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China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility

Annual Progress Report 2020



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Abbreviations and acronyms

AWPB	annual work plan and budgeting
COSOP	country strategic opportunities programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MOF PRC	Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
SFA	Supplementary Funds Agreement
SSTC	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
PoLG	programme of loans and grants
RBA	Rome-based agencies
RSP	Rural Solutions Portal
WFP	World Food Programme

I.

Overview

China-IFAD SSTC Facility: AT A GLANCE

1st

Facility in IFAD

dedicated
to SSTC

2

Types of instruments

Grants
Direct
disbursements

3

Priorities

South-South knowledge
exchange
Technology cooperation
Investment promotion



US\$10 million
in total
contribution



Global coverage
5 regions,
over 40
countries



13 projects
financed

- | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Algeria | 13. Dominican Republic | 25. Madagascar | 38. United Republic of Tanzania |
| 2. Argentina | 14. Ecuador | 26. Mexico | 39. Uruguay |
| 3. Bangladesh | 15. El Salvador | 27. Morocco | 40. Uzbekistan |
| 4. Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 16. Ethiopia | 28. Nicaragua | 41. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) |
| 5. Brazil | 17. Ghana | 29. Nigeria | 42. Viet Nam |
| 6. Cambodia | 18. Guatemala | 30. Pakistan | |
| 7. Cameroon | 19. Haiti | 31. Panama | |
| 8. Chile | 20. Honduras | 32. Paraguay | |
| 9. China | 21. Hungary | 33. Peru | |
| 10. Colombia | 22. Kenya | 34. Sudan | |
| 11. Congo | 23. Kyrgyzstan | 35. Trinidad and Tobago | |
| 12. Costa Rica | 24. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 36. Tunisia | |
| | | 37. Turkey | |



1.

The China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Facility (the Facility) was established on 31 March 2018 with the signing of the Supplementary Funds Agreement (SFA) between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (MOF PRC) and the contribution of US\$10 million in supplementary funds from the People's Republic of China. As the first Facility in IFAD dedicated to SSTC, it has become an integral part of IFAD's holistic business model to promote sustainable and inclusive rural transformation, and with specific attention to poverty reduction, fighting malnutrition and promoting rural youth employment in developing countries.

2.

Objectives. The Facility finances SSTC projects and programmes to complement IFAD's SSTC agenda by increasing the volume of South-South exchanges, spurring innovation, and promoting investments in rural areas in support of rural people. It pursues the overarching objective of mobilizing knowledge, technologies and resources from the Global South to accelerate rural poverty alleviation, enhance rural productivity, and advance rural transformation.

3.

Priorities. The Strategic Priorities of the Facility are to: 1) Promote innovations in strengthening the productive, managerial, financial and marketing capacities of rural people; 2) Pilot inclusive production and business models which generate higher incomes for rural people in agricultural and non-agricultural rural activities; 3) Promote investments and trade between developing countries that provide services or markets to rural people. The types of priority activities include enabling South-South knowledge exchange, establishing South-South technical cooperation, and promoting South-South rural investments.

4.

Repurposing of the 3rd call. To respond to and help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the poor and most vulnerable rural people, to support them in their recovery and to further strengthen their resilience to face such crises, the Facility has designated the funds for its third call towards projects that will improve the food security and resilience of poor rural people affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The third call will therefore support the generation and exchange of innovative solutions, approaches and methodologies that can be subsequently scaled up and adapted to similar crises to benefit a wider population of poor rural people. The projects are expected to demonstrate features including country ownership, local capacity development, inclusive participation, technology and organization innovation, as well as stronger and innovative South-South cooperation.

5.

Linkages to IFAD's SSTC Strategy. The Facility is in alignment with IFAD's corporate SSTC Strategy; in that it complements IFAD's SSTC activities undertaken in its programme of loans and grants (PoLG). The Facility ensures that the projects and activities it finances align with the Country Strategic Opportunities Programmes (COSOPs), build on IFAD's expertise of providing loans and grants, and promote SSTC partnerships and synergies with a broad range of development partners.

6.

Types of instruments. The Facility finances two types of instruments: grants and direct disbursements. Grants are implemented by recipients external to IFAD, such as government organizations, non-profit organizations, business entities, UN and other multilateral organizations. In this case, IFAD, as the sponsoring entity, is responsible for quality assurance of the design and supervision of the project. All the relevant rules and regulations (i.e. related to disbursement, supervision, reporting etc.) for the implementation of IFAD regular grants would apply in this case.

7.

Direct disbursements are implemented by IFAD divisions. In this case, a division in IFAD is the direct recipient of the funding and is directly responsible for the implementation of the project and the achievement of the objectives stated in the project document.

8.

Financial Status. The Facility has placed three calls for proposals since its establishment. The first two have seen the approval of 15 projects. As of 31 December 2020, the total approved commitments of the Facility fund are US\$ 6 810 671, including financing 13 projects, secondment of staff and management fees. The amount of available resources is US\$ 3 294 312.

II. Portfolio of projects

9.

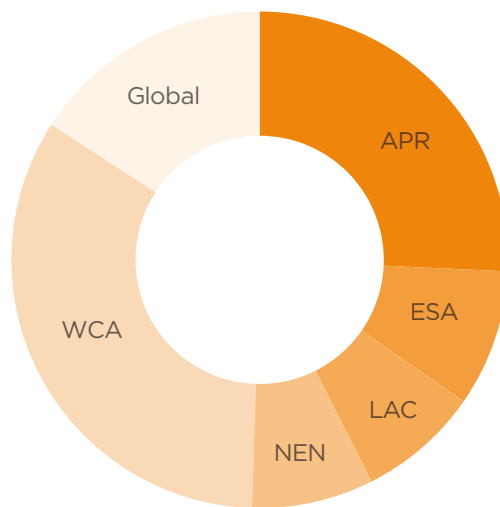
Portfolio summary. The Facility is currently funding 13 projects in the amount of US\$5.8 million after two calls for proposals. 8 projects were approved in the first call and 5 in the second. The Facility supports activities and schemes that share, apply and adapt development solutions to similar country contexts, incubate technology innovation and transfer, build business-to-business linkages and private-public partnerships, and catalyse South-South trade and investments to promote rural transformation and enhance food security.

10.

Geographic Distribution. The Facility-funded projects cover all the regions in which IFAD operates, and are being implemented in over 40 countries. The projects in West and Central Africa region account for the largest proportion at 34%(\$2M), followed by Asia and the Pacific region at 26%(\$1.5M) and Global at 16%(\$0.9M). East and Southern Africa region makes up for 9%, Latin America and the Caribbean region and Near East, North Africa and Europe region make up 8% each of the total funds disbursed.

