

South-South Quarterly Newsletter December 2021

"COVID-19 and its impact of reversing progress in eradicating extreme poverty and in achieving other SDGs ... along with extreme weather events, have highlighted the enhanced value and heightened need for strengthened multilateralism and more effective South-South cooperation"

Statement of Adel Abdellatif
Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
Report of the Secretary-General on the State of South-South Cooperation
14 October 2021



Programme—Humanitarian and Development Division (PRO)

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

December 2021

<u>newgo.wfp.org/topics/south-south-cooperation</u>
For more programme-related newsletters, click <u>here</u>.

Table of Contents

Page 3

Rome-based Agencies jointly celebrate the 2021 UN Day for South-South Cooperation with a focus on sustainable and inclusive food systems

WFP holds its "Second Global Meeting on South-South Cooperation" to discuss WFP's strategy to bring SSTC to the next level

Page 4

2021 round of applications to WFP's "COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund" provides seed funding to 22 Country Offices for South-South projects on the ground

WFP mobilizes USD 1 million from the India-Brazil- South Africa (IBSA) Fund to support smallholder market access in the Republic of Congo in partnership with Brazil

Page 5

WFP's Global South-South Field Pilot Initiative enters third phase

Page 6

Launch of WFP's flagship publication in SSTC: WFP's Overview of SSTC Initiatives in 2020

Page 7

Virtual workshop on comprehensive application of Juncao technology Seminar on South-South Cooperation roadmap of tropical agriculture

Page 8

Centre of Excellence and Brazil host first Virtual Study Visit from Lesotho

Page 9

The Republic of Congo, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and WFP increase efforts to improve cassava and banana value chains CERFAM and partners combine efforts for food fortification in Africa

Page 10

South-South Review El Salvador: Supporting Country Strategic Plan formulation The Caribbean experience in disaster risk reduction (DRR)

Page 11

Expanding SSTC in West Africa through field projects

São Tomé and Príncipe shares knowledge with Mozambique on a law to regulate the national school feeding and health programme

Page 12

India contributes USD 1 million for climate resilient agriculture in Zimbabwe



Rome-based Agencies jointly celebrate the 2021 UN Day for South-South Cooperation with a focus on sustainable and inclusive food systems

On 17 September 2021, WFP, in collaboration with FAO and IFAD, co-organized the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) celebration of the 2021 UN Day for South-South Cooperation (SSC).

The celebration, which was hosted virtually by FAO this year, focused on "Agri-food Systems Transformation and Voices from the Global South."

The event was aligned with the topic of the UN Food Systems Summit: "The People's Summit: Accelerating Action for the Future We Want."

Voices from Uganda, Kenya, India, and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States shed light on challenges, approaches and opportunities for promoting inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation.

The celebration also enabled WFP to share some achievements from its Global Field Pilot Initiative on South-South Cooperation.

A representative from the government of Kenya shared Kenya's experience with a WFP-facilitated South-South project, which aims at strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers against climate shocks. The project is supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA).

Some key messages that emerged from the RBA celebration include the need to:

- Expand the RBAs' approach as brokers, and support countries from start to the end of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) initiatives;
- Actively listen to the voices from partners in the Global South on the type of experiences and solutions that have worked best on the ground;
- Promote synergies and linkages between our offer as SSTC brokers with longer-term support to strengthen country capacities and systems; and
- Remain flexible to adapt to unpredictable and rapidly changing operating environments, (i.e., COVID-19).

The RBAs reconfirmed the commitment to jointly broker SSTC for achieving SDG 2, update the existing "RBA Roadmap for SSTC" and to focus their collaboration at field operations.

Please see the press release following the event <u>here</u>.



WFP holds its "Second Global Meeting on South-South Cooperation" to discuss WFP's strategy to bring SSTC to the next level

On 11-12 November 2021, WFP Programme - Humanitarian & Development Division (PRO) hosted WFP's 2nd Global Meeting on SSTC, back-to-back to the 2nd Regular Session of the Executive Board.

The 2nd Global Meeting helped WFP to take stock of the findings from WFP's SSTC Policy Evaluation and WFP's growth path as SSTC broker.

It also focused on WFP's level of ambition and future pathways for brokering SSTC in view of the proposed revision of WFP's Policy on SSTC in 2022-2023.

