greater reliance on agricultural sectors.

Across the Middle East and North Africa, a region characterized by arid terrain, livestock herding is an essential activity. However, the region suffers from a high incidence of foot-and-mouth disease, directly impacting the livelihoods of farmers, national economies and cross-border trade. Countries in the region have therefore banded together to counter foot-and-mouth disease, engaging in shared efforts including joint research to learn about and advance effective methods to prevent its transmission.

Partner: Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)

Budget: PGTF input: \$35,000
Other inputs: \$35,000
Total: \$70,000

Approval Year: 2013

“Addressing foot-and-mouth disease only within the confines of our national borders will always have limited impact in controlling the disease”, said Dr. Nabil Hailat, Professor of Pathology and Animal Health at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

“Illegal trade, smuggling of livestock, uncontrolled movement of animals and lack of awareness about the disease among farmers have detrimentally impacted efforts to eradicate



the disease in Egypt. This is why it is critical to cooperate with each other”, added Dr. Emad Alabshehey of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Alexandria University in Egypt.

With this goal in mind, PGTF, UNDP and JUST organized a conference to raise awareness and address the consequences of foot-and-mouth disease. The conference, titled “Enhancing the Preparedness and Awareness of the Concerned Governmental Authorities and Farmers on the Spread and Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Middle East and North Africa”, took place in Irbid, Jordan, on 17-19 January 2016. The event brought together 24 leading animal-health scientists from universities and governments representing five countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan and the State of Palestine.

“Sharing experiences among our countries is an important way to learn about each other’s policies and strategies and about how they are being implemented”, explained Dr. Mohammad Al-Ajlouni, Executive Secretary of the Association

of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa.

Following discussions on foot-and-mouth disease prevention and control, conference participants adopted a regional consensus plan for management of the disease. They identified priorities focused on promoting diagnostics and control as well as creating a regional centre specializing in foot-and-mouth disease in order to coordinate animal research and provide training on farmer education. Other recommendations included:

- enhancing farmers’ education and awareness so as to promote early-stage recognition of the disease and recording of cases;
- emphasizing the role and processes for animal vaccination;
- strengthening legislation to control animal diseases; and
- conducting training courses on sampling, field investigation and biosecurity measures.

About the Partner

Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) is a teaching and research centre focusing on science and technology. It was established in 1986 as an autonomous national institute of higher education located on the outskirts of Irbid in northern Jordan, 70 km north of the capital city of Amman.

Today JUST has more than 800 full-time faculty members and 20,000 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students. More than 5,000 international students represent 60 nationalities, making it the most culturally diverse university in Jordan. The university provides a wide range of advanced degree programmes at the undergraduate and graduate levels. At present, the university comprises 12 faculties: Medicine, Engineering, Science and Arts, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine, Architecture, Information Technology, Applied Sciences, Nursing and Graduate Studies. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is internationally reputed for its veterinary education and is active in organizing regional and international training workshops and conferences.

Promoting Agribusiness Development among Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Countries

If agricultural value chains were developed and climate change preparedness were promoted, countries of the global South could make strides to reduce poverty and attain food security. That was the overriding message of a workshop organized by PGTF and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)-affiliated Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) in Ankara, Turkey, in 2014.

The three-day workshop brought together 42 participants from 16 OIC member countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey and Uganda. Other workshop organizers included the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), which manages PGTF; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC).

Participants discussed various best practices on how small-to-medium-sized agricultural enterprises could expand their value chains. Discussions highlighted the role that technologies and activities could play to create off-farm employment, improve hygiene standards, enhance market access and reach, and have an important stabilization effect on local economies.

“The economies of the majority of the OIC countries are largely agro-based. Overall, the performance of the agriculture sector in OIC countries is not very promising. While agricultural development has long been supply oriented, its future needs to be more market driven”, said Mrs. Attiya Nawazish Ali, ICCIA Assistant Secretary General. She added that workshops such as “Capacity Building on Value Chain Analysis for Agribusiness for

Partner:	Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)	
Budget:	PGTF input:	\$35,000
	Other inputs:	\$35,000
	Total:	\$70,000
Approval Year:	2013	

OIC Countries” are instrumental in creating awareness of the existing potential in agribusiness and value-chain analysis in OIC countries.

“Small farmers find themselves trapped in a vicious cycle. Unable to receive credit owing to the inherent risks associated with small-scale farming, their economic activities have low productivity. They engage in low to nil value-addition to their agricultural products and in turn have little return on land and labour expenditures”, explained Dr. Mahmood Ahmad, an expert on agribusiness and water policy. “Hence, it remains critical to support these small farmers to establish linkages to credit, simple technologies and markets.”

“In most OIC countries, agriculture production and supply are not keeping pace with the demands that rapidly increasing populations are placing on food resources,” said Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director-General of SESRIC. He added that the modernization of agricultural sectors will help countries to take steps to address food security issues while creating jobs and promoting other sectors of their economies.

A range of experiences with competitive and sustainable value chains was shared on selected topics relating to production, post-harvest losses, marketing, processing and retail of agro-products. Innovative approaches were

highlighted along with historic agricultural development experiences. For example, workshop participants agreed that the establishment of cooperatives or small business groups enables small farmers and enterprises to reach markets, more effectively compete in domestic and international markets, and reduce costs associated with middlemen.

Successful government initiatives in Bangladesh and Lebanon that promote value-chain development were among the approaches that were analysed. Participants also toured the Ankara Union Milk Facility, a prime example of the use of modern facilities and technologies that improve food safety and nutrition.

At the end of the workshop, participants formulated numerous recommendations for their governments, including increased efforts to integrate small farmers into national value chains by facilitating access to technology, credit and markets; support to improve data

collection and academic studies on value-chain development; coordination to address the increasing problem of water scarcity and its impact on agribusinesses; and recognition of the value that supply-chain development represents for food safety. Participants also welcomed considerations for creating an agribusiness association among OIC States in order to increase communication and cooperation, with a focus on facilitating intra-OIC marketing and trade.

The workshop highlighted the need to create a foundation and supportive infrastructure to build sustainable rural growth in farm and non-farm sectors in the OIC countries. Building on those conclusions, ICCIA and PGTF organized a follow-up workshop on “Key Infrastructure Development for Rural Growth for OIC Countries” from 29 November to 1 December 2016 in Lahore, Pakistan, in collaboration with FAO and the Shahid Javeed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol.

About the Partner

The **Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA)** is an affiliated organ of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). It represents the private sectors of the 57 OIC member countries, striving mainly to strengthen private-sector economic collaboration among those countries. Its activities include the organization of business forums, workshops and training programmes on capacity-building and poverty alleviation; value-addition, agriculture and rural development; promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and use of microfinance; and development of entrepreneurship, particularly among women and youth. In all these programmes, special emphasis is given to South-South and triangular cooperation.



Small farmers find themselves trapped in a vicious cycle. Unable to receive credit owing to the inherent risks associated with small-scale farming, their economic activities have low productivity.”

