

# SHARED DEVELOPMENT

*IFAD's Newsletter on South-South and Triangular Cooperation*



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## Empowering the Global South for Adaptation and Resilience

In an ever-changing world, adaptation and resilience have become essential pillars of international development. IFAD is actively prioritizing these principles in its ongoing and upcoming projects and programmes, recognizing the need for sustainable solutions in its development cooperation approach.

Leveraging the wealth of knowledge and innovation from developing countries, IFAD promotes South-South and Triangular Cooperation to support the resilience of rural communities – often most affected by shocks and global crises. By fostering partnerships in the Global South, IFAD is contributing to reshaping the dynamics of global collaboration for a sustainable future for all.

*"Solidarity, equity, and partnership are essential elements of SSTC. They can help us achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and other global commitments."*

Gérardine Mukeshimana

IFAD Vice-President

Opening remarks during the 2023 celebration of the UN Day for SSC in Rwanda

## ENHANCING SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION THROUGH DECENTRALIZATION

In pursuit of the sustainable development goals, IFAD recognizes the vital importance of close collaboration with its partners and beneficiaries. Over the years, IFAD has taken significant steps to decentralize its operations, extending its reach more effectively to its most vulnerable target groups.



The increased presence of the Fund in its Member States through the country offices, multi-country hubs, and regional offices has contributed to fostering direct interactions among partners, a benefit which is particularly relevant for enhancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC).

In 2018, IFAD established three regional SSTC and Knowledge Centres in Brazil, China, and Ethiopia. Since their inception, these Centres have helped to increase cross-learning, bridging the gap between knowledge demand and supply at the regional and inter-regional levels. As IFAD continues to implement its strategy on decentralization, the importance and relevance of these three Centres will grow. The recent visits of IFAD's President to the Beijing and Brasilia Centres in June and July, respectively, have been critical in reaffirming the important role that SSTC plays within the Fund's mandate and strategic vision.



During his first official visit to China in June 2023, President Alvaro Lario acknowledged the contribution of the Beijing Centre in expanding outreach efforts to mobilize funding and cooperation opportunities. The Centre has significantly enhanced the development impact of IFAD-supported initiatives in the region. In Brazil, President Lario highlighted the innovative alliances established by the Brasilia Centre and the ongoing efforts to expand the Fund's partnership base in the Latin America and the Caribbean regions.

Building on this momentum, IFAD is committed to strengthening its decentralized SSTC and Knowledge Centres, especially in light of IFAD13 commitments to member countries. The Centres will step up as key focal points with customized SSTC regional strategies to leverage existing knowledge and innovations to complement development interventions, particularly in support of resilience in the face of global challenges.

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### South-South exchange between IFAD-supported initiatives in Angola and Brazil

From July 30 to August 7, 2023, northeast Brazil was a hub of knowledge sharing, when representatives from the Pro-Semi-arid Project (Brazil) and the Smallholder Resilience Enhancement Project (Angola) participated in a technical exchange designed to increase the impact of both initiatives.

Through a collaboration between IFAD, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), the teams sought to explore synergies between the two IFAD-supported projects and enhance climate resilience and sustainable development in agriculture.



The project in Brazil focuses on promoting group development plans, farmers' market access and empowerment of marginalized communities. It has successfully benefited over 75,000 families and its impact evaluation shows a 36% reduction in rural poverty in the implementation area. The project is an ideal learning example for the Smallholder Resilience Enhancement Project which targets over 200 000 households across seven provinces in Angola to enhance food security and resilience.



During the activity-filled week, representatives from the Institute of Agrarian Development (IDA)—affiliated with the Angolan Ministry of Agriculture—travelled extensively in the State of Bahia, taking part in field visits and technical discussions covering rural education, rainwater harvesting, climate resilience, value addition and marketing of family farming products.

As next steps, the representatives from both countries have agreed to hold follow-up discussions to assess the impact of the exchange and to continue to deepen their collaboration, targeting specific areas of knowledge related to the models they visited.



## SPOTLIGHT ON THE CHINA-IFAD SSTC FACILITY

The China-IFAD SSTC Facility has taken bold strides in addressing the global food crisis. By leveraging knowledge from China and the Global South, the Facility shares proven solutions and innovative agri-food practices among the Fund's Member States.

