



Photo: WFP/Jules Bezaka

# South-South Quarterly Newsletter

## July 2021

*“Key trends of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), such as the... recognized significance of knowledge and practice sharing, innovative financing mechanisms, etc., have shown the great prospects of SSTC for Sustainable Development Goals...SSTC has proven to be a crucial mechanism in times of COVID-19 response and recovery, and in achieving SDGs.”*

*Statement of Adel Abdellatif*

*Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation*

*Closing of the 20th session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation*

*4 June 2021*



**Programme—Humanitarian and  
Development Division (PRO)**

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

**July 2021**

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# Global SSTC Outlook

## Evolving messages from the Evaluation of WFP's Policy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

Since 2020, WFP's Policy on SSTC - which is the current policy framework for WFP's engagement in SSTC - is undergoing a policy evaluation.

In May 2021, the evaluation team released the draft evaluation report with key findings, which were discussed in a recent stakeholder workshop.

Here are a few highlights:

- WFP's efforts in broadening and systematizing SSTC engagement over the past few years have been acknowledged.
- SSTC has been recognized as a "bridge" between WFP's work on Country Capacity Strengthening and Partnerships.
- WFP has an opportunity to broaden its role as a trusted partner for the "changing lives" agenda through SSTC. For example, WFP's comprehensive technical assistance provided to the Dominican Republic, going beyond one-off SSC exchanges,

was highlighted as an example through which WFP leveraged its role as trusted partner to the government.

- The WFP SSTC Policy was found to be as effective as that of comparative UN agencies who operate SSTC with significantly larger amounts of resources and human capacities.
- The Report acknowledges the value of WFP Centres of Excellence (CoEs) as partners for SSTC and appreciates the diversity of CoEs to engage in different forms and thematic areas when brokering SSTC.

The final draft report is in preparation and is expected to be presented to the Executive Board in November 2021.

The findings from the Evaluation as well as findings from WFP's ongoing Global Task Force on SSC will be consolidated throughout 2021 in order to inform WFP's proposed revision of the WFP Policy on SSTC in 2022.



## Towards WFP's second Global Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

On the heels of the [Second High Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation \(BAPA+40\)](#), held in 2019, WFP organized its first Global Meeting on SSC.

The meeting's objective was to take stock of WFP's progress in SSTC and identify strategic options for its future positioning as partner for SSTC.

Key recommendations from the meeting included:

1. SSTC is key for WFP Country Offices (COs) to position themselves as long-term partners, especially in the context of middle-income countries, which are interested in becoming 'providers' of zero hunger solutions.
2. It is increasingly important for WFP to embrace SSTC if we want to make knowledge exchanges and country capacity strengthening support to host governments sustainable for achieving SDG 2.
3. In order to move forward, WFP needs to consolidate its service offer for SSTC in the context of changing and saving lives.

These messages were reinforced through the ongoing evaluation of the 2015 WFP Policy on SSTC.

With this in mind, WFP put in place several global initiatives, including:

- Launch and roll out of SSTC field projects in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural

Affairs of China (MARA), and through the launch of the COVID-19 Opportunity Fund -coordinated by PRO-T/SSTC with blended resources from WFP and MARA;

- Set up of a global SSTC Task Force, with the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), WFP CoEs and different divisions in HQ, which explores WFP's strategic options for SSTC;
- Facilitation of a peer learning network among and with WFP CoEs at technical and director level to discuss and address issues of mutual interest in SSTC;
- Adaptation of WFP's SSTC service offer to WFP COs and host governments in view of the global trend for digitalization and the COVID-19 context; and
- Expanding collaboration with the RBAs and alignment with the UN-system wide strategy and action plan for SSTC.

In order to take stock of progress on WFP's strategic approach to SSTC, and inform WFP's upcoming revision of the WFP Policy on SSTC, PRO is organizing a 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Meeting on SSTC in November 2021.

The 2nd Global Meeting will be back to back to the discussion with the Executive Board on WFP's Evaluation of the SSTC Policy.

Further information and invites will be shared shortly.