– Dr. Mahmood Ahmad, Agribusiness and Water Policy Expert

Understanding Benefits and Challenges Related to Remittances in Latin America and the Caribbean

With a more globalized world comes an increase in remittances as workers seek employment opportunities across the globe. This is especially true in the case of workers abroad from Latin America and the Caribbean. Of an estimated 30 million migrants living and working abroad, approximately 70 per cent reside in the United States of America and send roughly \$60 billion in remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean every year. Though a rise in remittances may bring about substantial benefits for migrants and their families or communities, it can lead to numerous complex and diverse challenges. To cope with such issues, it is important for the countries of the region to cooperate and discuss feasible solutions.

With that goal in mind, the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), the Ministry of Economy and the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Government of Guatemala, and PGTF organized the 25th Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean on “Cooperation and Migrants’ Remittances: Impact on Savings, Investment and Development” in Antigua, Guatemala, on 5-6 June 2014. Central objectives of the meeting included gaining an understanding of trends in remittances and the effect of remittances on national and household income, savings and asset-building, and coordinating collaborative initiatives to strengthen migrant remittances.

Representatives from 19 countries of the region as well as several international development organizations and private institutions participated in the meeting. The importance of coordination was stressed throughout. “We

Partner:	Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)	
Budget:	PGTF input:	\$35,000
	Other inputs:	\$40,000
	Total:	\$75,000
Approval Year:	2013	

share common challenges, but at the same time, those become a framework of opportunities consisting of national strategies that surpass the borders by establishing alliances with a regional perspective”, said Ms. Ana María Méndez Chicas, Undersecretary of International Cooperation of the Secretary-General of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala.

Participants discussed initiatives of international organizations concerning trends in migrant remittances and the impact of remittances on savings, investment and development. They also shared best practices for using remittances to increase savings and investment and generate well-being. There was also a strong emphasis on understanding the multidimensional nature of remittances and its costs, encompassing issues such as the expansion of competition, reduction of barriers to immigrants, investment in migrants, and working on philanthropy for development.

Some of the key recommendations made were to:

- increase efforts to reduce the costs of remittances;
- increase the inclusion of both migrants and



- beneficiaries in the benefits of remittances;
- focus national development policies on promoting sound financial investments for remittances so that they can be used as a leveraging instrument;
- remove barriers for investing in countries of origin;
- facilitate inter-institutional coordination for the creation of programmes that direct remittances towards local development;
- create public policies that facilitate migrants having a positive impact on the destination country;
- promote competition to reduce the cost of sending and receiving remittances; and
- continue to strengthen international and South-South cooperation.

About the Partner

The **Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)** is a regional intergovernmental organization that groups 27 Latin American and Caribbean countries. SELA was established on 17 October 1975 by the Panama Convention, with headquarters in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Its current membership, comprising Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), works to promote ongoing dialogue on communication and development for a better world.



We share common challenges that become a framework of opportunities.”

– Ms. Ana María Méndez Chicas, Undersecretary of International Cooperation, Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala

Improving Livelihoods through Exchanging Best Practices in Camelid Fabric Production

Currently, small farmers are highly vulnerable to food insecurity owing to water unreliability and the impacts of climate change. Livelihoods are also constrained by ineffective and extensive animal-rearing techniques and limited value-addition activities.

Thanks to support from PGTF, representatives of research institutions in Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Peru came together to share experiences on camelid fibre production, certification and marketing. Through a series of three workshops and applied joint projects, participants were able to strengthen their capacities to develop camelid fabric markets. The emphasis of the workshops was on enhancing the livelihoods of rural small family shearers.

“Thanks to this project, I earn a higher income”, said Mr. Emiliano Isidro Escalante Yana, a participating shearer. “As an alpaca farmer, I can provide a higher-quality presentation of my alpaca fleece, which improves its value in the market. I also now have networks through which I offer alpaca shearing services.”



Partner: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Peru

Budget: PGTF input: \$30,000
Other inputs: \$30,000
Total: \$60,000

Approval Year: 2012

Producers and private-sector representatives were also key partners in the project since it aimed to strengthen industry standards and quality-control laboratories. “The technical standards specified and adopted through this project should have been developed years ago”, said textile industry representative Mr. Alonso Burgos Hartley.

The exchanges and technical support facilitated by the project covered a broad spectrum of activities: shear processes and quality control; public policies for inclusive and growth markets; and public-private linkages to strengthen the supply chain for fibre and open new markets for small family businesses.

The workshops also enabled partner institutions to learn from one another. “The Argentine Government and partnering universities are quite advanced in their regulation of the sheep-fibre market, their support to build the capacity of shearers, and their laboratory techniques for quality control”, explained Mr. Leonidas Gutierrez Hermoza, a Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MINAGRI-Perú) camelid specialist. “We learned many practical measures directly applicable to camelid fibre production.”

“Peru leads in the production of camelid products in the Latin America region”, said Mr. Raúl E. Fernández, National Coordinator at the Programme for Wool Quality Improvement

of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina. “Working jointly with the Peruvian Government and researchers through this PGTF project has enabled us to realize the great potential of the camelid fibre market, in particular to enhance the livelihoods of small camelid breeders and shearers.”

This South-South cooperation project was funded by PGTF and supported by UNDP Peru. Key results include:

- an updated technical standard for the alpaca fibre market in Peru;
- a broadly distributed guide on good practices for quality management of alpaca fibre in textile laboratories under the norm ISO/IEC 17025; and
- enhanced collaboration among government, academia and the private sector in each of the three participating countries.

The project also emphasized the need to empower rural women and favoured their participation in activities. Women shearers are key actors in camelid husbandry and the production of fibre: women represent approximately 60 per cent of alpaca breeders in Peru.



About the Partner

The **Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Peru** was created in 1942 through law number 9711. Its mandate is to design and execute public policies for the development of agricultural businesses and family farming through the provision of quality public goods and services. The main objective of the Ministry is to raise the competitiveness of the agricultural sector in Peru within the framework of inclusive and sustainable development. The Ministry seeks to:

- improve agricultural institutions, public and private, with an emphasis on the linkages between the three levels of government and producer organizations;
- increase productivity, quality and business management of agricultural activities within the framework of competitive development;
- improve access to services and generate opportunities for rural dwellers consistent with inclusive agricultural development; and
- attain the sustainable use of natural resources – water, soil, forests and biological diversity – in harmony with the environment.

Promotion of Small Animal Rearing in the South Pacific through Marketing and Consumption

The diets of Pacific communities have long placed an important emphasis on pigs and chickens. The raising of indigenous breeds, which are suited to local climatic and epidemiological conditions, plays a large role in ensuring food security in the Melanesia archipelago as well as in meeting other social and cultural obligations. Unfortunately, underprivileged segments of the population persistently have limited access to livestock products and continue to have nutritional deficiencies. This is owing to the fact that production is necessarily geared towards subsistence farming, and sales of animal products remain insufficient to cover fully the dietary requirements of both rural and urban areas. Promoting inclusive development and food security therefore calls for expanding the breeding of small animals and their commercialization to more broadly supply local markets with quality nutrition at affordable prices.

