



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

**FAO'S  
SOUTH-SOUTH  
AND TRIANGULAR  
COOPERATION  
TO ACHIEVE THE  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

***Fostering partnerships  
among the global South***





## Powerful partnerships to address common challenges

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is rapidly gaining ground as a powerful delivery mechanism in the development cooperation landscape. It has been recognized as a key means of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with particular reference to UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

SSTC initiatives, facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), may involve two or more countries of the global South, sometimes in collaboration with a third party. By sharing innovative development solutions, such as knowledge, policies, technologies and resources, countries are able to overcome challenges that once seemed insurmountable.

More than two decades of experience has positioned FAO as a leading player in SSTC for improved food and nutrition security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. By helping countries in the global South facing similar challenges to pool experiences and good practices, partnerships are being formed to advance progress in tackling global development issues together. FAO's key role lies in matching supply and demand, and providing technical support to ensure the quality of the exchange.

Based on a selection of recent case studies where SSTC has produced impact for beneficiary countries, this brochure showcases inspiring solutions to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, highlighting the potential of partnerships to address common problems.

# Strategic partnership between China and Uganda boosts food security and farmer incomes



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGETS



For years, low production, productivity and profitability rates have compromised the food and nutrition security and livelihoods of more than 70 percent of the population in Uganda, whose economy is largely based on subsistence agriculture. To combat the problem, FAO has helped to forge a partnership between the Governments of China and Uganda aimed at transferring skills and boosting agricultural production through sustainable technologies.

The Tripartite Agreement on the South-South Cooperation project between FAO and the Governments of China and Uganda, supported by the FAO-China South-South Cooperation programme, has targeted the priority areas of crop, horticulture, livestock and aquaculture production in Uganda, as well as the introduction of new varieties and technologies to address crosscutting issues. These latter included renewable energy, agro-machinery and improved water harvesting and irrigation.

The second phase of the South-South Cooperation project has involved deploying five Chinese experts and eleven technicians in Uganda over a two-year period (2016-2018), helping to improve technologies used to produce rice, foxtail millet, maize, table grapes, apples and cherry tomatoes as well as animal reproduction (e.g. goats, pigs, sheep and fish).

Study tours to China for Ugandan high-level agricultural officials and technicians have helped to build capacity, with training offered in horticulture, livestock, hybrid rice, foxtail millet and aquaculture production, and biogas construction. Meanwhile, representatives from other African countries have visited Uganda to learn from the South-South Cooperation project.

All activities have been undertaken through a cost-sharing approach between FAO, China and Uganda and a team of Chinese South-South Cooperation experts and Ugandan counterparts is helping to ensure that the transferred Chinese technologies are implemented in a sustainable manner.





The project has achieved the following specific results:

- \* Rice production has increased fourfold, from 2.5 tonnes to 10 tonnes per hectare.
- \* More than 3 000 Ugandan farmers and 80 government staff have been trained.
- \* Milk production has increased from 2 to 7 litres per cow per day.
- \* High-quality, low-cost fish feed techniques have increased aquaculture production.
- \* Rice-fish, foxtail millet and mushroom production have generated revenues for farmers.

In addition, main highlights included the setting up of:

- \* Agricultural cooperation industrial parks in Uganda's Luwero and Kalungu districts.
- \* Seven operating technology hubs in key production areas.
- \* Thirty-six demonstration sites for horticulture, livestock, cereal, rice-fish, fish feed processing, biogas units, sweet potato and beef jerky processing.
- \* Six sustainable business models to explore ways of combining farmers' practices with Chinese technologies and agricultural value chain development.

All the results achieved by the South-South Cooperation project have been welcomed both by local farmers and the Government of Uganda, which expressed its gratitude in a letter signed by President H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museven.

**PROJECT NAME:** Technical Assistance under the South-South Cooperation with the People's Republic of China in support of the Agricultural Sector Strategy Plan in the Republic of Uganda: Phase 2

**IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES:** Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries of the Republic of Uganda, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China and FAO

**COUNTRIES:** Republic of Uganda and the People's Republic of China

**PROJECT PERIOD:** January 2016 – January 2018

## HIGHLIGHTS



More than 3 000 farmers  
and 80 government  
staff trained



Rice production increased from  
2.5 tonnes to  
10 tonnes per hectare



A Chinese-Uganda agricultural  
cooperation industrial park  
established

# City-to-City Cooperation for nutritious urban diets in Cabo Verde, Cameroon and Senegal



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGETS



In many parts of the global South, rapid urbanization has brought significant challenges in its wake, including increased poverty and growing levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. With agricultural land swallowed up by urban sprawl, access to healthy, fresh food is difficult, leading to diets based largely on energy-dense products that are low in nutrients. Many city dwellers suffer from the triple burden of malnutrition – undernutrition, micronutrient deficiency and obesity.