# Global SSTC Outlook

## Update on WFP's Global Task Force on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The roll-out of WFP's Global Task Force (TF) on SSTC is progressing with key findings emerging.

Led by PRO-T, RBP and WFP CoE Brazil as co-chairs, the TF made progress on the following points:

### Strategic analysis of WFP's position and landscape for SSTC engagement" (Workstream 1):

A value proposition was developed for WFP to evolve its strategic support to host governments for both saving and changing lives through SSTC brokerage.

This will enable WFP to combine its SSTC expertise in traditional areas (e.g. school feeding, smallholder farmers support) with its comparative advantages in the humanitarian field (e.g. EPR, supply chain).

### Exploring WFP's SSTC delivery model and principles for high-quality SSTC (Workstream 2):

A mapping of WFP's SSTC delivery models was elaborated and discussed. WFP will go for diversified and field-oriented models (as opposed to one potentially centralized model).

In addition, WFP conducted a review of existing and aspired principles for high-quality SSTC service delivery which informs WFP's future programmatic approach to SSTC.

### Effectively matching supply and demand for SSTC (Workstream 3):

WFP's internal platform on SSTC, South-SouthMatch.com (which supports matchmaking and functions as a "conversation-starter"), will be officially launched as a global platform to "match" country demand with SSTC offers from Southern providers.

This platform will be complemented by WFP's external CoE platforms in SSTC which play a key role in capturing, vetting and sharing in-depth knowledge available in the Global South.

More information about WFP's knowledge platforms in SSTC can be found here: [CoE Brazil](#); [CERFAM's KEPT](#); [China CoE](#); [South-SouthMatch.com](#) (available internally).

As the way forward, the last meeting of the SSTC TF is planned for 12 July.



Photo: WFP/Rein Skullerud

## Strategic Dialogue on SSTC among PRO and CoE Directors

PRO and CoE Directors set up a new initiative called "Strategic Dialogues on SSTC".

The dialogues started in May 2021 and aim to provide a regular platform for strategic discussion between PRO and CoE Directors.

The discussion matters include reviewing new SSTC opportunities, aligning messages on SSTC that are of mutual interest and enhancing visibility of the CoE's work (e.g. in the context of the upcoming Food Systems Summit).

This initiative links up well with WFP's work on the Global Task Force on SSTC, particularly on Workstream 2, focused on SSTC delivery mechanisms.



Photo: WFP/Brazil



# Global SSTC Outlook

## Second Meeting of RBA Directors for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In view of the rising momentum of SSTC as a global trend and area for UN agency collaboration, WFP hosted the second RBA SSTC Directors Meeting, in May 2021.

The meeting focused on a joint vision and action plan for RBA collaboration on SSTC.

The purpose is to review the outdated RBA Roadmap on SSTC which was consolidated in 2019. See attached the [NFR](#).

The RBA Directors, including David Kaatrud from PRO-T, identified the following opportunities for collaboration this year:

- leveraging field-level activities through country pilots (e.g. MARA pilots), SSTC Facilities (e.g. IFAD-

SSTC Facility) and regional collaboration (e.g. RBA facilitated SSTC in the Sahel);

- exploring options for further institutional alignment around SSTC (e.g. in view of ongoing evaluations), where it makes sense; and
- developing a joint agenda for “deep dives” of subsequent RBA Director Meetings, such as on collaboration in the context of the Food Systems Summit, evidence-generation and partnerships for SSTC.

The next meeting will take place ahead of the RBA Event on the UN Day for SSTC and the Food Systems Summit in September 2021 and will focus on RBA opportunities in the context of the Food Systems Summit.



## 2021 Call for Proposals for WFP's COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund

WFP's launch and first call for COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund proposals in 2020, resulted in 16 CO applications and 8 COs receiving seed funding support through this mechanism.

Based on the success of the launch, a new call for proposals was initiated in 2021.

The fund is supported by MARA and WFP internal funds.