Seeking to advance that objective, PGTF supported the project “Promotion of Indigenous Pig and Chicken Breeds in Fiji, Niue and the Cook Islands through Marketing and Consumption”. The project was implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the Ministries and Departments of Agriculture and Livestock in the three participating countries. Designed as a collaborative South-South initiative, it reflects the subregional multi-stakeholder commitment to conserve the genetic resources of indigenous animals to promote and safeguard future food security and boost contemporary local consumption.

The project reached important milestones. It established partnerships with chicken and pig breeders in all three countries, hosted technical and awareness-building workshops, and provided participants with advisory services

Partner: Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

Budget: PGTF input: \$35,000
Other inputs: \$100,000
Total: \$135,000

Approval Year: 2013

to oversee and enhance their animal-rearing techniques. Important technical support was also offered to the staff from the Animal Health and Production Division in Fiji as well as the Ministries of Agriculture in Niue and the Cook Islands.

Examples of project accomplishments include:

- expanded the collection of indigenous pig breeds at the Koronivia Indigenous Pig Conservation Centre in Fiji to ensure multiplication and conservation of genetic stocks;
- conducted capacity-building workshops, run by the staff of the Happy Chicken Farm in Sigatoka, Fiji, to share knowledge domestically as well as with Niue and the Cook Islands on the importance of rearing indigenous breeds;
- intensified production at Reddy’s Local Chickens Farm in Lautoka, Fiji, increasing local sales for both poultry and eggs; and
- established three chicken conservation, multiplication and distribution centres in Niue to promote the sale of poultry, eggs and livestock for breeding.

Although this project experienced a set-back when its activities were disrupted by Cyclone Winston, the strongest tropical storm on record to make landfall across the archipelago, it continued its activities and achieved its planned objectives.

About the Partner

The **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)** is an international development organization governed by 26 member States and territories. Since its establishment in 1947, SPC has become a leading regional scientific and technical organization in the Pacific. SPC advances a vision for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity. Its work encompasses 25 different sectors, including fisheries science, public health surveillance, geoscience and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, food security and disaster risk management.



Collaborative Research and Development of New Technologies That Advance Bioethanol Production

Bioethanol is the most widely produced biofuel in the world. However, the chemical product, which is obtained from the fermentation of the sugars in plant products, has undesirable effects on food safety and the environment. Thus, undertaking research on new technologies is essential to create alternative means of cultivation and production that do not compromise food security and that minimize damage to the environment.

To that end, the Cuban Institute for Research on Sugarcane Derivatives (ICIDCA), with the support of PGTF, executed a project that aims to strengthen national and regional capacities to generate alternative energies as well as to develop measures for climate change mitigation. Other participating institutions were Lorena State University in Brazil and the Autonomous University of Coahuila in Mexico.

Among the concrete results of the project are initiatives to improve energy efficiency, the training of specialists and scientific publications on the development of new technologies for

Partner:	Cuban Institute for Research on Sugarcane Derivatives (ICIDCA)	
Budget:	PGTF input:	\$22,000
	Other inputs:	\$48,000
	Total:	\$70,000
Approval Year:	2011	

the production of bioethanol from alternative renewable sources.

The main sources of ethanol are corn, yucca, beet, sugarcane and sweet sorghum. The large-scale production of ethanol from agricultural cultivation of such raw materials is a reliable source of biofuel. As a renewable energy source, biofuel is also a sustainable energy source. Hence, it is critical that its production also be sustainable.

Studies conducted within the scope of this project have shown that there are more efficient and sustainable ways of producing bioethanol from alternative renewable sources than the usual methods employed in the cultivation and pre-treatment of sugarcane. One of the findings is that sweet sorghum is a promising substitute for sugarcane. Labelled a “smart” crop, sweet sorghum produces food and fuel without harming the environment since it is carbon-dioxide neutral.

Some of the comparative advantages of sweet sorghum in relation to sugarcane are:

- tolerance to dry conditions and minimal irrigation requirements;
- adaptability to all kinds of soil, from sandy to clayey, while sugarcane requires appropriate soil;



- a shorter cultivation cycle of 3 1/2 to 4 months in contrast to 11 to 17 months for sugarcane;
- photosynthetic efficiency, producing the same amount of green mass in less than 6 months that sugarcane produces in one cycle; and
- physiological characteristics that facilitate draining and rotation with other plantations, while sugarcane is not usually rotated and consequently its cultivation can lead to soil erosion, draining deficiency, salinization and depletion of organic material.

The development of alternative renewable sources, such as sweet sorghum, along with new technologies to produce bioethanol provides the possibility of not only reducing environmental damage, the amount of grains used for biofuel production and costs but also increasing the quality of biofuels. Other raw materials that showed positive results with respect to the sustainable production of bioethanol were mango, banana peels and forage sorghum.

With regard to bioethanol-related technologies, countries such as Brazil and the United States, which are the world's biggest bioethanol producers, have invested in the development of new technologies to acquire the product

more efficiently or from alternative sources. In the United States, a collaborative study with the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador) is exploring the production of ethanol from recycled paper on a laboratory scale. The product, lignocellulosic ethanol, has an energetic yield of 45 per cent in contrast to only 25 per cent from corn-based ethanol. In Brazil, the Research Support Foundation of the State of São Paulo (Fapesp), the Sugarcane Technology Center (CTC), and the private company Dedini developed a process called Dedini Rapid Hydrolysis (DHR) that is capable of increasing the production of ethanol by 30 per cent without additional cultivation of cane but instead using cane bagasse.

Since new technologies require the training of specialists to implement them, ICIDCA and Lorena State University have trained 10 Cuban technicians specialized in alcohol distillation. Also, as part of the project, undergraduate and graduate students from the Chemical Engineering course at the Autonomous University of Coahuila, Mexico, devoted their research to the evaluation of alternative substrates for the production of second-generation ethanol.

About the Partner

The **Cuban Institute for Research on Sugarcane Derivatives (ICIDCA)** was founded on 23 May 1963 by Commander Ernesto Che Guevara. The Institute aims to provide scientific support for the development of technologies that enable increased and diversified use of sugarcane. Its mission is to research, develop, innovate and transfer products and technologies; provide scientific-technical services and specialized training; and produce and market products of high added value in the sugar industry.

Refurbishing Hydropower Facilities for Renewable Energy in Asia and South America

Developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America have water resources with the potential for hydropower that could contribute to poverty alleviation and water and food security in these regions. Many existing hydraulic facilities can be updated and refurbished to maximize their use in developing countries. With support from PGTF, the International Centre on Small Hydro Power (ICSHP) organized study tours in China welcoming technical experts from Asian and Latin American countries to discuss that topic. From 2013 to 2015, professionals and officials from India, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Uruguay joined the workshops and study tours to demonstrate the achievements of small hydropower developments and green hydropower practices in river basins.

“It has been a privilege to share the research and activities undertaken in China with partners in other developing countries”, said Professor Xiaobo Hu, ICSHP Chief of the Division of Multilateral Development. “It was particularly meaningful to see first-hand how our experiences empowered Uruguayan counterparts to plan and lead the refurbishment of their small hydropower centres.”

