



South-South Quarterly Newsletter

July 2023

Every country regardless of its size or stage of economic development has valuable experiences to share and can become an inspiration and driving force for programmes. Kenya strongly believes that South-South and Triangular Cooperation is one of the key avenues to support progress to zero hunger and achieve the ambitious goals set in the 2030 agenda.

*Anthony Gikandi Muriithi
Agricultural Attaché of Embassy of the Republic of Kenya in Italy
at the 2nd Informal Consultation on SSTC Policy Update
19 April 2023*

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WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

WFP Executive Board Approves Updated SSTC Policy

In June, the WFP Executive Board (EB) has approved an update of the policy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) during its annual session.

This new policy represents a leap forward in WFP's commitment to supporting and empowering developing countries in sharing, adapting and implementing zero hunger solutions to strengthen their national systems.

The SSTC policy, crafted through an inclusive and consultative process, aims to accelerate WFP's strengths to broker SSTC among member states for sustainable development and crisis resilience.

The policy addresses diverse action areas such as financing, programme support, results and learning, communication, strategic workforce planning, and internal coordination.

To update the policy, consultations were held with over 300 WFP stakeholders across all levels, with a significant involvement of country level leadership and staff.

EB members from 14 countries from all regions provided more than 60 comments to the different iterations of policy drafts.

The approval session of the EB witnessed resounding support from all member states, reflecting the global recognition of the significance of this policy.

EB member countries expressed their support for WFP's endeavor to strengthen its portfolio as a broker of Global South solutions in SDG 2.

These countries included Argentina, Brazil, China, Japan, Mexico, the United States, and Ghana.

Looking ahead, the SSTC policy will be implemented through a comprehensive costed plan, comprising six distinct work streams.

Additionally, the implementation plan will be cascaded to regional bureaux (RBx) and country offices (COs), ensuring that the policy contributes to already ongoing and emerging processes at country and regional levels.

Crucially, through this policy and its implementation plan, financial means for SSTC are expected to be increased at the corporate level, alongside strategic partnerships and new funding agreements with Global South donors.

In this regard, China has recently reaffirmed its commitment to the SSTC agenda.

For more information, please visit [SSTC Policy Update Collection Page](#).



Photo: WFP/ Daria Addabbo

WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

21st Session of the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation

From 30 May - 2 June, WFP participated at the 21st session of the High-level Committee (HLC) on South-South Cooperation (SSC), which is the main policymaking body on SSC in the UN system.

In line with its mandate, the committee convened to review progress made in implementing the [Buenos Aires Plan of Action](#) for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, [the New Directions Strategy for SSC](#), the [Nairobi outcome document](#) of the High-level United Nations Conference on SSC and [the Buenos Aires outcome document](#) of the second High-level United Nations Conference on SSC (BAPA+40).

During the general debate, Member States reaffirmed SSC as an important complement to North-South cooperation for development.

Delegates called for stronger triangular cooperation as a means of bringing experience and expertise in development cooperation.

WFP New York Deputy Director highlighted WFP's stepped-up efforts in this area in line with its Policy on SSTC and the UN-system-wide strategy.

He highlighted the work being done in the areas of nutrition, school feeding, social protection, emergency response, food systems and climate resilience.

He also mentioned the work being done by the Centres of Excellences (CoEs) in China, Brazil and Cote d'Ivoire.

FAO Director of SSC represented the Rome-based Agencies (RBA), emphasizing their contributions to SSTC and the joint initiative on HGSF.

In the "South-South in Action" segment, WFP launched the [IBSA Fund 2022 Report](#) featuring the WFP project in Congo as one of the initiatives supported by the IBSA Fund.



Photo: WFP/ Selly Muzammil

Announcing the Winners of the 2023 Innovation Challenge

Last April, the WFP SSTC Unit in HQ launched the first-ever [2023 SSTC Innovation Challenge](#) in collaboration with the Innovation Accelerator in Munich.

The challenge, open to WFP COs globally, sought to give a voice to innovative country-owned solutions from the Global South to support the achievement of SDG 2.

The initiative aims to boost low-income countries' responses to global food crises, fortify national systems, and establish WFP as a credible SSTC intermediary.

It further strives to extend WFP's evidence-based innovations, align SSTC innovation processes, and integrate SSTC into WFP's corporate knowledge management.