Geographic Distribution

26%	APR
9%	ESA
8%	LAC
8%	NEN
34%	WCA
16%	Global

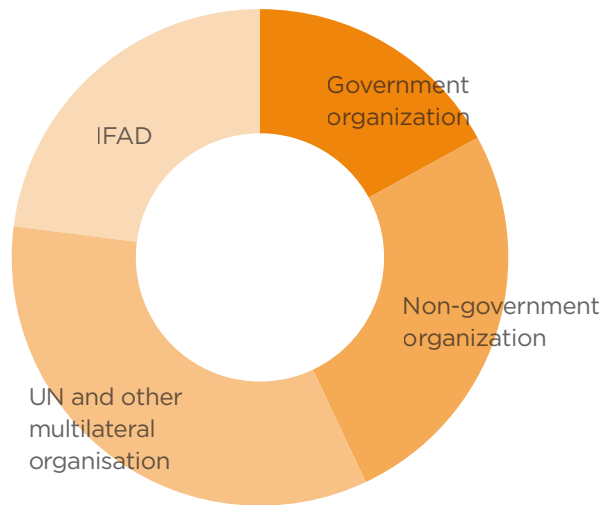


11.

Recipient Distribution. Following competitive selection on the project proposals, the funds have been awarded to: government organizations, non-profit organizations, business organizations, UN organizations and multilateral organizations. The funds awarded to UN and other multilateral organisations accounts for the largest proportion at 34%(1.95M), followed by non-government organizations at 26%(\$1.5M), direct disbursements by IFAD divisions at 23%(\$1.35M), and government organizations at 17%(\$1M).

Recipient Distribution

- 17% Government organization
- 26% Non-government organization
- 34% UN and other multilateral organisation
- 23% IFAD

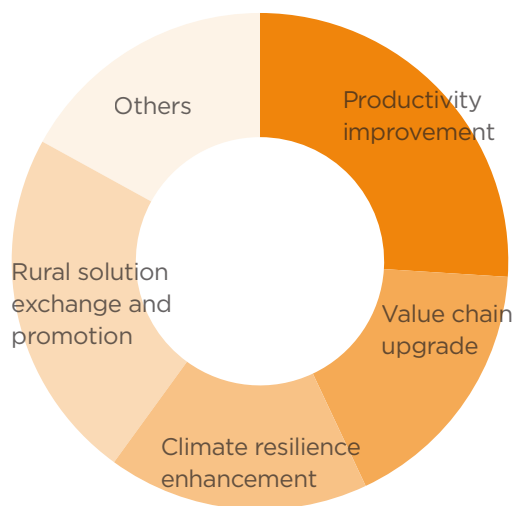


12.

Thematic Distribution. The projects funded by the Facility cover a broad range of thematic areas, such as productivity improvement, value chain upgrade, climate resilience enhancement, rural youth employment, nutrition improvement, rural solution exchanges, rural investment promotion, and more. Productivity improvement and rural solution exchanges account for the largest proportion at 26% (\$1.5M) and 23% (\$1.35M) respectively, followed by value chain upgrade and climate resilience enhancement. Other sectors account for around 17%.

Thematic Distribution

- 26% Productivity improvement
- 17% Value chain upgrade
- 17% Climate resilience enhancement
- 23% Rural solution exchange and promotion
- 17% Others



List of Ongoing projects:¹

No.	Title	Place of Project	Approved Value (USD)
1	Inclusive agriculture and agro-industrial value chain development as an enabler of poverty reduction in Bangladesh	Bangladesh	\$ 500 000
2	South-South Cooperation for Scaling up Climate Resilient Value Chain Initiatives (SSCVC)	Viet Nam, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Cambodia	\$ 500 000
3	Promoting Water Conservation and Irrigation Water Use Efficiency in Ethiopia	Ethiopia and Kenya	\$ 499 905
4	Rural Youth Innovation Award	IFAD LAC	\$ 450 000
5	South-South Cooperation In Green Economy For Agricultural Development And Enhanced Food Security (SSGE-ADFS)	Algeria, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan	\$ 459 000
6	South-South Triangular Cooperation for the Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme	Cameroon, Ghana, Ethiopia and Madagascar	\$ 500 000
7	Strengthening the Rural Solutions Portal and IFAD's IT tracking systems to increase the uptake of rural development solutions	IFAD HQ	\$ 400 000
8	Strengthening business-to-business linkages and investment opportunities through IFAD's SSTC and Knowledge Centres	IFAD HQ, Three SSTC and Knowledge Centres	\$ 250 000
9	Effective South-South Cooperation in Agriculture to Unleash Transformative Power of Agriculture Sector for Inclusive Development in Pakistan	Pakistan	\$ 500 000
10	Local production of fortified cassava flour in Bouenza department in the Republic of Congo	Congo	\$ 492 438
11	Small scale dryers for post-harvest management enterprises in Africa	Ghana, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania	\$ 500 000
12	Promoting Sustainable Cage Aquaculture in West Africa (ProSCAWA)	Ghana and Nigeria	\$ 500 000
13	Learning from SSTC in project design for better results and greater sustainability	IFAD HQ	\$ 250 000

¹ An overview of each project is provided in section IV.

III. Facility operations

A.

Repurposing of the 3rd call for proposals

13.

Targeting COVID-19 response as priority. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is taking a considerable toll on the livelihoods and food security of rural people. In order to support national governments to build back better, more resilient societies, the Facility is contributing to IFAD's global response to COVID-19 by designating funds under the third call to support the generation and exchange of innovative solutions, approaches and methodologies that can be of value in the post-COVID-19 recovery period, and that can be subsequently scaled up and adapted to similar crises to benefit a wider population of poor rural people. The call was officially launched in 28 August, 2020.

14.

In support of this objective, the Facility, in 2020-2021, expanded its thematic focus to include:

- Strengthening the capacities of farmers and their organizations to enhance resilience against disasters, including establishing fast-maturing alternative agricultural and rural enterprises, maintaining and producing sufficient and high quality yields;
- Facilitating access to markets in conditions of specific barriers in a given context, including facilitating safe and hygienic transport, and working to ensure markets remain open and that demand remains high;
- Delivering up-to-date agriculture-related information to smallholder producers on production, weather, market prices and other important areas in rural areas through digital services;
- Building trade capacities through provision of technologies and services that enable smallholder producers to meet quality and sanitary standards of overseas markets.

B.

Revision of governing documents and selection process

15.

Updating of Facility documents. Building on lessons learned, and to ensure a better outcome of the proposal selection process in the third call, the Secretariat developed and updated the Facility documents and templates for 2020-2021. The Implementation Guidelines, the guiding document for the operations of the Facility, were updated to strengthen the focus and priorities of the Facility, streamline the governance structure and ensure a more transparent and participatory selection process.

16.

Furthermore, the Strategic Guidance Note for the third call specified the guiding principles and criteria for eligible proposals. Country ownership, development of local capacity, inclusive participation, innovation, and South-South cooperation features were particularly emphasized. The Results Measure Framework requires both qualitative and quantitative indicators, with sample indicators provided to guide applicants. In addition, the Activity Based Budget template enforces strict budget ceilings on operating, personnel and indirect costs.

17.

Drawing on the expertise from various divisions of IFAD, reviews by an ad hoc Technical Group and IFAD's Quality Assurance Group have been included in addition to the Secretariat screening and the external evaluator review as have been done in previous calls. The new process has ensured the comprehensive and in-depth evaluation of proposals, with the full incorporation of comments received.

18.

Processing of grant applications. The sections below provide an overview of the process undertaken to review the grant applications.

19.

The proposals first undergo preliminary screening by the Secretariat for conformity with the requirements of the call for proposals, followed by a second screening by external evaluators, who review them for technical soundness, value for money and the capacity of the applying institutions to implement the project. The top-rated proposals selected for further review are subsequently revised by the Project Teams based on the comments of the external evaluators.

