



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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FAO–China South–South Cooperation Programme

In brief

About the programme

The FAO–China South–South Cooperation (SSC) Programme leverages cost-effective, adaptable, and scalable solutions and technologies to address pressing challenges in agriculture and food security in developing countries. This initiative draws upon China’s extensive experience in the sustainable transformation of agrifood systems. The Programme was initiated as a result of a strategic engagement between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the government of the People’s Republic of China, leading to the establishment of a trust fund for South–South cooperation in 2009. To date, the government of China has contributed a total of USD 130 million to support the implementation of three phases of the FAO–China SSC Programme.



Objective of the programme

The objective of the FAO-China SSC Programme is to act as a catalyst for the sustainable transformation of agrifood systems and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This is achieved by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experiences between China and other developing nations. The Programme is underpinned by three fundamental principles:

- 1. Inspiration:** It aims to inspire partner countries to ignite the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of their farmers, and local and central governments.
- 2. Inclusion:** The Programme focuses on the involvement of all stakeholders, including farmers, women, rural youth, and both state and non-state actors.
- 3. Innovation:** It strives to innovate new approaches, technologies, and solutions to address the critical challenges faced by agriculture and food systems.



Scope of the programme

The FAO-China SSC Programme has a broad scope, aimed at advancing practical solutions for sustainable agrifood system transformations. This is accomplished by providing a blend of technical and capacity-building support at both grassroots and institutional levels, complemented by policy level assistance in the design of appropriate strategies and policies.

A distinctive aspect of the Programme is the extended deployment of Chinese experts to other developing nations. These experts offer on-site technical support, training, and practical demonstrations related to sustainable agricultural practices and technologies.

On both a regional and global scale, the Programme contributes to policy development and capacity enhancement by organizing high-level events, conducting capacity-building training sessions, and hosting workshops.



Priority focus areas of the programme

The priority focus areas of the FAO-China SSC Programme include:

- ① agricultural production and productivity;
- ② value chains and trade;
- ③ tropical agriculture and dryland farming;
- ④ resilience building;
- ⑤ emergency response;
- ⑥ food loss and waste, and
- ⑦ innovation and digital agriculture.

Under these areas the Programme is committed to a diverse array of agriculture-related themes. These include cereal production and animal husbandry, horticulture, fisheries and aquaculture, rural energy, post-harvest techniques, irrigation, mechanization, water and soil management, conservation of agricultural heritage sites, and various other pertinent topics.



Implementation modalities of the programme

The Programme primarily employs the following implementation modalities, particularly at the grassroots and institutional levels:

- Long-term and short-term assignments of Chinese experts and technicians in the field.
- Capacity building through the training of trainers (ToT), and direct, hands-on technical assistance as well as on-site demonstrations.
- Introduction of novel agricultural and farming practices and technologies, and adaptation to local circumstances.
- Ensuring the sustainability of outcomes by integrating SSTC projects into broader national development objectives/ programmes of the host countries and catalysing additional resources, including private and public finance and investment.





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Key achievements of the programme

The Programme has achieved the following significant milestones:

- Expanded its reach and influence through **29 projects**, comprising 17 national, 8 global, 2 regional, and 2 triangular projects.
- Benefited more than **100 000 direct beneficiaries**, with millions more indirectly impacted.
- Deployed over **320 long-term Chinese experts** and technicians in host countries to provide on-the-ground support.
- Introduced over **330 crop varieties** and implemented hundreds of low-cost and scalable technologies.
- Facilitated the introduction of more than **200 agricultural machines** and tools in the host countries.
- Provided capacity building training to hundreds of thousands of participants from over **100 countries**, both in China and host countries.
- Significantly enhanced local agricultural production in a number of developing countries.



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Partner with the FAO-CHINA SSC programme

- **Host countries:** provision of complementary financial and/or in-kind resources to enhance project reach and impact.
- **Triangular cooperation partners:** cost-sharing arrangements for joint implementation of projects and activities.
- **Academic, research and centres of excellence:** technical-level collaborations to deliver capacity building initiatives.
- **Private sector and financial institutions:** co-financing of projects and scaling-up results achieved through the projects.



Procedures and steps for project implementation under the FAO-China SSC Programme

PHASE	Steps/Procedures
Phase 1: Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Identification of a potential project idea: A formal request, endorsed at the Ministerial level, accompanied by a concise project concept note, is submitted to FAO. Proposals for global and regional projects are initiated by FAO. > Submission of concept note for preliminary assessment: The Project Management Unit (PMU) in FAO, in collaboration with relevant technical units, conducts an initial review of the project proposal. > Review and endorsement of concept note: The project proposal is reviewed and approved at the Annual Consultation Meeting (ACM) of the Programme.
Phase 2: Formulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Baseline study: FAO conducts a baseline study based on the project concept note. > Appraisal/formulation mission: Joint appraisal and formulation missions involving FAO, China, and the host country are carried out to develop the project. > Project formulation: A project task force is established, and the project document is formulated.
Phase 3: Appraisal and Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Finalization of the project document: The project document is finalized and is submitted to internal clearances in FAO. > Approval of the project document and funding agreement: The project document and funding agreement are approved and signed by FAO, the resource partner(s), and recipient government(s).
Phase 4: Implementation and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Selection and approval of Chinese cooperants: Experts and technicians to be deployed to the host countries are selected in China and technically cleared by FAO. > Launching of the project: The project is officially launched at an inception workshop organized in the host country upon the arrival of the Chinese experts and technicians. > Implementation: project implementation commences according to an agreed procurement and annual work plans. > Monitoring, performance assessment, and reporting: six-month progress reports, mid-term review, and terminal reports are produced and submitted.
Phase 5: Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Evaluation: project evaluation is undertaken upon completion of the project.
Phase 6: Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Operational and financial closure: The project undergoes operational and financial closure upon its completion.



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