



South-South News Quarterly July 2018

“South-South cooperation is all about finding solutions to similar problems and sharing with the spirit of solidarity.”

[Jorge Chediek, Secretary-General's Envoy on South-South Cooperation and Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).]

Fast Facts: What is South-South cooperation? Click here for a quick [intro video in 100 seconds!](#)

- South-South cooperation is a partnership among two or more developing and middle-income countries which promotes **mutual learning** or **transfer of knowledge, experience, training, technology, financial** and **or in-kind resources**.
- South-South cooperation (SSC) is a **“partnership among equals”**. It breaks up traditional ideas of who is a provider and who is recipient. SSC is less about “geography”, and more about adopting a new set of principles for cooperation (e.g. mutual benefit, non-conditionality, equality), which is different from usual “North-South cooperation”.
- South-South cooperation can happen in any sector. In WFP, we promote South-South partnerships which have a **clear focus on promoting progress on food security and nutrition** and create **benefits for the most vulnerable populations**.



**World Food
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What's happening in Rome?

Regional South-South mapping and strategy in West Africa to help COs tap into new opportunities

RBD, with support from OSZ's South-South focal point, has developed a regional mapping of South-South and triangular cooperation opportunities in West Africa. 16 programme and partnership opportunities were identified and formulated which will help RBD and COs in the West Africa region to work more systematically with partners like China and Brazil. The mapping also serves as a basis for intra-regional collaboration and peer learning projects. Focus areas for RBD to broker South-South cooperation (SSC) more systematically include post-harvest management, school meals, nutrition and food security analysis.

"The first findings of the mapping are very helpful. We will use them to develop an engagement plan with WFP China and WFP CoE Brazil, and a regional approach to post-harvest management, which enables us to promote peer learning in the region while providing joint technical assistance with SSC partners like Uganda, China and Israel to governments in the region." said Abdou Dieng, Director of RBD.

The mapping also shed light on existing experiences with SSC partnerships, challenges and benefits for COs to incorporate the South-South cooperation approach into their programme of work. As a next step, the findings are being vetted within RBD, with COs, relevant technical units, and then with governments in the region. A workshop will bring colleagues in the region together to discuss the SSC opportunities and equip WFP COs to set-up and manage South-South cooperation initiatives. Contact William.Affif@wfp.org (RBD) for more information.



Photo: WFP/Rein Skullerud.

Towards an OSN strategy on SSC: How to enhance nutrition results through South-South cooperation?

OSN Brown Bag Lunch: Amid the growing importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in nutrition, OSN organized a brown bag lunch session on this topic in May. The session was delivered by Carola Kenngott (OSZ) and helped colleagues in the field, RBs and HQ to understand the benefits of brokering South-South partnerships. Access to practical tools and guidance to identify, formulate and realize SSC opportunities will help colleagues in the field. Concrete cases such as peer learning in the context of rice fortification in Sri Lanka and fighting under-nutrition in Paraguay with help from Chile were jointly explored during the brownbag lunch session. Over 40 colleagues joined the discussion worldwide and helped to set the tone for OSN's plan to scale-up its role as broker of South-South initiatives in nutrition. Click [here](#) for the recording or contact Jennifer.Rosenzweig@wfp.org (OSN) for more.

Towards a South-South strategy for nutrition:

In order to strengthen national nutrition capacities, OSN is developing a strategy to integrate South-South and triangular cooperation in its programme of work. A key part of this strategy will be to generate evidence around successful nutrition solutions from the South and to share best practices on how to replicate them by facilitating triangular cooperation. OSN also wants to improve its mechanisms for monitoring South-South nutrition exchanges. This knowledge-sharing effort will be supported by OSN's upcoming Nutrition External Learning Portal: a website managed by OSN that offers training courses and capacity building activities on nutrition for WFP and external partners (i.e. governments, NGOs, CSOs, etc.).



"What are the benefits for my Country Office?"