20.

An ad hoc Technical Group, made up of representatives from relevant IFAD divisions carries out an individual review of the revised proposals. Members assess the SSTC-ness, effectiveness and impact, innovative features, built-in sustainability and value for money, and provide recommendations on which proposals may be taken forward.

21.

The recommended proposals are further reviewed by the Advisory Panel and Quality Assurance Group of IFAD; and then are submitted to the MOF PRC for their final decision.



C.

Close monitoring and supervision of projects for greater impact at delivery

22.

Establishment of a regular monitoring mechanism. Monitoring and supervision activities have been put in place for all the thirteen projects currently funded by the Facility, with status updates and progress reports submitted on a regular basis by the project implementation team. The areas that are closely examined in this mechanism include overall implementation progress, fund disbursement rate, the status of planned activities in the Annual Work Plan and Budgeting (AWPB), challenges faced especially from the impact of COVID-19 and countermeasures taken to mitigate these. Project documents are also assessed for consistency in terms of implementation and achievement of stated objectives. In this exercise, the Secretariat has provided continuous and strong support to the project teams, including coordinating with relevant divisions to address outstanding issues to speed up project implementation, and to facilitate clearance and approval by the Advisory Panel on requested changes in project duration and budget allocation.

23.

Mitigation of the impact of COVID-19. In 2020, the COVID-19 has had tremendous implications for all projects under the Facility, whose SSTC nature requires international and regional exchange visits, trainings and workshops, and the physical movement of personnel and resources. To mitigate the implementation delays caused by travel restrictions and social distancing, the Secretariat has put in place a constant follow up process, working closely with project teams to understand the main barriers for implementation,

work out alternative plans for activities, review extension and budget reallocation requests and facilitate clearance, so as to keep project progress on track. For example, project teams have demonstrated more keenness in accelerating implementation progress, and have organized virtual consultations with stakeholders, adapted projects for COVID-19 response in rural areas, and have taken additional measures to prevent future delays in project implementation.

D.

Communication and outreach for enhanced visibility

24.

Dedicated corporate webpage. The overall design and layout of the corporate webpage have been optimized; new sections have been added and latest updates included. Publications such as news articles, project stories, brochures and videos that focus on the impact and highlights of the Facility have been produced and published on it. Stories from the field have been developed in collaboration with the project team to share first-hand experiences, introduce innovative features, and share the results delivered to the beneficiaries in different regions.

25.

First webinar series. In the lead-up to the third call for proposals, the Secretariat organized two webinars, during which the timelines, procedures and criteria for proposal selection were discussed and clarified. Both webinars attracted a wide audience from IFAD divisions, country offices, the SSTC and Knowledge Centres and external organizations, and the sessions were enriched by the advice provided by participants who had applied to the two previous calls and shared their experience in proposal preparation, selection and implementation.

26.

Outreach efforts around the Facility. In collaboration with the UN Rome-based agencies (RBA) - FAO and WFP, IFAD hosted the virtual celebration of the 2020 UN Day on SSC. The work of the Facility in strengthening RBA collaboration was highlighted with the showcasing of the joint RBA initiative “Local Production of Fortified Cassava Flour in Bouenza Department in the Republic of Congo”. During the 2020 UN-China SSC Day, the Facility and its funded projects were well presented and displayed, and participants were keen to know specific information on the Facility; the grant recipient organizations appreciated the collaboration with IFAD under the Facility and looked forward to enhanced partnerships.

27.

A number of events also mentioned the concrete work being done through the Facility to support the fight against rural poverty and to unearth cross-border innovation and collaboration. For example, in a main event during the 2020 edition of the Alliance for the Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), IFAD's intervention was presented by the Associate Vice President, PMD. He referred to three projects funded under the Facility. PROSCAWA was cited as an intervention that would enhance the employment, incomes and the nutritional status of rural households. The Rural Youth Innovation Award was noted for creating a platform for conceptualizing, presenting and sharing knowledge around youth-led innovative enterprises and highly effective solutions to be replicated and adapted to address rural development challenges faced by smallholder farmers. Finally, he stated that with the curtailing of most travel due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Rural Solutions Portal; as a virtual platform, will become a highly relevant tool to provide targeted, evidence based good practices to support rural development.

28.

On various social media, including China Daily, People.net, Inter Press Service, China Investment Magazine, etc., the Facility has been featured with its tremendous effects on mobilizing expertise, knowledge, and resources from the Global South to reduce poverty and enhance the livelihoods of poor people in rural areas. Among others, the "South-South Cooperation for Scaling up Climate Resilient Value Chain Initiatives (SSCVC)" project was highlighted as a multi-country knowledge/solutions sharing model in green and climate resilient agriculture.

IV. Summary of projects





Inclusive agriculture and agro-industrial value chain development as an enabler of poverty reduction in Bangladesh

AMOUNT
\$ 500,000

RECIPIENT
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

DURATION
July 2019 – July 2021

BENEFICIARIES
The Government of Bangladesh, smallholder farmers, producer groups and processors, job-seekers, small and medium-sized enterprises

In Bangladesh, the livestock sector is not only a source of income and nutritious food for rural households, but also generates employment for a growing population. Through knowledge and experience exchanges via South-South Cooperation with China, the project will adopt a sustainable food value chain (SFVC) development approach to solve systemic problems by identifying the root causes, binding constraints, and formulating concrete actions for the entire value chain and market system to benefit smallholder producers and agro-entrepreneurs.

The main components of the project include: 1) promoting partnerships and linkages with ministries, local governments, NGOs, private sector and local communities to examine all elements of the value chain and market systems; 2) carrying out consultations to identify key challenges and needs, and advocating for policy alignment and incremental policy changes; 3) facilitating learning exchanges between Bangladesh and China on good practices, and leveraging responsible value chains investments; 4) designing upgraded business models and promoting adoption of good practices to improve small holder farmers' knowledge, skills and linkages with the market.

The project was highlighted with the development of innovative solutions and good practices. The feasibility study identified needs, challenges and opportunities and proposed three upgrading models: the village feed cluster business model, the upgrading model for traditional dairy processors and the small-scale slaughterhouse business model. Case studies and reports on the successful examples of commercialization, industrialization and digitization in the livestock value chain in China have been developed. The knowledge exchange and experience sharing will help improve productivity and livelihoods for livestock farmers and create business opportunities for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).



Several exchange visits to China and Bangladesh have been undertaken. In China, the project team visited leading dairy, beef cattle and feed industry companies as well as companies working in technology and digital innovation. Innovative value chain models on dairy production management, e-market and trading platforms, data analytic and support services have been studied and identified for scaling up. In Bangladesh, meetings and visits were held between experts from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and the China Agricultural University and local livestock companies, producers and producer groups, small businesses. Stakeholders were better engaged, the needs of local communities have been assessed, technical assistance has been provided and future SSC activities have been designed.

The project responds to the request of the Government of Bangladesh to promote the development of the livestock sector, and is expected to improve productivity, market access and resilience of smallholders and agro-entrepreneurs operating in the dairy and beef value chains. The beneficiaries include: a) the Government of Bangladesh, in terms of policy review, capacity building and research support to generate evidence that informs decision making; b) rural smallholder farmers, producer groups and processors as well as job-seekers, with a special focus on women and youth; c) the private sector, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, and potential investors in inclusive value chain projects.



