



Photo: WFP/ Cecile Asje

South-South Quarterly Newsletter February 2021

“Southern countries are demonstrating the spirit of South-South cooperation, equal partnership and global solidarity during the pandemic, by collaborating in science, technology and innovation, delivering medical supplies, providing financial resources, sending health workers and experts to bridge gaps in capacity, and sharing best practices...”

SSTC must have a central place in our preparations for a strong recovery.”

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General
United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation 2020



**Programme—Humanitarian and
Development Division (PRO)**
South-South and Triangular Cooperation
February 2021

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Global SSTC Outlook

Global Task Force on South-South Cooperation

WFP continues the efforts to evolve its strategic approach to South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) through a cross-divisional Task Force.

In November 2020, participants from WFP Regional Bureaux (RBs), Centres of Excellence (CoEs) and HQ Divisions joined their respective workstreams to work on the deliverables that respond to the following objectives:

- ⇒ **Workstream 1** (Co-chair: Jean-Pierre de Margerie, PRO-T) - "WFP's strategic analysis of WFP's position on the SSTC agenda and landscape"
- ⇒ **Workstream 2** (Co-chair: Daniel Balaban, Brazil's Centre of Excellence) - "Exploring WFP's SSTC delivery model"
- ⇒ **Workstream 3** (Co-chair: Marc de Regnault de la Mothe, RBP): "Matching of Future Demands and Offers for SSTC"

Some key messages emerging from the meetings were:

- 1) Coordination and coherence of the corporate SSTC architecture and functional network are key conditions for effective SSTC implementation.
- 2) Expansion of the SSTC partnerships base should be based on compelling SSTC-specific value proposition and require targeted opportunity and risk mapping.
- 3) Effective matching between countries correlates with the scope and quality of collected data and enabling technological infrastructure.

The Task Force on SSTC will be informed by the findings of the ongoing evaluation of 2015 WFP Policy on SSTC. Findings from these two processes will inform the 2nd WFP Global Meeting on SSTC planned for June 2021.

Strengthened Partnership with China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)

WFP is pleased to continue the strong collaboration with China to advance efforts towards achieving zero hunger through SSTC. Since 2019, MARA contributed two phases for a total of USD 2.5 million to support WFP-facilitated SSTC.

With support from MARA, WFP has been facilitating field-level pilots in five countries including Ecuador, Sri Lanka, Republic of Congo, Kenya and Peru contributing to food security and nutrition.

This renewed contribution will enable WFP to expand the support to these countries leveraging China's successful experience in reducing poverty and hunger through SSTC.

This continued support reflected an important shift of MARA-WFP South-South Cooperation (SSC) from ad-hoc exchanges towards operationalizing SSC initiatives that contribute to strengthening country capacities.

Due to the travel restrictions, pilot activities of the second wave have been adapted to remote modalities to ensure smooth, prompt and safe implementation as planned.

By the end of 2020, over 760 smallholder farmers and 95 government officials in host countries enhanced their capacity through SSTC training, and over 1,000 farmers indirectly benefitted from these projects, in which over 70 percent were rural women.



New Financing Mechanism for SSTC: Tapping into the Emerging Donor Matching Fund for South-South Cooperation

The Republic of Congo (RoC) is the first country to secure funding from the Emerging Donor Matching Fund (EDMF) to tap into SSTC.

To support the knowledge exchanges and incentivize expert deployment for the cassava value chain development project in the RoC, WFP mobilized the support from its dedicated financing facility, the EDMF.

The EDMF is WFP's corporate instrument designed, among other objectives, to promote South-South cooperation through the provision of matching support.

RoC's experience sets a precedent to mobilize EDMF funding for WFP-facilitated SSTC, while enabling low income countries to share their solutions and contribute to SDG 2.

RoC received US \$51,623 contribution from EDMF matching the in-kind contribution from Benin and Côte-d'Ivoire.

This funding will scale up results of a technology transfer on cassava processing conducted in 2019 with support from WFP's Regional CoE against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM).