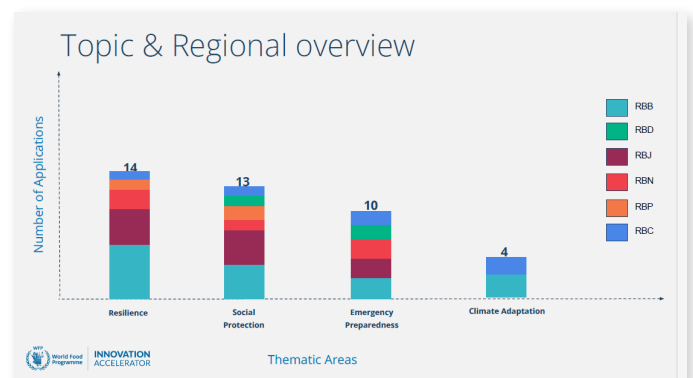
Out of 41 applications from 27 COs, the following projects were selected as winners of the SSTC Innovations Challenge:

- Digitalized Drought Emergency Warning System (Kenya), Emergency/Shock Responsive Social Protection;
- Solar 4 Resilience (India), Climate Adaptation;
- Monitoring Platform of Midday Meal (Nepal), Social Protection;

- Nourishing Futures Empowering Women (Democratic Republic of Congo), Resilience building.

The winning teams will participate in a mentoring programme and receive USD 30k to develop a robust model of the solution and a scaling-up plan.

The packaged solutions will be shared with other countries from the Global South in phase II of the challenge.



WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

SSTC Organized a Plenary Discussion at the CCS Global Meeting

In June, the SSTC and Country Capacity Strengthening (CCS) Units organized a plenary discussion during the CCS Global Meeting (GM).

The discussion focused on synergies between CCS and SSTC to strengthen national systems.

The session involved four country directors (CDs) as panellists: Ahmareen KARIM, Rwanda CD a.i., Guy ADOUA, Nigeria DCD, Robert KASCA, Nepal CD, Regis CHAPMAN, Caribbean CD. Dageng Liu, the Chief of the SSTC Unit, moderated the discussion.

The SSTC session aimed to enable speakers and participants to:

- Discuss how SSTC and CCS work helps strengthen country capacities, build new partnerships, and mobilize resources for national and local capacity building; and
- Share a critical perspective on guidance and support provided by respective HQ teams for RBx and CO colleagues.

The following key points emerged from the insightful discussion:

- There is a need for increased knowledge management and visibility of SSTC opportunities;
- SSTC holds catalytic power for solution-building, encouraging adaptation and driving the development of sustainable solutions; and
- It is crucial to explore diverse funding options (e.g., private sector involvement and innovative budgetary strategies) to support governments in assuming ownership of solutions, ensuring long-term sustainability.

As next steps, the SSTC Unit looks to strengthen cross-collaboration with other units, enhance knowledge management, and expand SSTC initiatives to a wider range of countries.



Photo: WFP/ HQ

RBA Directors of SSTC Met to Strengthen Partnership and Discuss the Joint Portfolio on SSTC

In May, the Directors of SSTC of the three RBA met to strengthen their partnership and discuss their joint portfolio on SSTC.

Last year, during the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo, the RBA presented a joint field-level collaboration in SSTC to support national [Home-Grown School Feeding \(HGSF\) programmes](#) in line with the School Meals Coalition and the outcome of the UN Food Systems Summit.

The meeting focused on three main items:

- Progress on their collaboration on SSTC in the field;
- Updates on the review of the RBA Joint Roadmap on SSTC; and
- The joint RBA celebration of the 2023 UN Day for SSC.

During the meeting, the participants shared updates on the agencies' work on mainstreaming SSTC with the following key takeaways:

- The RBA have identified inter-linked interventions for school feeding in Kenya, the Philippines, Rwanda, and Senegal;
- The revised roadmap will address new contexts in development, emerging areas of collaboration, and a coordinated and field-oriented approach;
- IFAD, leading the joint RBA celebration of the 2023 UN Day for SSC, proposed a decentralized, hybrid celebration in Rwanda, one of the pilot countries for the RBA programme in HGSF. The event will be held in September on the side-lines of the 5th anniversary of the Rwanda Cooperation Initiative.

The RBA Directors underscored their commitment to SSTC and reiterated the importance of continued collaboration.

If you are interested in learning more, see the full article [here](#).

WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

MARA-WFP Global South-South and Triangular Cooperation Initiative

In May, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of China and WFP conducted the first 2023 Consultative Meeting (CM) in Beijing to review the process of the MARA-WFP Global Initiative on SSTC.

The meeting reaffirmed their commitment to the SDGs and included discussions on achievements of the initiative in year 2022 and workplans for 2023-2024.

The WFP Director of Programme - Humanitarian and Development Division as well as the Counsellor of the Department of International Cooperation of MARA attended the meeting, among others.

During the visit, the participants joined the celebration of the first anniversary of the [SSC Knowledge Sharing platform](#), organized by the China CoE.

They also visited innovative hubs in China and were offered an opportunity to meet with key actors of the China International Development Cooperation Agency and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the WFP China Office.

The key takeaways from the meeting were:

- Focus on strengthening the partnership between WFP, MARA and China to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs through the SSTC mechanism.