We have asked several WFP COs where they see the value in getting engaged in South-South and triangular cooperation with host governments. Here is a snapshot of their answers:

- ⇒ **Adopt more effective programme approaches** by learning what has worked in other countries that have dealt with similar food security issues before.
- ⇒ **Scale up local innovations** to reach more people.

- ⇒ **Strengthen country capacities** by tapping into technical assistance from "peers" in other countries.
- ⇒ **Stay relevant as partner for countries** that are not only "recipients", but also play a role and want to get recognized as "food assistance providers" to others.
- ⇒ **Inspire country ownership and national investments in food security and nutrition** by engaging host governments as "ambassadors" for zero hunger and showcasing how their national investments in the fight against hunger have paid off.



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WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

Expanding partnerships for impact on food security and nutrition through school meals

The WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Brazil has brought new partners onboard in order to promote progress on food security and nutrition through SSC:

1) **Strengthening national ownership for school meals in Cambodia**: The Government of Cambodia held a school feeding consultation workshop on 11-13 June. The WFP Centre of Excellence presented examples of school meals solutions from other countries, including Brazil. The presentation helped to inform the Cambodian government in its decision-making process to take ownership of their school feeding programme. Participants included government officials from federal and provincial levels. They revised the country's school feeding roadmap, and prepared a concrete action plan to transition the programme from WFP to the government. In order to implement it, the government requested further support from the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil and the WFP Country Office in Cambodia. You can [read more](#) here.



School meals in Cambodia. Photo: WFP CoE Brazil.

2) **School feeding cluster meetings in Africa**: A series of meetings were held in Addis Ababa with the WFP Africa Office and the African Union (AU) Commission, to discuss the implementation of the "School Feeding Cluster". The cluster is part of the AU's Continental Education Strategy for Africa. It focuses on planning initiatives to strengthen school feeding across the African continent. The Centre will together work with the AU and the WFP Africa Office to prepare a strategy and work plan for the cluster. To read more click [here](#).

3) **Adopting an innovative approach for raising awareness and mobilizing resources for zero hunger**: The WFP CoE Brazil announced a partnership with Rinaldi Produções, a company managing a famous pair of clowns in Brazil, called "Patati Patatá". The two institutions have joined efforts to promote campaigns and raise funds for initiatives to fight hunger in Brazil and in the world. Patati Patatá is a pair of clowns which is very famous in Brazil. For over 30 years, they have been offering quality entertainment to children and their families, including through animations, songs, concerts, circuses and a television show, with wide reach throughout Brazil and Latin America. The partnership with Patati Patatá will help the WFP CoE Brazil to raise visibility for WFP's mission, promote key messages among Brazilian audiences and to raise funds.



Innovative ways of partnership building, awareness raising and joint fundraising. Photo: WFP/Natan Giuliano

For more information, contact Peter.Rodrigues@wfp.org or Christiani.Buani@wfp.org, WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil.



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WFP Centre of Excellence in China

Responding to country demands on value chain development for smallholder farmers

The WFP China Centre of Excellence, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA), organized a South-South training workshop in China on value chain development for smallholder farmers. A total of 11 participants from 5 countries joined the workshop from 29 July to 7 August. Among the participants were technical experts and management personnel for food authorities, leading farmers from grain associations from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Cameroon and Senegal, and WFP CO staff.

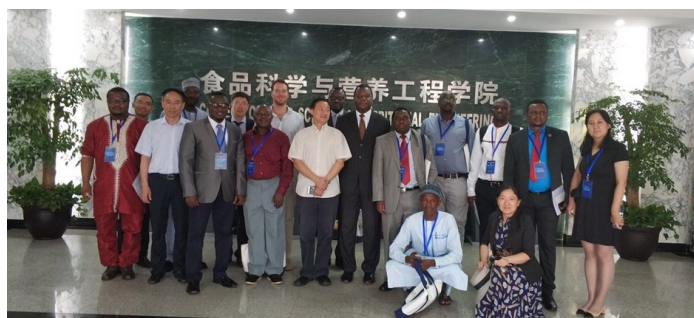
The training aimed to enhance the participants' understanding of China's technologies, experiences, and methodologies for value chain development. Concrete South-South cooperation initiatives are expected to come up next, in order to address government needs and empower smallholder farmers to process and manufacture their food products in their own country contexts, in order to gain more market value.

