

# SHARED DEVELOPMENT

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



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## Enabling Inclusive Development through SSTC

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is an International Financial Institution and a United Nations Agency specialised in agricultural development and rural transformation.

As a long-time partnership broker, IFAD is uniquely positioned to build collaborations across the Global South to promote knowledge and innovations tailored to the specific needs of developing countries.

*"As development partners, not only are we in a position to foster this new collaboration dynamic in the Global South, we have a duty to ensure that SSTC fully plays its part in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals."*

Satu Santala,  
Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance Department at IFAD  
Remarks at G20 Leaders' Summit Side Event "Enabling Inclusive Development through South-South and Triangular Cooperation" - 15 November 2022

## LOOKING BACK AT LAST YEAR AND THE WAY FORWARD IN 2023

In December 2021, IFAD adopted a new South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) strategy in response to demands from its Member States for increased SSTC engagement and in alignment with the broad recognition of SSTC as a critical development tool to achieve Agenda 2030. The year 2022 was dedicated to a gradual transition to this new strategy, which envisions a sharper focus on knowledge and innovation sharing as well as policy engagement across the Global South to double and deepen the Fund's impact.



Over the past year, a number of achievements have been registered in this initial period of implementation that have expanded our reach to our beneficiaries and partners. We have supported the embedding of SSTC narratives in all the new country strategies adopted to guide our operations on the ground. We have broadened our SSTC partnerships for results, through close engagement with a sub-set of SSTC champion Member States. We have facilitated more than 100 knowledge activities to the benefit of nearly 25,000 households and we have mobilised over USD 1 million in South-South investments.

For this year 2023, we will focus on consolidating these achievements for greater impact. We will expand our partnership and financial base through deepening and building our collaboration with governments, NGOs and the private sector; we will support the capacity of development agents and national institutions to identify, design and implement SSTC at the country level; and we will strengthen our policy engagement at the country, regional and global levels to raise the visibility and impact of SSTC.

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### RWANDA: Building smallholder farmers' resilience in the Kayonza District

Kayonza district is a drought prone area in Eastern Rwanda. The district has been experiencing rainfall shortages and food insecurity for the past few years. To support local resilience, IFAD in partnership with CORDAID is implementing the STARLIT (Strengthening Agricultural Resilience through Learning and Innovation) project which aims at facilitating farmers' access to extension services, agricultural mechanization and rural financing.

STARLIT has developed an innovative digital solution for farmers where they are provided information through their mobile phones using Interactive Voice Responses (IVR). By dialling a number, they can access a training on maize farming approved by the Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB), as well as information on the market and best buyers.

The project has also partnered with EVERGREEN, a Chinese private company specializing in post-harvest equipment. Solar irrigation solutions have been introduced; that are appropriate to small-size plots, with low operating costs, and which will contribute to reducing carbon emissions.



*“We lacked good facilitator to make this happen, last season we could not harvest due to poor rainfall. I am happy we have accessed two irrigation systems and we will irrigate our two hectares.”* Mr. Claude Twagiramungu president of FO IMIRASIRE RUKARA –Rwimishinya Village.

STARLIT has also developed an agri-equipment maintenance model working with the Youth Engagement in Agricultural Network (YEAN) to train them on how to provide fee-based maintenance services to the farmers. This has created job opportunities for the young men and women in the district.



*“I did not know that there is a lot of opportunities in agri-sector. I have seen of agri-equipment dysfunctional in many Farmers Organisations, now I have job to fix them and get return. I will do my job very well and hope to get many clients. If all goes well, I will create my own company and expand my business and hire more youth”.* Ms. Regine, fee-based equipment maintenance service provider.

In addition, Monetary Financial Institutions (MFIs) and Savings and Credit Co-Operative Societies (SACCOs) have been introduced to loan assessment tools, financial products, risk-management and refinancing packages, all of which will increase the access of smallholder farmers to agriculture financing.

Since its inception in 2021, STARLIT has reached more than 2,600 farmers with digital extension services, supported 18 Farmers Organisations to acquire agriculture equipment, helped 1,176 farmers to access agri-loans and trained 18 youths on agricultural machinery maintenance.