Across various river basins in China, ICSHP has developed small hydropower projects. In recent years, it has significantly refined and certified its research methods to comprehensively survey environmental and socioeconomic impacts of hydropower resource development. It has gained substantial expertise in refurbishing and upgrading small-scale hydropower plants. Capitalizing on that knowledge, ICSHP organized a multi-partner workshop in Turkey as well as a 2013 practical joint exercise in Uruguay where partners assessed the feasibility of refurbishments at three potential sites.

Partner:	International Centre on Small Hydro Power (ICSHP)	
Budget:	PGTF input:	\$33,000
	Other inputs:	\$90,000
	Total:	\$123,000
Approval Year:	2012	

Small hydropower presents an opportunity to contribute directly to key objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals, namely, environmental sustainability and human development. Its focus on green renewable energy and minimal environmental impact is complemented by its contributions to poverty reduction, including providing access to energy, safe water and enhanced livelihoods.

Despite its benefits, the current estimated usage of hydropower resources in South America stands at 40 per cent while Asia utilizes only 25 per cent. There is therefore an enormous untapped potential to foster development in rural areas while minimally impacting the environment, generating energy, supplying running water, and enabling irrigation where it is applicable. In addition, a large number of single-function aging or abandoned hydropower facilities are in need of upgrades and maintenance to ensure their sustainability.

Mr. Martine Scarone, Director of Renewable Energies at the Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mining of Uruguay, said that the study tour gave them the opportunity to learn from ICSHP experiences. “China has developed good small hydropower technologies and equipment”, he said.

The PGTF project portfolio includes a number of cooperative initiatives focused on developing- country approaches to expanding and popularizing renewable energy.

About the Partner

The **International Centre on Small Hydro Power (ICSHP)** is a public, non-profit institution established within the Ministry of Water Resources of China and also reporting directly to the Ministry of Commerce. The ICSHP mission is to promote small hydropower development worldwide. Among its activities, it manages the International Network on Small Hydro Power, an international organization with more than 400 members from 78 countries.

Since its establishment, ICSHP, through partnerships with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNDP, has provided technical services, including turnkey project implementation, training, equipment supply and installation, and advisory services, for small hydropower developments in Cameroon, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



It was particularly meaningful to see first-hand how our experiences empowered Uruguayan counterparts to plan and lead the refurbishment of their small hydropower centres.”

– Professor Xiaobo Hu, ICSHP Chief of the Division of Multilateral Development

Cooperation towards Increasing Drinking Water Safety in Rural Areas of India and Sri Lanka

Clean drinking water is an essential element for a healthy and productive community. However, ensuring access to safe drinking water in rural areas undergoing agricultural development often proves to be a challenging task requiring multisectoral technical approaches. In such contexts, promotion of integrated water-safety solutions that address contaminants in a sustainable manner is an environmental necessity. This often requires a combination of simple and complex technologies and advocacy efforts, including the establishment of water purification systems or wastewater treatment facilities along with farmer awareness- and capacity-building.

Understanding the need to enhance institutional capacities in drinking water safety,

Partner:	Promotion Association for Mountain-River-Lake Regional Sustainable Development (MRLSD)	
Budget:	PGTF input:	\$32,000
	Other inputs:	\$32,000
	Total:	\$64,000
Approval Year:	2012	

with special emphasis on wastewater treatment, PGTF supported a project on co-learning and sharing of effective practices in water safety in agricultural zones.

The project, “Integrated Solutions to Drinking Water Safety Issues in Rural Areas”, aimed to



By 2030, everyone will have safe water to drink.”

– #GlobalGoals, Sustainable Development Goal 6

raise drinking water quality safeguards in two beneficiary agricultural communities in India and Sri Lanka. It also sought to strengthen the technical and institutional capacities of partner institutions working on water quality in the two countries. The project was implemented by the Promotion Association for Mountain-River-Lake Regional Sustainable Development (MRLSD) based in Jiangxi, China. Two community-based organizations participated in the delivery of project activities and knowledge-sharing: EMACE in Sri Lanka and the Centre for Research on New International Economic Order (CRenIEO) in India.

The project had three major accomplishments:

Mapping of local challenges towards informed problem-solving for drinking water safety

Benefiting from the extensive experiences and guidance of MRLSD, partner institutions in Sri Lanka and India advanced field research to document water quality problems and requirements among their respective beneficiary communities.

Their research identified serious problems in the composition of their drinking water, including the presence of the heavy metal cadmium, groundwater depletion and water source pollution. Based on those findings, a panel of technical experts from both Jiangxi, China, and local partners recommended the introduction of membrane filtering techniques, centralized

water distribution systems and the promotion of enhanced water management methods.

Training and experience-sharing workshop

Representatives from EMACE Sri Lanka and CRenIEO in India participated in a training course on wastewater treatment held in Nanchang City, China, on 18-24 November 2014. The workshop participants discussed pilot models, experiences of successful water-management organizations and examples of water safety construction in wetlands. It included demonstrations of membrane filtration systems as well as a field visit to a water purification plant. The workshop also facilitated the formulation of a joint project proposal that included an overview of challenges to drinking water safety among beneficiary communities in India and Sri Lanka, a description of required technical support and an outline of policy recommendations.

Technical support mission to India and Sri Lanka, strengthening partnerships with local governments

Technical experts from China visited India and Sri Lanka to help to build awareness and mobilize partnerships with relevant ministries towards improving substandard drinking water quality. That involved a presentation to national governments of findings on local environmental problems and possible solutions.

About the Partner

The **Promotion Association for Mountain-River-Lake Regional Sustainable Development (MRLSD)** is a non-profit organization established in 1999 that, through extensive exchanges and cooperation, the introduction of domestic and foreign talent, capital, technology and information, actively participates in the protection of the Poyang Lake Basin ecological environment and promotes the sustainable development of the Yangtze River in Jiangxi Province.

Latin American Countries Advance Their Production and Use of Bio-products for Farming

Many developing countries are looking to apply biologically safe products to crops in order to protect agricultural lands in the long term. As part of a PGTF-funded project, institutions from Latin America and the Caribbean were brought together to research, discuss and promote bio-products for farming.

Institutions from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and Mexico highlighted the role of bio-fertilizers, bio-stimulants, and bio-pesticides that help to enhance agricultural output while minimizing environmental impacts.

As part of this initiative, approximately 150 producers were trained in the use of bio-products. They conducted joint research, shared relevant experiences, and developed and promoted the adoption of such renewable materials. Upon implementing the bio-products and technology, the producers reported increased yield and associated income, improved soil fertility and rehabilitation of degraded lands.



Partner: Cuban Institute for Research on Sugarcane Derivatives (ICIDCA)

Budget: PGTF input: \$34,000
Other inputs: \$90,000
Total: \$124,000

Approval Year: 2010

“The bio-products project has been great. We now plant with ecologically sounder products and obtain a better yield”, said Mr. Benigno Pérez Molina, a participating farmer. “This has helped us to increase our income.”

Collaborating institutions in the respective countries of the participants monitored the research.

Seeking to enhance and expand impact, this collaborative project focused on economically significant crops, including rice and soybeans. It also addressed quality commercial bio-products in order to encourage the extensive use of safer products in agriculture, particularly in urban agriculture.

