



# South-South Quarterly Newsletter

March 2023

*“The rich portfolio of South-South cooperation projects featured today is a testament to the transformational impact that results when developing countries cooperate with each other and in partnership with the United Nations System. We believe in the potential of South-South Cooperation and its ability to flip the script for Least Developed Countries.”*

*Dima Al-Khatib,  
Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation  
On the sidelines of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Doha  
5 March 2023*

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# WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

## WFP's Fourth Internal Task Force Meeting on SSTC: Advancing on its Programme of Work

In April, the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Unit in HQ will hold 4th plenary meeting of its internal Global SSTC Task Force which aims to address key recommendations issued by the SSTC policy evaluation.

These recommendations include revising the SSTC policy, ensuring that SSTC considerations continue to be reflected in the 2nd Generation country strategic plans (CSP) and more.

The meeting will be an occasion for co-chairs of the task force to share the updates of the three workstreams and present the most recent deliverables:

- Workstream 1: Overview of options to integrate SSTC perspective in partnership tools and enhancing WFP's SSTC partnering skills (chaired by Elisabeth Faure, Country Director India);
- Workstream 2: SSTC Research and Learning agenda (chaired by Patrick Teixeira, Director a.i. WFP Regional Centre of Excellence Based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM));

- Workstream 3: Key issues raised by the Executive Board (EB) at the first Informal Consultations on the SSTC Policy Update and way forward (chaired by Jean-Pierre de Margerie, Deputy Director, PRO).

The deliverables are endorsed by the plenary of the SSTC Task Force that is composed of both senior and technical level staff from Country Offices (COs), Regional Bureaux (RBx), Centres of Excellence (CoEs) and HQ divisions.

WFP colleagues can find them on WFP's internal [Resource Centre](#) for SSTC which consolidates all documentation about the Task Force.

The deliverables will also be included in [WFP's Manual for SSTC](#) which was recently updated to be part of the PRO's Programme Guidance Manual.

## Official Launch of the Revised South-South Match Knowledge Platform and South-South Matching Event

In January, SSTC Unit has officially launched the revised [South-South Match](#) knowledge platform (VPN required).

The new platform includes a more user-friendly interface and additional features such as featured solutions published on [the United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation \(UNOSSC's\) South-South Galaxy](#), dedicated link to the CoE's knowledge platforms and more.

South-South Match is designed to help WFP COs and RBx find the right partner for their host governments to tap into SSTC.

There are already over 200 opportunities including offers and demands identified in 74 countries, to start the dialogue on SSTC initiatives and find the right match for a specific country's context.

The aim of South-South Match is to start the conversation between WFP focal points and give visibility to offers and demands in each country. As an internal tool, the platform displays a detailed description of opportunities to explore.

The platform acts as an additional tool to the CoE platforms, as it provides relevant info on SSTC offers, demands and completed projects from the Global South in 5 thematic areas: Nutrition, School Feeding, Social Protection, Smallholder Farmers, and Emergency Preparedness & Response.

The platform includes an easy reporting form which serves as a direct channel for COs, RBx, and CoEs to submit opportunities to [the Global SSTC Help Desk](#) to be included on the platform.

To bring visibility to the platform following the launch, in March, the SSTC Unit organized an online South-South Matching Event.

The event was organized in close collaboration with SSTC focal points in RB for Southern Africa (RBJ), RB for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBP) and facilitated by INK.

The event aimed to

- Raise awareness of WFP's SSTC stakeholders on the purpose and features of South-South Match;
- Identify entry points for SSTC initiatives within and between RBJ and RBP by suggesting relevant matches of supply and demand;
- Encourage the conversation between Country Offices (COs) within the regions on potential SSTC initiatives; and
- Gather feedback on how the platform can support stakeholders' "everyday" SSTC activities and opportunities for further improvement.

The event was attended by over 100 participants from RBJ, RBP, INK, and HQ ranging from director to technical levels.