The workshop was opened in Beijing by Stanlake Samkange, Senior Director of WFP's Strategic Coordination and Support Division, Dr. Sixi Qu, Country Director of WFP China, and Mdm. Tong Yu'e, Director General of China's Center of International Cooperation Service, MARA. China's solutions and technologies on value chain development for smallholder farmers were shared through lectures and briefings by Chinese experts, technical discussions with agricultural scientific research institutions at national level, and field visits to agricultural processing

factories and enterprises in Zhejiang and Hainan provinces. In Zhejiang Province, participants also had an opportunity to visit Alibaba Headquarters and to see how e-commerce integration for value chain development works in practice in rural China.

This training workshop forms part of the South-South cooperation services provided by the WFP China Centre of Excellence. It is one of several follow-up activities after the matching of country needs with China's expertise during WFP China's Demand-Driven South-South Cooperation Symposium in May 2017. The results from this training workshop will be used as a basis for the planning of potential SSC projects in the area of value chains together with the respective partnering governments and WFP RBs and COs.

To learn more, please contact Yan.Jia@wfp.org, SSC Focal Point in the WFP China Centre of Excellence.



Participants visited China Agricultural University in Beijing
Photo: WFP China Office

Coming up next: Training in China on supply chain, incl. grain reserves and storage management

WFP China, in coordination with WFP RB and CO, is organizing a training workshop on national grain reserves and food system management in China. The training is planned for 17-26 August 2018 and has been designed for government representatives from 10 countries that have raised needs in the area during the Demand-Driven South-South Cooperation Symposium

in Beijing (2017): Kenya, Mauritania, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, Niger and Nigeria. WFP colleagues from Country Offices, Supply Chain, P4P Program, Food System, Regional Bureaux and Global Post-Harvest Knowledge & Operations Centre (KNOC), are welcome to participate the training as well.

WFP Centre of Excellence in China joins dialogue on food security and nutrition in Algeria

In July 2018, the Government of Algeria, supported by WFP, organized a national consultation on food security and nutrition. The meeting helped to source recommendations and best practices to inform Algeria's national consultation process. WFP Experts from the WFP's China Centre of Excellence, Nutrition, and Policy and Programme (P4P and VAM) contributed to the discussions. The discussion also

focused on options to reduce Algeria's dependence on imports and how to increase exports through SSC.

The WFP China CoE showcased its work on supporting smallholder farmers on value chain management and resilience-building by sharing China's expertise. Click [here](#) to read more. To learn more, please contact, Yan.Jia@wfp.org, WFP China Centre of Excellence.

What is happening in the regions?

Southern Africa: Facilitating the transfer of post-harvest techniques from China to Zimbabwe and boosting capacities on South-South cooperation in the WFP Country Office

WFP Zimbabwe recognizes the importance of South-South cooperation. Knowledge, experience and resource sharing with other developing countries helps to advance Zimbabwe's efforts to achieve zero hunger.

With the support of WFP Zimbabwe Office, Ms. Nyaradzai Zingoma, Agriculture Engineer of the Zimbabwe Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development (MOA), attended a Training Workshop in China on Harvesting and Post-Harvest Mechanization in China. The workshop was jointly organized by the WFP China Centre of Excellence and its partners from 21-27 May in Nanjing. The workshop enabled participants to learn and about China's post-harvest handling techniques and technologies. The new techniques can complement the ongoing efforts of the government and WFP CO in Zimbabwe to improve post-harvest storage and reduce post-harvest loss among Zimbabwean smallholder farmers.

Responding to the government's need for further support in this area, a Programme Policy Officer for

South-South Cooperation and Partnerships has joined the WFP CO team in June 2018. He will focus on facilitating South-South cooperation upon demand of the Government of Zimbabwe and other Southern partners in different areas of WFP's work. For further information, you can contact jichnag.ai@wfp.org, WFP CO Zimbabwe.