The experts from Benin and Côte-d'Ivoire will deliver training of trainers and direct training for both artisans and processors on the construction of high-quality machines and how to use them to transform cassava roots into attiéké and gari (cassava-based products).

Global SSTC Outlook

Dialogue on Effective South-South Knowledge Brokerage in View of COVID-19 and the Trend of Digitalization

On September 24, the SSTC global team in PRO, in partnership with the WFP Innovation and Knowledge Management Division (INK), and WFP's Innovation Accelerator in Munich, organized a dialogue to identify options for **WFP's vision for future South-South knowledge brokerage**.

WFP collaborated with leading experts that are at the forefront of South-South knowledge-sharing to inspire WFP's vision-building exercise.

Those included representatives from the Alibaba Group, UNICEF, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) and SocialProtection.org that shared their insights with 10 of WFP's senior management and 52 participants from HQ and the field over three days.

This dialogue was followed by an internal reflection workshop at technical level (25 and 28 September) to explore pathways to achieve WFP's vision for future knowledge brokerage models.

The initiative counted with participants from all WFP CoEs, four out of six WFP RBs, eight WFP COs and four HQ Divisions (TEC, STR, SBP and PRO).

Key messages:

- ⇒ SSTC becomes even more important as a means to address country needs in view of COVID-19. WFP can help countries capture best practices from the Global South and transfer to others using digital SSTC modalities.
- ⇒ There is a wealth of knowledge in the Global South and efficient knowledge sharing is indispensable – not only among SSC partners but globally.
- ⇒ Digitalization is critical as an enabler to adapt to COVID-19 and external and internal trends that affect our SSTC business model. Technology should be explored as “a means to an end” to support SSTC in programmes.
- ⇒ There is a need to build on existing structures and tap into virtual tools already in use from SSTC partners and other UN organizations to digitalize everyday SSTC activities (e.g. study tours, trainings, etc.) and to combine different tools (Teams, WeLearn, etc).

Inter-agency UN mechanism: SSTC Action Plan of the First UN System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

UN Inter-agency mechanism under the coordination of UNOSSC completed its work on development of the first UN System-wide Strategy on SSTC for Sustainable Development 2020-2024 and its accompanying Action Plan for its implementation.

The Action Plan is submitted to the approval process. WFP's SSTC team worked with UNOSSC and other UN Agencies to formulate the Action Plan, which main objective is to enable the UN System to leverage SSTC to support Member States' efforts to achieve the SDGs, promote gender equality and women's empowerment and climate action.

Both documents seek to coordinate and strengthen the UN System's capacity and impact on SSTC at the global, regional and national levels, including through the UN

Country Teams; as well as for the sharing of knowledge and experiences, the mobilization of resources and the brokering of partnerships and strategic alliances.

The action plan includes set of indicators that will be voluntarily reported by individual UN agencies to ensure greater alignment across the UN to understand UN-wide capacity for SSTC and to track its progress.

This will also impact WFP's plans to strengthen its capacity to support host governments to tap into SSTC for SDG 2 on zero hunger.

The strategy and action plan will be submitted for the UN approval process (including UNOSSC Executive Committee, UNRCs and UNODC) in the first semester of 2021.

Toolkit on digital modalities for South-South and Triangular Cooperation Activities: new guidance for COs

The SSTC Global Team in PRO has released new guidance to facilitate SSTC in a virtual environment with the **[“Toolkit for designing and implementing South-South and triangular cooperation activities using digital modalities”](#)**.

The toolkit provides step-by-step guidance for WFP's SSTC practitioners on how to effectively design and implement SSTC using remote modalities.

It helps WFP COs to use digital tools to adapt SSTC in the context of, and after, the COVID-19 pandemic.

This guide is a key output of the virtual workshop **“Digitalizing WFP's South-South cooperation modalities in the face of COVID-19”** jointly organized in June

2020 by the PRO Division and INK, including the Innovation Accelerator based in Munich.

The toolkit is now available on WFP's Manual on SSTC and other internal channels for SSTC.