In total, the Second Global Meeting brought together approximately 60 colleagues from all Regional Bureaux (RBx), Centres of Excellence (CoE), 8+ Country Offices (COS) and 6+ HQ Divisions.

The meeting included a Strategic Roundtable Discussion with WFP Directors from all regions, all CoEs, various HQ Divisions and Valerie (AED PD). The Directors' Roundtable was followed by a technical workshop with the wider SSTC Community in WFP.

Some key takeaways included:

- WFP is on a growth path in its role as SSTC broker, and there is clear potential to scale up WFP's engagement in SSTC as WFP adopts a new Strategic Plan.
- Since WFP's First Global Meeting on SSTC in 2019, WFP has made significant progress to consolidate its corporate approach to brokering SSTC.

- WFP is well positioned as a SSTC broker in both "changing lives" and "saving lives" agendas in the context of the new Strategic Plan.
- WFP will expand its evidence base and develop an ambitious plan to take SSTC to the next level.

As a key outcome, WFP is preparing to launch the 2022 WFP Task Force on SSTC in order to follow up on the actions agreed at the Second Global Meeting on SSTC.

The 2022 Task Force on SSTC will focus on:

- Mainstreaming SSTC into 2G CSPs, and across WFP's programme of work on saving and changing lives;
- Strengthening WFP's approach to generate evidence on and foster learning on WFPsupported SSTC; and
- 3) Peer-reviewing WFP's SSTC Policy Update.

All these efforts will enable WFP to shape its new strategic approach as a facilitator of SSTC in 2022-2023. Please see the full key takeaways here.





2021 round of applications to WFP's "COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund" provides seed funding to 22 Country Offices for South-South projects on the ground

WFP's COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund enables COs could choose between two funding tracks for their WFP COs and host governments to respond to the adverse effects of COVID-19 by sourcing expertise, knowledge and technology from their "peers" from the

The Fund consists of blended funding from MARA and WFP-internal funds.

32 COs responded to the 2021 Call for Applications of the Fund.

This high number reflects the rising interest of host governments to tap into WFP-facilitated SSTC. It also highlights the need to broker SSTC to exchange experiences and lessons learned amidst the continuing COVID -19 pandemic.

In total, WFP allocated seed funding to 22 COs across all regions to enable short-term, field-level activities and support host government engagement in SSTC in the context of COVID-19.

applications:

- Track 1: Seed funding to tap into China's technical expertise in their response to COVID-19 related capacity challenges.
- Track 2: Seed funding to mainstream COVID-19 SSTC exchanges into WFP's broader work on the changing and saving lives agenda.

The grants (USD 25,000) helped WFP COs to expand the engagement with their host governments in areas such as food systems, smallholder farmers' access to markets, emergency preparedness and response, resilience and climate adaptation, social protection, nutrition, school feeding, value chains and supply chains.

Just as some examples, in Madagascar the project focuses on leveraging SSTC to promote regional collaboration in supply chains for emergency preparedness and response. In Burundi, the SSTC project will support rural digitalization of sustainable agricultural value chains.



WFP mobilizes USD 1 million from the India-Brazil- South Africa (IBSA) Fund to support smallholder market access in the Republic of Congo in partnership with Brazil

In August 2021, WFP received a USD 1 million contribution from the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Fund for a field pilot project in the Republic of Congo (RoC) and to support WFP's global SSTC function in Rome.

This is the first time WFP is engaging with the IBSA Fund, which is an important milestone for WFP's expanding work on SSTC.

It also reflects WFP's growing role in brokering SSTC and strong support from the Brazilian Government through WFP CoE Brazil.

The IBSA project in RoC, which will be jointly brokered by WFP CO RoC, WFP CoE Brazil and SSTC team in PRO, aims to strengthen institutional capacity to expand smallholder farmers' access to markets, including through the school feeding programme.

The Government of Brazil, which sponsored the initiative, will provide technical assistance and share its recognized expertise in smallholder farming and school feeding programming with RoC's national partners.

In line with WFP's approach to SSTC in the context of saving and changing lives for SDG 2 and as part of WFP's Global SSTC Field Pilot Initiative, the project aims to create benefits for the most vulnerable by augmenting RoC's efforts towards achieving zero hunger.





WFP's Global South-South Field Pilot Initiative enters third phase

WFP's SSTC Field Pilot Projects in Ecuador, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka and Peru have entered into a third phase of implementation.