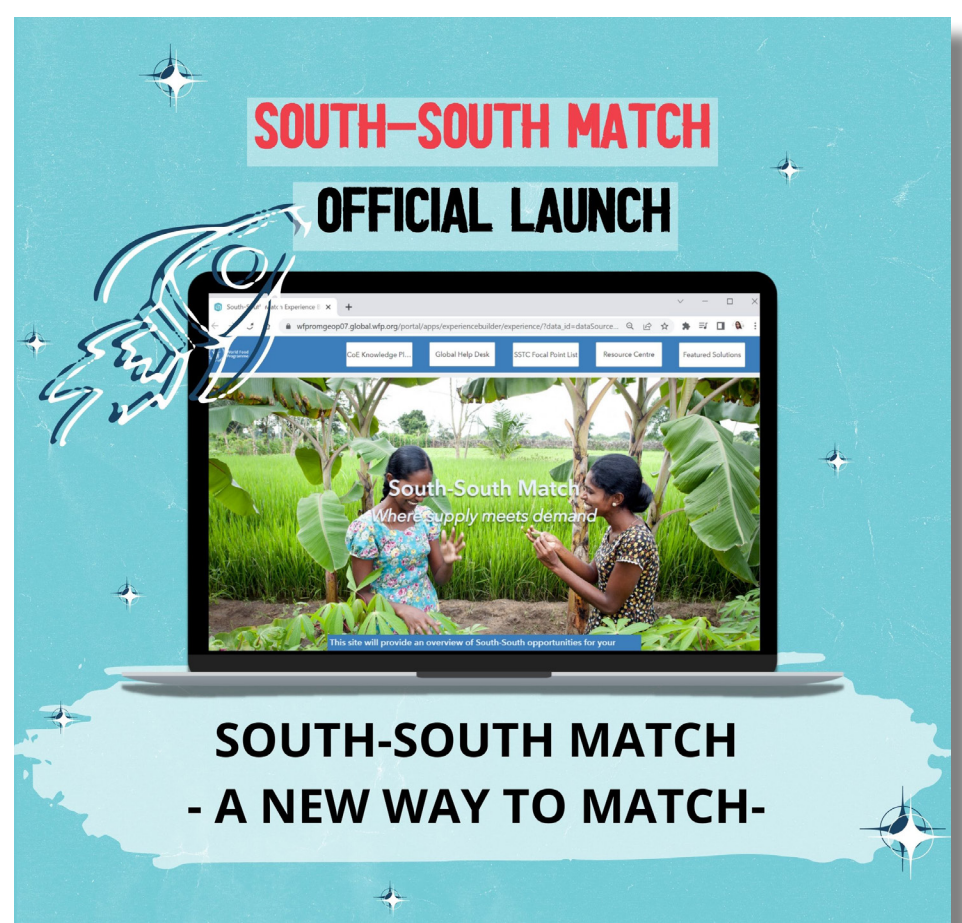
Please see here the [recording](#), the [presentation](#), and the [NFR](#) of the meeting.

As next steps, SSTC Unit has created a [Teams channel](#) as a platform where all colleagues can 1) provide feedback and suggestions for the platform, 2) continue their dialogue on SSTC opportunities to collaborate, and 3) put any remaining questions for speakers or on the event they may have.

With a view towards the future, the SSTC Unit aims to conduct similar events with various RBx and is exploring options to expand the scope of the platform, including an external portal and additional features.

As SSTC is a cross-cutting modality, other thematic areas may be added to the platform to provide the most relevant knowledge for practitioners.

There is more information on the platform on [SSTC Yammer channel](#).



# WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

## First Informal Consultation with the Executive Board on SSTC Policy Update

In January, the SSTC Unit held the first informal consultation with the EB on the SSTC policy update.

This was an opportunity to present and discuss the zero draft of the document as a crucial step in the SSTC Policy Update process, following the information update held in November 2022.

David Kaatrud, Director of the Programme - Humanitarian and Development Division (PRO), reflected on the November consultation with the EB and the practical suggestions raised by the Board members.

The Director highlighted the importance to emphasize the demand-driven nature of SSTC, WFP's role as a matchmaker of solutions for the Global South.

And also the need for improved corporate knowledge management and the role of triangular partners, which have been fully integrated into the draft policy.

Jean-Pierre de Margerie, Deputy Director, PRO, noted that moving forward, responding to host governments' SSTC requests, WFP's SSTC value proposition in the updated policy is to facilitate results-oriented, demand-driven, and localized SSTC.

He also emphasized that SSTC supports country-led efforts towards achieving SDG 2 and 17, with a focus on the most vulnerable and food-insecure populations and communities.

60 high-level representatives from 41 countries participated in the session, including remarks from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Morocco, EU, France, Kenya, Netherlands, UK, and USA.

A second informal consultation is scheduled for 19 April, to further discuss the draft of the updated policy.

The final policy is to be submitted to the EB Annual Meeting in late June 2023.

For more information on the SSTC policy update, please click [here](#).



## WFP and the China International Development Cooperation Agency Discuss Enhancing Cooperation

In February, WFP's Ramiro Lopes da Silva, Deputy Executive Director (DED) of Supply Chain and Emergencies met in Rome with Zhao Fengtao, Vice-Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) to discuss ways to enhance WFP - CIDCA cooperation.

DED Ramiro highlighted that the WFP-China relationship is very impactful for WFP, gaining extra importance due to the current global food crisis and the negative impact on food security around the world.

He noted that WFP would like to enhance its cooperation with CIDCA on resilience building and livelihoods support.

Vice Chairman (VC) Zhao stated that CIDCA plans to continue to support emergency food assistance programmes and technical agricultural assistance and that CIDCA is open to trilateral cooperation arrangements.

He emphasized that CIDCA aims to provide more humanitarian and development assistance to disaster prone countries and regions.

VC Zhao highlighted that the project proposals submitted by WFP in 2022 were well received.

In addition, CIDCA is working to ensure the progress in approving and implementing the projects under the global development and the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Opportunity Fund.

VC expressed interest in the area of specialized nutritious foods (SNF), stating that CIDCA is open to explore this area also via the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Opportunity Fund.

VC Zhao mentioned that CIDCA is ready to increase their funding for SSTC and they are open to co-financing opportunities.

## SSTC Champion Cards

The SSTC Unit has developed the [SSTC Champion Card Series](#) to give visibility to WFP SSTC focal points and SSTC opportunities from the Global South.

The SSTC Champion Card Series recognizes efforts made by WFP focal points in championing SSTC in the Global South.

The aim is to highlight the valuable experience of SSTC focal points in different regions, sharing challenges as well as inspirational stories from SSTC practices from country, regional and HQ perspectives.