- Continued support from China with WFP's SSTC efforts both in HQ and COs.
- Enhanced coordination and communication for gathering best practices and promoting innovation in SSTC initiatives, while expanding partnerships to mobilize additional resources for SSTC.

See more details [here](#).



Photo: WFP/ China CoE

RBN and the SSTC Unit Organized a Knowledge Café - Insights on South-South Match

In March, the RB for Eastern Africa (RBN) and the SSTC Unit held a Knowledge Café - RBN Insights on [South-South Match](#) (VPN required).

The online event aimed to give an overview of the SSTC activities in the region and raise awareness of the South-South Match knowledge platform.

The event focused on WFP's role as a knowledge broker and partnership builder in the countries from the Global South.

They explored the potential of SSTC in sharing zero hunger solutions, strengthening national and local systems with a focus on vulnerable groups, and accelerating country-led efforts to achieve SDGs.

RBN showcased the [Mapping of SSTC Opportunities](#) in the Region which helped define regional priorities for SSTC, gave a regional overview of the solutions and challenges and provided clear guidelines for the potential way forward.

165 colleagues from RBN's COs participated in the event.

As the way forward, the SSTC Unit plans to scale up South-South Match by adding:

- An external portal;
- "Champion Country" pages to highlight provider country profiles for SSTC;
- Funding opportunities and partners; and
- A SSTC learning package.

If interested in learning more about South-South Match or for support in aligning your knowledge platform (in relation to SSTC), please contact sstc.global@wfp.org.



Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

South-South Cooperation Knowledge Sharing Forum and Partnership

In May, the WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China CoE) and China Internet Information Center (CIIC) jointly held the SSC Knowledge Sharing Forum in Beijing.

The main objective of the forum was to promote collaboration among policymakers, researchers, and practitioners in addressing zero hunger and poverty alleviation through enhanced digital cooperation partnerships.

Key discussions were conducted during the forum on the role of science and technology in SSTC for achieving the SDGs, resilient food systems transformation against climate change, and digital empowerment for inclusive development.

The forum also emphasised the significance of SSTC as a development instrument and the expectations of a bigger role in enhancing evidence generation and mutual learning in SSTC.

The WFP China CoE's [SSC Knowledge Sharing Platform](#) and its role in promoting knowledge exchanges and addressing global challenges were also discussed during the forum.

The event marked the one-year anniversary of the launch of the platform, which showcased its achievements and expectations in promoting knowledge exchanges among developing countries.

The event also witnessed the launch of the Joint Initiative on a Knowledge Sharing Partnership for SSTC.

Approximately 100 participants from 18 countries attended the forum either in-person or virtually.

Representatives from government agencies, embassies in China, universities, academic institutions, international organizations, and media were among the participants.

The joint initiative aims to collaborate with key partners, including government agencies, universities, research institutions, think tanks, and media.

It aims to strengthen information exchange, technology transfer, capacity building, and collaboration within the context of SSTC.

See more details on the initiative [here](#).



Photo: WFP/ China CoE

Seminar on Climate Change Resilience Building Against Global Food Crisis

In May, the WFP China CoE held a hybrid seminar on Climate Change Resilience Building against Global Food Crisis in Beijing.

Key discussions were on building climate resilient food systems at the national level and promoting climate-resilient crops such as millets in line with the International Year of Millet.

It also encouraged the use of new energy sources like solar and wind in food production, processing and storage.

This seminar highlighted the importance of SSC in addressing climate challenges and ensuring food security.

It provided a platform for countries to share experiences, innovative approaches and best practices.

Specifically, a "Renewable Energy Outreach" project under the SSC Opportunities Fund was introduced by Ms. Nanna Skau, CD of WFP Armenia, as a typical case of building climate resilience.

More than 70 participants joined the seminar.

Among them were WFP Resilience & Food Systems Service Unit (PROR), WFP Armenia CO, National Centre for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation of China and Zhangjiakou Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

As next steps, WFP China CoE will:

- Further share insights on innovative approaches for climate-resilient food systems;
- Continue collaborating with partner organizations;
- Raise awareness for the International Year of Millet; and
- Encourage more projects similar to the one in Armenia.



Photo: WFP/ China CoE

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

The 3rd Seminar on China-Africa Rice Value Chain: Rice Storage, Processing and Nutrition

In June, the 3rd Seminar on China-Africa Rice Value Chain: Rice Storage, Processing and Nutrition was held in China.

The event was co-organised by WFP China CoE, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), China's National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration (NAFRA), and Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM).

MARA, China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE), China-Africa Agriculture Cooperation (AGRA), Jiangsu Provincial Food and Strategic Reserves Administration, and Buhler Group also participated in the event.

The seminar built on the success of previous two seminars of China-Africa Rice Value Chain held in 2021 and 2022.

This seminar created a platform for facilitating policy dialogues, knowledge sharing, investment opportunities, and cooperation between China and Africa on the development of the rice value chain.