More than 1,500 hectares in the six collaborating countries were cultivated, testing a range of biotechnologies such as:

- Biojas, a phytohormone produced in Cuba and tested on rice and soy crops in Colombia;

- Gluticid, a bio-pesticide developed in Cuba and tested in Ecuador on Black Sigatoka; and
- Urea-iron-dextran, a bio-fertilizer developed in Argentina and tested by various partners.

The joint applied research demonstrated that bio-products could be an effective alternative to today's chemical fertilizers and pesticides while also minimizing environmental risks.



About the Partner

The **Cuban Institute for Research on Sugarcane Derivatives (ICIDCA)** was created in 1963 to support scientific development of technologies that enable increased and diversified use of sugarcane. It is part of the Sugar Group, and, since 1967, it has shared the results of its applied research on sugarcane usage through its journal on sugarcane derivatives. ICIDCA has over 172 university graduates and its applied research is supported by 186 technicians.

Increasing Nutrition and Food Security through Sustainable Aquaculture in Mozambique and Namibia

Mozambique and Namibia are rich in freshwater resources thanks to inland bodies of waters that include rivers, lakes and reservoirs created by dams. They therefore have great potential to increase local production of fish and other aquatic food products, helping to improve rural and urban diets, promote enhanced food security, and further develop the national economies.

Aquaculture is known to be a sustainable practice that exponentially increases the availability of fish and other aquatic organisms through the breeding, rearing and harvesting of plants and animals in a range of water-based environments. It is proven to be an effective activity, often relying on simple techniques and technologies. However, the development of this sector requires specific knowledge and technical capacities.

Partner: Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences

Budget: PGTF input: \$23,000
Other inputs: \$67,500
Total: \$90,500

Approval Year: 2011

To expand the use of aquaculture and further unlock its potential for the benefit of impoverished communities, PGTF supported a project implemented by the Freshwater Fisheries Research Center of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences. The goal of the project was to share Chinese expertise in aquaculture methods with partners in the two Southern African countries.



Both Mozambique and Namibia have identified the development of fisheries sectors as important national priorities. They determined key constraints in the expansion of aquaculture, which included lack of quality feed for water organisms, scarcity of qualified technicians, limited integrated management of water resources, and deficient or non-existent infrastructure.

To overcome such challenges, Chinese aquaculture experts undertook technical field visits in 2013 and 2014 during which they supported the integration of fish farming, fish food and nutrition, hatchery management, and aquaculture development planning, policies and strategies. As a collaboration between Chinese institutions and local governments, those field visits focused on a joint definition of local parameters for the design of a detailed plan for the expansion and enhancement of aquaculture activities.

During those field visits, experts conducted baseline surveys and collected and analysed data on the most pressing needs and bottlenecks in local aquaculture development. Also, multi-stakeholder technical consultations were advanced by visiting numerous local farms to observe activities and collect raw data. In addition, those visits provided opportunities to exchange practical suggestions and share overall guidance with local farmers.

The surveys and consultations informed the formulation of a targeted technical training curriculum that integrated lectures, case studies, simple laboratory work, field demonstrations and practice. Subsequently, workshops were held in both countries to support the development of knowledge and skills among local participating trainees.

In addition, a series of reference publications on China's most advanced technologies and experiences that are the most relevant to the contexts of Mozambique and Namibia were compiled and shared with local partners to support their learning and capacity-building.



About the Partner

The **Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences** is the government scientific institution of the Ministry of Agriculture dedicated to promoting excellence in fishery sciences. The Academy plays an influential role in national fishery science and management policy and supports developments in fishery engineering and technology in a wide range of ways.

Enhancing Animal and Human Health in the South through Improving Capacities to Diagnose Brucellosis

Brucellosis is a highly contagious disease that predominantly affects large mammals, particularly sheep, cattle, goats, pigs and dogs. It can be transmitted from animals to humans through the ingestion of unpasteurized milk or undercooked meat from affected animals or by direct contact with the infected. Globally, brucellosis is considered a significant health threat. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), half a million people each year are reportedly affected in 100 countries. The incidence of brucellosis is higher among developing countries than global averages.

There are various effective approaches that control the incidence of brucellosis. These include milk pasteurization, vaccination of cattle, and eradication by testing and culling in regions with a low prevalence. It is therefore critical to build awareness among farmers and herders about brucellosis control techniques, enhance their diagnostic capacities and broaden the scope of vaccinations. Cross-border, coordinated and collaborative efforts have also been proven to be the most effective at systematically reducing the prevalence of the disease.

For that reason, Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), with the support of PGTF and UNDP, organized a conference in Irbid, Jordan, from 5 to 7 January 2014 to discuss various aspects of brucellosis control in Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and the State of Palestine. A total of 44 scientists from governments and universities in the five countries attended the meeting to share their respective perspectives, experiences and knowledge. The event aimed to develop a consensus plan on the greatest needs for the region, marking the first step in a strategy for joint action.

“Combatting brucellosis is comparable to an iceberg. There are two parts: the visible part

Partner: Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)

Budget: PGTF input: \$33,000
Other inputs: \$35,000
Total: \$68,000

Approval Year: 2012

of the iceberg is the tools and methods to control the disease...and then there are the less visible parts of disease control – political will, stakeholder commitment, vaccine quality – that make brucellosis control ineffective”, said Dr. Bruno Garin-Bastuji, Director of the OIE Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis.

During the workshop sessions, representatives from Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and the State of Palestine described their national perspectives. The debate centred on prevention and control programmes, risk assessment and innovative topics for further research studies on brucellosis.

“Palestine losses due to brucellosis are estimated at \$3 million per year, with most cases among humans occurring due to ingestion of unpasteurized dairy products sold locally”, stated Dr. Sameh Abuseir of An-Najah University in the State of Palestine.

The conference alternated between scientific discussions of technical issues such as pathogenesis and diagnostics of brucellosis, laboratory exercises for participants to test and refine their diagnostic skills in different scenarios, and negotiations towards greater regional cooperation on animal public health.

Following technical and political consultations between the representatives, a consensus plan was agreed upon outlining the greatest needs for enhanced brucellosis control in the region. Recommendations included:

- creation of a regional centre for brucellosis control, with a strong emphasis on promoting herder and farmer awareness of the disease;
- coordinated public health campaigns to decrease the consumption of unprocessed dairy products;
- joint animal health research;
- provision of training to animal health personnel; and
- coordinated massive screenings and diagnoses of animals.

About the Partner

Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) is a teaching and research centre focusing on science and technology. It was established in 1986 as an autonomous national institute of higher education located on the outskirts of Irbid in northern Jordan, 70 km north of the capital city of Amman.

Today JUST has more than 800 full-time faculty members and 20,000 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students. More than 5,000 international students represent 60 nationalities, making it the most culturally diverse university in Jordan. The university provides a wide range of advanced degree programmes at the undergraduate and graduate levels. At present, JUST comprises 12 faculties: Medicine, Engineering, Science and Arts, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine, Architecture, Information Technology, Applied Sciences, Nursing and Graduate Studies. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is internationally reputed for its veterinary education and is active in organizing regional and international training workshops and conferences.



Livestock herding is a way of life and a source of livelihood for us.”