Additionally, the SSTC Champion Card series intends to foster staff participation in SSTC discussions at corporate level, inviting colleagues to become country focal points for the global SSTC contact list which will be disseminated across SSTC channels (e.g., [SSTC Resource Centre](#), [SSTC Manual](#), [South-South Match](#)).

During the last quarter, the SSTC Unit has highlighted the important work of two SSTC Champions: Maria Pino and Christiani Buani, who work five thousand miles apart but share an equal enthusiasm for SSTC.

You may also find other SSTC Champions on the [SSTC Yammer channel](#).

Maria Pino is a Programme Officer in charge of SSTC at RBP. Maria has been working at RBP as a SSTC focal point for more than 10 years, and is one of the most experienced SSTC Champions, due to her long engagement in this role.

[Here](#) is the story Maria shared with the SSTC Unit.

Christiani Buani is the head of operation in the [Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition in Cote D'Ivoire \(CERFAM\)](#).

Christiani has been working in WFP for almost 12 years. Her first assignment was at the CoE Brazil, she then moved to Cote d'Ivoire and has been contributing with her rich experience to CERFAM's work for 4 years.

Find the story Christiani shared [here](#).

# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

### 2022 International Forum on Digital Technology Empowering Rural Transformation and the Launch of the "Sci-Tech Empowering Rural Transformation 2022" report

In November 2022, the WFP China CoE, China Internet Information Centre (CIIC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representation in China, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) China Office, and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP-CSAM) co-hosted the 2022 International Forum on Digital Technology Empowering Rural Transformation.

The event aimed to refine China's experience in utilizing science and technology to empower rural areas and share cases of digitalization in the agricultural sector and beyond.

In this way, China's experience in big data, technology, and innovation can be shared to improve food systems in the Global South.

At the forum, WFP China CoE and partner agencies released the "[Sci-Tech Empowering Rural Transformation 2022](#)" report.

The joint report outlines and summarises development trends associated with science and technology-powered transformation in rural areas, practical new techniques and technologies.

The report also shares selected best practices which are innovative, sustainable, and applicable to developing countries' contexts.

The Thematic Study on Sci-Tech Empowering Rural Transformation focuses on one particular theme every year to make a continuous observation.

The thematic study in 2023 aims to highlight the latest development trends with S&T empowered transformation in rural areas led by young people, which is expected to come in September.