It aims at providing seed funding for WFP COs and Regional Bureaus (RBx) to enable short-term, field-level activities to support host governments' engagement in SSTC in the context COVID-19. It also aims to identify entry points for new SSTC partnerships with China.

In addition, it incentivizes countries to actively explore SSTC opportunities, mobilizing knowledge and solutions from China and other Southern providers.

The fund contributes to mainstreaming SSTC into WFP's programme of work, promotes a greater focus on grass-root level exchanges, digital solutions and technology adaptation, and leverages new partnerships.

During the second call for proposals, 32 proposals have been received, with project ideas in thematic areas such as food systems, SAMS, EPR, resilience and climate adaptation, social protection, nutrition, school feeding, VAM and supply chains.

Selected proposals will receive up to USD 25,000 for the

implementation of “fast track South-South initiatives” with a duration until December 2021.

The proposals which are aligned with MARA's priorities are being considered for seed funding from MARA. Others are being considered for WFP-internal seed funds.

The selection process is currently ongoing and WFP COs and RBx will be informed of the results shortly.



# Global SSTC Outlook

## Towards scaling up WFP's global SSTC collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, China, through South-South and Triangular Cooperation field pilots

Based on the success of the first wave of the Global SSTC Field Pilot Initiative in 2020, WFP's partnership with MARA on SSTC is growing.

WFP and MARA reaffirmed their partnership and commitment to SSTC, following the first consultation meeting on the WFP-MARA SSTC Field Pilot Initiative that was held on 13 January 2021.

Participants discussed:

- MARA's contribution to WFP in support of SSTC and the Field Pilot Phase II in 5 countries;
- cooperation principles for the roll-out of this initiative;
- thematic and geographic priorities; and
- modalities for future WFP-MARA SSTC design and implementation (please see below).

This is a flagship initiative of WFP's global service offer on SSTC and supports WFP COs to shift from "ad-hoc" exchanges in SSTC to a programmatic approach contributing to country capacity strengthening on the ground.

It also features prominently in WFP's preparations for WFP China's next Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2022-2025.

In addition, the initiative provides a space for further RBA collaboration on SSTC in the field.

WFP and China aim to continue strengthening the fruitful collaboration in SSTC for countries in the global South to achieve their food security and nutrition goals.

In view of this, the next director-level consultation meeting is coming up on 23 July 2021 and the third phase of the projects is being launched now.

### Thematic Priorities

- Value chain development and market access for smallholder farmers
- Supply chain, including processing, post-harvest loss management and storage systems
- Climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience building
- Innovative practices and experience on poverty alleviation and rural development, including the rural e-commerce model

### Geographic Priorities

- Developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in line with China's priorities and WFP's operational needs

### Modalities

- Policy dialogues
- Short-term expert deployment
- Workshops, training and field demonstrations
- Study tours in China, if the situation allows

### HOST COUNTRIES



### CONTRIBUTION 2019-2021



### BENEFICIARIES IN THE FIELD





# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

## WFP China Centre of Excellence (CoE)

### WFP China CoE and the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China organize a webinar on Early Warning Systems for Better Preparedness

WFP China CoE and the National Disaster Reduction Centre of China held a webinar on Early Warning Systems for Better Preparedness in May 2021.

This was supported by the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) and MARA.

The webinar focused on sharing China's experience on the operation and management of early warning systems.

Participants discussed how to address the bottleneck of early warning information dissemination and communication.

The webinar provided a platform for exchanging ideas and solutions between China and countries in the Global South through SSTC.

Findings from this webinar may inform future SSTC initiatives in this area.