Photo: WFP/ Alessandro Abbonizio

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) Against Hunger in Brazil

Digital Exchanges between Brazil and Indonesia Progress Enabled by WFP's COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund

Since September, WFP Indonesia and WFP CoE Brazil are working together to promote **Virtual South-South Exchanges** and enhance Indonesia's **school-based programmes**.

This effort is supported by the COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund established by the SSTC global team in PRO to enhance national mitigation responses to COVID-19.

In early-September, WFP CoE Brazil and WFP Indonesia held calls to set objectives, define the methodology and align the approach for virtual exchanges.

Since then, the WFP teams have been meeting on a weekly basis to advance efforts in school feeding in Indonesia.

For this learning exchange, WFP CoE Brazil Programme unit has prepared a series of documents and 4 interactive and directed webinar sessions on three topics:

- 1) the **Brazilian responses to the COVID-19 school closures**;
- 2) Global experiences on **home-grown school feeding (HGSF) and school health and nutrition**;
- 3) the **Brazilian HGSF history and components**, including financial design, implementation tools,

school health and nutrition services in Brazil, and the smallholder agriculture market support HGSF structures.

As next steps, the learning exchanges will move to another phase in which the Government of Indonesia and Brazil will be involved. An online and advocacy webinar among the two WFP offices and both host governments are expected to take place in February 2021.

An on-site technical workshop in Indonesia is being considering depending on travel restrictions and safety.

These exchanges follow the methodology developed by the WFP CoE Brazil on virtual exchanges available [here](#).



Digital Tools Enhance Regional Response to the Global School Feeding Strategy with Support from WFP CoE Brazil

WFP launched its Global School Feeding Strategy in 2020. The 10-year strategy establishes a ten-year school feeding plan, WFP's vision, priorities and roles for school health and nutrition, including how WFP's role adapts to provide support to national programmes, governments and children.

To implement and regionalize the strategy in the West and Central Africa region, WFP CoE Brazil is supporting WFP RB Dakar (RBD) to draft its Regional Bureau School Feeding Implementation Plan (RBIP) by adapting to SSTC Virtual Exchanges.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, remote data collection methods with national stakeholders are being used to design the most relevant and appropriate RBIP.

Between March and September 2020, WFP CoE Brazil supported RBD to establish priorities through a series of desk reviews and online technical working webinars.

In the second phase, between September and January 2021, country consultation processes at the national level occurred with governments in the region. Relevant stakeholders discussed national vision, plans, targets, objectives, priorities, budgets, support and the role expected from WFP for school health and nutrition.

From September to December 2020, RBD invited all WFP COs in the region to respond to: 1) An online survey with measurable indicators reflecting current and expected

inputs, outputs, and targets; 2) A semi-structured qualitative questionnaire following the RBIP's template action points.

Outputs from the survey will support WFP RBD and CO teams in their planning exercise, including decision-making and prioritization of the strategy's workstreams.

Outputs will also support related plans to develop an evidence-based RBIP for the School Feeding Strategy for the region.



Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

WFP China Centre of Excellence (CoE)

New South-South Cooperation Strategic Pathway with China: Strategic meeting organized by the WFP China CoE

The **SSC Review and Strategy Analysis Meeting** organized by WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China CoE) was held during 3-4 November 2020.

The meeting **reviewed WFP China CoE's endeavours** in past three years and analysed the evolving needs from developing countries that are interested in SSC with China.

WFP China CoE counted with seventeen representatives from technical partners joining the meeting, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Emergency Management, National Administration of Food and Strategic Reserves, China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchange, National Centre for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation, etc. and other UN agencies.

During the meeting, WFP China CoE explored four prioritized areas: Value Chain Development for Smallholders, Post-harvest Loss Management and Food Systems, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Resilience, and Innovative Poverty Alleviation Initiative based on China's experience in poverty reduction.

A **virtual meeting** was later convened in November 2020 with **57 participants** from WFP HQ PRO, RBs, COs and COEs and UNOSSC to focus on SSC enhancement and further engagement with WFP China CoE.

WFP China CoE's plan for a **new working modality** in the next CSP was presented at the meeting to be discussed.