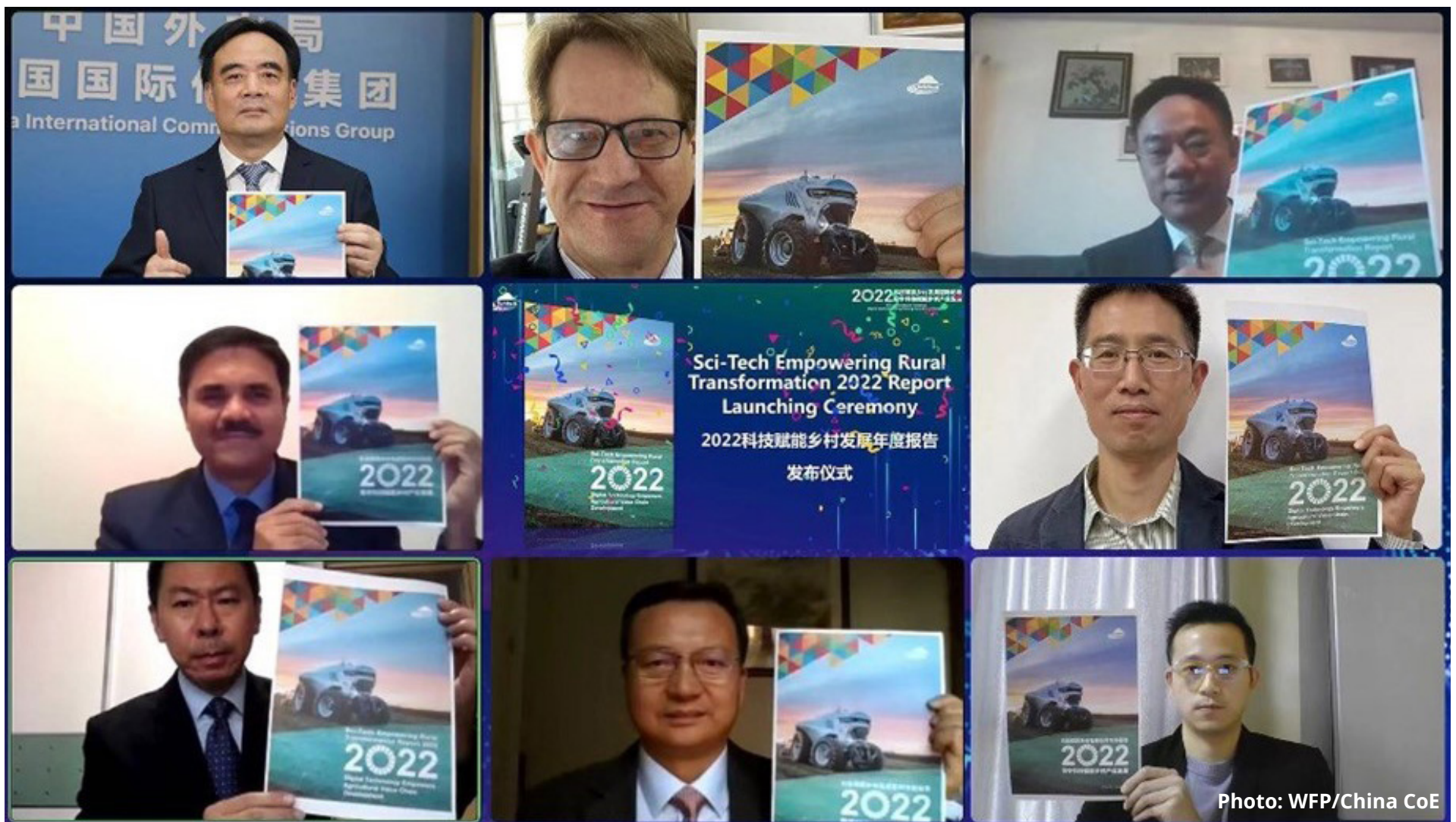


Photo: WFP/China CoE

### WFP China CoE Co-Organizes an Online Seminar on Cassava Value Chain Development

In December 2022, WFP China CoE, CERFAM and China Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) co-organised an Online Seminar on Cassava Value Chain Development.

During the seminar, the participants shared experiences and good practices on cassava value chain development from countries of the Global South.

They also discussed exchange opportunities for more specific demand-supply programming and explored first steps to strengthen the cooperation.

70 participants from 25 countries attended the seminar.

During the seminar, the ambassador of the Republic of Congo (ROC) to China highlighted the important work done through the WFP SSTC Pilot Project in ROC supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China (MARA).

The project aims to improve the local food value chain and support smallholders' capacity building.

Experts from government agencies, academic institutions and private sector further shared knowledge, techniques and experience on cassava and analysed the cassava value chain development in China, Asia, and Africa.

This seminar strengthened the understanding of development challenges and opportunities for cassava value chain development in different regions and countries.

It also highlighted potential technical entry points of international cooperation on cassava value chain development in future.

As next steps, WFP China CoE will continue strengthening the cooperation with key technical partners on cassava value chain development through leveraging SSTC modalities.

# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

### WFP China CoE Co-Organized a SSTC Event on Rural Youth Development and E-commerce

In December 2022, WFP China CoE and AliResearch co-organized an online event: "The South-South Cooperation Dialogue on Rural Youth Development Invigorated by E-commerce".

The event aimed to promote peer learning on e-commerce, exchange thematic knowledge and experience from countries of the Global South, and provide a platform for youth entrepreneurs to exchange and to explore this topic with experts.

During the event, representatives from local governments shared programmatic experience on supporting local e-commerce development in Gansu and Shaanxi Provinces.

Young entrepreneurs participating in the event had a chance to exchange experiences and practices on rural e-commerce development from women, youth perspectives, as well international e-business's perspectives, as well as to discuss challenges and opportunities in this area.

In addition, a report "[E-commerce Promotes Rural Vitalization in West China](#)" was presented.

The report was jointly developed by WFP China CoE and AliResearch to summarize the experience in e-commerce development in China.

The focus was on rural vitalization and poverty reduction based on field research, which could be adopted in countries of the Global South.

The dialogue presented the whole picture of rural e-commerce development in west China and reached the common sense to support the global youth engagement in facilitating rural e-commerce development.

As next steps, WFP China CoE in collaboration with technical partners will continue facilitating knowledge sharing and leveraging expertise in rural e-commerce and identify best practices and valuable expertise to share with countries of the Global South.

### The First Synergy Meeting and Stakeholders' Dialogue of the China-Africa Rice Value Chain Initiative

In December 2022, the first Synergy Meeting and Stakeholders' Dialogue on Rice Value Chain Development was held online.

The meeting was organized by WFP China CoE, and 134 participants from 9 countries joined the meeting online.

The meeting explored opportunities in China-Africa collaboration on rice value chain development at technical and policy levels, particularly on post-harvest loss management and market access for smallholder farmers.

In addition, it provided a platform for increased dialogue, between African countries and China, in the areas of processing, storage management and quality control on rice

value chain development to improve food security.

During the meeting, the main stakeholders shared lessons learned and gave good examples of exchanges that may be replicated in other countries related to the rice initiative between African countries and China.

As next steps, in the beginning of 2023, WFP China CoE together with CERFAM and WFP COs in Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea set up a working mechanism to ensure the successful implementation of the project.



Photo: WFP/China CoE

# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

### WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil and FAO Discuss Improvement of Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes in Online Workshops

In December 2022, the WFP Brazil CoE and FAO organized two virtual workshops on Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF).

The workshops aimed to enable the participants to exchange and learn about strategies and tools for developing HGSF programmes using a nutrition sensitive value chain approach.

Experts and practitioners from Cambodia, Ethiopia, Guyana, Benin, Brazil, and RBJ, presented their experiences and shared challenges with participants from 26 countries.

The sessions enabled countries to identify best practices in HGSF and promote SSTC work supported by WFP and FAO by leveraging the wealth of experience and expertise of the countries of the Global South.

The practitioners discussed strategies and tools to develop school feeding programmes with local procurement from smallholder farmers.