Around 150 participants from government agencies, UN agencies, embassies, academia, NGOs, and enterprises working on rice production, harvest, marketing, and sales participated in this seminar.

Valuable insights and recommendations were gathered during the seminar.

These will inform future actions and initiatives in enhancing the development of rice value chains in developing countries.



China-Nicaragua Production of Organic Bio Inputs for Small-Scale Agriculture

In March, the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) and MARA participated in a webinar on the production of organic bio inputs for small-scale agriculture.

The webinar was hosted by WFP Nicaragua CO and WFP RB for Latin America & the Caribbean (RBP) with technical support from the WFP China CoE.

The webinar, as part of a SSTC initiative launched by WFP and MARA and funded by [the SSTC Assistance Fund](#), aimed at supporting the Government of Nicaragua to fortify organic biological inputs (fertilizer) with more nutrients to better nourish the soil.

A total of 77 participants, from across the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) attended this webinar.

Including representatives of the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) and the China Agriculture University.

During the event, participants discussed a new formula that could be produced locally with the support of Chinese experts and used by smallholder farmers.

They also exchanged their experiences and best practices on the production and use of organic inputs on staple grains (beans, rice, maize), and vegetable crops (tomato, sweet chili, potato, onions).

Some of the key takeaways from the exchange:

- The Nicaraguan Government committed to ensuring food and nutritional security for the population, as well as supporting family agriculture to increase its productivity.
- General interest in innovative approaches to the use of organic inputs on staple grains and the fermentation process of liquid biofertilizers.

A follow-up webinar was held on 24 March for in-depth discussions and trainings.

The trainings focused on the production of algae-based biological inputs for crop nutrition (e.g., for rice and beans), as well as formulae that can be promoted with smallholder farmers.

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

The Republic of Congo Visits Brazil to Learn about the Brazilian School Feeding Programme

In April, Government officials from the Republic of Congo, the WFP Congo CO and RB for Southern Africa (RBJ) visited Brasilia on a week-long study visit to learn about the Brazilian school feeding programme.

The delegation included the Congolese minister of Social Affairs, officials from the Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Planning.

They visited rural and urban schools, a local smallholder farmers' cooperative and engaged in technical discussions with Brazilian officials.

Congolese officials learned the details of the implementation of the policy to buy from local family farmers.

They also examined the connection between school feeding programmes and other rural development programmes, planning of weekly school menus, and students' engagement in health and nutrition education.

The WFP Brazil CoE, in partnership with the National Fund for Education Development and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, has been facilitating these technical exchanges between countries for nearly 12 years.

The exchanges help the countries to build and strengthen social protection programmes.

The study visit is part of a broader package of technical assistance provided to countries through SSTC mechanisms to promote knowledge exchange and CCS.

The Congolese Government approved a national school feeding policy in 2019 and has a vision to supply sustainable, locally sourced school meals to all children by 2025.

This collaboration between Congo, Brazil and WFP will be further deepened in the next two years, with the implementation of a joint SSTC pilot project supported by the India-Brazil-South Africa Fund (IBSA).

See more details about the study visit [here](#).



Photo: WFP/ Caroline Melo

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

CERFAM and the WFP China CoE Took Stock of their Collaboration in 2022 and Discuss their 2023 Joint Workplan

In March, the Directors of CERFAM and WFP China CoE held an annual online consultation to discuss the joint work of their institutions.

The annual consultation meeting, a recurring activity since 2020, was an opportunity for the two CoEs to present their achievements, results of their collaboration and joint actions to be carried out in 2023.

In 2022, the collaboration achieved the following:

- "Sino-African Rice Value Chain Development Project" funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation aimed to enhance the capabilities of smallholder farmers in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea in managing post-harvest losses.
- Conducted seminars and online events attended by over 700 participants and involved 50 experts. These events focused on topics like strengthening the rice and cassava value chain, Juncao technology, and resilience building.

The meeting provided key ways forward to finalize the annual joint workplan between WFP China CoE and CERFAM for 2023 and included:

- A study visit and a seminar on China-Africa Rice Value Chain (15 - 21 June 2023);
- Rice field management and production training in both countries;
- Post-harvest loss management training in both countries;
- Regional Seminar as a part of the Abidjan International Agriculture and Animal Resources Expo (SARA 2023) to be held in Côte d'Ivoire (29 September - 8 October 2023); and
- National Workshops for Country Solutions in both countries.

This year, CERFAM in line with its vision and mission, will give focus to crop loss management, resilience and school feeding, particularly in view of food quality and safety, while continuing to work within the SSTC framework.

Assessment Mission of the Rice Value Chain in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea

From February to March 2023, CERFAM, WFP Côte d'Ivoire CO and WFP Guinea CO and local and regional stakeholders, conducted an assessment and monitoring mission of the first phase of the Rice Value Chain Development Project.