In the next working period, the updated three-level modalities will be **PTK**:

- ⇒ **P: Provide policy support** through roundtables, high-level visits and research;
- ⇒ **T: Support technical cooperation** through exchange visits, study tours, workshops, expert deployment and DAA (Demonstration in Africa/Asia/Latin America by Africans/Asians/Latin Americans);
- ⇒ **K: Support SSC knowledge sharing** by expanding the function of the current platform and launching WFP China CoE SSC Cloud School with other developing countries.

The meeting serves as a milestone for WFP China CoE's development and will inform a **next step strategy** that **will be embedded in the CSP and implemented**.



8th Taobao Village Forum Features Rural E-commerce

During **the 8th China Taobao Village Forum**, an Online International Symposium themed by **"The Power of Rural E-commerce: Experience from China- Taobao Village Opens a Digital and Inclusive Growth Path for the World"** was held on 26 September 2020, co-organized by AliResearch.

WFP. Dr. Sixi Qu co-chaired the symposium with Mr. Chongjun Tan, Deputy director of AliResearch.

Dr. Sixi Qu and Mr. Tan delivered the welcome remarks on the topic of e-commerce providing **the new view of agriculture development** and bringing the new opportunity to developing countries.

This becomes particularly important as a means to enhance access to markets for smallholder farmers, in view of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The webinar included a series of practical **rural e-commerce cases** and **local entrepreneurial stories** from **Taobao villages**.

These cases provided **key takeaways and insights** about how **digital technology** helps vitalize China's rural areas and how other developing countries could be inspired from the China Taobao Village boom.

Around **100 participants** from **19 countries** including Philippines, Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Togo, Zambia etc. attended the webinar.

2020 THE 8th CHINA TAobao VILLAGE FORUM
The Power of Rural E-commerce: Experience from China Taobao Village Opens a Digital and Inclusive Growth Path for the World
SEPTEMBER 26, 19:00 - 21:00 BEIJING TIME
ZOOM WEBINAR

Organized by AliResearch, UN World Food Programme
Language: Provide Chinese-English simultaneous interpretation service
To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/95773563981>

 Stanlake Samkange Senior Director, Strategic Partnership Division WFP/UN	 Luo Xubel Senior Economist The World Bank	 Qu Sixi Representative, Country Director WFP China	 Tan Chongjun Deputy Director of AliResearch
 Chen Lei Leading experience from Taobao Village Landscape Team, Strategy/Consulting/Performance	 Clarisse Iribagiza Founder of Herve Research	 Su Yongqiang Chief Economic Officer, Municipal Commerce Bureau Shenzhen/Province	 Joshua Aragon Hon. Member of Congress, Philippines/Member Fellow

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

The Government of Chad, together with WFP Chad and the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) discuss Home-Grown School Feeding



In July 2020, CERFAM and WFP Chad developed a [map of the current state of Home-Grown School Feeding \(HGSF\) in the region](#).

The mapping provides an **ideal HGSF value chain** to guide developing countries in programme development and address capacity gaps that would prevent good practices from being shared through SSTC.

In addition, the mapping outlines the **benefits of SSTC** by analysing how cooperation amongst countries can provide **learning opportunities** and lead to more **sustainable HGSF programmes**.

The **objective** is to encourage governments to take note of the initiatives available in the Central and West Africa Region.

As part of the implementation of the recommendations, the Government of Chad and WFP Chad, in col-

laboration with CERFAM, initiated a **national workshop** on December 9th and 10th, 2020, in line with health and safety recommendations **in view of COVID-19**.

45 participants from key technical ministries in Chad, the ministry of agriculture, national education and planning, technical and financial partners, key international actors and WFP CoE Brazil attended the workshop.

The workshop prepared a **joint action plan for 2021 to 2026**, with all stakeholders, to support the government of Chad in the development of HGSF in the country.

Key messages included:

- ⇒ the need to learn **from successful models of HGSF programs** in other countries;
- ⇒ to **develop an integrated strategy/program** linking education, agriculture, nutrition and health and;
- ⇒ to **allocate a large budget for school feeding**, in order to strengthen ownership and control at national, provincial and local levels.