– Falah Abdelhag Al-shidefat, Herder

Knowledge-sharing on Diagnoses, Surveillance and Control of Rabies in the Middle East and North Africa

Rabies is the most significant viral animal-transmitted disease in the world, killing approximately 100 children every day. Nearly 3 billion people in the world are at risk of rabies, and dogs are the main reservoir. Studies show that 98 per cent of rabies deaths follow dog bites, and 40 per cent of the victims are children under 15 years of age. However, rabies is preventable through the vaccination of dogs: with a 92 per cent reduction in canine rabies, there was an 82 per cent reduction in human rabies deaths.

A challenge remains in securing resources for the prevention and control of the disease under normal circumstances; however, the challenge is even greater in conflict areas where veterinary and public health services are impaired or paralysed.

A three-day regional workshop addressing rabies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region was held at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in June 2013 in Irbid, Jordan. Supported by PGTF, 33 scientists from governments and universities in four countries – Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and the State of Palestine – as well as from the private sector gathered to present and discuss various aspects of rabies diagnoses, surveillance and control.

Dr. Wail Hayajneh described the prophylactic measures that needed to be taken in cases of animal bites to humans. Working in Jordan, he also reported on the treatment of patients suspected of being bitten by rabid animals and emphasized the different protocols used in that country. The Ministry of Health of Jordan provided free vaccination and treatment of people, Dr. Hayajneh added.

Partner: Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)

Budget:

PGTF input:	\$23,000
Other inputs:	\$45,000
Total:	\$68,000

Approval Year: 2011

Discussing rabies from a food-hygiene perspective, Dr. Akram Al-Abboodi stated that the virus is found in the saliva, salivary glands and nervous tissue of diseased animals. Though infection does not occur through the consumption of meat from a rabid animal, abattoir personnel can contract the disease through surface contact with infected tissue. He stressed that extreme caution should be taken in slaughterhouses in order to prevent occupational hazards. Slaughter might be prohibited during a quarantine period of eight months following exposure to the disease.

Some of the recommendations from the three-day workshop included:

- vaccinate veterinarians, para-veterinarians, laboratory technicians and personnel, veterinary students at risk, slaughterhouse workers and meat inspectors against rabies;
- reactivate the control of stray dogs and use of animal birth control programmes while the registration of dogs should be encouraged as much as possible;
- establish, develop and support a central national diagnostic laboratory along with a

- well-equipped regional laboratory to act as a reference laboratory, and follow OIE guidelines;
- initiate and develop molecular research studies to identify the rabies virus phylogeny at the national and regional levels;
- systematically collect rabies information on humans and animals and encourage different institutions to collaborate to have a better understanding of rabies in a country; and
- encourage frequent regional capacity-building workshops for rabies diagnosis and control programmes, and mobilize donors including governments and foundations to support such efforts and activities.

About the Partner

Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) is a teaching and research centre in Jordan focusing on science and technology. It was established in 1986 as an autonomous national institute of higher education located on the outskirts of Irbid, in northern Jordan, 70 km north of the capital city of Amman.

Today JUST has more than 800 full-time faculty members and 20,000 undergraduate and 1,800 graduate students. Over 5,000 international students represent 60 nationalities, making it the most culturally diverse university in Jordan. The university provides a wide range of advanced degree programmes at the undergraduate and graduate levels. At present, JUST comprises 12 faculties: Medicine, Engineering, Science and Arts, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine, Architecture, Information Technology, Applied Sciences, Nursing and Graduate Studies. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is internationally reputed for its veterinary education and is active in organizing regional and international training workshops and conferences.





Chapter 3

Partner with PGTF

Partner with PGTF Priorities and Application Process¹¹

Project Eligibility

PGTF provides seed money for implementation of projects, pre-investment and feasibility studies or reports prepared by organizations in developing countries.

PGTF currently contributes about \$35,000 per project to initiatives with matching, or greater, contributions from the requesting institutions.¹² PGTF financing is preferentially provided to projects that have the most significant impact and area of coverage and lead to balanced and general benefits for the countries of the Group of 77 (G-77).

PGTF projects must have the following characteristics:

- The cooperative project will be carried out with a minimum of three countries.
- The project does not duplicate existing projects in developing countries and makes optimum use of capacities that already exist in developing countries.
- Project proposals address sectoral priorities contained in the Caracas Programme of Action, that is, trade, technology, food and agriculture, energy, raw materials, finance, industrialization and TCDC, as well as in the Havana Programme of Action.
- The project has inputs from other sources of an amount at least equal to the resources requested from PGTF.

PGTF-funded projects submit final reports that are published on the G-77 website¹³ and made publicly available.

Apply for PGTF Funding

Prior to Proposal Submission

- Subregional and regional institutions of developing countries have obtained the approval of their respective governing bodies and countries involved in the project.
- Inputs from other sources of an amount at least equal to the resources requested from PGTF have been secured by sponsors.

Proposals are submitted by 30 April each year

- Required documents:
 - Cover letter
 - Letters of endorsement;
- Nationally executed projects: Letters of endorsement from the countries that will participate in the activities of the project;
- Institutions including NGOs: Relevant decision of the respective governing bodies and countries involved in the project;
- Applications should be delivered to: Executive Secretariat of the Group of 77, United Nations Secretariat Building, Room S-0518, New York, NY 10017, United States of America. A copy of the application may also be submitted electronically to: secretariat@g77.org.

Review and approval process:

- Applications are reviewed between July and August, and projects receive final approval in September. Beneficiaries are notified if their project is approved by November or December.
- Approved beneficiaries will be requested to submit a detailed draft project document electronically to UNOSSC.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.g77.org/pgtf>.

¹¹Following the adoption of resolution 38/201, the Group of 77 established a general framework for project identification and appraisal, which would include the general principles that would govern the use of the funds allocated under para "c" of resolution 38/201; and strengthened collaboration with UNDP for their implementation.

¹²Changes in the amount of PGTF financing available are announced at the beginning of each calendar year by the Executive Secretariat of the G-77.

¹³G-77 PGTF final project documents are available at: <http://www.g77.org/pgtf/completedproj.php>.

Testimonials

As an engineer with more than a dozen years of experience studying and teaching students about energy and biomass, I am passionate about creating and implementing new solutions in this field. This is what prompted me to participate in a PGTF project on biomass gasification. I thought it would be an excellent opportunity to share and learn best practices from engineers from other developing countries working in contexts similar to mine.

This PGTF project was an important contribution to my career as a researcher, mainly because it allowed me to improve my knowledge and gain additional skills directly applicable to the running of the biomass gasification pilot plant under my management. I had the opportunity to learn about best practices in gasification modelling from engineers from specialized institutions in Brazil and Cuba. We also had a chance to showcase the work that we had done in Argentina, as we demonstrated the

functioning of the plant and its processes and presented our results at a workshop with participants from the sugar industry in the province of Tucumán.

I consider the joint work we undertook with the Brazilian laboratory to be highly relevant, since it strengthened the studies we have been doing in our laboratory in Argentina on the characterization of energy from different biomasses in the region. Similarly, the contribution made by the Cuban laboratory to a mathematical model for the gasification reactor reinforces the design of our reactor and verifies the limits of its operation, which is enormously helpful.

