



Regional Dialogue

The Role of South-South and Triangular Collaboration in Accelerating Progress towards Zero Hunger, No Poverty and Reduced Inequalities in Africa

Tuesday, 25 January 2022 | 10:00 – 13:30 GMT | Venue: [Zoom](#)

Introduction

Africa is not on track to eliminate poverty and attain zero hunger (Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2). The number of people going hungry in sub-Saharan Africa has risen to 234.7 million (FAO, 2021). This worsening food insecurity has been compounded by the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. If Africa is to accelerate its progress towards the achievement of SDGs 1 and 2, then the transformation of food systems will have to be prioritized to ensure access to affordable and healthy diets for all.

Essential interventions in this regard include research and extension to improve yields, sustainable intensification of production, scaling up the adoption of modern technologies and empower women's empowerment. New and innovative ways of working together and adopting creative approaches are also necessary. South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)¹ has a key contributory role to play in the diffusion and scaling up of innovative solutions for sustainable and inclusive food systems transformation.

SSTC has been recognized internationally as a key delivery mechanism for catalyzing agricultural development, food security, rural development, poverty reduction and nutrition. Innovation in the global South is generating new tools and partnerships for tackling issues of food insecurity, poverty reduction and sustainable agriculture, with a huge potential to be shared, adapted and adopted. SSTC is therefore playing a greater than ever role in development cooperation, with its demand at an all-time high.

¹ **SSC** is the mutual sharing and exchange of key development solutions – knowledge, experiences and good practices, policies, technology, and resources – between and among countries in the global South.

TrC involves two or more countries of the global South in collaboration with a third party, typically a multilateral institution, traditional resource partner, or emerging economy, facilitating SSC through the provision of technical or financial resources.

The importance of SSC to FAO's work

FAO has actively played its role as a knowledge broker and key facilitator of exchange among countries through a variety of modalities such as short- and long-term deployment of experts, study tours, policy dialogues and technology exchanges.. Between 2009 and 2020, FAO established and sustained relevant SSTC trust funds such as the FAO-China Trust Fund (Phase II and III) and the FAO-Morocco Trust Fund). Through these trust funds, FAO has mobilized financial and in-kind resources and helped matchmaking among partners interested in providing, adapting and/or upscaling development solutions. Other key SSC providers include Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, with Japan and the Republic of Korea as key triangular partners.

In recognition of its transformative role, SSTC has been progressively institutionalized in FAO's corporate planning and programmatic documents and processes over the last twenty years. In the most recent Medium-Term Plan (MTP) 2022-25, it was recognized that SSTC will serve as a key delivery mechanism of the new Strategic Framework. In 2021, a new FAO SSTC Strategic Action Plan was developed that raises the bar for FAO to increase its capacity as a global advocator, convener, broker, facilitator and enabler of SSTC in the area of agriculture and food systems as part of the Decade of Action to accelerate the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and particularly SDG 2. Based on the progress made and lessons learned so far, the framework outlines a new and more programmatic, focused, result-based, systematic, quality-assured approach to mainstream SSTC in FAO.

Sub-Saharan Africa is a region of key importance to FAO's work on SSTC, being host to nearly 80% of the Organization's SSTC projects. Through these projects, FAO has successfully facilitated exchanges of cost-effective experiences and technical know-how relevant to local conditions, for strengthening food security and nutrition. For example, Chinese drip-irrigation technology has enabled Nigerian farmers to grow crops during the dry season and significantly increase their incomes. Through Triangular Cooperation, shared expertise from Viet Nam and funding from Spain provided a significant boost to Namibia's aquaculture sector.

African governments, including those of Nigeria and Angola have also contributed financially to the cost of implementing SSTC in their respective countries by establishing unilateral trust funds. Other innovative funding mechanisms such as the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund were established to facilitate intra-regional cooperation.

Given the growing demand from countries for exchange with their peers, the increased interest in solutions from the Global South, and the willingness of triangular partners to finance SSTC projects in Africa, SSTC continues its upward trend of being an effective means to transform Africa's agriculture and rural development. With this plethora of SSTC interventions in the region over the last couple of decades, it is important to take stock of the achievements and challenges in supporting efforts towards zero hunger and

elimination of poverty, highlight lessons learned particularly for sustaining the impact of interventions and forge a new way forward.

Objectives of the Regional Dialogue

The overall objective is to bring together national governments, the Rome-Based Agencies, development partners and other stakeholders to discuss the good practices, success stories, challenges and the way forward for SSTC in the region. The following are expected in particular:

- Raise awareness among stakeholders and partners on key results achieved at country level;
- Provide recommendations for better institutionalizing and sustaining the impacts of SSTC at country level;
- Provide avenues for enhanced collaboration among UN agencies.

Format of the Regional Dialogue

The meeting will be composed of short panel discussions. Participants will be actively encouraged to bring in their contributions using the Chat function of Zoom. Other interactive online tools will be explored to allow participants to share their inputs to the discussions.

The Regional Dialogue will be hosted by FAO and held virtually on Zoom from 10:00 – 13:30 GMT. The language will be English, with simultaneous interpretation into French. Participation in the meeting is open to all.

Tentative Agenda

Time	Session
10:00 – 10:15	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks <i>Abebe Haile-Gabriel</i> <i>Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</i> • Introductory statements <i>Anping Ye</i> <i>Director, South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</i> • <i>Xiaojun Wang</i> <i>Deputy-Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation</i>
10:15 – 10:55	<p>Session 1: Country Perspectives on Successes and Challenges in Facilitating Policy, Knowledge and Technology Transfer in Africa</p> <p>This session will present highlights of key achievements in SSTC in Africa, targeting reduction in poverty, hunger and inequalities in Africa. Emphasis will be placed on the main results, the challenges experienced, and the key institutional factors for success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion featuring national government representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Fatima Aliyu, Head of Rice Value Chain, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria</i> ○ <i>Peter Muyimbo, Uganda-China South-South Cooperation project, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Uganda</i> ○ <i>Wally Diouf, Coordinator, National Program for Self Sufficiency in Rice (NPSR), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment</i> ○ <i>Namibia (TBC)</i> <p>Moderator: Robert Guei, Subregional Coordinator for West Africa, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</p>
10:55 – 11:10	<p>Moderated Question & Answer Session + Group Photo</p>

<p>11:10 – 11:40</p>	<p>Session 2: Enhancing Inter-Agency Coordination and Coherence on SSTC in the context of the UN reforms in Africa</p> <p>South-South and Triangular Cooperation is a key modality for the achievement of Agenda 2030, with the United Nations system playing a critical role in its facilitation. There is however, an increased recognition of the need for greater coherence, coordination, and collaboration at global, regional and country-levels. In particular, what opportunities does the United Nations System-Wide Strategy on South-South Cooperation provide for UN agencies to ‘deliver as one’ at regional and country-level?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irina Curca, Programme Officer, South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations • Orria Goñi, SDG Finance and South-South Cooperation Regional Advisor, United Nations Development Programme • Mawira Chitima, Country Director and Head of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Knowledge Centre, International Fund for Agricultural Development • Carola Kengott, Global Coordinator for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, World Food Programme <p>Moderator: Peter Anaadumba, Regional South-South Cooperation Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</p>
<p>11:40 – 11:50</p>	<p>Wellness break</p>
<p>11:50 – 12:30</p>	<p>Break-out groups: Where do we go from here? SSTC for accelerated progress towards SDG1 and 2</p>
<p>12:30 – 13:20</p>	<p>Plenary: Reporting back from groups + Open discussion</p>
<p>13:20 – 13:30</p>	<p>Closing remarks <i>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (TBC)</i></p>