**A Webinar on  
Early Warning System for Better Preparedness**

17:00-18:30 Beijing Time / 9:00-10:30 GMT, 27 May 2021

**Ms. Maha Ahmed**  
Moderator  
Deputy Director, WFP  
China

**Mr. Xiaoning Zhang**  
Opening Remarks  
Deputy Director General,  
National Disaster Reduction  
Center, Ministry of  
Emergency Management of  
the People's Republic of  
China

**Dr. Sixi Qu**  
Concluding Remarks  
Representative/Country  
Director, WFP China

**Dr. Halxia He**  
Speaker  
Researcher, Department of  
Risk Monitoring and  
Integrated Disaster  
Reduction, Ministry of  
Emergency Management of  
the People's Republic  
of China

**Ms. Nicole Carn**  
Speaker  
Head of Programme, WFP  
Malawi

**Dr. Guizhen Guo**  
Speaker  
Director of the Integrated  
Risk Monitoring and Early  
Warning Center, National  
Disaster Reduction Center,  
Ministry of Emergency  
Management of the People's  
Republic of China

Co-organised by  
United Nations World Food Programme  
联合国世界粮食计划署  
Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation  
农村发展中心  
National Disaster Reduction Center of China

Supported by  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of People's Republic of China

### Seminar to enhance the cooperation between China-Africa on Rice Value Chains

In June 2021, WFP China CoE, UNOSSC, CICETE, China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund), and CERFAM organized a policy dialogue to discuss how to enhance rice value chains through China-Africa cooperation.

The dialogue provided an opportunity to link China with partner countries in Africa to exchange views and solutions in this area.

Participating countries included Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Gambia.

The outcome of this seminar will contribute to the implementation of a joint initiative on "China-Africa Rice Value Chain Development" under the [Global South-South Development Centre Project \(GSSDC\)](#), promoted by WFP China CoE, CERFAM, CICETE and UNOSSC.

Please see [here](#) the Concept Note and Agenda.



Photo: WFP Giulio d'Adamo

# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

## WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) Against Hunger in Brazil

### WFP CoE Brazil partners with the Technical University of Denmark to develop smart solutions for SDG 2

The WFP CoE Against Hunger in Brazil and the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) have [joined forces to develop smart solutions](#) to fight hunger and malnutrition.

WFP CoE Brazil signed a Memorandum of Understanding with DTU's FoodLab - a food systems' change laboratory which is part of the University's Innovation Hub.

This partnership aims at producing knowledge, innovation and tools to support country efforts in school feeding, food security and nutrition.

It is promoted by WFP CoE Brazil's [Virtual Exchanges platform](#), which provides remote support such as advocacy dialogues and knowledge sharing for SDG 2.

The partnership will combine research and practical experience to provide virtual support for WFP COs and host governments in the Global South.

For example, as a first activity, WFP CoE Brazil and DTU organized an "innovation challenge" for students.

The challenge focused on the question, "How can we develop and implement techniques in small-scale agriculture to ensure a steady supply of food to national school feeding programmes?"

To replicate a real-life scenario, DTU students needed to consider limited access to technology, water supply and energy.

In April 2021, results were presented in a webinar, jointly with the WFP CO Republic of Congo and CERFAM, that focused on innovative preservation and processing techniques for cassava in West Africa.

As a next step, the students will now focus on supporting existing cassava value chain initiatives that are currently in place in the Republic of Congo.



DTU Skylab FoodLab



Photo: WFP China CoE



## DTU INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Strategies for food preservation and processing





# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

## WFP Regional Centre of Excellence Based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM)

### WFP China CoE and CERFAM strengthen their collaboration on SSTC for SDG 2 in 2021

In March 2021, the Directors of CERFAM and WFP China CoE met virtually to review joint activities and discuss the ongoing collaboration since 2020. They also defined priority areas for cooperation in 2021.

As some highlights, CERFAM and WFP China CoE adapted their work to COVID-19 through virtual modalities by:

- (i) developing a fact sheet on digital innovations to facilitate SSTC and capacity strengthening;
- (ii) co-organizing a series of webinars and producing a publication of good practices on post-harvest loss management;
- (iii) co-organizing a webinar on good practices and knowledge sharing in food security and nutrition;

- (iv) facilitating a workshop on improving the cassava value chain within the framework of SSC; and
- (v) documenting good practices and lessons learned on e-commerce through a [Policy Brief](#) and [Success Stories of E-commerce](#).

In addition, CERFAM collaborated with WFP China CoE and UNOSSC on strengthening the rice value chain by sharing knowledge and experiences through SSC between African countries and China.