The project made it possible to strengthen links between the three participating institutions and consolidated our working group on the study of biomass gasification technology. I will build on these experiences as I continue studying and working in this field.



Eng. Marcos Golato, Obispo Colombres
Experimental Agroindustrial Station, Faculty
of Exact Sciences and Technology, National
University of Tucuman.

Rearing sheep is a centuries-old practice. It is a way of life and a source of livelihood for us, which has allowed us to build our houses, marry our children and send them to universities. With intensified migration among neighbouring countries, notably from Syria and Iraq, animal diseases are increasingly crossing national borders. At times this spread of infectious

diseases results in a large number of deaths among sheep as well as in rising animal health costs. Currently, herding is barely a profitable business for us.

We have been feeling insufficiently supported by national authorities and the international community as we absorb the impact of animal

diseases travelling across countries. At this regional workshop on the disease *peste des petits ruminants*, we learned about best practices on how to recognize animal diseases early on, take pictures and videos of the clinical signs, collect samples, tentatively diagnose the disease and share this information with the veterinarians. After participating in the workshop, we returned to our communities with valuable information on how to control this disease currently affecting our sheep.

We also learned the importance of vaccination and how to store, transport and vaccinate our sheep with the PPR vaccine. In addition, we heard about the experiences of scientists from other countries in the region and the opinions of international experts on how to deal with

and control *peste des petits ruminants* in sheep and goats. The PGTF workshop provided a space for us to collaborate with the regional and international communities and begin to overcome some of these major obstacles.”



Prof. Dr. Nabil Hailat, Professor of Veterinary Pathology, Jordan University of Science and Technology, and Falah Abdelhag Al-shidefat, lead herder from the Mafrag region of Jordan, on behalf of workshop participants

I have experienced much satisfaction in my career, as I have been directly involved in the practical application of knowledge through the work of the International Centre on Small Hydro Power developing hydropower resources across China and supporting other developing countries to tap into their own hydropower capacities.

I have had the opportunity to see first-hand many of China’s good practices in this clean energy sector. Thanks to small hydropower, today one third of Chinese counties and 300 million rural Chinese people have energy. China is designing new methods and practices for effective small hydropower plants every day, as well as improving our technologies and management processes. We have much expertise and many success stories to share for

the benefit of others across the global South. PGTF projects have supported us in these efforts, enabling a greater number of professionals from various developing countries to participate in trainings, research and joint exercises.

While working with technical experts from Africa, Asia and Latin America through our PGTF projects, I realized how eager these peers are to learn and how much work remains to be done in vast rural areas of the world to unleash the potential of hydropower to improve lives.

One particularly meaningful experience was advising Uruguayan counterparts to plan and lead the refurbishment of their small hydropower centres. Hydropower is an incredible source of clean energy; hence small interventions can have very meaningful impact even in middle income countries.

PGTF projects have allowed us to sustain partnerships with other institutions working in this specialized field even after the completion of activities. We are not only able to create development impact together but also lasting friendships.



Dr. Hu Xiaobo, Division Chief, International Centre on Small Hydro Power (ICSHP)

As a Palestinian woman, growing up in an unstable political environment made me passionate to work in humanitarian affairs. I have always had a drive to pursue a career in community development. My current work at Action Against Hunger focuses on increasing the access of vulnerable communities to safe water and adequate sanitation and on supporting the development of sustainable livelihoods among small-scale livestock breeders. I support farmers' cooperatives, women income-generation activities and livestock breeders' enhanced access to markets.

The PGTF workshop on infrastructure development for rural growth in Organization of Islamic Cooperation countries provided me with a wealth of information on different rural development models currently being used to improve livelihoods through both market-based and publicly supported initiatives. The workshop had a strong focus on water, particularly in the context of climate change. Viable and cost-effective approaches to rationalize water use in agriculture were presented by experts from various countries. These presentations were very

interesting to me, as I compared their practices and technologies with the policies and strategies of the Palestinian Water Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture of the State of Palestine, with which Action Against Hunger works very closely in support of farmers and herders.

One of my main conclusions from this workshop is that knowledge is increased through sharing, so pass it on! The discussions allowed me to not only learn from others but also to present my experience and get feedback from peers, and to challenge colleagues from other Organization of Islamic Cooperation countries as they described their projects. There are many lessons from this workshop which I took home to share with my networks and that will directly improve the lives of small family farmers.

I look forward to PGTF continuing to support these types of workshops, which are instrumental in enabling government and humanitarian workers like myself to better service underprivileged communities.



Ms. Yasmin Bali,
Head of Project,
Action Against
Hunger

In recent years, my research activities have increasingly focused on alcohol fermentation. A topic that I am particularly interested in is how to balance rapid advances in fermentation technology with sustainable approaches that are environmentally sound. For this reason, I was

very excited to participate in the South-South cooperation conference organized by PGTF and the International Sugar Organization. It was an excellent opportunity to learn more about emerging trends, current opportunities and challenges in the international market for sugar.

The conference offered me a chance to exchange technical knowledge with specialists on alcohol fermentation from various institutions in developing countries. I benefited enormously from discussions on the fermentative potential of molasses, the use of yeasts in the production of alcohol, analytical techniques, market characterization, and novel aspects of second-generation alcohol.

I was also excited to share my research findings with participants at the conference. My presentation led to in-depth conversations with project coordinators from Mexico, Cuba and Brazil as well as with technical staff in Cuba, culminating in a peer-reviewed scientific article that will be published this year. Moreover, it established a

working relationship that we look forward to continuing in years to come.

Participation in these scientific and technical exchanges has positively impacted my development as a professional and has created an incentive for me to improve myself. Thanks to the skills and knowledge that I learned at this PGTF event, I am able to face new scientific challenges and have developed channels for exchanges with specialists from other countries to help us work together and provide one another with feedback and technical support.

Ms. Keyla Tortoló Cabañas, Cuban Research Institute on Sugarcane By-products

For over 25 years, I have been working on issues relating to energy, environment and climate change. I feel very passionate about the sustainable development agenda and have experienced first-hand the need for countries to engage in international collaboration to promote and develop clean energy.

In my role as Executive Director of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), I was excited to partner with the International Centre on Small Hydro Power, an institution of the Government of China, on a PGTF project dedicated to improving hydropower facilities in Africa. There are so many water bodies in Africa that are not harnessed for their hydropower potential. We need much support from other countries in terms of knowledge, expertise and resources to produce clean energy.

This project gave 30 engineers across Africa an opportunity to be trained in the design, supply and installation of small hydropower equipment, thereby contributing to Africa's efforts to overcome the many barriers that have hindered access to clean energy for all.

As the Executive Director of a subregional centre, I am aware of the learning that can arise when different countries exchange knowledge and skills. Collaborative arrangement always lead to further joint projects and expanded sustainable development impact. In partnership with the International Centre on Small Hydro Power, we are already planning e-seminars and workshops in China and training programmes in Africa to provide follow-on activities to this project.

All projects improving energy access in our region are highly welcome. Bringing energy security and reliability to our communities changes lives and opens up enormous opportunities for our people.