As part of FAO's South-South Cooperation Programme, the City-to-City Initiative is promoting the potential of mutual support between local governments to make their cities and interconnected regions more food secure. With a focus on improving local food security and nutrition, Dakar (Senegal) shared its experience with Douala (Cameroon) and Praia (Cabo Verde) in developing micro-gardens, which allowed vulnerable groups to produce fresher, more nutritious and diverse food in urban spaces. The participatory pilot project used a range of South-South Cooperation modalities such as demonstrations at field level, training of trainers, study tours, exchange of experts and policy dialogues.

Five technicians and representatives from Douala and Praia travelled to Dakar for capacity-building, which included training in horticulture, recovering materials to make simple micro-gardens, and setting up a demonstration centre. Senegalese horticulture experts also visited Douala and Praia to provide technical support and showcased how micro-gardens can be used to improve food security and nutrition for vulnerable urban communities, as well as increasing incomes through the sale of excess production.

An awareness-raising workshop held in Dakar enabled participants from a number of West African cities to learn about developing urban food policies and sustainable food systems, and to exchange their own experiences, in support of policy and strategy development. Food security and nutrition issues have now been included in twinning agreements between several of these cities.





As a direct result of the City-to-City Initiative, the municipality of Praia has inaugurated a demonstration centre for micro-gardens, sensitized families on growing food at home, and actively promoted the technique through social media. Meanwhile, the city government of Douala has requested FAO's assistance in developing a food strategy. The experience has also enabled FAO to understand how to fine-tune urban South-South Cooperation at local level, so as to replicate the City-to-City Initiative in other settings.



**PROJECT NAME:** City-to-City Cooperation Pilot Project on Micro-gardens

**IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES:** Ville de Dakar, Communauté Urbaine de Douala and Câmara Municipal da Praia and FAO

**COUNTRIES:** Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Senegal.

**PROJECT PERIOD:** January 2017 - December 2017

**VIDEO:** <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/videos/video/en/c/1148032/>

## HIGHLIGHTS



First South-South Cooperation project carried out at local level which provided technical support to Douala and Praia in the field of food security and nutrition



Through micro-gardens, families gained access to fresh and nutritious food and were able to sell their surplus and diversify their income



Technicians from Douala and Praia were trained (training of trainers) in micro-gardening techniques and mainstreamed the technology locally

# Brazil shares its experience on contract farming with Lao PDR



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGETS



A request from the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) for FAO support in helping to develop contract farming has led to a partnership with Brazil, which has longstanding experience in the sector. The Southeast Asian country was keen to draw up a legislative and regulatory framework for contract farming as an option for farmers wanting to ensure market access and improve production. Contract farming, which enables the agro-industry and buyers to guarantee supply, leads to economies of scale. These can be of potential benefit for national economies, but unfair practices can be a problem for small-scale producers.

In Brazil, large numbers of medium- and small-sized farmers have contracts with agroprocessing firms, especially in the chicken, pig and citrus sectors, so the country was identified as the prime source for a South-South knowledge exchange. Specifically, Brazil's Federal University of Viçosa (UFV) was pinpointed as the lead technical partner, given its strong focus on agro-food chain coordination issues, including contract farming, and its prior links with FAO in this area.

As part of the South-South Cooperation project, two officers from the Lao PDR's Ministry of Agriculture participated in a study tour to various regions in Brazil, giving them first-hand knowledge of different contract farming models, along with a comprehensive understanding of the key processes and actors involved in developing a specific legal and regulatory framework.

As a follow-up, a total of 25 provincial and district farmers and agricultural officers from four target Lao PDR provinces received training from FAO and the University of Viçosa. They learned how to forge closer links with markets and establish fairer and more efficient agricultural and food systems in the country.







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As a result of the South-South Cooperation exchange, a national review of the legal and regulatory framework is currently taking place in the Lao PDR, with the aim of introducing a national Contract Farming Law, drawing on international experience, and particularly that of Brazil. The knowledge gained from this exchange will also foster the development of a work plan, and define detailed interventions on contract farming within an FAO supported national project.



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**PROJECT NAME:** South-South Cooperation Exchange on Contract Farming between People's Democratic Republic of Laos and the Federative Republic of Brazil

**IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES:** Department of Agricultural Extension Cooperatives of Lao PDR (DAEC), Federal University of Viçosa, Brazil and FAO

**COUNTRIES:** Brazil and Lao PDR

**PROJECT PERIOD:** December 2016 - May 2017

**VIDEO:** <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/south-south-cooperation/videos/video/en/c/1037205/>

## HIGHLIGHTS



Laotian officials from the Ministry of Agriculture participated in a study tour across different regions of Brazil



25 provincial and district agricultural officers and farmers from the Lao PDR trained in contract farming practices



As a result of the project, a national review of the legal and regulatory framework is ongoing in view of proposing a national Contract Farming Law

# Craft skills offer agribusiness opportunities for rural women in Central Asia

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGETS



Training in crafts and marketing for women in remote areas of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan is helping to tackle the problem of rural migration in Central Asia. In this region, the agriculture sector can no longer absorb the rural population, forcing people to leave in search of jobs and income. Diversifying income through improved rural crafts production can help to stem the rural exodus if the quality of local products can be enhanced, and barriers to trade overcome.