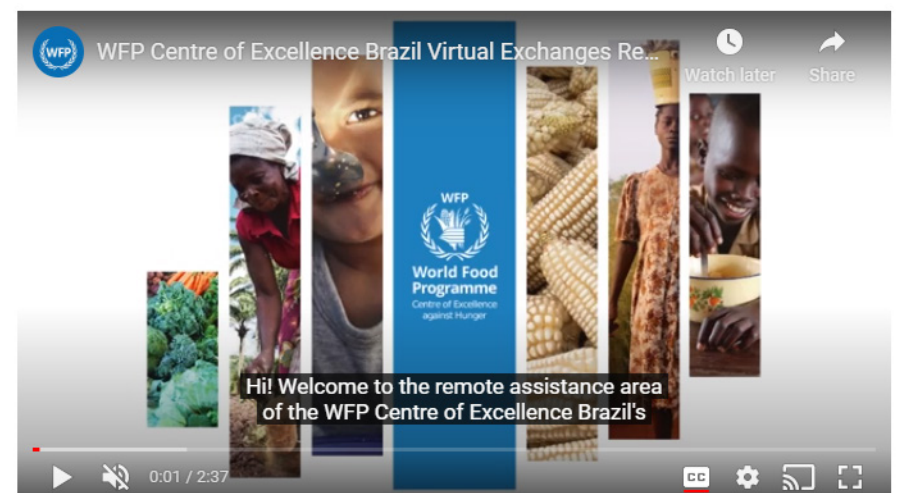
Practitioners also explored ways to diversify school menus, assess value chains, improve smallholder farmers' production and diversify diets to map supply and demand for HGSF.

Following the workshops, a compilation of references and supporting materials on HGSF was shared with the participants in order to incentivize the on-going collaboration and create possibilities for further technical assistance.

The compilation included:

- Flagship publications by the RBA,
- Online courses offered by FAO eLearning Academy,
- Academic papers,
- Policy briefs and videos of the country cases presented at the training sessions,
- Speaker presentations, and
- Information about the "[Virtual Study Visits](#)" offered by the WFP Brazil CoE.

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#### Virtual Exchanges

In order to guarantee the continuity of activities with the countries, the Centre's work is not limited to face-to-face technical support – as is the case with study visits to Brazil and missions. Much of this work is done remotely. Remote Support consists of virtual and continuous communication with each supported country, through the provision of political advice, advocacy work with governments, information sharing, and the joint development or review of documents – such as bills, national strategies and school feeding programme documents



Photo: WFP/Rein Skullerud

# Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

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

### High-Level Consultation held in Abidjan to Promote Nutrition by Sharing Knowledge and Experience

In 2022, the African Union (AU) highlighted the nutritional resilience and food security challenges of hunger and malnutrition in all forms in Africa.

To share lessons learned and best practices in these areas, in December 2022, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, AU, and CERFAM organized a high-level consultation on the African Year of Nutrition.

CERFAM provided technical assistance and financial support to the organization of the high-level dialogue and participated in technical exchanges of experts.

The CoE advocates food security in Africa by sharing good practices and promoting SSTC.

Experts from 54 member countries, civil society, multilateral technical and financial partners, representatives of institutions and organizations specializing in nutrition participated in the event.

The participants shared concrete experiences to ensure adequate nutrition in Africa.

Member States presented progress in their fight against malnutrition highlighting the importance of multi-sectoral and people-centered strategies.

In addition, they reiterated their strong political commitment to accelerate progress towards the [Malabo Declaration](#).

Policy makers, heads of government, ministers and nutrition experts also shared best practices, challenges and progress in their respective countries since the Malabo Declaration, the Food Systems Summit, and the Nutrition 4 Growth Summit in 2021.

During the consultation, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire reaffirmed the aim to prioritize nutrition with member states.

As well as to strengthen CERFAM's actions and funding to promote good practices and innovative solutions identified in African countries and ensure their facilitation.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the [Abidjan Declaration](#), a call for action for more investment and better coordination to accelerate action in the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition in all forms in Africa.

In addition, participating countries affirmed their commitment to SSTC to strengthen agri-food, health, and social protection systems to accelerate the development of human, social and economic capital in Africa.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION



**14th African Regional Meeting**  
Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 3-6 December 2019

AFRM.14/D.4(Rev.)

#### Abidjan Declaration

**Advancing Social Justice: Shaping the future of work in Africa**

**Realizing the potential for a future of work with social justice**

Government, Employers' and Workers' delegates from 49 African countries having met at the 14th ILO African Regional Meeting from 3 to 6 December 2019 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in the ILO's Centenary year 2019, which also marked the 60th year of the Organization's presence in the continent, with the aim of forging a regional framework to unleash Africa's potential for inclusive growth and shaping a future of work with social justice:

*Recalling* the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, adopted by the International Labour Conference in June 2019, and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019, which provides a road map for a regional agenda;

*Recognizing* that transformative processes need to be accelerated, for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the African Continental Free Trade Area;

*Acknowledging* that improvements have been made in economic growth, reduction of poverty, average real wages and average levels of education, and that with its largely young and energetic population of 1.3 billion, and its abundance of natural resources, Africa's potential for further growth is promising;

*Acknowledging*, however, that serious concerns remain with rising inequalities, unemployment, underemployment, informality, young people that are not in education, employment or training, child and forced labour, human trafficking, governance gaps, gender gaps, working poverty, low social protection coverage, and unsustainable rural-urban migration;

*Acknowledging* that climate change poses a major threat to sustainable development today and in the future;

*Recognizing* that addressing the development challenges requires structural transformation through value-addition across the broad sectors of agriculture, manufacturing and services, domestic resource mobilization, investment in the care economy and improving productivity;



Photo: WFP/CERFAM



# Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

## WFP China CoE Co-Organizes a Webinar with Nicaragua on the Production of Biological Inputs for Small-Scale Agriculture

At the beginning of March, WFP Nicaragua CO and WFP Regional Office for Latin America & the Caribbean (RBP) with the technical support from the WFP China CoE held a webinar on the production of biological inputs for small-scale agriculture.