Mr. Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director, ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Cabo Verde, and African Energy Leader of the Year (2017)

In my daily activities as a Strategic Projects Specialist at the Pakistan Agriculture Coalition, a non-profit organization, I regularly encounter the challenges faced by small farmers and seek solutions and applicable good practices that can help them to overcome them. For this reason, I was very keen to attend the training programme for microfinance-sector development for Organization of Islamic Cooperation countries organized with PGTF support.

This workshop was a great learning experience about the various microfinance approaches adopted in the other countries for the benefit of vulnerable communities. I had an opportunity to present a case study from our work, an initiative that has enabled the disbursement of the first-ever loans by a leading Pakistani bank to farmers with crops, as opposed to land, as collateral. The Habib Bank Limited in Punjab, Pakistan, was our partner in this very successful innovation, which I strongly believe can be replicated in other countries, particularly in Uganda, given the exchanges that I had with partners during this workshop.

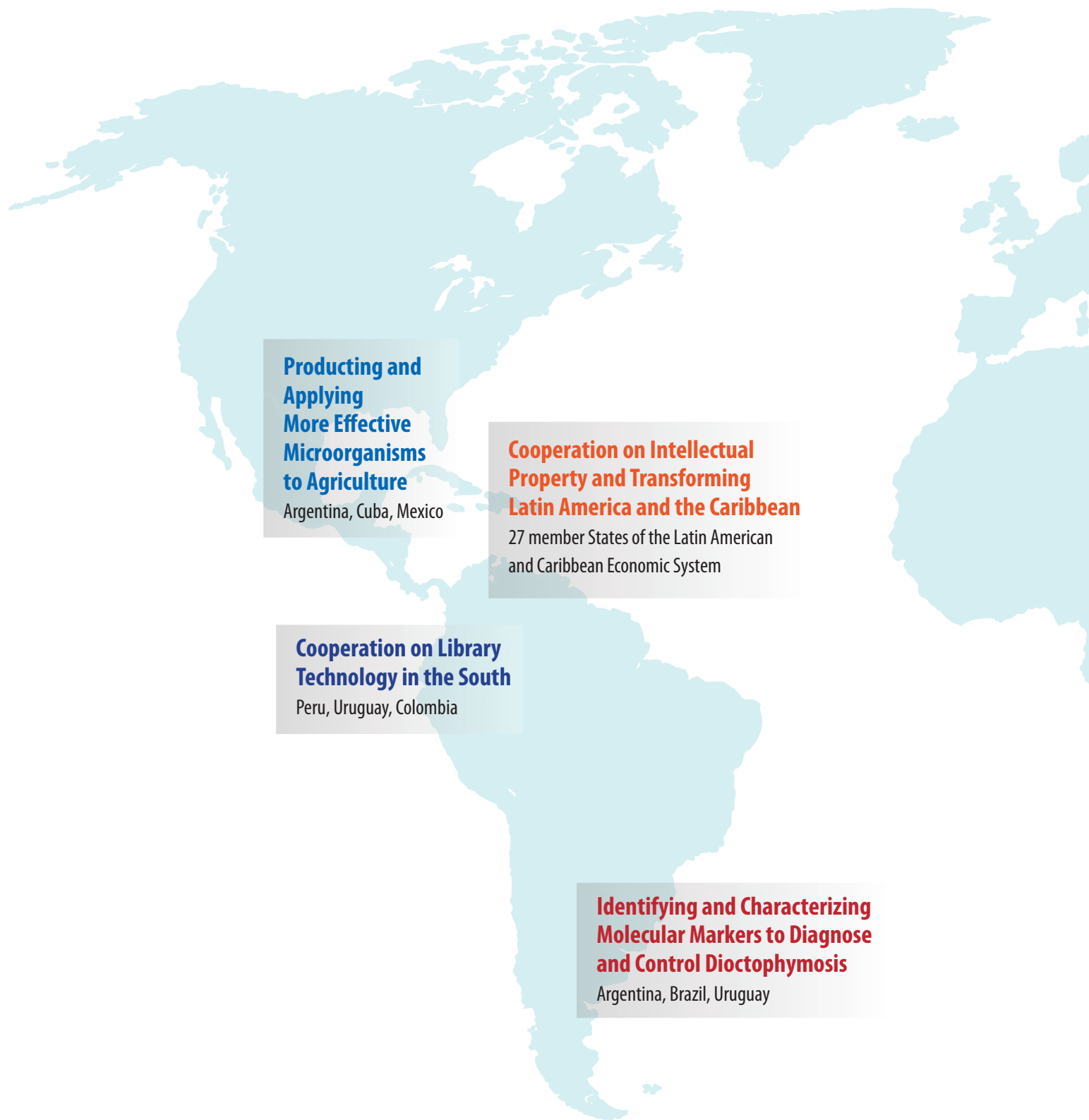
Loans worth PRs 3.7 million were disbursed against 185 tons of wheat to two farmers whose wheat was placed in a warehouse operated by Agility Pakistan after it had been tested by Société Générale de Surveillance Pakistan. The stocks are under pledge to Habib Bank Limited at the Pakistan Mercantile Exchange.

I view this case as the birth of a new era for Pakistan's farmers, as the warehouse receipts business model has now been adapted to the Pakistani environment and has proven to work well. Given that Pakistan is a major gains producer, this system is highly promising as a means to improve the financial inclusion of farmers, help them increase their market access, protect crop quality, ensure foodstuff price stability, and ultimately enhance competitiveness and food security. I am glad that we were able to share this experience with other countries and hope that it will support their efforts in advancing similar initiatives and objectives.



Ms. Zarmeen Hassan, Strategic Projects Specialist, Pakistan Agriculture Coalition

Map of the PGTF Footprint for the 2016/2017 Funding Cycle



Producing and Applying More Effective Microorganisms to Agriculture

Argentina, Cuba, Mexico

Cooperation on Intellectual Property and Transforming Latin America and the Caribbean

27 member States of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System

Cooperation on Library Technology in the South

Peru, Uruguay, Colombia

Identifying and Characterizing Molecular Markers to Diagnose and Control Diactophymosis

Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay



Diversifying the Economies of Landlocked Least Developed Countries

Mongolia, Nepal, Bhutan, Paraguay

Improving Diagnostic Medicine and Increasing Capacity to Treat Abortive Disease and Address Neonatal Deaths in Livestock in the MENA Region

Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey, Afghanistan, the State of Palestine, Jordan

Developing Entrepreneurs in IT for the Organization of Islamic Countries

Developing countries of the OIC

Solar Energy Improves Rural Livelihoods in South and Southeast Asia

China, India, Philippines, Sri Lanka

Promoting Renewable Energy and Off-grid Power in East African Countries

China, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda

Developing Micro Hydropower Plants on Existing Irrigation Canals for Sustainable Socioeconomic Development of Rural Areas

China, India, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Madagascar

Application and Promotion of Plastic Functional Materials in Developing Countries

China, Malaysia, Indonesia

Assessment for Creating Bamboo Development Policies under the “One Belt One Road” Initiative

China, Thailand, India, Kenya

Supporting e-Commerce in Small and Medium Enterprises in Developing Countries

China, Seychelles, United Republic of Tanzania, Ecuador