South-South Cooperation for Scaling up Climate Resilient Value Chain Initiatives

AMOUNT

\$ 500,000

RECIPIENT

Centre for Agrarian Systems Research and Development, Viet Nam (CASRAD)

DURATION

April 2019 – December 2021

BENEFICIARIES

4000 smallholder farmers in forms of individual households, collaborative groups, and cooperatives, 20 small and medium processing units, 20 agri-businesses

Given the context relevance, and successful experience in Viet Nam, Cambodia, China, and Lao People's Democratic Republic, the project aims to facilitate the replication and scaling up of Climate Resilient Value Chain (CRVC) best practices and initiatives among farmers groups, processing units and enterprises involved in the four countries.

The main components of the project include: 1) identifying and selecting CRVC best practices, including climate smart agricultural production practices, climate tolerant processing and preservation technologies, and agri-businesses with climate smart elements through a participatory research process; 2) strengthening awareness and capacities of institutions, project staff, smallholder farmers and agribusinesses about CRVC techniques and technologies through trainings and study tours; 3) developing targeted knowledge products on technologies and practices, including books, brochures, posters and videos, as well as knowledge exchange events, such as learning routes, training workshops, to facilitate the effective replication and application of techniques.

A series of Training of Trainers (TOT) trainings have been organized by CASRAD and 3 implementing partners from China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia, focussing on CRVC identification and selection methodology, including two days in classroom and one-day field practice of selection tools. All participants agreed on 4 main selection criteria, which include: (i) climate adaptation potential; (ii) extent of engagement of smallholders; (iii) investment cost affordability; and (iv) value addition (productivity and/or income increase); and acquired skills to use identification methodology for CRVC best practices and technologies.



Some initial CRVC models were selected, including rice-fish, mulberry and mango value chains in Cambodia; rice-fish, mulberry, mango and cashew value chains in China; non-timber forest product, vegetable, rice, maize, animal and aquatic products in Viet Nam; and tea, duck, rice-fish, cow and other cash crops in Lao People's Democratic Republic. Viet Nam advanced in scanning and identifying 36 potential climate resilient technologies and practices. Similar exercises are being conducted by the implementing partners in China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia.

The project will pay special attention to communities such as common interest groups, cooperatives, processing units, and agri-businesses in forms of Public-Private-Producer Partnerships because of their essential roles within the value chains. The beneficiaries include: a) 4,000 smallholder farmers in forms of individual households, collaborative groups, and cooperatives; b) 20 small and medium processing units; and c) 20 agri-businesses. In addition, the project will also engage public and private institutions that support CRVC analysis, capacity building, and knowledge sharing.



Promoting Water Conservation and Irrigation Water Use Efficiency in Ethiopia

AMOUNT
\$ 499,905

RECIPIENT
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources, Ethiopia

DURATION
May 2019 – May 2022

BENEFICIARIES
PASIDP II supported rural farmers in the four Regions of Ethiopia; members of the Project Implementing Team at the federal, regional and local levels; policy makers in natural resources management

To address the challenges faced by Ethiopia due to the effects of climate change, the project will deepen the form and scope of knowledge, skills and experience sharing between Ethiopia and Kenya. The areas of exchange will include efficient technologies, in irrigation, water delivery and use; effective capacity-building approaches and sustainable rainwater harvesting technologies for increased food production. The project will help smallholder farmers sustainably increase agricultural productivity and resilience against adverse weather and climate change with better access to small-scale irrigation schemes and technologies.

The main components of the project include: 1) adopting pressurized irrigation water delivery systems as well as low-head sprinklers and drip systems in Participatory Small-Scale Irrigation Development Programme (PASIDP II) areas; 2) building the capacity of Irrigation Water Users Associations (IWUAs) and other community organisations for effective and sustainable management of their irrigation infrastructure and other systems; 3) engaging farmers in the PASIDP II areas in sustainable rainwater harvesting for supplementary irrigation; 4) providing input to legislation reforms that legally empower local communities to manage natural resources.

Keskash small-scale irrigation, which irrigates the existing 10 ha of the target area, was reviewed and re-designed, changing from under surface irrigation to sprinkler irrigation in order to benefit 20 households using one of its secondary canals. The draft sprinkler irrigation system design has been finalized and validated by senior engineers.



The installation/construction of four gravity powered water saving schemes, including 2 sprinklers and 2 drips, and water harvesting schemes are under preparation on the selected sites.

The preparation includes technical support to familiarize smallholder farmers with the technologies. This will help to deliver technical training for irrigation engineers in rainwater harvesting, piped irrigation system and IWUA capacity building.

The project further seeks to enable Ethiopian project implementers to play a more active role in advocating for enactment of policy and legislative regimes that empower communities to participate in natural resources management (NRM). The beneficiaries include: a) PASIDP II supported rural farmers in the four Regions of Ethiopia, b) relevant members of the Project Implementing Team at the federal, regional and local levels, c) policy makers in natural resources management.



Rural Youth Innovation Award

AMOUNT

\$ 450,000

RECIPIENT

SSTC and Knowledge Centre in Brazil, IFAD

DURATION

February 2019 – July 2021

BENEFICIARIES

Rural young talents, entrepreneurs and change agents, with special attention given to rural women, as direct beneficiaries; poor rural smallholders, especially women, youth and indigenous people, as indirect beneficiaries

Latin America and the Caribbean region sees a particular need for engaging rural youth in the development process and for forging a stronger partnership with the private sector. The project's goal is to strengthen the capacities of young entrepreneurs to implement and disseminate sustainable solutions to challenges faced by smallholder farmers on the ground. By identifying and disseminating innovative endeavours with potential to transform the rural development context, the project maps and promotes youth-led initiatives that pave the way for bottom-up solutions for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in rural development.

The main components of the project include: 1) creating a platform for presenting and sharing knowledge around youth-led innovative solutions to rural challenges, and encouraging replication and creativity across the region; 2) putting in place a contest mechanism, in collaboration with the private sector, academia and like-minded partners, for financing the most innovative, implementable and scalable solutions; 3) ensuring adequate dissemination in the implementation of the winning solutions across the region in collaboration with development partners.

The Rural Youth Innovation Award initiative was launched on January 2020 in Colombia. 16 finalists and the 10 winning initiatives were selected out of 576 initiatives from 23 countries in the region, covering 10 categories including food security, climate action, financial inclusion and sustainability etc. Through the participation in a summer course organized by the Universidad EAN in Bogotá, the Award winners improved capacity to develop sustainable rural entrepreneurship proposals and competitiveness to access national and international markets.



The first phase of the Immersion Programme with a series of meetings on a monthly basis were organized, covering topics including: business strategy, sales B2B, marketing and finance, which supported and developed the initiatives into businesses. Two virtual side events were organized. The first one was on the importance and benefits of organic fertilization, with an emphasis on practical experiences and how its use can be a strategy to add value to business. The second one was on gender mainstreaming in projects and business plans. These events have contributed to the sharing and exchange of experiences among the winning participants, beneficiaries of IFAD regional projects and rural youth as well as project partners.