The webinar, as part of a SSTC initiative launched by WFP and MARA (SSTC COVID-19 Opportunity Fund), aimed at supporting the Government of Nicaragua to fortify biological inputs (fertilizer) with more nutrients to better nourish the soil.

A total of 77 participants, from across the LAC region and China, including representatives of the Nicaraguan Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) and the China Agriculture University, attended the webinar.

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 biological inputs on staple grains (beans, rice, maize), and vegetables crops (tomato, sweet chili, potato, onions).

Some key takeaways from the exchange:

- The Nicaraguan Government committed to ensure food and nutritional security for the population, as well as to support family agriculture to increase its productivity;
- Participants were interested in learning further about the use of artisanal formulations for bacteria (e.g., *Bacillus subtilis*);
- INTA expressed their interest in learning more about the types of enzymes found in the fermentation processes of liquid biofertilizers.

A follow-up webinar was organized at the end of March to deepen the discussion on the topic, provide training on the production of algae-based biological inputs for crop nutrition (e.g., rice and beans), and share formulae that can be used by smallholder farmers.



Photo: WFP/Elto Rujano

## Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

### Webinar on Strengthening Capacities for Sweet Potato Processing to Improve Value Chain Development through SSTC in Mozambique

In January 2023, Mozambique and WFP Mozambique CO, with the support of WFP China CoE and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) held a webinar to exchange knowledge and best practices on sweet potato processing to improve value chain development.

The webinar aimed to strengthen capacity building and livelihoods of smallholder farmers and explore climate change adaptation methods for the most vulnerable people in Mozambique.

During the event, WFP China CoE shared China's experience in sweet potato processing technology and full utilization of its by-products.

This initiative is a part of the wave III pilot project in Mozambique of the SSTC COVID-19 Opportunity Fund.

The project aims to support farmers' organisations to reduce post-harvest losses of fresh products through the introduction of food processing techniques and improved market-access.

Participants counted from host governments, farmers organizations (FO), and COs attended the webinar. The webinar utilized the "Training of Trainers" (ToT) modality for government staff, FOs and target beneficiaries.

The training covered cleaning and preparation techniques of sweet potatoes before processing, storage techniques, packaging and labeling methods.

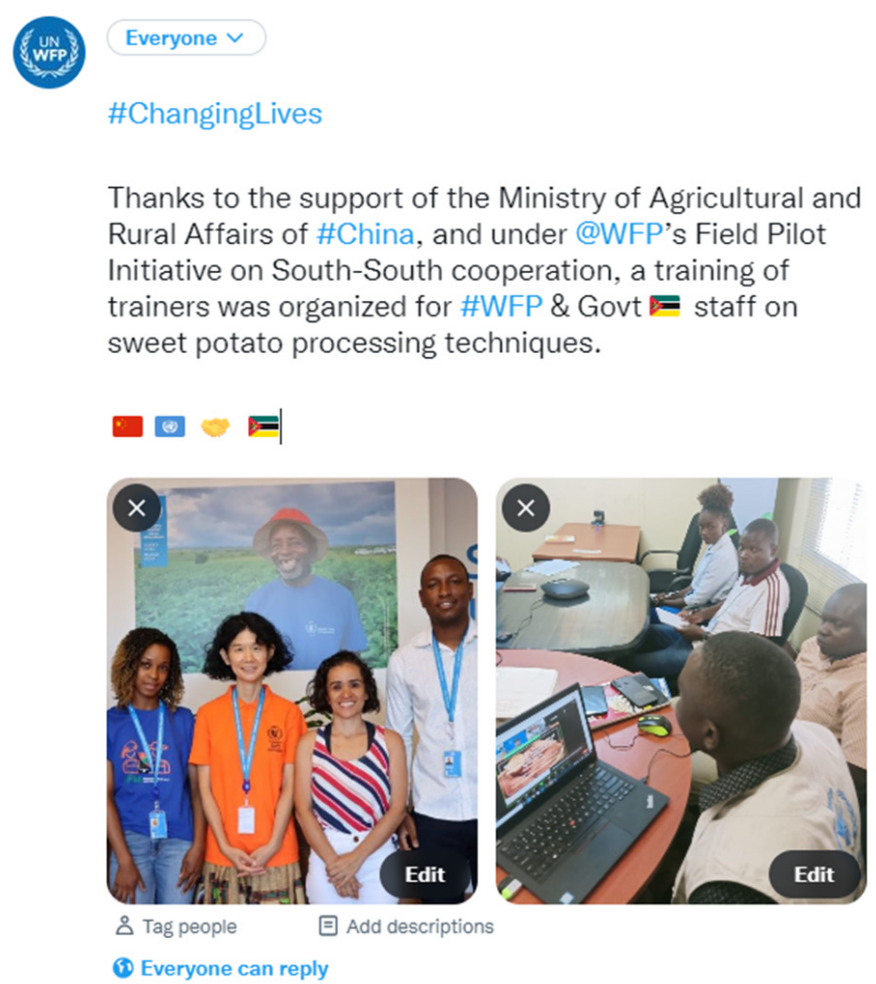
Some key takeaways from the webinar include:

- Sweet potato processing can increase its added value and expand its market, allowing producers to sell alternative products (e.g., sweet potato chips, sweet potato flour, and sweets).
- The quality of the raw material is crucial to the success of sweet potato processing, as well as implementation of good hygiene and food safety practices is essential to ensure that sweet potato products are safe for consumption.
- Sweet potato processing can have positive impacts on the local economy, providing employment opportunities and strengthening agricultural supply chains.