This strong collaboration is expected to continue growing to assist country-led efforts towards achieving SDG 2 through SSTC.

### CERFAM and Columbia University in the United States jointly promote good practices on resilience in Africa

In December 2020, CERFAM initiated a collaboration with "Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs" (SIPA) to develop an integrated resilience framework for West and Central Africa.

The integrated framework aims to contribute to more effective planning, design, and implementation, as well as, monitoring and evaluation of resilience programmes.

The framework will examine the causes of food and nutrition insecurity and the needs of resilience programmes for the sustainability of future projects.

The results of this project will be shared with WFP COs, government partners and development actors with a view at enhancing resilience initiatives on zero hunger.

The project includes consultations with multiple stakeholders to reflect a comprehensive view on the challenges and good practices in the region.

The initiative is rolled out in collaboration between WFP, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Sahel University Network for Resilience, "Actions contre la Faim", the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Development and the Rural and Golf 3 town hall Togo.



### CERFAM supports the Government of Togo to conduct an integrated survey on food and nutritional security

In March 2021, the Government of Togo, WFP CO Togo and CERFAM, conducted a field mission to evaluate the implementation of centralized school canteens in the Municipality of Golfe 3 in Togo.

This initiative is part of the 2030 project launched by WFP CO Togo which includes the development of an integrated survey during the 2020-2021 agricultural season. The survey explores aspects of agriculture, food and nutritional security responding to country demand.

Togo's experience is a good example and can be shared with other countries that aim to strengthen capacities to conduct nutritional surveys and collect and analyze food security data.

The initiative is in alignment with the Harmonized Framework, a regional framework to prevent food crises by identifying affected populations and proffering measures to improve their food/nutrition security.

The next phase will support the Togolese Government to update food and nutritional security indicators and target beneficiaries in the context of emergency food assistance.



# Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

## The Dominican Republic, Colombia, Mexico and Peru strengthen Social Protection Programmes with support from WFP's COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund

From February to May 2021, WFP brokered SSTC to strengthen social protection in the Dominican Republic through regional dialogues with Colombia, Mexico, and Peru.

The dialogues promoted collaboration on strategies and lessons learned from COVID-19 adaptation and response to continue supporting vulnerable populations.

This initiative benefitted from seed funding from the COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund.

WFP facilitated three bilateral meetings and one high-level webinar to exchange experiences between authorities from the Dominican Republic with representatives from the other three countries.

Just as some examples:

From Colombia, the Department for Social Prosperity presented practices in targeting mechanisms and conditional transfers to assist the population affected by COVID-19.

Representatives from the Dominican Republic introduced their existing social protection programmes with efforts to include historically excluded populations.

Representatives included the Cabinet for Social Policy, the National Social Registry System, the National Statistics Institute, Progressing with Solidarity, Administrator

of Social Subsidies, and the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development.