The impact of the project will be further expanded with the second edition of the Award, which is currently on-going. This phase will identify and reward the 10 most innovative initiatives/solutions to overcome the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic on rural areas. The project is expected to reach: a) direct beneficiaries including rural young talents, entrepreneurs and change agents between 18 and 35 years of age, residing in Latin America and the Caribbean, with special attention given to rural women; b) indirect beneficiaries including poor rural smallholders, especially women, youth and indigenous people who will benefit from the implementation of the solutions funded by the initiative.



South-South Cooperation in Green Economy for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSGE-ADFS)

AMOUNT
\$ **459,000**

RECIPIENT
United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

DURATION
July 2019 – September 2021

BENEFICIARIES
Government focal points on green economy in agricultural development of at least 20 countries; 450 small-holder farmers, including youth and women in at least three rural areas across the Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia regions

In the face of calls from growing populations for increased food production; and innovative approaches in agricultural development to counter climate change, the project aims to promote knowledge sharing, capacity development and investments on green economy solutions for agricultural development through a cross-regional SSC network in the Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia regions. The project combines advocacy and networking activities, promotes green investment with a focus on young small-holder farmers, and provides capacity development support among eight participating countries with additional expertise from China.

The main components of the project include: 1) promoting Green Economy in agricultural development approaches through events including the Global South-South Development EXPO and the World Green Economy Summits; 2) scaling up existing home-grown systems and operationalizing new systems through promoting green capital credit lines for small-holder farmers, creating solar-powered poultry farms showcasing technologies from China and organizing agricultural green investment promotion workshops; 3) improving the capacities of regional and national institutions to promote effective and sustainable Green Economy approaches in agricultural development through knowledge sharing and policy support.

A series of training courses are under design for different audiences as requested by the countries. For farmers, the focus will be on the practical use of green technologies and access to green finance; for experts, on studying science-based approaches in green agriculture and application in practice; and for staff of the ministries of agriculture, equipping them with knowledge for advancing green economy through enabling legal and policy frameworks.

China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility

Mapping South-South Cooperation Solutions in Agriculture

[Agro Solutions](#)

Over 30 solutions in Green Economy for agricultural development have been sourced and documented through UNOSSC-WGEO networks, featured on the Southsouthworld.org solutions mapping portal, and have gained thousands of views each.

Commercially sustainable solar-powered poultry farms showcasing practical application of agricultural sector green economy technologies from China are under preparation. The use of solar power technologies in agriculture will be studied and tested as a pilot application in the poultry stations and farms. After the installation and commissioning, demonstrations will be organized for poultry producers, farmers, and experts from participating countries.

The project further scales up the achievements of the SSTC for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-ADFS) partnership initiative and reflects the demand-based essence of the SSC approach. The beneficiaries include: a) government focal points on green economy in agricultural development of at least 20 countries, including Algeria, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan as well as twelve new countries across the Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia regions; b) 450 small-holder farmers, including youth and women in at least three rural areas across the Near East, North Africa, Europe and Central Asia regions.



**South – South
and Triangular
Cooperation
for Inter-Africa
Bamboo
Smallholder
Farmers Livelihood
development
Programme**

AMOUNT
\$ **500,000**

RECIPIENT
**International
Bamboo and Rattan
Organisation (INBAR)**

DURATION
**June 2019 –
June 2022**

BENEFICIARIES
30,000 poor rural
smallholder farmers
and community
members, particularly
women and youth, as
direct beneficiaries;
150,000 people,
including farmer
households,
government agencies
for rural development,
environment security,
food security
and enterprise
development, civil
society as indirect
beneficiaries

The bamboo sector has brought millions rural people out of poverty and enhanced their adaptive capacity to climate change. This project aims to create an enabled bamboo value chain environment and focuses on enhancing connectivity between bamboo experts from developing countries, strengthening the policy engagement capacity of local practitioners, and promoting investment from China to African countries, with the ultimate goal of alleviating poverty and creating jobs.

The main components of the project include: 1) strengthening the bamboo value chain environment with increased awareness, improved policy framework, and the promotion of investment through in-country study tours among African countries and international study tours to China, as well as regional symposiums; 2) building connections between bamboo technical experts for knowledge transfer and high quality standards through the establishment of Task Forces on sustainable bamboo management, and a National Mirror Committee to boost trade in bamboo and rattan through the development of standards.

Two “Africa-centric” taskforces have been established, including the Taskforce on Bamboo for Renewable Energy (TFB4RE) and the Taskforce on Sustainable Bamboo Management (TFSBM). South-South coordination on research and technology development between experts will produce voluntary guideline standards (VGS) on bamboo utilization for energy, sustainable bamboo management, bamboo nutrition, and value-addition technologies and products, which can be applied in an African context to support pro-poor sector development.

China-IFAD South-South
and Triangular Cooperation Facility



Two concept notes have been prepared to: 1) develop VGS for the certification of natural and establishment of bamboo plantations, and 2) develop VGS Step-by-Step for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) with bamboo. A National Mirror Committee (NMC) has been set up to facilitate the adoption of bamboo and rattan standards to boost trade and economy in Africa under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

The project will improve income and employment opportunities and support energy and environmental security by helping smallholder farmers in planting bamboo and accessing higher value addition. The project is expected to reach: a) 30,000 poor rural smallholder farmers and community members, particularly women and youth, primarily engaged in degrading forests for agricultural land as direct beneficiaries.; b) 150,000 people, including farmer households, government agencies for rural development, environment security, food security and enterprise development, civil society as indirect beneficiaries.



Rural entrepreneurship resource centers
Giving entrepreneurs the skills and tools to build their ideas into businesses

Strengthening the Rural Solutions Portal and IFAD's IT Tracking Systems to Increase the Uptake of Rural Development Solutions

AMOUNT
\$ 400,000

RECIPIENT
Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Division (GPR), IFAD

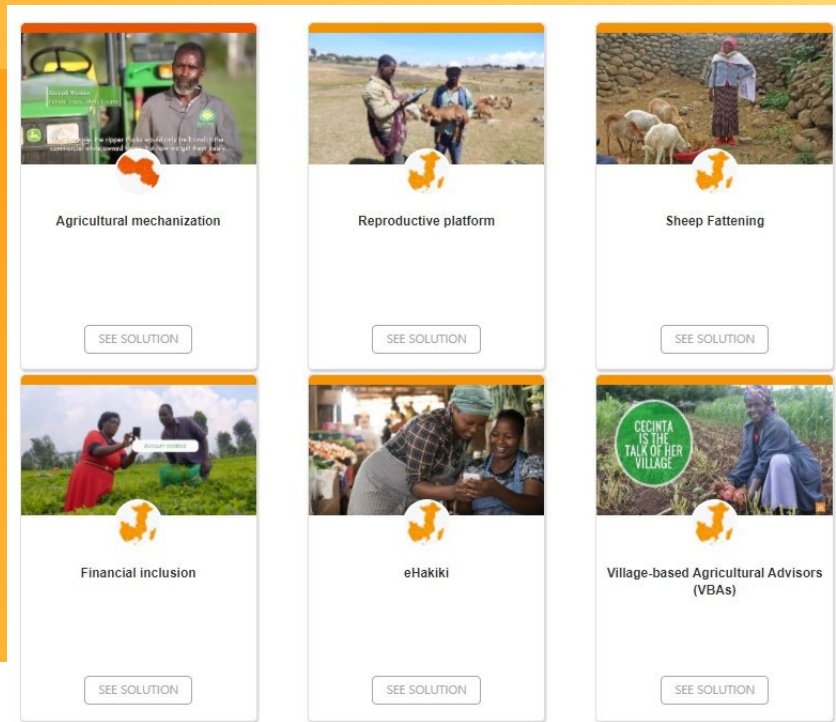
DURATION
February 2019 – December 2021

BENEFICIARIES
IFAD staff, representatives from international organizations, governments, civil society, national institutions, the private sector and staff from IFAD-supported projects