Leveraging the existing experience and relationships between China and the host governments from phase 1 and 2, the pilots focus on strengthening country capacities in the area of food systems and resilience building and aim to generate benefits for the most vulnerable rural populations through SSTC.

The third phase of the field pilots aims at leveraging the experience of previous phases and scaling up SSTC to (a) strengthen capacities of host countries, (b) expand the results of previous SSTC activities, and (c) align priorities and strengthen linkages to Chinese solutions.

Under PRO's coordination and support, matching SSTC demands from host countries with solutions from China was enhanced in 2021 to better align with the host governments' development priorities.

In total, the pilots have benefited from USD 4 million from MARA over the past 3 years.

Over 3,000 smallholder farmers and government officials in 5 countries have been reached through the projects, with over 70% being rural women.

The SSTC Field Pilot initiative is a key mechanism of WFP's engagement in SSTC at the global level. It enables WFP to share China's wide range of knowledge and expertise with partners from the Global South to address capacity gaps related to achieving food security and nutrition.

The field pilots have also been included in China's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2022-2025 and help to implement WFP's CSPs in developing countries.

This initiative provides space to further RBA-SSTC collaboration in the field by building on each agency's comparative advantages.

For more details of the SSTC Field Pilots please see the fact sheet and video, and contact Xin Zhang.

Overview of SSTC Field Pilots Phase III

ECUADOR

Value Chain and Smallholder Agriculture Market Support - USD 120K

•Strengthening capacity and market access of smallholder farmers especially for rural women, with national and local government support

KENYA

Supply Chain and Post-Harvest Losses - USD 120K

Post-harvest Loss Management Practices and Technologies through a Food System Approach

SRI LANKA

Value Chain and Post-Harvest Losses - USD 120K

•Strengthening the resilience and livelihoods of vulnerable smallholder farmers to climate-related risks in Sri Lanka

REPUBLIC OF CONGO Value Chain and Post-Harvest Losses - USD 120K

•Strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers to supply fortified cassava products and reduce post-harvest loss of banana in the Republic of Congo

PERU

Value Chain and Smallholder Agriculture Market Support - USD 120K

• Fresh food (vegetable) value chain development to benefit smallholder farmers in Ayacucho





Launch of WFP's flagship publication: WFP's Overview of SSTC Initiatives in 2020-2021

At the occasion of the 2021 UN Day for SSC (12 September 2021), WFP launched a new global report called "Overview of WFP's Initiatives on SSTC in 2020-2021.

The publication provides a snapshot of recent developments of WFP's work in SSTC (e.g. updates on the Evaluation of the 2015 SSTC Policy) and an overview of WFP-facilitated SSTC at all levels, including country, regional and global levels. It also consolidates the SSTC achievements of WFP's CoEs in Brazil, China and Cotê d'Ivoire.

The publication provides concrete examples of how WFP has stepped up its efforts to broker SSTC to support host governments amidst the pandemic.

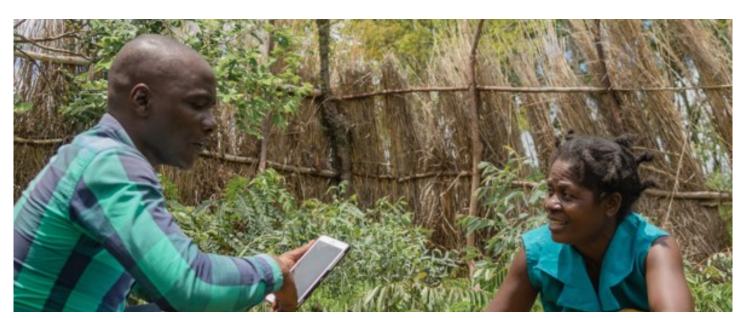
As some highlights from 2020-2021:

- WFP has launched the 2nd and 3rd phases of the Global Field Pilot Initiative in Ecuador, Kenya, Peru, the Republic of Congo and Sri Lanka, in close collaboration with MARA of China.
- WFP has launched two editions of the COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund to provide seed funding to COs to engage in SSTC. The Fund supports mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on the food security and nutrition of vulnerable populations.