The Facility has funded 17 projects spanning 38 countries around the world, covering diverse thematic areas such as climate-smart agriculture, aquaculture, sustainable livestock management, resilient value-chains, and more. To date, the projects have directly benefited around 30,000 smallholder farmers and count over 60,000 indirect beneficiaries, with numbers continuing to rise.



The Facility provides complementary financing for the implementation of IFAD's SSTC Strategy, focusing on integrating SSTC into IFAD's country operations. Through the provision of small grants, the Facility is piloting innovative rural solutions to build successful case studies that can be scaled up. To ensure the long-term impact of the projects, business-to-business linkages and private-public-producer partnerships are promoted. To date, more than a hundred private-sector partnerships have been developed within the Facility's framework.



As we approach the latter phase of the Facility, special efforts are being made to optimize fund allocation to scale up innovative solutions and effective SSTC models through new projects. This will reinforce the results and the impact of the Facility at scale, particularly in the areas of value chain improvement, market access enhancement, private sector engagement, and institutional capacity building.

Direct and sustainable benefits for local communities and national ownership of projects will remain critical requirements, while effective knowledge management and capacity development at project level will be boosted to promote opportunities for peer-to-peer learning among partners from the Global South.

Moving forward, the Facility is focused on further improving implementation of its projects, and on monitoring, evaluation, and communication of results. This focus includes deploying a Facility dashboard and an AI tool to assist in result monitoring; and matching SSTC demands with knowledge and solutions generated by IFAD and its Member States.

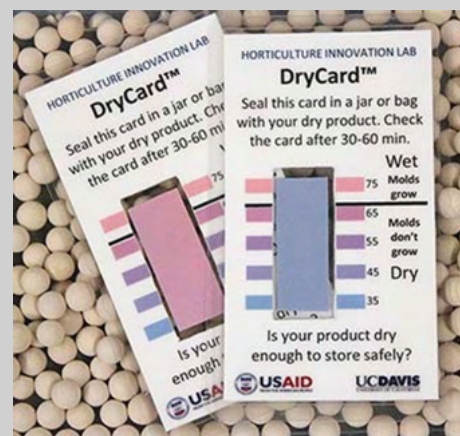
## DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS

### The DryCard solution

Drying is an essential method for preserving harvested products, but determining optimal dryness remains challenging. Improper drying can lead to mould growth, producing harmful mycotoxins like aflatoxins, which contaminate about 25% of global harvest and pose significant health risks, especially in Africa. This contamination not only threatens food security but also impacts farmer incomes and market access, and exacerbates poverty.

The DryCard is a cost-effective, reusable tool designed to ensure that harvests are dry enough to prevent mould growth and the formation of mycotoxins. Users simply place a dried food sample in a sealed container with an indicator strip, and within 30 to 60 minutes the indicator strip will change colour based on the product's dryness.

Since 2017, the Horticulture Innovation Lab, developer of the solution, has partnered with local businesses across Africa and Asia to distribute over 60,000 DryCards to farmers and traders. Nowadays, the DryCard is available for distribution in 13 countries. You can find out more on the DryCard solution by visiting IFAD's Rural Solutions Portal.



### The A-CAT tool

In Rwanda, Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs), which provide community-based savings and credit services for smallholders, found it challenging to estimate the borrowing capacity of local farmers. To help address this issue, the Agricultural Credit Assessment Tool (A-CAT) was introduced by CORDAID.



Using the A-CAT app, cooperatives have been able to estimate the cost of production, cash flow and potential earning from specific crops. In a reflection of the ethos of SSTC, the app was first introduced in 2018 by IFAD partner CORDAID in Senegal, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, and Rwanda. The positive feedback from its introduction has been the basis for its extension to Rwanda and Kenya through a China-IFAD SSTC Facility funded project.

The use of the A-CAT app has resulted in quick and better targeted loan disbursements, and, in some cases, the granting of larger amounts of credit with flexible collateral arrangements. Twelve SACCOs in Rwanda have adopted the tool, shifting perceptions of agricultural financing as a risky venture to a favourable opportunity. As highlighted by Dushime Dieudonne, UMUCYO RUKARA SACCO Manager: "A-CAT is helping us to improve the quality of appraisals for agribusinesses and contribute a lot in de-risking agriculture finance. Now, farmers can access loans promptly and timely." For more information on the case study Enhancing Agricultural Financing in Kayonza please visit our website: [ifad.org/en/sstcf](http://ifad.org/en/sstcf).

## BUILDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

### IFAD signs a Letter of Intent with CIDCA in Asia

As a significant step towards strengthening their collaboration on SSTC in Asia, IFAD and the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) signed a Letter of Intent at the inaugural high-level conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development held in Beijing in July 2023.



Ms Satu Santala, Associate VP signed the LOI on IFAD's behalf, with Mr Fengtao Zhao, Vice Chairman of CIDCA. Both representatives agreed that the formalised collaboration will be an important instrument for building cooperation in key areas of global development such as food security, poverty reduction, climate change, and green development and connectivity, among others.

As a concrete follow-up to this partnership framework, IFAD will discuss potential project cooperation with CIDCA, through the agency's Global Development Project Pool. Both partners will also explore other co-financing opportunities to facilitate South-South collaborations such as business linkages and technical cooperation.

### Rome Based Agency collaboration on SSTC

In recognition of their shared mandate of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) - the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IFAD and the World Food Programme (WFP) - are promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation as an important development instrument to end hunger and eradicate poverty.

To this end, the three agencies, in 2018, adopted a Joint Roadmap on SSTC, currently under revision and updating, to formalize their collaboration and set forth areas of cooperation to promote food security, sustainable agriculture, and improved nutrition. Since that time, they have partnered on a number of activities.

At the country level, IFAD has contributed grant resources to the RBAs to implement SSTC projects.



These initiatives have not only built collaboration among the three agencies, they have also harnessed their comparative advantage to greater effect. Through training and workshops, significant impact in poverty alleviation has been made in countries like Cuba and the Republic of Congo, with national institutions and farmers supported with capacity building in improved agricultural techniques and organisational governance.

In the coming years, RBA collaboration for SSTC will be strengthened as the agencies update their joint Roadmap to enhance country-level coordination, increase resource mobilization, and expand regional partnerships.

## EVENTS

### Celebrating the 2023 UN Day for South-South Cooperation in Kigali



One of the highlights of the RBAs collaboration has been their joint celebration of the UN Day for SSC, with each agency taking it in turn to be host. This year, the RBAs, with IFAD coordinating, decided not to celebrate the Day in Rome, the regular venue since 2017. Instead, hosted by the Rwanda Cooperation (RC), they joined with representatives from the Government of Rwanda, members of the diplomatic corps, the UN Resident Coordinator, UN Agencies and attendees from civil society, the private sector and public institutions to discuss the transformative potential of SSTC, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Participants noted the role SSTC plays in mapping and mobilizing successful experiences to support the continent's pathway to sustainable development. They agreed that robust partnerships, effective knowledge sharing, resource mobilization and enhanced institutional frameworks are the most effective means by which innovations and home-grown solutions can benefit the Global South.

Ambassador Christine Nkulikiyinka of the RC, Mr. Ron Hartman of IFAD, Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo, UN Resident Coordinator, and other UN representatives all noted the need for aligned priorities and stronger collaboration at field level, amongst development actors.

IFAD's Vice President Ms Gérardine Mukeshimana emphasized the pivotal role that the RBAs and similar agencies play as brokers of strategic partnerships targeting poverty alleviation and food security. *In the East African region, she said, we have seen lives impacted when partners come together from all parts of the world to support the most vulnerable communities. We need to work together to create the conditions that will enable more partners from the South as well as the North engage in South-South and Triangular Cooperation.*

The decentralized celebration of UN Day for SSC hosted by the Rwanda Cooperation and the RBAs was an important milestone that bears replication, one that reinforced the benefits of reciprocal learning and cooperation for equitable and equal development.

The collaboration between the RBAs and the RC was recognized and commended as an example of convening different perspectives, resources in support of global development commitments such as the Agenda 2030 of the UN, and the Africa Union's Agenda 2063. *Such an event could only strengthen joint efforts toward tangible impact in the lives of the community we serve* said the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo.



**To learn more about our work in SSTC, visit:**

[www.ifad.org/sstc](http://www.ifad.org/sstc)

**To learn more about our China-IFAD SSTC Facility, visit:**

[www.ifad.org/sstcf](http://www.ifad.org/sstcf)

**To read more solutions from our portal, visit:**

[ruralsolutionsportal.org](http://ruralsolutionsportal.org)

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