The initiative is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and facilitated by CERFAM and WFP China CoE.

From Côte d'Ivoire the National Agency for the Development of the Rice Sector (ADERIZ), the National Agency for Rural Development Support (ANADER) from Ministry of Agriculture of Côte d'Ivoire attended the mission.

And from Guinea the National Department of Agriculture from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of the Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'élevage of Guinea attended.

In Côte d'Ivoire, regional and local stakeholders, mainly AfricaRice, ADERIZ of the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP Field Office and CERFAM, conducted an evaluation of the project.

It targeted six producer organizations, including three that benefited from the project representing over 1,290 members in northern Côte d'Ivoire.

The evaluation showed that the training from Chinese experts, African experts and AfricaRice and the equipment donated to participating groups have contributed to increases in yields from 1.54 tonnes per acre to 3.3 tonnes per acre.

A key takeaway from the mission in Guinea was the reliance of producer's groups on the use of small tools, traditional means (sticks, hands, etc.) and other equipment.

Indicating the need for training and improved equipment.

Through the Rice Value Chain Development Project, CERFAM and China CoE seeks to foster peer learning to facilitate the dissemination of sustainable solutions for food security and improved nutrition in Africa.

The next steps involve executing the action and procurement plans for the Rice Value Chain project.

This includes organizing study visits, seminars, policy dialogues, training sessions, national and regional workshops, as well as purchasing and distributing agricultural equipment.



Photo: WFP/ Guinea

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

11th Edition of the CERFAM Bulletin: Facilitating Dissemination of Good Practices through South-South Cooperation

In April, CERFAM published its eleventh bulletin on the theme: "Enhancing SSC through the sharing of good practices, to achieve SDG 2 in Africa."

The CERFAM Bulletins, published quarterly, are a platform for partners (e.g., governments, international and regional organisations, UN agencies, CoEs, etc.) to highlight their activities and experiences on a specific topic.

The 11th edition of the CERFAM bulletin, enriched by the expertise and cross-sectoral perspectives of its partners, highlighted the importance of sustaining mutual assistance and increasing SSTC initiatives.

The overarching goals are to eradicate poverty and combat hunger and malnutrition.

The 11th Bulletin featured:

- H.E. Mr. Douglas Munsaka Syakalima, Minister of Education of the Republic of Zambia, who presented the success factors and challenges of Zambia's school feeding model and SSTC contributions;
- WFP China CoE, that stressed the importance of leveraging SSTC to develop agricultural value chains;
- WFP Brazil CoE, and other partners, who shared innovative initiatives and recommendations for improving food security and nutrition in Africa through SSTC.

SSTC is at the core of CERFAM's work, and with the support of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and WFP, CERFAM has expanded its range of services, establishing new partnerships and creating development opportunities.

Additionally, CERFAM has been able to respond to requests for technical assistance by leveraging SSTC.

Several African governments were interested in this assistance, including Benin, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Togo, and Chad, to name a few.

The 11th Bulletin can be accessed [here](#).



Rice Value Chain Stakeholders from Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea on a Study Visit to China

In June, rice value chain stakeholders from Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea participated in a study visit and a seminar on the rice value chain in China.

The study visit was organised by WFP China CoE with the support of CERFAM and targeted the major rice production and processing areas.

It aimed to enable African stakeholders to learn, draw inspiration from and take stock of Chinese technologies and good practices in rice production, processing, storage, and marketing.

The participants also conducted visits to seed centres and agropoles located in Jiangsu province.

They expressed deep admiration for the Chinese Government's extensive support, which includes subsidies for farmers and investments in research, mechanization, industrialization, and innovation across various levels.

The visit and seminar yielded several recommendations, which include:

- Develop and implement strong agricultural policies and subsidies for the value chain, with a focus on research, production, processing, storage, and marketing;
- Strengthen collaboration and partnership between Africa and China, as well as with platforms, research institutes and universities, WFP's CoEs, UN agencies, and the private sector; and
- Establish policies to integrate young people by creating employment opportunities via digitalization and innovation of the sector.

As a follow-up to the project, a series of initiatives are planned such as providing training to approximately sixty stakeholders involved in the rice value chain.

This would also include conducting capacity-building activities for producers' organizations, focusing specifically on equipment and agricultural inputs.

Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

WFP Webinars in Ecuador Promote E-Commerce for Inclusive Rural Development

In April, WFP Ecuador CO, WFP RBP, WFP China CoE, and the SSTC Unit in HQ organized two webinars in Ecuador: “E-Commerce for Inclusive Rural Development: Practices in China” and “The Development of Fresh Food E-commerce in China.”

The webinars are part of a global SSTC project that began in 2019 in Ecuador with support from MARA which aims to establish a resilient and nutritious sustainable agri-food system known as “Rice-Duck.”

The project involves promoting integrated rice-duck farming, crop diversification, and strengthening the leadership of rural women in public policies for small-scale family farming.

