



South-South Quarterly Newsletter

May 2020

"South-South and Triangular Cooperation is the way of the future – it is how assistance, knowledge sharing and expertise transfer can become truly sustainable."

Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, WFP

Rome-based Agencies-Event, hosted by WFP at the occasion of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation on September 6, 2019



Programme—Humanitarian and Development Division (PRO)

South-South Cooperation

Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org **May 2020**

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What's happening in Rome?

Service Offer to Support Country Offices to Broker South-South Cooperation in the Face of COVID-19

WFP's operating environment is changing significantly in view of the current **COVID-19 health crisis**. The number of people facing acute hunger due to the pandemic might reach **265 million** by the end of this year (NYT, 22 April 2020).

COVID-19 not only affects WFP's own **operations** and need to secure **business continuity**, but also and particularly the operating environment and effectiveness of **national systems** of WFP's host governments in areas such as food systems, social protection systems, school feeding and nutrition programmes.

In order to support host governments throughout and in the aftermath of the epidemic, WFP needs to rely on **all partners** available, including **Southern providers**,

to join forces and address arising capacity, **food security** and **nutrition** needs in the developing world.

Facilitating South-South cooperation is expected to play an even **more important role** as vehicle to make **technology and resources** available in developing countries to address the impact of COVID-19.

Those may include **local innovations** and lessons to **accelerate their response** to the rapid spread of the pandemic or help mitigate its effect. Areas of engagement include resilience building, food systems, social protection, school feeding and health systems.

To learn more, contact Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org (PRO, SSTC team).

PRO SSTC Service Offer for WFP Country Offices and Host Governments

In line with **WFP's COVID-19- Medium Term Programme Framework**, and WFP's three dimensional model of promoting positive change towards zero hunger through SSTC at **policy, operational and grass-roots level**, WFP is offering a distinct service line to support COs and host governments in view of COVID-19. The services can help COs **prepare for and mitigate** adverse effects of the pandemic in their country context.



Advise and advocacy: Positioning WFP as a partner for food security in the face of COVID-19

- ⇒ **Global webinar series on SSTC in the context of COVID-19** with external and internal partners. First one will be scheduled for 06/2020 with UNOSSC, WFP CoE Brazil and the UNDP International Poverty Reduction Centre in Brazil.
- ⇒ **Set-up of an "SDG 2 challenge" for launch of a Global Digital SSTC Innovation Challenge in partnerships with UNOSSC, UNDP and other partners.** Purpose: To identify and source relevant digital solutions from SSC partners to address COVID-19 -related challenges in the developing world.



Data and analytics: Equipping WFP practitioners and enhancing our corporate SSTC brokerage model

- ⇒ **PRO/INK/Munich Innovation Accelerator initiative** with internal and leading external KM/TEC experts to identify options for tech-supported SSTC modalities in the face of COVID-19 and WFP's future business model for IT/AI-driven "SSTC Knowledge Hubs".
- ⇒ **UNOSSC/WFP interactive "COVID-19 SDG 2 solutions" map** for UN-system wide South-South knowledge matching platform and WFP's internal "[South-South Match.Com](https://www.wfp.org/publications/south-south-match-com)". Focus: school feeding; later: food systems.
- ⇒ **Community of Practice and Guidance** on Government Enabling Engagement and South-South Cooperation in the face of COVID-19.



Operating Support: Piloting and evidence generation with host governments in the field

- ⇒ Roll-out of **SSTC pilot projects to address COVID-19 vulnerabilities in the field**. Options are currently being scoped in cooperation with COs, RBx, CoEs and HQ Technical Divisions, and can be considered for seed funding.



Seed funding support for WFP Country Offices to address COVID19 short-term needs

- ⇒ Launch of **COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund**, in order to make seed funding available to COs for short-term activities and COVID-19 pilot projects (see further information on page 2).
- ⇒ Guidance to **WFP COs** on how to tap into the SSTC/COVID-19 funding window made available by the India SSTC Fund.

What's happening in Rome?

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities in the Context of COVID-19

One Stop Shop for Programme Guidance on COVID-19



PRO has established a **COVID-19 Operational Communities of Practice** for colleagues in the field. As part of this community, a channel on "**Government Enabling Engagement and South-South Cooperation**" has been established, drawing on WFP's support on South-South Cooperation and Country Capacity Strengthening.