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### CUBA: IFAD and WFP launch a joint project with the support of the China-IFAD SSTC Facility

Representatives of IFAD, World Food Programme (WFP), the Chinese Embassy in Cuba and Holguín Agricultural Extension, Research and Training Unit launched a joint initiative on 15 December 2022, in Havana, Cuba.

Funded by the China-IFAD SSTC Facility, the project aims at improving the local supply of food to the Cuban social protection network. Through peer-to-peer learning and technical assistance from China, agricultural producers will be supported to directly distribute food to schools, day care facilities and other centres of the national Family Support System (SAF).

The project will also strengthen the capacities of SAF centres to process food and to promote healthy, nutritious and safe diet among rural communities.

The project will be implemented in the Gibara municipality in the eastern region of Cuba, which is one of the most affected by the impact of natural disasters and climate change.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Cuba, Francisco Pichón, highlighted the importance of inter-agency cooperation: “No single agency has the operational instruments, the logistical capabilities or the action framework to address all the issues Cuba faces. The way forward is to work together more and more.”



### TANZANIA: Strengthening community resilience, markets and trade development



In 2022 and in collaboration with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), IFAD launched a two-year project in Tanzania aimed at increasing the productivity and profitability of key food and cash crops.

With funding from the China-IFAD SSTC Facility, the project is working with 20,000 rural women, men and youth in the cassava, sunflower and bean value chains to improve their access to markets.

The intervention has already benefited 6,758 rural households, teaching farmers good agronomic practices in the selected value chains. It has also established business linkages among small-scale producer groups, lower and higher-level aggregators, and off-takers. The number of aggregation points for the three commodities has increased from 84 in 2021 to 113 in 2022.

In addition, the project has established South-South cooperation between Tanzania and Henan Ocean Intelligence Technology, a Chinese private company, to procure five sunflower oil press machines which will be used to add value to the raw products.

Abdallah Ali, a 33 year-old sunflower oil processor from the Manyara region, noted that with the new technologies introduced by this project, more cooperatives will be able to commercialize their products and improve households incomes.

# SPOTLIGHT ON IFAD'S RURAL SOLUTIONS PORTAL

In collaboration with the Brazil Africa Institute (IBRAF), three innovative practices and technologies have been documented and published on IFAD's Rural Solutions Portal. They address bio-organic agriculture in Guatemala, women cooperatives in Brazil, and indigenous food heritage in Chile.

## **Flor de Tierra: Rural-youth entrepreneurs support sustainable food production in Guatemala**

The high reliance of farmers on agrochemicals and industrialized inputs presents a major threat to both human health and the environment in Guatemala. To respond to this challenge, a group of young entrepreneurs has developed bio-organic agricultural inputs to meet local needs. Through training programme farmers have been supported to replicate the technology, thus increasing soil fertility in a sustainable manner.



## **Increasing the economic and social importance of rural women in Brazil**

Despite the fact that many rural women undertake commercial activities, their contribution to household incomes and family farmer businesses has been traditionally undervalued. The establishment of a women-led market platform has reduced this perception considerably. Now, they have gained in social and economic importance, and their knowledge and expertise are seen as valuable inputs for an improved lifestyle

## **Seeds of hope: Increasing the nutrition and resistance of seed varieties in Chile through traditional and ancestral knowledge**

A group of rural indigenous women has found a way to reduce agricultural and food heritage loss caused by the indiscriminate use of industrial seeds. Their initiative is collecting, propagating, preserving and commercialising traditional seeds and varieties which have more diversity and nutritional value, and are more resistant to the effect of climate change.



## BUILDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

### Rome Based Agencies: Launch of the joint initiative for Home-Grown School Feeding in Kenya and Senegal

The UN Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) - FAO, IFAD and WFP - with their shared mandate of ensuring food security for all people, have joined forces to support one of the most impactful evidence-based interventions to positively transform global food systems: national Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programmes.