- WFP's network of CoEs in Brazil, China and Cotê d'Ivoire fully adapted to use remote modalities to continue supporting host governments through SSTC amidst the pandemic. For example, WFP CoEs in China and Cotê d'Ivoire have launched their knowledge-sharing platforms while the CoE Brazil has developed a virtual study tour.
- WFP has also rolled out an external evaluation of the 2015 WFP Policy on SSTC which was presented to the Executive Board in November 2021. Also, an internal Global Task Force on SSTC brought together WFP's RBs, CoEs and relevant HQ Divisions to explore WFP's strategic options for expanding its work on SSTC.

The Overview of WFP's Initiatives on SSTC in 2020-2021 can be useful for host governments to learn more about WFP's work and service offer in SSTC. It can also provide concrete examples to WFP COs for brokering SSC while they formulate and implement the Second Generation CSPs.

WFP invites you to take a closer look at the global report <u>here</u>.



2020-2021 Overview of WFP's Initiatives on South-South Cooperation



Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

WFP China Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China CoE)

Virtual workshop on comprehensive application of Juncao technology

In August 2021, the WFP China CoE organized a Virtual Workshop on the Comprehensive Application of Juncao Technology for the WFP global network of COs, RBx, CoEs and HQ Divisions.

Juncao technology is an example of an innovative technology that can be made available through SSTC, upon host government demand.

In practice, Juncao is a new category of grass which provides material to grow fungi, alleviates the lack of fodder on pastures in dry season, promotes the development of animal husbandry and contributes to controlling water and soil loss.

It also contributes to building more resilient food systems, minimizing environmental damage and ending poverty and hunger in line with Agenda 2030.

58 WFP colleagues from 16 countries attended the workshop to learn about Juncao technology and the successful implementation of a Juncao project in West China.

Participants watched videos about the technology's application and explored the potential of Juncao to address development challenges.

A brief on the technical application of <u>Juncao Technology</u> <u>Brief</u> was developed with country cases of its application on the ground in Rwanda, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

WFP-facilitated SSTC can enable sharing of expertise from China. While leveraging experiences from Southern countries can serve as an inspiration for other countries.

Following the workshop, WFP China CoE organized a technical exchange with WFP's Food for Assets (FFA) Unit to analyse how Juncao technology can be used in WFP's FFA programmes and other similar activities.

Moving forward, WFP will explore how the Juncao technology can be reflected in the WFP FFA Programme Guidance Manual.



Seminar on the South-South Cooperation roadmap for tropical agriculture

In July 2021, WFP China CoE and Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) co-organized a seminar on SSTC, "Roadmap of Tropical Agriculture" in the Hainan Province, China.

More than 80 participants from government agencies, African and Asian embassies, enterprises, academia, WFP COs and CoEs joined the seminar.

The seminar reviewed SSTC initiatives and projects facilitated by WFP China CoE and CATAS.

A representative from the National Climate Change and International Cooperation Agency shared a presentation on China's policy and technical measures to achieve carbon neutrality and peak emissions.

Technical presentations were also shared by experts from CATAS on cassava value chain, tropical food storage & processing, ecological management in tropical areas, and tropical disaster risk reduction.

A key deliverable from the seminar includes mapping prioritized areas to form a roadmap for future cooperation, which aligns with China's next CSP.

The event was a milestone in the establishment of a strategic partnership between WFP and CATAS.





Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) Against Hunger in Brazil

The WFP Centre of Excellence and Brazil host first Virtual Study Visit from Lesotho

In September 2021, the WFP CoE Brazil welcomed a delegation from Lesotho as the first participants in the "Virtual Study Visit: Brazil."

This was a joint initiative between the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE) to showcase the successful Brazilian experience of its National School Feeding Program (PNAE). WFP CoE Brazil and WFP CO Lesotho facilitated this SSTC exchange.

The "Virtual Study Visit: Brazil" consists of a series of videos that simulate an immersion into PNAE.

It enables WFP CoE Brazil to expand its support to a greater number of countries from the Global South using virtual SSTC modalities in view of travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The final virtual study visit for Lesotho in October, brought together 45 participants from the Lesotho Ministry of Education and Training, representatives from FNDE, ABC, WFP CO Lesotho, the Brazilian Embassy and WFP CoE Brazil.

The virtual study visit included a series of videos covering the most central topics of the PNAE, including the programme's legal framework, financing, institutional capacity, design and implementation. It also covered community participation and purchases from smallholder farmers.

As follow up, continued technical support is being discussed between Brazil and Lesotho.

Upon request, the virtual study visit to Brazil can also be made available to other countries in the Global South.