The channel serves as a **help desk** to the field, and facilitates **cross-regional discussion**.

The [TA stream](#) includes further information on the **SSTC COVID-19 Service Offer** to support COs and host governments (see page 1) and an **interactive map** that captures country-led solutions to COVID-19.

India-UN Development Partnership Fund COVID-19 Fast-Track Application Window

There is now a chance to apply for funding COVID-19 related SSTC initiatives through the [India-UN Development Partnership Fund](#).

The India Fund is a dedicated facility within the UNOSSC. All proposals sent to this fund addressing **COVID-19** through SSTC will be **fast-tracked**.

The proposal must be submitted by the **host government** to the **Indian Mission in New York** or to the **India-UN Development Partnership Fund Secretariat at the UNOSSC**.

Proposals submitted to the facility may consist of a **simple concept note** (describing the strategy, key features and indicative budget of the initiative). The average project duration should be 2 years.

The **India Fund gives priority to** Least Developed Countries (LDC), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The India Fund is a **\$150 million funding pool**, of which **\$50 million** is only open for Commonwealth countries, and the remaining **\$100 million** is unrestricted. Applications are on a **rolling basis**. Funding for each project is usually capped at **\$1 million**.

For more information click [here](#) or contact Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org (PRO, SSTC team).



World Food Programme

SSTC in Partnership with the Innovation and Knowledge Management Division

The PRO SSTC Team is partnering with the Innovation and Knowledge Management Division (INK), including the **Innovation Accelerator in Munich**, in order to **explore and identify options** for WFP COs and CoEs to **broker SSTC effectively through digital services**. This is an important topic, particularly in view of COVID-19 and the need to ensure business continuity for SSTC.

The initiative will first explore how WFP's existing and "classic" **South-South brokerage modalities** (e.g. study visits, expert deployments) can be modified in view of COVID-19 with help of digital services and technology. In a second step, the partnership will build on experiences with those modified modalities to explore **how WFP's existing South-South business model for "knowledge hubs" can be enriched through new Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence**.

The partnership engages **internal** as well as leading **external experts** in knowledge sharing and technology development. To get engaged, contact Gabriela.Dutra@wfp.org in PRO's SSTC Team.

INNOVATION ACCELERATOR

Launch of the PRO "COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund"

In order to **help WFP COs to jump-start and realize SSTC initiatives in the face of COVID19**, WFP is launching a small **PRO COVID19 South-South Opportunity Fund**. With an initial start-up volume of **250,000 USD**, the Fund makes seed funding available to WFP Country Offices in support of their host governments to realize concrete South-South activities and projects on the ground. The total amount of the Fund must be absorbed by **December 2020**.

The Fund will have a **two-track mechanism** that will enable COs to receive seed funding for:

1. **One-off SSTC fast track initiatives in the face of COVID-19** (up to 15.000 USD), such as study visits, feasibility assessments, peer learning workshops, with a duration of maximum 4 months.
2. **Full-fledged SSTC field pilot projects** (up to 50.000 USD) with a timeline of 6- 12 months which integrate South-South cooperation components (e.g. study visits, technology transfer, policy dialogue, in-field demonstration, etc.) in a project approach and deliver concrete results on the ground in 2020.

For more information on the Fund and application criteria click [here](#) or contact Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org (PRO, SSTC team).

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Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org May 2020
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What's happening in Rome?

New Record in WFP-Facilitated SSTC: 85 percent of WFP Country Offices Reported Engagement in SSTC in 2019

In 2019, WFP's engagement in SSTC set a new record, with **85 percent** of WFP COs reporting having supported their host government (source: QCPR).

The **upward trend** in this engagement rate since 2014 illustrates the rising importance that WFP's host governments place on SSTC as a strategy to tackle their food security and nutrition challenges, lend support to their neighbours and peers and gain visibility as **providers of solutions for SDG 2**.

Just in 2019, SSTC had a **12 percent increase**. When WFP started the work in the SSTC Policy in 2014, the rate was still at 48 percent.

Moreover, all Country Strategic Programmes (CSP) and interim CSP documents approved in 2019 **reflected SSTC** in their activities.