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the Rural Solutions Portal – the web portal that collects and makes available innovative rural development solutions – as well as IFAD's South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) tracking systems, with a view to increasing the uptake of rural development solutions and facilitate peer-to-peer learning, cross-fertilization and partnership brokerage among organizations and partners in developing countries.

The main components of the project include: 1) promoting match-making mechanisms and knowledge sharing of innovative rural development solutions, through the Rural Solutions Portal; 2) fostering the uptake and adoption of innovative and successful rural development solutions across developing countries, as a contribution to reducing poverty in rural areas; 3) improving IFAD's capacity to undertake analysis of SSTC activities at the corporate, regional and country levels, and facilitating timely reporting through the development of an SSTC Database and Dashboard.

In the Rural Solutions Portal (RSP), 91 rural development solutions have been presented, together with 12 knowledge products in the form of policy briefs and videos. A new web module for matching demand and supply for SSTC institutions is under development. The RSP has been showcased in 3 international events and in two workshops organized by IFAD. The RSP serves as a comprehensive platform to enhance knowledge sharing, upscale tested successful SSTC initiatives and rural solutions, and build partnerships among development practitioners.



The COVID 19 pandemic, which has severely curtailed physical movement within and across international borders, has highlighted the importance of virtual platforms. The Rural Solutions Portal is thus becoming a highly relevant tool to provide targeted, evidence based good practices and solutions, the key factors required for adaptation and replication in different contexts, to enhance the resilience and suitability of rural communities.

The core method for scaling up this project will be to utilize SSTC to inform development actors on how they can implement, use and replicate rural development solutions to increase production and productivity for agriculture and rural development, food security, nutrition and income generation. As such, the Rural Solutions Portal is intended to be of use to a wide-ranging audience. This includes, among others, IFAD staff, representatives from international organizations, governments, civil society, national institutions, the private sector and staff from IFAD-supported projects.

Strengthening Business-to-Business Linkages and Investment Opportunities through IFAD's SSTC and Knowledge Centres

AMOUNT
\$ **250,000**

RECIPIENT
Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Division (GPR), IFAD


DURATION
February 2019 – August 2021

BENEFICIARIES
Poor rural smallholder farmers, with a particular focus on women and young people in the Global South; private business and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and rural communities

With the support of the newly established SSTC and Knowledge Centres in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Beijing (China) and Brasilia (Brazil), the project aims to identify and link private-sector companies across countries and to facilitate knowledge exchanges and matchmaking opportunities to strengthen the capacity of private-sector organizations in developing countries in their support to smallholder farmers. By facilitating SSTC links and partnerships, including government-to-government, community-to-community and business-to-business, the project will promote a greater role for the private sector in supporting sustainable agriculture, with a particular focus on creating employment opportunities for rural youth and women.

The main components of the project include: 1) promoting business-to-business cooperation and match-making opportunities to strengthen the capacity of private sector organizations, especially those with activities targeting women and/or the rural youth in developing countries for the development of the agricultural sector; and 2) increasing the mobilization of resources from the private sector and the promotion of investments to improve living standards and activities targeting women and/or youth in rural areas, and 3) expanding IFAD's network of private sector partner companies.

A horizon scanning and needs assessment of B2B match making opportunities for the private sector and farmers' organizations have been carried out, and a number of private sector entities have been identified for engagement. In South Africa, an investment holding company expressed willingness to provide in-kind contributions to IFAD projects through use of their training facilities for agricultural skills development. In the LAC region, engagement has been



established with companies including Danone Brazil and Pro Natura, and IFAD has been invited to resume its participation in its Brazilian Network platform as part of the Working Group for Agriculture & Food. In the APR region, good linkages have been established with companies including Ant Group and with National Geographic.

These engagements will promote IFAD projects and allow further collaboration with companies interested in working with smallholders and rural development. The experience and learning generated from this project included: engagement with the private sector and the establishment of B2B linkages requires constant follow-up, nurturing of relationships, resources and correct timing. It is clearly context specific, and needs a pragmatic knowledge of the terrain. It also needs all actors in the organisation to be involved to ensure buy in and the intentional exploration of entry points in the project cycle.

The project will further embed the institutional linkages within the relevant IFAD country strategy and their operations, as well as existing or new IFAD funded projects. The project beneficiaries include: a) poor rural smallholder farmers, with a particular focus on women and young people in the Global South; b) private business and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and c) rural communities.

Effective South-South Cooperation in Agriculture to Unleash Transformative Power of Agriculture Sector for Inclusive Development in Pakistan

AMOUNT
\$ **500,000**

RECIPIENT
Foreign Economic Cooperation Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, P.R. China (FECC)


DURATION
March 2020 – March 2022

BENEFICIARIES
Small-scale farmers and farmer organizations, agribusiness and agriculture-related firms, and governmental agencies in Pakistan

Given their similarities in terms of development background and context, China's experiences and lessons on agriculture development will add new dimensions to the agriculture development in Pakistan. The project is initiated in response to the expressed interest of the Pakistani stakeholder to learn from China's agriculture related knowledge, technology and experience. The main objective of the project is to establish and operate an effective knowledge generation and sharing platform to provide customized assistance for Pakistan to unleash the transformative power of the agriculture sector for the country's inclusive development.

The main components of the project include: 1) enhancing understanding on the state of Pakistan's agricultural development and the knowledge sharing needs, especially in terms of crop varieties, production technologies, and development models, etc.; 2) strengthening the capacity of small holder farmers for the application of agricultural technologies, through study tours and exchanges visits to China, and training on specific crops, small-scale irrigation technologies, value chain development, and application of digital technologies ; 3) transferring technology through technical assistance with direct linkage to IFAD and World Bank projects; 4) disseminating knowledge on successful application of agricultural technologies and providing policy recommendations on how to foster effective SSTC on the ground.

"Assessment on the status of agricultural development in Pakistan" and "Diagnostic study on the knowledge sharing needs from Pakistan" have been conducted. The assessment on the status of agricultural development in Pakistan promoted better mutual understanding of the development opportunities and challenges in the agricultural sector. The diagnostic study on the knowledge



sharing needs from Pakistan based on the comparative advantages on the Chinese side formed the basis for the proposed knowledge cooperation and sharing platform.

High level discussions between Government of China and IFAD and stakeholder consultations with China counterparts have been organised. The official meetings established new partnership between FECC and IFAD in the post-pandemic era, and all participants highlighted this project and expressed full support for its implementation. The stakeholder consultations engaged potential stakeholders such as line departments in Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, P. R. China (MARA), academic institutions, and private sectors for capacity building and technical transfer in agricultural development, and got positive response.