To learn more about the "Virtual Study Visit: Brazil" and request a virtual visit click <u>here</u>.



NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME (PNAE)

Karine Silva dos Santos PNAE General Coordinator



Ministério da



Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

The Republic of Congo, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and WFP increase efforts to improve cassava and banana value chains

The Republic of Congo (RoC), in collaboration with WFP and CERFAM is scaling up efforts to strengthen cassava and banana value chains.

From July to August 2021, a group of ten Beninese and Ivorian technical experts supported by CERFAM, travelled to RoC to share knowledge in food processing and equipment manufacturing.

The experts trained approximately 200 artisans and smallholder farmers from 4 departments to produce modern equipment and techniques in order to process cassava and banana into quality derived products (i.e., grinder, screw press, flour refiner etc.).

Following training, participants developed 6 models of machines and produced 30 machines that can be used to improve the yield and production of by-products.

This can be key to increasing the income of smallholder farmers, while saving resources by reducing the time of production.

CERFAM, in close collaboration with WFP COs, played a facilitating role in supporting RoC to gain knowledge and adopt new technology from partners from the Global South to improve agricultural value chains.

CERFAM has also promoted the adoption of these new innovative techniques within the farmers and women's groups contributing to harnessing local food for more diverse and healthy diets.

By prioritizing women's cooperatives, the project also integrated cross-cutting dimensions and contributed to women's empowerment in value chain development.

Additional capacity building activities are planned to explore strategies to improve market access for these beneficiaries.



CERFAM and partners combine efforts for food fortification in Africa

On September 2-3, 2021, CERFAM organized a high-level consultation on food fortification, in collaboration with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the African Union and the West African Organization of Health.

The two-day consultation brought together more than 600 participants from 69 countries, with 88 panelists to discuss how to leverage food fortification through a dietary approach to reduce micronutrient deficiencies in Africa

The consultation facilitated exchanges of experiences and good practices in food fortification at the global, regional and national level.

Some key messages include:

- The need to better regional coordination with stakeholders to accelerate efforts and progress on fortification in Africa in a harmonized way.
- Food fortification needs to be part of a broader food systems approach and integrated with other sectors (i.e., agriculture, education, social development).
- Local solutions and initiatives exist but need to be scaled up and invested in.

Some of the recommendations include:

- Entrust the African Union to formally spearhead and oversee fortification efforts in Africa.
- Create a supportive facility, hosted by CERFAM, to facilitate regional knowledge sharing, coordination and harmonization of policies and frameworks.

- Prioritize actions and investments in food fortification (i.e., in school feeding and during the first 1,000 days of life).
- Create an enabling policy, legal and financial, environment for fortification.
- Develop a clear action plan, coordinated by CERFAM, with roles, responsibilities, accountability, timelines and a funding strategy, to increase systemic and sustainable action on fortification.
- Scale up advocacy, partnership and knowledgesharing to accelerate fortification.





Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

South-South Review El Salvador: Supporting Country Strategic Plan formulation

In September 2021, the SSTC Team in PRO, together with the SSTC focal points in the Regional Bureau Panama (RBP), supported the WFP CO El Salvador to conduct a "South-South Review."

The South-South Review assisted in the formulation of WFP's engagement in SSTC in the new CSP.

The WFP team held consultations with 10 government counterparts — including the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and others — to identify national priorities and capture country demands for WFP-facilitated SSTC.

The South-South Review enabled WFP to strengthen the partnership in SSTC with the Government of El Salvador and WFP CO who identified 8 SSTC investment opportunities to support national priorities on food security and nutrition.

SSTC opportunities were selected in key areas including supply chain, emergency preparedness and response, climate adaptation and resilience, school feeding, etc.

Following that, WFP CO El Salvador is in the process of prioritizing 1-2 most relevant SSTC investment opportunities.

Those will receive seed funding from HQ to kick start the engagement with the Government of El Salvador in SSTC. Implementation of these SSTC activities will count with support from RBP and the SSTC Team in HQ.

For more information, the South-South Review is a methodology that has been developed by PRO and applied in 15 countries to support identifying SSTC opportunities to include in the CSP formulation and implementation.

It can be made available to more WFP COs upon request to PRO.







Regional Outlook: Africa

Expanding SSTC in West Africa through field projects

WFP-brokered SSTC is becoming a tool to support the response of WFP's host governments to build back better from the adverse effects of COVID-19.