It also shows that WFP COs have further embraced their roles as **SSTC brokers** increasingly as a means to engage with host governments on the **changing lives agenda**.

As **key highlights from SSTC in 2019**, WFP was able to:

- ⇒ Realize a first wave of field-oriented SSTC pilot projects in **Ecuador, Sri Lanka, Republic of Congo and Kenya** with generous seed funding

support from the Ministry of **Agriculture and Rural Affairs** (MARA) in China;

- ⇒ Establish CERFAM to target hunger and malnutrition in West Africa;
- ⇒ WFP CoE Brazil continued to build on its strong experience in SSTC to pioneer innovative modalities such as pilot projects using remote support.

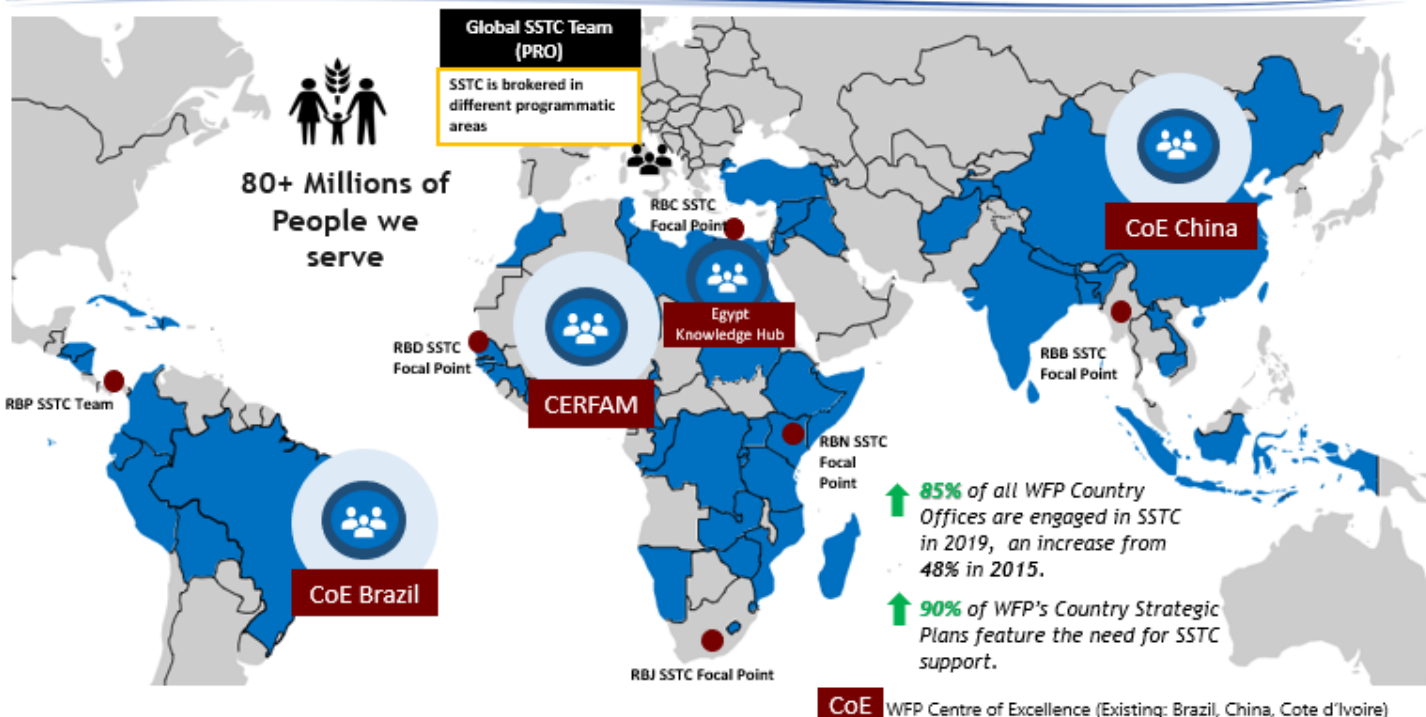
Leveraging on the strong momentum in SSTC, PRO has partnered with WFP's Corporate Planning and Performance Division (CPP) to release a **special thematic report** with SSTC activities in 2019.