As next steps, WFP plan to continue providing regular trainings to the community on food processing and marketing and sales techniques, maintenance and repairing of solar dryers.

This can be achieved through ToTs to be provided to community leaders and other empowered members of the communities.

Continuous monitoring of the quality of products produced by the communities, and support with the access to the financial services in order to invest in food processing equipment and facilities is planned as well.



### Social Protection Knowledge Exchange with Jordan, Iraq and Egypt

In February, WFP, the World Bank, and UNICEF co-facilitated a knowledge exchange mission in Jordan between government social protection actors of Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt.

The aim was to learn about Jordan's social protection and safety nets model.

Since 2018, WFP Jordan has extended capacity strengthening support to social protection actors, particularly the National Aid Fund (NAF) the largest social safety nets provider in Jordan.

Support has been shared on digitalizing and improving large scale cash programmes aiming to enhance capacities and systems of payment, beneficiary validation, complaint and feedback collection, and evidence generation.

The delegation had in-depth technical discussions and information exchanges focusing on the major social safety net programme in Jordan, implemented by NAF.

The knowledge exchange covered all stages of the Jordan's social safety net programme implementation including targeting, registration, data validation, payments, accountability, as well as their 'cash plus' interventions (e.g., 'graduation').

Jordan's National Unified Registry (NUR) System was also presented as a key component of Jordan's vision to unify, link, and digitalize all social protection services and opportunities.

During the mission, the delegation met with the Jordanian Minister of Social Development who stressed the importance of knowledge and expertise exchanges and expressed Jordan's commitment to achieve the SDGs, particularly SDG 1 and 2.

The delegation came up with technical recommendations to further enhance NAF's program by referring to the best practices applied in three countries.

As next steps, WFP will support NAF in adapting these and continue to provide technical assistance to strengthen the national social protection system.



## Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

### The Government of Burundi Visits Kenya on a Learning Mission

In February, a ministerial delegation from Burundi visited Kenya on a study mission to learn from Kenya's experience in establishing and maintaining an Enhanced Single Registry (ESR) for Social Protection, facilitated by WFP.

The ESR is a database that contains information on the poor and vulnerable households in Kenya, which enables the government and other interested parties to provide aid to those who need it most without duplicating efforts.

The ESR is a manifest of Kenya's improved ability to manage complex data for all vulnerable populations and use it to effectively assist vulnerable populations.

In view of learning from Kenya's experience, the delegation from Burundi interacted with key stakeholders involved in the process of establishing ESR, and visited Makeni, one of the first counties to utilize the ESR.

In Makeni, the delegation visited communities and communicated with individuals benefiting from the use of the ESR to understand this mechanism in the field practice and was given the opportunity to update the registry as well as register new households in the system to gain the first-hand experience.

Burundi's Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights, and Gender, Mr. Pomtien Hatungimana, hailed the Government of Kenya's effort in establishing and maintaining the ESR for social protection.

He said the visit was eye-opening for Burundi and provided the steppingstones that the team in Burundi will use to establish their own social registry.

Mr. Hatungimana pledged to share their lessons with the teams back in Burundi, ensure the government takes an active lead in the development of ESR for Burundi, empower Burundi's secretariat for social protection, and lead the mobilization of resources to facilitate the process.

Through this study visit, Kenya can share this successful experience with its neighbouring country, Burundi, and stands out as a South-South knowledge provider in the East African region.

The learning visit is an activity supported through a WFP internal Global South-South Cooperation Trust Fund. It promotes peer learning among host governments in the Global South to accelerate their progress towards zero hunger.

To date, Kenya has hosted peer learning sessions for ministerial delegations from Bangladesh, Lesotho, Chad, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and now, Burundi.

To learn more about the study visit see the details [here](#) and [here](#).



Photo: WFP/Kenya

### WFP and ACAME Jointly Organized a Training on Fleet Management Best Practices

In January, WFP and the Association of African Central Medical Stores (ACAME) organized a training on fleet management at the WFP Regional Logistics Centre in Ghana.

The aim was to strengthen capacities in public health supply chains by leveraging SSTC to share knowledge and expertise between government representatives across Africa.

Recently, ACAME established the Training and Expertise Centre (CFEA) that aims to offer trainings adapted to the needs of central medical stores (government department that handles procurement, storage & distribution of all medical supplies in a country).

It also aims to leverage SSTC modalities (e.g., knowledge sharing, peer learning, etc.) to share expertise in health supply chain systems.

WFP's Supply Chain Division supported ACAME with the launch of the CFEA by delivering the first training on fleet management for 22 central medical stores.

The training counted with 16 participants from 10 African countries and focused on fleet management functions such as vehicle acquisition and maintenance, fleet performance and cost control, good fleet management practices and tools.

Most ACAME member central medical stores operate their own fleet of trucks to deliver essential health products.