In West Africa, the COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund enables 3 COs—Chad, Guinea and Gambia—to support host governments through SSTC to respond to increasing food security and nutrition needs in view of the pandemic.

The Regional Bureau Dakar (RBD) Programme Support Unit assists COs on project design, management, and implementation:

- The project in Chad taps into SSTC with Kenya to strengthen the functionality of Chad's Unified Social Registry system.
- In Guinea, the SSTC project promotes exchanges with China for optimizing the national rice value chain and supporting the development of efficient and sustainable food systems. This supports Guinea's home-grown school feeding programme.
- The project in Gambia will leverage SSTC with Brazil to revitalize staple food value chains and market access of smallholder farmers to institutional markets.

In all countries, policy seminars will bring together policy makers from different countries in the region,

WFP CoEs, the Governments of Brazil, China, and Kenya, Regional Bureau Johannesburg (RBJ) and Regional Bureau Nairobi (RBN) to promote peer learning.

COs are also exploring exposure visits to other developing countries in Africa.

These visits may help national policymakers to see firsthand the benefits of investments food security and nutrition initiatives.

As a follow-up to these policy seminars, cross-border collaboration among RBD, COs, CoEs and other RBx will take place to continue the discussion.

As a follow-up to these policy seminars, cross-border collaboration among RBD, COs, CoEs and other RBx will take place to continue the discussion.

Activities are expected to take place until March 2022 with a mix of virtual, in-person and hybrid events and exchanges.



São Tomé and Príncipe shares knowledge with Mozambique on a law to regulate the national school feeding and health programme

In September 2021, WFP organized a virtual meeting to facilitate the exchange of experiences in school feeding between representatives of the Ministries of Education of São Tomé and Príncipe and Mozambique.

WFP COs in both countries enabled the virtual meeting to respond to a request from the Government of Mozambique, the session was facilitated by WFP COs in both countries.

Mozambique seeks to learn from São Tomé and Príncipe's experience of drafting a law that regulates the National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE).

PNASE was created in 2010, due to the gradual transfer of responsibility for implementing school meals from WFP to São Tomé and Príncipe´s National Government.

Law 4/2012, which institutionalizes PNASE, sought to create a legal and regulatory framework that would guarantee the sustainability of the programme and contribute to its full ownership by the government.

This knowledge exchange aimed to assist Mozambique in developing a law to regulate its own National School Feeding Programme (PRONAE).

The meeting was based on presentations made by a nutritionist from the Technical Director of PNASE and a legal consultant, who worked on the drafting of PNASE's law. Currently, WFP COs in São Tomé and Príncipe and Mozambique are in discussion to define the next steps of this collaboration.





Regional Outlook: Asia

India contributes USD 1 million for climate resilient agriculture in Zimbabwe

As part of the <u>India-UN Development Partnership</u> <u>Fund</u>, the Government of India contributed almost USD 1 million to WFP CO Zimbabwe to help affected populations tackle climate shocks.

Since Zimbabwe has experienced consecutive years of drought, cyclones and unpredictable weather patterns, the contribution will be used to assist more than 5200 smallholder farmers in Chiredzi and Mangwe districts.

Between 2020-2021, WFP and partners have supported 60,000 smallholder farmers – 70 percent being femaleheaded households, across 30 rural districts through small grain production activities in Zimbabwe.

Working alongside partners, CO Zimbabwe will provide expertise through its Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) programme, to strengthen the resilience and capacity of selected smallholder farmers.

The project will promote the cultivation of droughttolerant small grains and legumes – reducing the negative effects of recurring droughts in Zimbabwe.

This funding highlights India's growing contributions to the Global South on efforts towards strengthening resilience to climate change. WFP will build on existing collaborations with partners to combine relevant expertise, including with FAO, Zimbabwe's Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement, and the Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services in Zimbabwe (Agritex).

Partners will procure small grain seeds and fertilizers from in-country producers and deliver these inputs to selected smallholder farmers.

Farmers will be trained on the advantages of growing drought-tolerant crops (i.e., sorghum, millet), including techniques on reducing post-harvest losses and sustainable climate-smart agriculture.

The Director of United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, stated, "This project will provide a good opportunity for successful Southern practices to be tested and scaled, improving the lives of rural Zimbabweans."

The project is on-going until 2022.





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

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To view previous editions, click <u>here.</u>

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