Findings led to an **in-depth reflection** on the theme and helped **mobilize partners** to improve learning conditions for all children, in accordance with article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the African Union.

The workshop resulted in the adoption of an **action plan** that provides clear steps for the effective, efficient and sustainable implementation of **HGSF in Chad**.



Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

South-South Cooperation contributes to the National Strategy for Rural Women in Ecuador

As part of the celebration of the International Day of Rural Women, in October 2020, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) formally presented the **National Strategy for Rural Women**.

This celebration supports and gives visibility to the important role of rural women, the contributions to their communities and to the country, and how they are achieving food sovereignty based on family-based agriculture.

The President of the Republic, Lenin Moreno, expressed his gratitude and stressed the importance of this Strategy that will benefit more than 2.5 million rural women in Ecuador.

WFP-facilitated SSTC has played an important role in supporting the government of Ecuador in this process.

Since 2019, WFP has worked together with MAG and key partners such as FAO, IFAD, UN Women, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Institute of Higher National Studies (IAEN), to help strengthen public policies for rural women in Ecuador.

WFP facilitated the participatory process for the development of the National Strategy for Rural Women (ENAMR), including workshops on policy for rural women.

Participants counted from four regions of Ecuador: Amazon, Sierra, Costa, Galapagos (August-December 2019).

In addition, WFP coordinated several exchanges on agricultural policy development with a gender perspective with rural women leaders from Guatemala, Honduras and Peru and technical roundtables with key stakeholders in 2019.

These activities from 2019 informed the 2020 National Strategy for Rural Women.

The SSTC project facilitated by WFP will continue to carry out activities to support the visibility, positioning and implementation of the National Strategy for Rural Women in Ecuador.



Photo Credits: FAO/WFP Ecuador

Regional Outlook: Africa

WFP Field Pilot Project in Kenya: Wave 2 – Progress, Partners Engaged and Next Steps



Photo: WFP/ Pinches Maniki

WFP Kenya in collaboration with the local government is **establishing five Farmer Service Centres (FSCs)** as a pilot initiative to provide effective rural services and affordable quality products to vulnerable smallholder farmers (e.g. training on processing techniques).

Amongst the most vulnerable in Kenya, the initiative aims to enhance the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and improve food security in these regions.

FSCs were selected in the counties of Isiolo, Baringo and Busia Counties, jointly with the respective government officials from the Department of Agriculture.

The FSCs will provide smallholder farmers with access to stable markets, affordable financial services, quality agricultural inputs, and training on best agricultural practices.

This includes conservation agriculture and post-harvest management and relevant machinery such as rippers and drip-irrigation kits.

The FSC initiatives will be supported through WFP-facilitated SSTC. In 2021, experts from China will analyse this FSC concept model to provide recommendations on policy regulations and sustainable digitalisation strategies. This will leverage the strong expertise from China in this field.

The stakeholders for this initiative are Kenya's Ministry of Agriculture, the county governments of Isiolo, Baringo and Busia, the Cereal Growers Association (CGA), Kuza Biashara and farmers organizations in the relevant counties.

Partners in the initiative include the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) which is a global consortium, hosted by WFP, and consists of six agri-organisations (WFP, AGRA, Bayer, Yara, Syngenta, Rabobank).

The generous support extended by the Government of China under the SSTC programme is encouraging self-reliance and enabling WFP to change lives in Kenya.

ProManioc: SSTC helping to strengthen the Artisanal Cassava Value in the Republic of Congo

In September 2020, WFP Republic of Congo (RoC) has launched a new project "**ProManioc**" funded by the European Union.

The overall objective of the ProManioc Project is to strengthen the artisanal value chain for processed cassava (gari, cassava flour, and attiéké) while contributing to enhancing local food resilience.

As part of the project, experts from Benin and Ivory Coast will provide training for 30 local craftsmen and craftswomen in RoC for building the cassava processing machines, which will be later distributed to cassava processors.

This South-South exchange facilitated by WFP will help to enhance the livelihoods of women contributing to their food security and nutrition.