WFP's support contributes to a more optimal use of limited assets and funds, and ultimately helps ensure populations have uninterrupted access to life-saving medical supplies.

As next steps, further logistics trainings will be planned under this multiyear partnership.

For more information, click [here](#).

### Armenia Leverages SSTC for Green Energy and Empowering Smallholder Farmers

In 2021, the "Green Energy for Productive Farming" project was launched in Armenia with technical support from China.

The project is financed through WFP's COVID-19 SSTC Opportunity Fund and has been instrumental in providing support to smallholder farmers in Armenia.

Over the last two years, the project has been successful in enabling 150 smallholder farmers to establish individual berry gardens as an alternative high value product.

The project also provided drip-irrigation systems for smallholder farmers' backyard berry gardens to ensure more harvest from the same plot of land.

As a result, farmers were able to sell their products in the local market and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

By leveraging SSTC (e.g., knowledge sharing, funding and expanded partners), WFP supported the implementation of solutions to address food insecurity, poverty, and environmental challenges smallholder farmers are facing in Armenia.

In 2023, WFP aims to scale up the project to ensure that farmers continue to expand knowledge and skills for their agriculture activities by providing more trainings on agriculture practices.

To further support the agricultural development of communities, WFP has invested 345,000 USD to install 10 solar stations in 10 communities in Armenia.

Funding to scale up the successful project was received from the RBC as part of the "Green Energy for Productive Farming" project, covering the period from February to September 2023.

The savings generated as a result of solar energy production will be directed to community agricultural projects during the next 25 years.

This model of investing in community savings and smallholder farmers' productivity has been replicated in other regions and continues to contribute to sustainable agricultural growth and economic development.

# Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific

## India Hosts Study Tour from Bangladesh to Learn about India's National Rice Fortification Programme

In December 2022, the Indian Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, with the support of WFP India CO, hosted a delegation from Bangladesh's Ministry of Women and Children affairs (MoWCA), Ministry of Food (MoFood), and Nutrition International for a study tour.

The purpose of the visit was to understand the status of distribution of fortified rice in the India's food-based safety nets, their scale-up plan and to learn how national rice fortification is being implemented across the country.

During the mission, the delegation visited Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to witness implementation of the programme at the state level.

The participants met manufacturers of fortified rice kernels and visited mills where rice was being blended.

The delegation also visited distribution sites including Fair Price Shops, schools and Anganwadi Centres where beneficiaries of food safety net schemes received their fortified rice entitlements as both dry rations and cooked meals.

The team members interacted with relevant officials responsible for the implementation of the programme, representatives of the local authorities, and beneficiaries.

During the study tour, the officials highlighted India's commitment to expand the rice fortification programme to 800 million beneficiaries by 2024.

As next steps, the delegation plans to organize webinars and online meetings between both countries to exchange views, experiences and ideas regarding food fortification including the digitalization of the distribution process.



Photo: Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India

## Nepal Taps into Chinese Expertise Via a Training Programme on Fair Price Shops, Post Harvest Management & Business Development

In December 2022, Nepal's local government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture participated in a training on Fair Price Shop (FPS) establishment and management, as well as post-harvest management and business development skills.

The training was organized by WFP Nepal CO in collaboration with the Food Management and Trading Company Limited (FMTCL) with support from WFP China CO.

The training from Chinese experts was financed through the SSTC COVID Opportunity Fund.

It aimed to strengthen the knowledge and capabilities of cooperatives, local government and FMTCL representatives on FPS operationalization, post-harvest management, food storage, food marketing and business development.

The training counted with 39 participants from cooperatives, FMTCL technical staffs and local government officials of Dailekh, Surkhet and Jajarkot districts.

Moving forward, WFP will support the cooperatives to establish FPS in various districts in Nepal by providing required materials, creating market awareness, and conducting meetings with local and federal government.

The monitoring of FPS will be supported by monitoring and evaluation committee formed by the local government with support from FMTCL.

For more details see the report [here](#).



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### Introduction

The Fair Price Shop (FPS) system is based on the requirements from the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act, 2075, it supports expanding the coverage of the Food Management and Trading Company Limited (Ltd), (FMTCL) supply chain in a cost-effective manner, to increase coverage and service level of its social safety net to better reach the target population. It will be replacing FMTCL's special sales centre modality that has been providing food commodities to the local community. The Fair Price Shop is envisioned to be operated by local women groups/cooperatives/farmers groups. In order to initiate the operationalization of FPS, under the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) China fund, with support from World Food Programme China office, WFP Nepal office in collaboration with FMTCL organized a two-day training on Fair Price Shop establishment and management and post-harvest management and Business Development skills to cooperatives, local government and FMTCL technical person at Surkhet on 15 and 16 Dec 2022.

### Training Objective

The objective of the training was to strengthen the knowledge and capabilities of cooperatives, local government and FMTCL technical person on FPS operationalization, post-harvest management, food storage, food marketing and business development.

### Participants Profile and summary

The training was targeted for 35 participants from cooperatives, FMTCL technical staffs and local government of Dailekh, Surkhet and Jajarkot who are willing to learn and operationalize Fair Price Shops in rural areas in future.

### Attendance

The actual number of participants who attended the training were 39. Details provided below:

Gender		Professional Category		
Male	Female	Cooperative	FMTCL	Local government
29 (1 disabled)	10	17	12	10
<b>Total 39</b>				

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