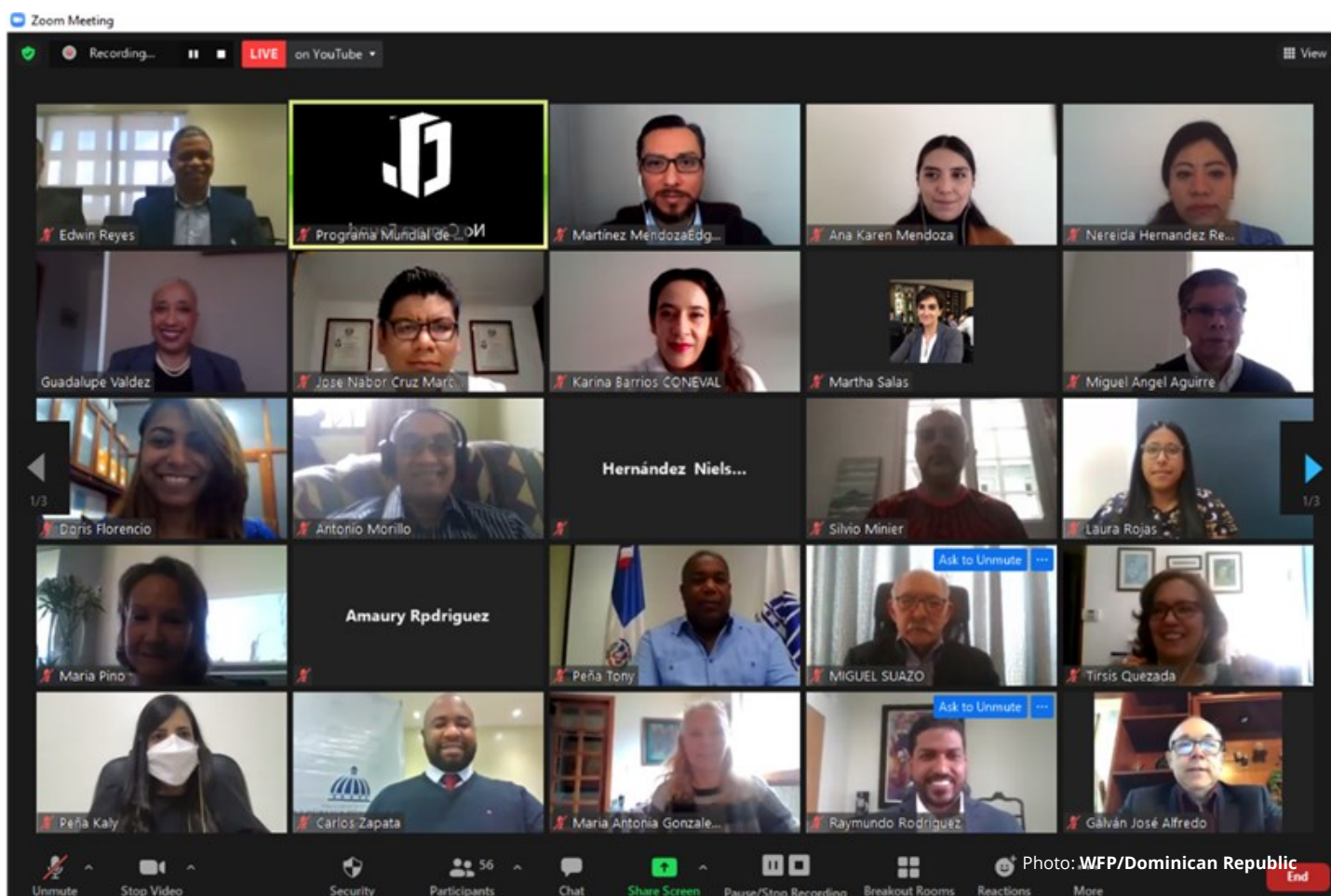
From Mexico authorities shared the lessons learned from the adaptation of its social protection system and programmes to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Mexican authorities joined from the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL), Mexican Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID), Secretaries of Labour, Health and Economy.

In the case of Peru, government experts from the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS) shared their experiences with registry and interoperability of the social protection system databases.

The high-level webinar brought together authorities from the four countries and key partners to analyse lessons learned and identify areas for collaboration (e.g. strengthening synergies between institutions).

As a result, countries identified the opportunity to develop a road map for joint work to continue pursuing SSTC with the aim of strengthening social protection systems in the region.





# Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

## Ecuador's virtual seminar on the National Agricultural Strategy for Rural Women

In February 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Live-stock (MAG) of Ecuador and WFP CO Ecuador, organized a virtual seminar in support of the implementation of its National Agricultural Strategy for Rural Women (ENAMR).

This is part of WFP's existing SSTC Field Pilot Project in collaboration with MARA, which is supported by PRO-T, RBP and WFP China CoE.

The project focuses on "[Strengthening Central and Local Government Capacity in Support of Gender-Transformative Public Policies to Increase Productivity and Access to Markets of Smallholder Farmers.](#)"

To support this initiative, a gender expert from MARA joined the virtual seminar to share knowledge from Chi-

na. The expert emphasized the importance of generating rural development policies that focus on women.