In an effort to tap the potential of this sector, creating jobs and generating income for rural communities in the process, FAO has facilitated a South-South Cooperation exchange between Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. With training supplied by Kyrgyz women entrepreneurs – including well-known designers and a marketing specialist – village women in pilot areas have been taught how to improve their skills in making eco-friendly rural products using local agricultural raw materials.

Using the training of trainers methodology, the project has also helped rural women to improve product appeal and marketability. This has been achieved by combining updated product designs, new colours and higher quality production with traditional craft techniques. To ensure long-term sustainability, women trained under the scheme have been encouraged to transfer their skills to others in their communities.

A first round of training workshops in 2017, which focused on enhancing the design of rural crafts, was followed by a second round in 2018, offering information on pricing, product promotion and marketing, including the use of information and communication technologies as a marketing tool. Rural women were shown how to promote their products on social media using a smartphone, resulting in increased sales at local, national and international level.





More than 160 rural women from remote areas have now acquired practical knowledge and skills and are engaged in profitable small-scale agribusiness ventures. In addition, the Kyrgyz trainers have developed a training module called Rural Crafts Business Basics, which has been successfully tested in the second round of training workshops in both Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. This model could be replicated in other villages across the two countries, as well as in other parts of Central Asia.

Initially involving assistance from the Central Asian Crafts Support Association in Kyrgyzstan, additional backing from the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation has led to further scaling out of the project in Uzbekistan, where the Hungarian Folk Artists Association has become involved as a third party.



**PROJECT NAME:** Diversify Rural Women's Income and Enhance Trade Capacity in Central Asia

**IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES:** Central Asian Crafts Support Association in Kyrgyzstan, Hungarian Folk Artists Association and FAO

**COUNTRIES:** Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan

**PROJECT PERIOD:** April 2017 - February 2018

## HIGHLIGHTS



More than 160 women trained in rural crafts training of trainers workshops



Two rounds of training workshops delivered



"Rural Crafts Business Basics" training module developed

# SSTC between Africa, Southeast Asia and Japan on statistics on rice production



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGETS



South-South and Triangular Cooperation between Africa, Southeast Asia and Japan is helping to strengthen statistics on rice production in the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) countries. With rice imports rising sharply in sub-Saharan Africa, currently accounting for almost 40 percent of the world's total, mobilizing international cooperation and implementing policies to ensure food security is an urgent imperative. But lack of reliable statistics on rice production is hampering progress in this direction.

A South-South and Triangular Cooperation project based on statistical methods and experiences from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the AfricaRice Center (AfricaRice), is seeking to improve the capacity of CARD countries to obtain reliable data on rice growing areas and/or yields in a timely manner.

The project, which is aimed at supporting countries in developing their statistical capacities, builds on expertise accumulated by the Government of Japan in Africa and the ASEAN region, where it played a key role in setting up the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS), designed to help member states – who are among the world's most prolific rice producing nations – to develop expertise in agricultural statistics. These assets and experience are now being shared with a number of African countries, particularly for rice production surveys. Lessons learned from another Japan-funded project, implemented in cooperation with AfricaRice to design a rice production survey method suitable for Africa, are also being used to develop local capacities in target countries of the current South-South and Triangular Cooperation project.

Activities to date have included identification of appropriate survey methods, training workshops staffed by ASEAN and AfricaRice experts, the production of manuals on survey methods prepared and tailored to the needs of each target CARD country, and pilot surveys conducted to improve survey skills and compare results collected by using different methods. The agreed survey methods were based on discussions with focal points in each target country, to encourage strong local ownership.





As of May 2018, training workshops and pilot surveys have been implemented in six countries – Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya and Madagascar. Regional and national workshops have been held to share results, highlighting the potential for some survey methods to be replicated and adapted for use in similar African countries.

**PROJECT NAME:**

Strengthening Agricultural Statistics and Food Security Information in CARD Countries through South-South Cooperation

**IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES:**

AfricaRice, ASEAN, Government of Japan, Ministries of the target CARD Countries and FAO

**COUNTRIES:** Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda

**PROJECT PERIOD:** December 2013 - November 2019



**HIGHLIGHTS**



Appropriate survey methods identified and manuals prepared



Training and pilot surveys implemented



Regional and national workshops conducted





**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
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**[www.fao.org/partnerships/south-south-cooperation](http://www.fao.org/partnerships/south-south-cooperation)**



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