The project will benefit from the support of CERFAM which will play an important role as a facilitator for South-South exchanges of experience with experts from West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire and Benin, countries with strong expertise on the targeted products).



Photo: WFP/ Eva Gillam

Regional Outlook: Africa

Rome-based Agencies to Strengthen Cassava Value Chain in the Republic of Congo, with the Support from China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility

In RoC, the population experiences high levels of food insecurity while the country imports **70% of the food it consumes**.

With **98%** of the country's farmers engage in cassava cultivation, WFP supports these crop producers to enhance livelihoods and contribute to ending hunger.

In this context, the United Nations Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) (FAO, IFAD and WFP) and a Chinese private company in RoC are collaborating on a project to produce fortified cassava flour locally.

This will improve the **stability of local markets** and help work towards **SDG 2**.

The plan's centrepiece is a mill, to be built by a Chinese private company, that will produce fortified cassava products and provide a stable market for smallholder farmers.

The agencies' collaboration will also give visibility to the public-private partnership needed to build the mill in collaboration with RoC's government.

WFP will coordinate amongst the various partners and facilitate better market access for the cassava producers.

IFAD will focus on creating organizations and linkages: strengthening farmers' organizations, setting up mutually beneficial partnerships, and generating funds for the expansion of small-scale producers' capacities.

FAO will lead the development of **national policy standard for cassava fortification**. 200 smallholder farmers in the Loudima district will soon begin trainings on cassava farming.

SSTC will be promoted to support this initiative between RoC and China.

SSTC will enable joint work between the Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre and the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences to identify good agricultural practices and develop national standards for the fortification of cassava.

The project's success can showcase multi-scale development collaboration that could be replicated in other countries.



Photo: WFP/ Darniel Armel MBOUMBA-MADIN, SOULIKATY

Workshop on Improving the Value Chain to Support Sustainable Food Systems in the Republic of Congo

From December 16th to 17th, WFP RoC in collaboration with CERFAM, WFP China CoE and the SSTC global team in PRO, organized a **national virtual workshop to share knowledge on improving value chains** for smallholder farmers to support sustainable food systems.

In the framework of SSTC, the workshop brought together over **20 representatives** from the host government, representatives from research/private entities in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Kenya as well as regional bodies such as the African Union and the private sector.

WFP RoC shared lessons learned and scale up opportunities of Congo's recent knowledge and technology exchange with China, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire on cassava production.

The two intra- and inter-regional peer learning initiatives were carried out within the framework of SSTC and drew on the facilitation support from CERFAM and WFP China CoE.



Photo: WFP/ Tara Crossley

Regional Outlook: Asia

WFP Meets with the Government of Indonesia to Combine Efforts in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)

On October 1st, 2020, WFP engaged in **virtual consultations** with the Government of Indonesia (GoI) to identify opportunities to facilitate SSTC, in the context of the new the **Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2021-2025**.

Over 100 participants attended the virtual consultation facilitated by the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS).

The meeting counted with participation of WFP staff and representatives of Indonesia government institutions including ministries of Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs, Agriculture.

This meeting provided an opportunity for fostering dialogue with GoI in the area of SSTC and exploring areas for collaboration to advance efforts towards achieving SDG 2.

The GoI highlighted SSTC as a priority cooperation framework and expressed interest in both sharing and receiving knowledge and resources to/from other developing countries with WFP's facilitation. Social protection, nutrition, school feeding, food security analysis and nutrition analysis have been identified as areas of Indonesia's strong experience.

The expertise from the GoI might be especially relevant for countries in Asia and the Pacific region, as well as to countries in the Middle-East and Africa.

The virtual consultation held with the GoI is part of the **"South-South Review"**, an exercise that aims to map potential cooperation opportunities for WFP-facilitated SSTC, based on the national needs and priorities and aligned with national policies and systems.

The methodology of the South-South Reviews was de-

veloped by the SSTC Team to support WFP's country COs in SSTC brokerage and has been widely applied in different countries and contexts.

WFP will continue working together with the GoI in identifying priorities and developing a roadmap to realize SSTC as a means to advance country-led efforts towards achieving food security and nutrition.