The project target groups include: a) smallholder farmers and farmer organizations, such as water user associations, crop cooperatives, etc.; b) agribusiness and agriculture-related firms; and c) governmental agencies such as Irrigation Department, Agriculture Department, and Commerce Department in the selected provinces where IFAD and/or the World Bank have ongoing project interventions.



Local Production of Fortified Cassava Flour in Bouenza Department in the Republic of Congo

AMOUNT
\$ 492,438

RECIPIENT
World Food Programme (WFP)

DURATION
April 2020 – April 2022

BENEFICIARIES
Cassava producers and cooperative groups in Congo; at least 50 per cent of the beneficiary producers are women producers

Congo faces a serious food security and nutrition situation, and national production of cassava does not cover demand. The project aims to establish a framework and evidence-based business plan for the production of fortified cassava flour and sales of cassava products, and to reinforce the capacities of smallholder cassava producers and their organisations to supply fresh cassava to the cassava mill.

The main components of the project include: 1) completing relevant studies and an evidence-based business plan, including market and environment analysis, new product development and testing, for the production and sales of fortified cassava flour according to national standards; 2) enabling targeted smallholder farming cooperatives to benefit from increased production capacity and access to the industrial value chain for cassava, through provision of technical support and extension services, and distribution of equipment, seed, stock and planting material for the smallholder groups coupled with training and follow-up activities.

A consumer acceptance study of industrialized fortified cassava flour – targeting children in schools under the WFP school feeding program has been performed. The study showed that most children reported consuming fufu at least daily and therefore it makes this food an ideal vehicle for fortified nutrition. The study recommended that the industrial manufacturing process should aim to produce a product with attributes as close as possible to traditional fufu.



Draft specifications for industrialised fortified cassava flour have been developed. The fortified cassava specification include targets for minimum and maximum tolerances for both safety and quality parameters. This will ensure that beneficiaries will have a food basket aligned with local consumption preferences, and improve nutrition conditions. The finalized specification will be available to the public to enable potential companies/entities in the region to produce the qualified industrial fortified cassava flour.

In the domain of cassava production, this is the first time that the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) will work together. IFAD will focus on strengthening farmers' organizations, setting up mutually beneficial partnerships, and generating funds for the expansion of small-scale producers' capacities. FAO will lead the development and adoption of policy standards for cassava. WFP will coordinate amongst the various partners and help to facilitate better market access for the cassava producers. The project is expected to benefit: a) cooperative groups; b) rural producers with additional agricultural capacities (possibility to have access to at least 1 ha per member); and c) groups including at least 50% of women.



Small Scale Dryers for Post-harvest Management Enterprises in Africa

AMOUNT
\$ **500,000**

RECIPIENT
Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

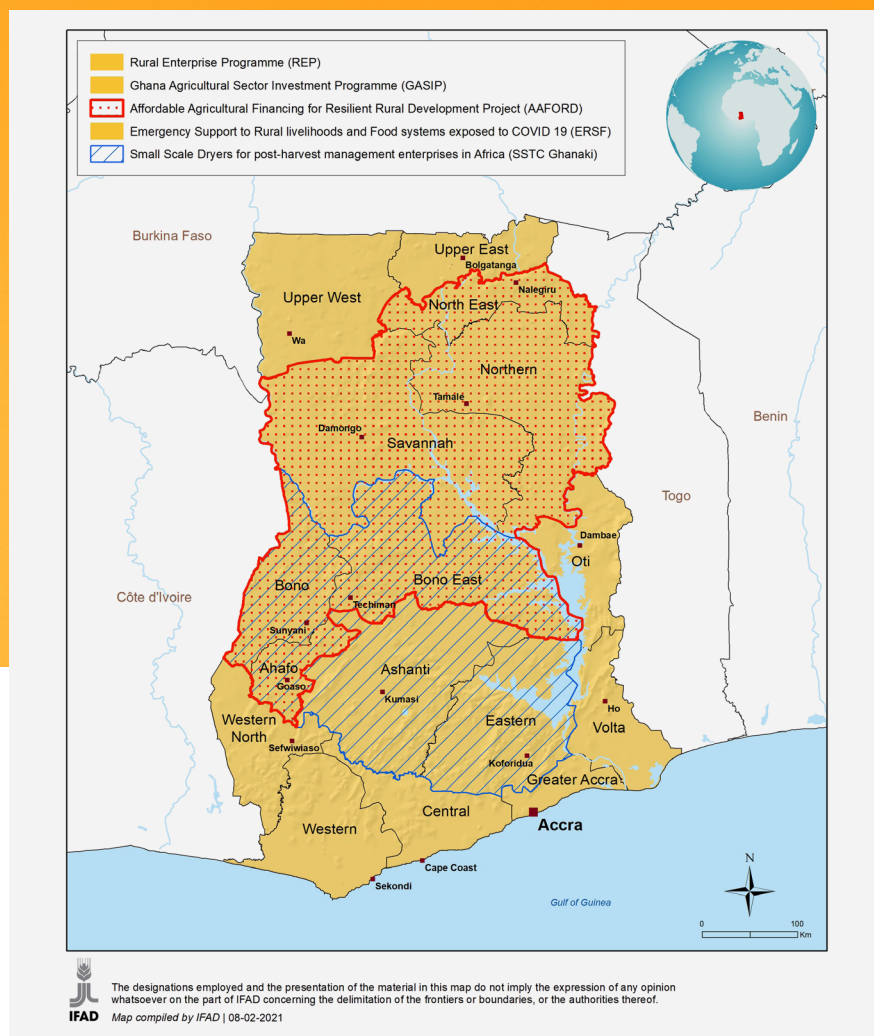
DURATION
March 2020 – March 2022

BENEFICIARIES
Small-scale producers and processors at the production end of highly perishable foods such as cassava roots and seasonal fruits; direct 3,720, indirect 33,500

In Africa, rapid post-harvest physiological deterioration (PPD) is a major constraint on the production and marketing of fresh produce. The main objective of the project is to facilitate the adaptation and downstream availability of food dryer technology already available in China and to demonstrate its applicability in the African context. Dryer technologies available in Africa are at either artisanal or industrial scale. This project will introduce a technology that fits between these extremes and enables small-scale producers to become more active value chain actors, allowing them to access larger markets and trade by increasing the level of product preservation.

The main components of the project include: 1) documenting the needs of small scale dryers of cassava and other value-chains in rural areas of Ghana, Tanzania and Kenya; 2) facilitating interactions between African technology users and Chinese technology providers; 3) re-scaling and adapting Chinese technology to suit the needs of African smallholder producers; 4) demonstrating adapted Chinese technology in Africa; 5) documenting China-Africa Agricultural Technology Transfer in the form of knowledge products, leading to enhanced trading opportunities.

The definition of the needs of the African countries and institutions for small scale dryers have progressed through online dialogues sessions. The partners in the three target countries have identified the locations for hosting the pilot small scale dryers in four sites: one in Tanzania, one in Kenya and two in Ghana. Based on the locations and the populations around, the partners are identifying and defining the possible alternative uses of the dryers besides for cassava such that suitable technical specifications of the dryers can be established. The goal is to obtain a dryer design that is versatile for the different planned uses in Africa.