The SSTC report will be part of WFP's "**Beyond the Annual Performance Report 2019 series**" and reflects achievements and key initiatives brokered by the WFP COs with support from RBx, highlights from the WFP CoEs and an overview of global initiatives in SSTC.

The report is planned to be released at the margins of WFP's upcoming **Executive Board Meeting in June 2020**.

For more information contact Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org or Gabriela.Dutra@wfp.org in PRO's SSTC team in Rome.

Global overview of WFP's engagement in SSTC (2019)



WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) Against Hunger in Brazil

Gambia Enters New Phase of School Feeding Programme with the Support of WFP CoE Brazil

In 2019, more than **100,000 students** in **368 schools** in all **6 regions** received daily meals thanks to the Government of Gambia and WFP. With support from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE), and Women, Children and Social Welfare, WFP CoE Brazil visited Gambia for a **two-week mission in 2020** to support the next phase of the national home-grown school feeding (HGSF) programme.

WFP CoE Brazil is assisting the **WFP CO Gambia** on the transition and scaling-up process of the HGSF programme. This joint-effort of the WFP Offices, Brazil and Gambia, has the potential to reach up to **160,000** vulnerable Gambian citizens. Most of the potential beneficiaries are school-aged girls and rural women.

Using SSTC, WFP CoE Brazil provides capacity **strengthening knowledge, advocacy and technical advisory services** building on the Brazilian experience with school feeding.

From January 31 - February 20, 2020 WFP CoE Brazil, WFP CO Gambia and MoBSE visited two schools in central Banjul, to learn more on best practices and capacity needs for the project's development. WFP CoE Brazil's support for resource mobilization has the potential to

catalyse over **USD 10 million** for the Government of Gambia to continue taking ownership of scaling-up the school feeding programme in the country.

Looking forward, WFP CoE Brazil will support the development of a **technical assistance framework** for the scale-up phase and hand over process.

For more information click [here](#) and please contact: Bruno.Magalhaes@wfp.org (WFP CoE Brazil).



WFP CoE Brazil Engages in South-South Knowledge Exchange for Projects Focused on Cotton Production



Among them, WFP CoE Brazil's **Beyond Cotton Project** connects cotton by-products, (e.g. oil and cottonseed meal etc.) to stable markets and school feeding programmes.

WFP CoE Brazil highlighted the Beyond Cotton Project to help **build common policies** that lead to **stable markets** in both Africa and Latin America.

The next stage of this working group will be focused on developing a **sales strategy and building dialogues** with prospective markets.

A regional event is also being developed following the normalization of initiatives after COVID-19.

For more information click [here](#) and please contact: Bruno.magalhaes@wfp.org (WFP CoE Brazil).



To give visibility to **WFP's good practices** in income generation for smallholder farmers and increasing food and nutrition security in rural areas, WFP CoE Brazil took part in a workshop **for South-South knowledge exchange**.

The workshop took place February 17-19, 2020 and was organized by ILO, UNDP, and FAO, to strengthen capacities on business and sales models for SSTC projects supported by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) that involve cotton.

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Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org May 2020
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WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

WFP China Centre of Excellence

China's Training of Trainers Programme for Integrated Rice Production with Ecuador

In September 2019, Ecuadorean participants completed a training course on **integrated rice production** in China. The training was organized by WFP China CoE in collaboration with Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Hunan Agricultural University.

This is part of **WFP Ecuador's SSTC Project** which aims to strengthen the capacity of the Ecuadorean Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) in support of small-holder farmers and their **access to different markets**.

During the **seven-day training**, the **five participants** from MAG, farmer associations and WFP Ecuador were exposed to the rice-duck and rice-fish co-production system through lectures, hands-on training and field trips.

Affected by the Novel Coronavirus, the **second phase** of the project (expert dispatch) was replaced by remote **training courses** designed by Hunan Agricultural University's expert team based on Ecuadorean needs.

In February 2021, when the new rice planting begins, a **contingency plan** has been considered to document the actions carried out in the demonstration plots, so these videos can be viewed by the Chinese experts.

The courses will be designed under the **Train the Trainer model** for Ecuadorean agricultural technicians.