Women leaders from Latin America also highlighted the importance of policies for rural women and the need to promote their participation at local and national levels.

The seminar counted with multiple stakeholders including: directors and technical teams of MAG and other Ministries from Ecuador, FAO, UN Women, academia, private sector and international organizations.

Currently, the RBAs and UN Women are developing a joint work plan for the territorialization of ENAMR and its application at different levels of government.

The work plan will continue to support the food security of rural women in Ecuador.



Photo: WFP/Ecuador

## Peru's webinar and workshop on Smallholder Farmers linking with Public Procurement

Under the same Global SSTC Field Pilot Initiative supported by MARA, WFP is supporting a project in Peru with technical and financial support from China.

The project aims at promoting the participation of smallholder farmers in public food procurement to improve the nutrition of school-age children in Peru.

As part of this project, WFP CO Peru facilitated a webinar "Linking Family Farming with Public Procurement" on 22 April 2021.

The objective was to share the results of two studies conducted in the scope of this project. The webinar generated some policy recommendations including the need to:

- map smallholder farmer's experiences linking to School Feeding Programmes (SFPs);
- analyze challenges and needs of farmers; and
- develop a roadmap to implement a law to promote public purchases from smallholder farmers.

High-level officials from Peru including the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS), Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation (MINAGRI) and academia participated in the webinar.

Following that, on 29 April, WFP CO Peru organized the workshop "Family farming and public procurement in Peru, China, Ecuador and Honduras".

WFP CoE Brazil and WFP RB Panama facilitated this exchange by promoting knowledge and experience sharing among experts and decision-makers from the four countries.

The workshop was funded and technically supported by China and implemented in coordination with IFAD and FAO.

Currently, WFP is launching the second phase of the project that will begin in July 2021. The second phase will focus on strengthening public policies that promote access of smallholder farmers to public food procurement.



# Regional Outlook: Africa

## The Government of Namibia conducted a market assessment for a Home-Grown School Feeding Pilot with support from the WFP COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an increase in food prices and subsequent decrease in access to food for the majority of Namibians.

As a mitigation strategy, the Government of Namibia (GoN) with technical support from WFP will be initiating a pilot programme on the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) to support the food security of communities.

From January - February 2021, WFP carried out a market assessment in four regions (Omaheke, Hardap, Ohangwena and Kunene) to analyze the feasibility of the programme.

WFP partnered with Catholic AIDS Action (CAA), a local NGO, to apply a survey that collects information for this market assessment.

The survey targeted national and district level government, smallholder farmers, traders, food processors, service providers, households and other key informants.

The findings have shown that the pandemic adversely affected the supply chains of food items.

## Linking Smallholder Farmers to markets in Zimbabwe, with support from WFP's COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund

Since March 2020, most smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe have faced limited access to markets, due to national lockdowns and regulations linked to COVID-19.

WFP has partnered with the Government of Zimbabwe (Agritex), Knowledge Transfer Africa (KTA) and the China-Aid Agricultural Technology and Demonstration Centre (CATDC) to pilot the use of eMkambo.

eMkambo is an interactive mobile, physical and web-based platform that generates and processes information along agricultural value chains, linking smallholder farmers to markets.

In November 2020, Agritex and KTA trained 10 lead farmers, 15 officers and 500 smallholder farmers on market engagement, online platforms and e-commerce.

CATDC enabled the participation of Professor Guo from the China Agricultural University and the Director of Smart E-commerce Research Centre who both also facilitated trainings.

For example, 54.9% of respondents from all regions reported that they were negatively affected by COVID-19 regulations.

The results of this market assessment will be used to inform evidence-based programming of the HGSFP pilot in Namibia. The assessment was conducted with support from the WFP COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund.

As the way forward, WFP facilitated SSTC will support the GoN to connect with technicians in the Ministries of Agriculture and Education in Kenya.

The Government of Kenya will peer review the assessment, given the country's vast experience in implementing HGSF.