WFP China Centre of Excellence Organizes Webinars on Disaster Risk Reduction Management



On 22 and 29 September, 2020, the WFP China CoE organized **Webinars on Disaster Risk Reduction Management**, with support from the Ministry of Emergency Management and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

The webinars shared China's policy and technical experience and challenges in disaster risk reduction management, and to promote mutual exchange and dialogue between China and other developing countries to jointly combat COVID-19.

The webinar also analysed how SSTC supports countries in terms of preparedness and mitigation measures for disasters and emergency.

Nine experts from the State for Civil Protection of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Ministry of Agriculture in Zambia, Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China, National Disaster Risk Reduction Centre of China and WFP (including the WFP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific) were invited to share their insights.

There were more than **150 participants** from **18 countries**.

The last speaker from **Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste** highlighted East Timor's laws and policies on DRR and explained implementation procedures during and after disasters and stated Timor-Leste looks forward to deepening cooperation with international organizations in regard to disaster prevention.

Update on the COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund

COVID-19 South-South and Triangular Cooperation Project for Food Security in Togo

Leveraging financial support from the **COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund**, WFP Benin facilitated a training to staffers and government focal points in Togo in August 2020.

The training enabled government personnel to learn about data collection, processing, and analysis of socio-economic statistics using real-time mobile data collection tools for food security and nutrition indicators.

This has also included data for nutrition and school feeding indicators. As a part of the mission, WFP helped trained eight people (five government officials and three WFP staffers from Togo).

CERFAM continues to support WFP Togo through virtual modalities.

During the next planned mission, WFP will conduct a case study with tailored results on efficient strategies to implement the project, while minimizing risks from COVID-19.

During the implementation of this initiative, WFP will continue reinforcing SSTC between Togo and Benin by sharing tools, experiences and good practices during and beyond COVID-19.

WFP will leverage its expertise gathered from Benin on food security data collection and analysis experiences to strengthen the mobile monitoring system (mVAM) for Togo actors and therefore give opportunity to pave the way for the future early warning integrated system for Togo and Benin.

In addition, WFP Tunisia visited Togo to share lessons learned on the implementation of school canteens in urban areas.

WFP Tunisia has proven experience in building and operating the centralized urban school canteen model with the home-grown school feeding approach.

The results of these studies as well as lessons learned from WFP Tunisia, will serve WFP Togo in the current partnerships being developed with the Golfe 3 Municipality in Lomé to create a central kitchen that will provide nearly 4500 meals to various schools in the capital city of Lomé.

This project will work to fight against hunger and malnutrition among children of school age in Togo.



WFP Partners with South-South Cooperation for Small Grains Trainings with Funding from the COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund

Since the onset of **COVID-19 in March 2020**, Zimbabweans have been constrained by a national lock-down and movement restrictions.

As a result, most smallholder farmers have had limited access to physical markets and faced challenges in marketing their produce, resulting in increased post-harvest losses.

To enhance smallholder market access, WFP sourced USD 50,000 from the **COVID-19 South-South Cooperation Opportunity Fund**, managed by WFP's PRO Division.

As such, WFP has partnered with the Government of Zimbabwe (Agritex), Knowledge Transfer Africa (KTA) and the Chinese Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre (CATDC).

The aim is to pilot the use of a market information system, eMkambo, which is an ecommerce physical and web-based mobile platform that generates and processes information along agricultural value chains, linking smallholder farmers to markets.

Partners selected Mount Darwin as the pilot district for implementation and a Training of Trainers was conducted on 26-27 November at the CATDC in Gwebi.

A total of 31 participants, consisting of 15 ward-based district agricultural extension workers, 10 smallholder

farmers, 4 agro-traders and 2 district council representatives received training on the benefits of e-commerce for smallholder marketing in China and on the use of the eMkambo online application in the context of Zimbabwe.

The training was jointly conducted by staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and KTA, whom designed the platform, as well as a professor from China Agricultural University and the Director of Smart Ecommerce Research Centre.

Between December 2020 and January 2021, 500 farmers in Mount Darwin will also be trained.



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