By helping countries of the Global South to tap into good practices and expertise in support of linkages between smallholder producers and HGSF, the intervention has the potential to:

- Enhance sustainable and inclusive public food procurement mechanisms;
- Promote the production of nutrient-dense foods by local farmers;
- Support small-scale farmers, food processors and other local producers to access markets and enhance their active participation in local and nutrition-sensitive food value chains;
- Improve the access to and consumption of healthy diets among targeted beneficiaries such as school children.



In December 2022, the initiative was launched in Kenya and Senegal with meetings organised by the country offices of the three agencies. During the meetings, they agreed to:

- Finalize consultations with relevant country partners for the design of the joint interventions;
- Develop full country proposals in close collaboration with the national partners in the target countries;
- Establish formal agreements for the implementation of the interventions.

### IFAD-WORLDFISH: Increasing household fish consumption

In the last two years, IFAD and WorldFish have partnered successfully to build resilience, improve diets and increase household incomes through the "Advancing Climate-Smart Aquaculture Technologies (ACLiSAT)" and "Promoting Sustainable Cage Aquaculture in West Africa (ProSCAWA)" projects. In December 2022, a global webinar was held to discuss the experiences, results and good practices from ACLiSAT, funded under IFAD's regular grants programme, and ProSCAWA, funded under the China-IFAD SSTC Facility.



The ProSCAWA project has shown that it is possible to sustainably farm large masses of fish on available waterbodies using cage culture, and without disrupting their bio-diversity. ACLiSAT, in its turn, has increased the adoption of efficient aquaculture technologies in arid areas, improved the engagement of women and youth in productive aquaculture and enhanced collaboration between international and local stakeholders.

To increase knowledge sharing between the two projects, an exchange visit is planned from Ghana and Nigeria to the ACLiSAT project in Egypt. Participants will learn about the mixed farming approach, which has demonstrated impressive fish yields and an efficient utilisation of natural resources.

## POLICY DIALOGUES AND EVENTS

### Side-event at the G20 Leaders' Summit: "Enabling Inclusive Development through SSTC"



IFAD was invited by the government of Indonesia and the Islamic Development Bank to take part in a side-event on SSTC during the G20 Leaders' Summit in Bali in November 2022. Ms. Satu Santala, Associate Vice-President at IFAD represented the Fund. Participants, from G20 Member Countries, UN agencies and other development institutions, deliberated on how SSTC can support the SDGs and other global commitments.

In her remarks Ms. Santala highlighted how development partners are not only in a position to strengthen the new dynamics of collaboration in the Global South; they must also ensure that the potential of SSTC to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals is fully realised. "It is important to maintain a strong focus of development cooperation on interventions for longer-term resilience, and rely on partners with proven experience to effectively leverage SSTC" she said.

As a complement to traditional development cooperation, IFAD's Associate Vice-President called for much needed dedicated financial mechanisms to respond to the increased global interest for South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

### 2022 International Seminar on Global Poverty Reduction Partnerships

The annual seminar is an international platform for sharing poverty reduction experiences, jointly organised by the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), the China Internet Information Center (CIIC), FAO, IFAD and WFP. The 2022 International Seminar was held under the theme of "Shared Development - Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Rural Revitalization" and attended by more than 120 participants. IFAD interventions during the Seminar showcased how the Fund has consistently targeted the root causes of rural poverty toward achieving long-term sustainable development results.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Wang Wei, IFAD's Chief Partnership Officer for Global Engagement and SSTC highlighted the central role of small-scale producers in achieving global food security; and the importance of leveraging all available tools including SSTC to increase their productivity and build their resilience.



Mr. Abdelkarim Sma, IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Lead Economist presented the Fund's contribution to addressing global poverty and food insecurity, noting that IFAD's investments between 2019 and 2021 increased the incomes of an estimated 77.4 million rural people.

Participants at the event called for inclusive and transformative partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. "We can end the cycle of poverty and hunger, but it will take long-term commitment and joint action from all development partners." concluded Ms. Wang.

**To learn more about our SSTC engagement, 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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