As part of this peer learning exchanges, the Government of Kenya is considering a study visit to Namibia to learn about their School Feeding Information System to continue this collaboration.

The platform will capture information about the volume and values of horticultural and traditional grain value chains traded between April and September 2021.

The platform will also help improve sales which would enable smallholder farmers to purchase equipment to increase productivity and diversify livelihoods.

As a key lesson learned, the inclusion of local leadership increased community buy-in and participation of the targeted smallholders.

Project stakeholders recommended that the pilot project be scaled-up to the entire district and that they include the establishment of aggregation centres to support collective marketing.





# Regional Outlook: Asia

## India's experience in inter-country knowledge exchange on warehouse receipt systems



Asian countries like India, China, Vietnam, and Philippines have a long history of implementing warehousing receipt systems (WRS).

Such systems provide receipts for producers when they deposit an agricultural product. The receipt details the quantity, quality and ownership of the commodity deposited.

The Government of India established the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) which, in 2017, created electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt System (eNWRs) transactions in the country.

Digitalization of the system enables smallholder farmers to have access to short-term financial support and eases the transfer of ownership. This avoids the need for physical relocation of the commodity and saves resources.

The eNWRs issued by registered warehouses are linked to a commodity exchange and enable depositors to make trades.

India's experience in eNWRs can be shared with countries of similar context through SSTC. Overcoming the challenges of shifting from a paper-based warehouse system to an electronic system can be key for countries in the global South.

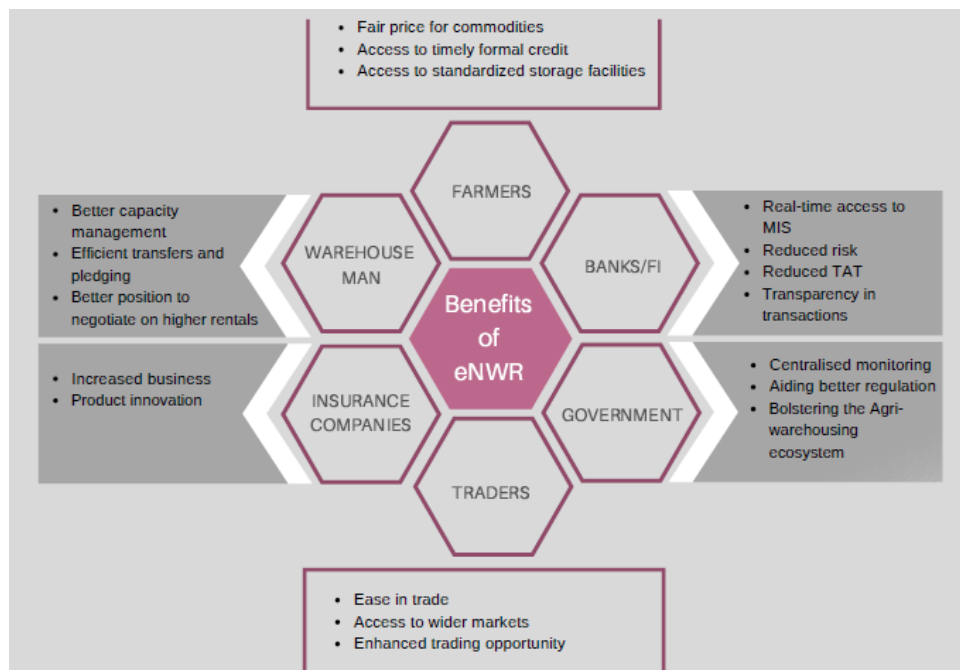
In addition, India developed eNam (electronic marketing platform) which enabled farmers to sell agricultural goods to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on markets.

India is also interested in learning from other countries that use warehouse receipts to support smallholder farmers.

Key areas of interest include:

- Guarantee fund, indemnity fund and private insurance;
- Credit expansion;
- Block chain solutions.

Upon country demand, WFP stands ready to support Southern countries to connect and learn from India's experience through SSTC.



To submit an article to the SSTC global team for the next edition of the SSTC Quarterly Newsletter, please contact:

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