A list of potential dryer technology suppliers in China and trade fairs where these suppliers will be present for the announcement of the opportunity to supply the dryers have been identified. After rounds of consultations amongst technical specialists, the functional specifications of the Small Scale Dryers have been narrowed down to focus on cabinet types of dryers, using electricity as a source of heat and to include a power generator as part of the equipment. The final functional specifications may not be very different from available models on the market, which will reduce the need for adaptation of the dryer technology before supply, and reduce the need for specialised skills in local handling of the equipment.

The project creates direct linkages between the food dryer technology seekers and technology generators, and the technology seekers in turn will become the promoters once the technology is adopted, benefitting larger groups of rural people in Africa. The project is expected to reach small-scale producers and processors as the target value-chain actors at the production end of highly perishable foods such as cassava roots and seasonal fruits, with direct beneficiaries at 3,720 and indirect beneficiaries at 33,500.

Learning from SSTC in Project Design for Better Results and Greater Sustainability

AMOUNT

\$ **250,000**

RECIPIENT

Quality Assurance Group (QAG), IFAD

DURATION

January 2020 - June 2022

BENEFICIARIES


Key officials in governments and in the project management units involved in the design and implementation of IFAD-supported projects, as well as IFAD country directors and technical staff concerned

There is an urgent need to improve knowledge about how to better incorporate SSTC, an important component of IFAD's renewed business model for improved outcomes in enhancing rural livelihoods, into IFAD project design. Leveraging SSTC as an instrument, the project objective is to improve the knowledge and quality of IFAD-supported project design for better and sustainable development outcomes.

The main components of the project include: 1) capturing and documenting knowledge about embedding SSTC in project design in different country contexts, by identifying cross cutting issues, researching successful experiences and validating review results about embedding SSTC in project design; and 2) exchanging lessons and good practices about how SSTC can be better leveraged in project design for improved development results, through a variety of customised instruments and products including workshops, cross-learning activities, and case studies.

The overarching report has been produced based on the review of 7 COSOPs of selected countries and 15 SSTC project design documents, to identify good practices and crosscutting issues on methods of embedding SSTC in project design.

The report summarized the knowledge and experience in project design, particularly on SSTC components and methodologies, and provided insights on actions for further integration of SSTC in project design: 1) strengthen the awareness on SSTC and the capacities to integrate SSTC in project design. 2) encourage and facilitate the exchange of information and ideas, especially among IFAD Country Offices. 3) require a comprehensive Knowledge Management Strategy for project approval. 4) review the linkages



between projects and Country Strategic Opportunity Programmes. 5) document successful SSTC cases with details. 6) provide more SSTC examples on partnerships, investment, engagement and connectivity.

This project will allow for opportunities for cross-fertilization and learning across different regions on research and promotion of the successful experiences of SSTC components in projects, and the methods to embed SSTC factors in IFAD project design. The expected beneficiaries include: a) key officials in governments and in the project management units involved in the design and implementation of IFAD supported projects, b) IFAD country directors and technical staff concerned.



Promoting Sustainable Cage Aquaculture in West Africa (ProSCAWA)

AMOUNT
\$ **500,000**

RECIPIENT
World Fish

DURATION
**March 2020 -
March 2022**

BENEFICIARIES
Smallholder farmers,
cage manufacturers,
feed producers,
hatcheries, youth
and women

Ghana and Nigeria are two prominent West African countries that depend on aquaculture as a major source of animal protein. The main objective of this project is to empower and transform the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in West Africa through enhanced Sino-African application of knowledge, technologies and expertise in cage aquaculture. It seeks to increase rural poor people's productive capacities with sustainable aquaculture approaches, to strengthen the environmental sustainability and climate resilience through climate-smart technologies and products, and to increase benefits to rural poor people through enhanced participation in the aquaculture value chain.

The main components of the project include: 1) developing the capacity of farmers, policy makers, and businesses for sustainable cage culture farming systems in Nigeria and Ghana, through policy discussion workshops, exchange visits, and refresher trainings; 2) enhancing employment, incomes and nutritional status of rural households through piloting, testing and applying productive and sustainable cage farming in water bodies; 3) establishing linkages between Chinese and West African aquaculture entrepreneurs for transfer of knowledge and development of viable business partnerships in forms of networking events, development of online fish market information portal and mobile apps, among others.

Two project inception workshops have been conducted in Nigeria and Ghana. The issues that confront successful cage aquaculture, such as the high cost of inputs especially feed, disease incidence, and inadequate fingerling production have been identified. The focus for future implementation of the project has also been discussed and agreed upon, which include procurement and installation of cages, training activities, procurement and testing of



genetically improved fish seed and formulation and testing of fish feed from locally available sources. The workshops have also served to raise the level of awareness about the project objectives and activities towards promoting cage aquaculture among small-holder farming communities in West Africa.

In Nigeria, exchange learning visits for Orisha Farm Ltd has been organized for learning in aquaculture, including fish stocking rate, feed management, cage management and marketing of aquaculture fish, which enabled them to obtain information for preparing simple budget calculations for cage farming activities. In Ghana, The first training session on aquaculture Best Management Practices was conducted for Sugarland Farms Limited and local farmers. The capacity of participants was improved on: Fish Health Management and Biosecurity in Aquaculture; Management Practices from seed to harvest; and Fish Processing Technologies.

By fostering knowledge-sharing between Ghana and Nigeria facilitated by IFAD and World Fish, the project will promote South-South cooperation in two ways: (i) by enabling technology transfer from China to West Africa; and (ii) by enhancing cooperation between Ghana and Nigeria in promoting cage aquaculture. The project beneficiaries include: a) small-holder farmers; b) cage manufacturers; c) feed producers; d) hatcheries; e) the youth and women.

v. Looking ahead

29.

Finalizing and start-up of 3rd call for proposals. The review and approval of proposals under the 3rd call for proposals is expected to be completed in the first half of 2021. Once the final result is communicated, the Secretariat will facilitate the internal clearance procedures to ensure the approved projects enter into force within the required timeline, and closely work with project teams to launch the projects with all preparations and arrangements in place, including the AWPB.

30.

Independent review of the Facility. In line with the Supplementary Funds Agreement, an independent review of the Facility is being undertaken. A review report will be prepared to mainly document results achieved with respect to the expected outcomes of the individual projects; and recommend ways to improve future project design and implementation to strengthen their SSTC nature and impact, as well as innovativeness and sustainability for rural development.

31.

Enhanced visibility of the Facility. The Facility is concrete evidence of the growing role of China as IFAD's strategic partner to achieve the global goal of ending rural poverty and hunger. Based on the tangible and substantial benefits and impacts demonstrated by the Facility funded projects in the field, an SSTC good practices report will be produced to capture, document, share and scale-up the successful experiences of the Facility through webinars and events.

32.

Way forward. Building on three years of operation and looking forward to an expanded portfolio, the Facility will carry on its mandate to further leverage SSTC in a holistic approach and diversified forms, reaching "the last mile" to rural poor with increased productivity, enhanced livelihood and improved nutrition.