Participants visited China Agricultural University in Beijing
Photo: WFP China Office

Latin America and the Caribbean: Peer learning on rice fortification among Colombia and Costa Rica

Costa Rica is recognized as leader in rice fortification in the Latin America and Caribbean community, as well as around the world.

In order to strengthen technical capacities of government partners, rice producers and technicians of the milling industry in Colombia, RBP facilitated a South-South peer learning mission from Colombia to Costa Rica. The focus was on transfer of technology, production and commercialization techniques for fortified rice. The exchange helped Colombia to learn about Costa Rica's main achievements in rice fortification. It also shed light on inter-institutional coordination, communication and awareness raising mechanisms and Costa Rica's engagement with public and private actors.

Delegates from the Ministry of Public Health and Social Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Rice Federation and a representative from WFP Colombia CO participated in the mission. The main counterpart in Costa Rica were the Ministry of Health and key partners from the rice industry.

The Colombian participants were impressed by the

Costa Rican experience. They want to share the results of the mission with other public and private institutions in Colombia. As a result of the mission, FEDEARROZ, the national association of rice producers in Colombia, is planning to fortify the rice of their recently released rice brand. The association will develop activities with different producers in the country to increase awareness about the need to tackle micronutrient deficiencies. The Colombian Ministry of Health requested WFP's support for assessing regulatory impacts as a result of updating the norms of rice and maize flour fortification in Colombia.

For more infos, contact maria.pino@wfp.org and carol.montenegro@wfp.org in RBP.



Rice fortification. Photo: WFP/RBP



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What is happening in the regions?

Asia and the Pacific: Peer learning on shock-responsive social protection and cash transfers in the Pacific Region

On 20-22 March 2018, the Government of Fiji, with support from WFP and Australia, organized a conference on shock-responsive social protection in the Pacific Region. Purpose of the conference was to provide a forum for regional and national dialogue on shock-responsive social protection and humanitarian cash transfers in emergency contexts. It aimed to identify country needs for support, improve networking and promote the building of a community of practitioners to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange. Peer learning can help to design and implement mechanisms for social protection, shock responsiveness, and cash based transfers effectively.

The conference brought together nine government delegations from Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Cook Islands, Kiribati and Timor L'este. Other participants included UNICEF, UN Women, IFRC, ADRA, the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, Oxfam in the Pacific, Developing Marketing Associates, the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council, and the University of South Pacific.

The conference led to the establishment of triangular partnerships that facilitate access to technical support to Pacific Island countries in order to make their social protection mechanisms shock-responsive.

Based on the discussions, eight key priorities were defined for WFP in the Pacific region:

- 1) Increase cross-country learning between governments;
- 2) Regional coordination forum to explore setting sub-committees within the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS) for social protection social responsive element.;
- 3) Strengthen internal coordination between government ministries;
- 4) Build evidence for shock-responsive social protection;
- 5) Strengthen public-private partnerships;
- 6) Strengthen database systems;
- 7) Improve communication with beneficiary communities;
- 8) Strengthen vulnerability assessments.

For further information, you can contact Kimberly.Deni@wfp.org, SSC focal point in RBB.



Cash transfer as part of the response to tropical cyclone Winston in Fiji. Photo: WFP.

What is coming up next?



- ⇒ 10 September: UN Day for South-South cooperation in Rome: RBA event on South-South cooperation in the context of climate change.
- ⇒ 20-27 September: Conduct of a joint RBB/OSZ "South-South review" in the Philippines followed by a brief SSC working session with RBB colleagues in Bangkok.
- ⇒ Preparation of a WFP event on South-South and triangular cooperation at the margins of the Annual Session of WFP's Executive Board in November. The side event focuses on the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the Development-humanitarian-peace nexus.
- ⇒ WFP-FAO-IFAD session on "South-South cooperation in the context of conflict and fragility" at the Global South-South Development Expo in New York (28-30 November 2018).

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