The webinars support the objectives of the project by leveraging Chinese expertise in e-commerce.

The Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI) of Peru as well as government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, the National Institute of Agricultural Research in Ecuador joined the event.

Representatives from smallholder farmers and associations, and local government technical teams from various regions also participated in the event.

Discussions revolved around e-commerce for Rural Development and fresh food e-commerce in China, including:

- A look at China’s e-commerce development;
- The development of e-commerce in rural areas of China;
- Characteristics and drivers of e-commerce of fresh food;

- The operation model of e-commerce of fresh products in China;
- Direct sales strategies and processes for e-commerce of fresh products.

This initiative exemplifies how effective knowledge sharing through SSTC can directly contribute to achieving SDG 2.

By leveraging China’s expertise and experiences, Ecuador can enhance smallholders’ marketing capacity and foster inclusive and resilient agricultural systems that benefit local farmers and communities.

In July, the SSTC Unit at HQ organized a mission to Ecuador to assist the WFP Ecuador CO in finalizing the implementation of the SSTC Project.

The mission aims to identify challenges that affect the implementation of activities, the delivery of outputs, and their overall contribution to the success of the project.



WFP Facilitates South-South Exchanges on Home Grown School Feeding Programmes in Central America

In May, the Ministry of Education (MINED) in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala participated in a virtual South-South Exchange on HGSF Programmes facilitated by WFP.

The virtual session focused on exchanging knowledge and experiences of school meals programmes from the region that incorporate local food purchases.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) in Nicaragua sought to learn from successful HGSF programmes.

The exchange provided valuable insights and guidance for the future design of a diversified school feeding model for Nicaragua, using locally produced food to enhance nutrition and encourage healthy eating habits.

The MoEs of Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala with WFP’s support presented HGSF programme models in their respective countries.

WFP Nicaragua CO and RBP also participated in the sessions.

As follow up to the discussions, a technical visit from Nicaragua’s MINED to Guatemala’s school feeding programme is being scheduled for September.

These exchanges leverage SSTC to share knowledge that contributes to sustainable solutions for combating food insecurity and improving nutrition of vulnerable populations.

The collaboration between countries fosters tailored approaches and impactful initiatives that benefit communities and school children across the region.

Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

Haiti Visits the Dominican Republic on a Learning Visit about Social Registries

In May, ministerial officials from Haiti and the Dominican Republic participated in a SSTC visit facilitated by WFP Haiti and WFP Dominican Republic with support from the World Bank.

The visit is a part of the Adaptive Social Protection for Increased Resilience (ASPIRE) programme implemented by WFP Haiti on behalf of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MAST).

The exchange visit aimed to leverage SSTC to support both delegations in identifying best practices and lessons learned from the development of their social registries.

For Haiti, the Dominican Republic's technological learnings could inform its strategic and technical decision-making for the improvement of its own registry.

Since 2014, WFP has provided technical assistance in the management of Haiti's social registry with the aim of transferring these competencies to the Government.

Haiti and the Dominican Republic prioritized social protection and collaborated to strengthen their national systems by discussing shared geographical, historical, and environmental contexts.

During the SSTC visit, both information systems were presented, including IT components and technical demonstrations of the systems' functions (quality control, drone mapping etc.).

Discussions revolved around strategic and operational considerations for strengthening social registries, including:

- Institutional and legal framework.
- Data collection and protection.
- Interoperability.
- System indexes and algorithm improvements.
- Technological methods and tools.

The visit was made possible through WFP's capacity strengthening funds provided by the World Bank in Haiti to support strengthening of national systems.

Cuba Shares Experience in Strengthening Social Protection Systems with Countries in the LAC Region

In June, a Cuban delegation, accompanied by WFP Cuba CO, visited government counterparts, academia, and private sector representatives of the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras and Colombia as part of a SSTC multi-country initiative.

The objective was to exchange knowledge and experiences in social protection systems, targeting tools, registration, cash transfers, and financing mechanisms.

The Cuban delegation provided valuable insights into each country's social protection system and participated in field visits including to an urban service centre and small shop network in the Dominican Republic.

In Ecuador, a field visit was conducted to observe the registration process and visit child development installations where the Cuban delegation provided practical insights at technical and policy levels that led to a Cooperation Agreement.

The agreement concentrated on three key topics: social protection, single registry systems and financing mechanisms.

In Honduras, participants discussed the digital vouchers and cash transfers.

In Colombia, participants analyzed digitalized social registries as well as the cash transfer system with initiatives for inclusion.

The initiative was finalized with a workshop in Panama, where the participants finalized a roadmap for social protection processes based on the results of the SSTC exchanges with the various countries and the training received from RBP.



Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Rwanda's First Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

In March, Rwanda held the first national conference on disaster risk reduction and management.

The Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), the Ministry of Environment, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and WFP collaborated with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Rwanda Red Cross, and Access to Finance Rwanda.

This collaboration received financial support from China through the MARA-WFP Global SSTC Initiative and the European Union.

The conference "Working towards risk-resilient development" brought together representatives from various institutions.

This included government, UN Agencies, development partners, NGOs, private sector, media, research, and academia.

The goal was to raise awareness and highlight actions needed to build disaster risk resilience across all sectors in Rwanda.

Discussions focused on operational aspects of effective disaster risk reduction and management.

This included topics like early warning systems, innovative assistance for affected households, anticipatory action, and data system development for effective risk management.

The conference provided momentum to advance these innovations through partnerships across multiple sectors.

Priority actions will be implemented, such as establishing an anticipatory action system with enhanced early warning and defining instruments for disaster risk financing.

These actions align with the recently approved Disaster Risk Reduction Management policy, developed with WFP's support. The action plan is timely as Rwanda addresses cyclical climate shocks, including the [May 2023 flood and landslides](#).

Under the country's CSP, WFP Rwanda continues to work with MINEMA to strengthen national capacities for improved emergency preparedness and response.

See more details about the conference [here](#).



Leveraging SSTC to Share a Control Tower Approach in Côte d'Ivoire with other Countries of the Global South

Since 2019, WFP and the Ivorian Ministry of Health (MoH) have collaborated to establish a "logistics control tower."

This system integrates data along the supply chain, providing valuable analyses to assess, plan, and improve the availability of essential health products.

In March, the Africa Resource Centre (ARC), MoH of Côte d'Ivoire, and CERFAM organized a three-day workshop in Abidjan.

Health logistics experts from the MoH of Guinea and Senegal were invited to learn from Côte d'Ivoire's control tower project experience, in collaboration with WFP.

The workshop was significant due to the strategic importance of data-driven supply chain management and the shared interest of Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Senegal.

Experts from the Global South had an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences on public health supply chain management.

They also learned about best practices and lessons learned from organizations like ARC, Merck, and the Global Fund.

Throughout the three-day event, technical experts from the MoH shared best practices in data-driven supply chain management.

These practices aimed to enhance the performance of health supply chains, building upon the successful collaboration between WFP and Côte d'Ivoire.

The initiative focusing on Supply Chain Planning, supports governments to foster SSTC knowledge exchanges and regional collaboration between Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Senegal, and potentially beyond at later stages.

Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Zimbabwe Looks to Establish a Home-Grown School Feeding Programme

Since 2002, Zimbabwe has pivoted from WFP's emergency school meals programme to a national school feeding programme.

WFP has consistently supported policy development and the establishment of water infrastructures in schools in recent years to support national ownership of the programme.

In March, on International School Meals Day, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education of Zimbabwe and WFP invited government officials, school staff, and development partners to a two-day workshop to discuss procurement options and models to establish a HGSF programme in the country.

During the workshop, WFP experts from Benin, Cambodia and Zambia shared their experiences on procurement models under nationally-led HGSF programmes.

During their presentations, the experts emphasized the importance of local procurement from smallholder farmers and multisectoral approaches.

The exchange created a forum for participants to discuss and elaborate better procurement models fitting the Zimbabwean context.

A key lesson learned from the exchange was that capacity building activities for school committees and smallholder farmers were vital for the success of the community-driven HGSF programme.

During the opening remarks, Ms. Kwadzanai R.L. Nyanungo, Chief Director of the Department of Learner Welfare, Psychological Services and Special Needs Education, expressed her appreciation to WFP for their collaboration and continuous support.

She also highlighted the Zimbabwean school feeding policy, which was adopted in 2016 with assistance from WFP Brazil CoE and their interest in tapping into the SABER initiative.

The World Bank's SABER is an initiative to collect and share data on educational policies and institutions in order to help countries strengthen their education systems.

In addition, SABER provides decisionmakers and stakeholders at all levels with tools for structured and effective policy dialogue (e.g., capacity strengthening strategy that enable Governments to identify gaps and milestones).

As the next step, the Government of Zimbabwe with WFP's technical support looks to roll out a home-grown approach for their national school feeding programme through piloting hybrid procurement models in two selected provinces.



Photo: WFP/ Zimbabwe

Joint SSTC and CCS South-South Review Mission in Madagascar

In May, the SSTC and CCS Units in HQ, and RBJ conducted a joint demand-driven [South-South Review](#) (SSR) mission in Madagascar.

The mission's objective was to support the CO to identify, prioritize and deepen key opportunities to broker SSTC to deliver on Madagascar's Second Generation (2G) CSP, currently under development.

This mission included in-country meetings with seven government institutions. Based on these consultations and meetings, eight priority investment opportunities for south-south knowledge exchanges were formulated.

These opportunities align with the thematic areas of the new CSP and are in accordance with the demands and preferences of the government.

Madagascar CO will draw on the SSR mission findings and recommendations to reflect SSTC and CCS into the new CSP as well as other relevant strategic documents (e.g., CCS strategy and Partnership Action Plan).

As the mission was the first SSTC/CCS joint scoping exercise, a strong focus was put on the linkages between SSTC and CCS methodologies with a view to further align respective assessment tools and strengthen integrated programme design.

Finally, the mission was an opportunity to train RBJ SSTC and CCS focal points on the SSR methodology with a view to replicate this in other countries of the region.

As this was the first mission of its kind, moving forward, RBJ aims to streamline SSTC reviews as part of Country Strategic Plan (CSP design).

Learnings from the mission will further feed into the design of a regional SSTC strategy that RBJ is developing in line with the [SSTC Policy Update \(2023-2028\)](#).

Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

Learning Exchanges Between Indonesia and Bangladesh on Rice Fortification and Between Indonesia and the Philippines on Anticipatory Action

In May, the Government of Indonesia participated in two SSTC learning exchanges organized by the WFP Indonesia CO.

In the first exchange, conducted in collaboration with WFP Bangladesh CO, the Government of Bangladesh shared expertise on rice fortification and its integration into nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes.

The exchange explored public-private partnerships, national standards, and regulatory frameworks for fortified rice production.

The insights gained will support the scale-up of rice fortification in Indonesia.

This includes informing policy development, enhancing the role of the private sector, and piloting fortified rice in social protection programmes.

19 Indonesian government officials, along with representatives from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Dutch State Mines (DSM), Indonesian academia, private sector, state-owned enterprises, and WFP, participated in this exchange.

In the second learning exchange, prepared in collaboration with WFP Philippines CO, the Government of the Philippines shared best practices on anticipatory action.

In total, 9 Government officials from Indonesia and representatives from WFP joined the exchange.

India Shares Knowledge on Central Kitchens with the Philippines

In May, the Philippines Government engaged in a knowledge exchange with the Government of India, facilitated by WFP Philippines CO and WFP India CO.

The focus was on India's successful Central Kitchen-based mid-day meal programme, which serves over 118 million schoolchildren daily.

The event aimed to enhance the efficiency of the Philippines' school feeding programmes by leveraging India's expertise.

The National School-Based Feeding Programme (SBFP) in the Philippines is a priority nutrition-sensitive intervention that addresses undernutrition among young learners. It aligns with national development plans to improve education and lifelong learning.

The event saw the participation of representatives from various organizations in the Philippines, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Education (DepEd).

The exchange focused on adopting and institutionalizing anticipatory approaches, including government policies, coordination structures, financing, and implementation models for disaster risk management and shock-responsive social protection.

These practices align well with Indonesian disaster contexts.

The next steps involve sharing key findings through a multi-stakeholder workshop planned for August 2023.

This workshop aims to review the SSTC visit's key takeaways, the scoping study conducted by WFP, and inputs from other partners.

The goal is to establish a broad consensus on Indonesia's approach to institutionalize anticipatory action.



Additionally, the Philippine National Nutrition Council and the Department of Science and Technology Food and Nutrition Research Institute were also present.

Members of the SUN Business Network and other partners of DepEd also took part in the event.

During the exchange, participants gained insights into various aspects of India's school feeding programme, including constitutional provisions, educational and nutritional outcomes, procurement mechanisms, food distribution systems, and quality control.

As a result of the knowledge exchange, the Philippines plans to conduct a field visit to India's Central Kitchen.

WFP Philippines CO continues to collaborate closely with the Philippine Government to support food and nutrition security in line with the [Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028](#) and the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition.

Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

Opportunities Under SSTC Highlighted in WFP Philippines CSP Consultation

In June, WFP Philippines CO conducted an external consultation on its 2G CSP 2024-2028.

The consultation recognized the importance and increasing opportunity to leverage SSTC, with WFP serving as a facilitator between Governments particularly on food security, emergency telecommunications, and EPR.

Representatives from the Embassies of Colombia, Thailand, Brazil, Malaysia, Mexico, Argentina, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia attended the event.

The representatives shared examples of specific projects from their respective countries where the Philippines could benefit through SSTC.

For example social protection initiatives with former combatants (Colombia) and knowledge exchanges on organic and sustainable agriculture (Thailand).

The key takeaways were:

- WFP has identified bottlenecks that pose challenges to leveraging SSTC in the country;
- WFP aims to play a more active role in facilitating partnerships between the Philippines and countries in the Global South, in line with the CSP. This proactive approach will help foster collaboration and leverage resources for the successful implementation of SSTC projects;
- WFP Philippines CO is working closely with the UN Resident Coordinator in promoting the UN System-Wide Strategy on SSTC activities in the Philippines.

The next steps involve operationalizing the CSP that is in alignment with WFP SSTC priorities.



Photo: WFP/ Philippines

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