The aim is for **Chinese rice-duck production** techniques to be incorporated for the improvement of **rice productivity** and the construction of agricultural plots, which will be replicated as part of the continuous activities of government institutions.

Using technology to conduct **remote training** allows the SSTC initiative to continue to generate **concrete benefits** for the technical teams who will later provide training to smallholder farmers.

These actions have been considered due to COVID-19, in turn the knowledge will be **institutionalized** so that it continues to be disseminated to more technicians and producers.

On the other hand, the plots are an important reference so that the theory received is supported **in practice locally**.

For more information please contact: Yan.jia@wfp.org and/or Mengqi.jie@wfp.org (WFP China CoE).

Promoting SSTC in the Second Call for Global Solicitation on Best Poverty Reduction Practices

In May 2018, WFP, FAO and IFAD started the first [Global Solicitation and Challenge Prize on the Best Poverty Reduction Practices](#) jointly with WB, ADB IPRCC. A total of **110** poverty reduction case studies have been selected by a jury made up of representatives from the seven **hosting organizations** and was published in the 2019 China Poverty Reduction International Forum in October.

WFP's submission "**Connect Smallholder Farmers to Markets - A Case Study of Purchase for Progress by the World Food Programme**" was selected as one of the top 110 cases.

Promoting the role of South-South Cooperation, the [Second Call for Global Solicitation on Best Poverty Reduction Practices](#) was launched based on successful experiences of the first event, seeking more poverty reduction case studies world-wide.

All the selected cases will be rewritten and translated according to international custom and standards. About **100 best cases** are expected to be published in 2020 and will

be shared and promoted around the world, the deadline to submit cases has been extended to **June 30, 2020**. As part of the host organizations, **WFP will jointly** review these cases to select the best ones. All the selected case studies will be rewritten and translated according to international custom and standards.

The aim is to share **domestic and international best practices** in poverty alleviation using real-life cases as the mechanism to promote South-South Cooperation in poverty alleviation. To **submit a case study** please click [here](#).

For more information please contact: Yan.jia@wfp.org and/or Mengqi.jie@wfp.org (WFP China CoE).

Global Solicitation on Best Poverty Reduction Practices (Second Call)

South-South Cooperation Review Meeting in China

A **South-South Cooperation Review Meeting** is under preparation by WFP China. The meeting aims to systematically review WFP China Centre of Excellence's priorities and functions, identify country needs for SSTC in terms of focus and modality.

An **online survey** to identify developing countries' needs will be launched soon for needs analysis.

The meeting is planned to be a **two-day in-house** meeting and **one-day field visit**. Participants from WFP

HQ, RBx, CoEs, COs and Chinese key partners will be invited to attend the review meeting. Due to the developing COVID-19 situation, the meeting is expected to happen later this year.

The result from the review meeting will be integrated into the **Centre of Excellence Review report** (2017-2019) and the second version of **SSC Needs Analysis Report**.

For more information please contact: Yan.jia@wfp.org and/or Mengqi.jie@wfp.org (WFP China CoE).



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WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

WFP Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition

(CERFAM)

CERFAM Provides Support to Chad in Documenting Good Practices in School Feeding

Jointly with HQ and the Regional Office in Dakar, the WFP Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) based in Abidjan has started **collecting documentation of best practices in Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programmes** in the region but also across WFP. This initiative follows the start of an exchange between CERFAM and the WFP CO Chad with the aim of documenting good practices and lessons learnt within HGSF programming and improving components within the HGSF strategy in Chad.

CERFAM is using this exchange to **start connecting** WFP COs in the region with expertise and know-how coming from WFP's own internal capacity and/or external support in the form of research centers, partners, or individual experts. This can help WFP COs to **identify entry points for SSTC**, as this process creates dialogue space, facilitates learning and builds partners in achieving zero hunger.

The exchange will support CERFAM to refine its support to WFP COs by responding to three **principle questions**: (1) How do we document good practices across WFP within the programming we do?; (2) How can we better improve the documentation process?; and (3) What good practices exist and how can these be better utilized for enhanced programming across similar contexts and regions?

The exchange with the WFP CO Chad is a first exciting step in this process. With staff from Chad staying with CERFAM for a **three-month temporary duty assignment**, work will commence in **three domains**. First the collection of HGSF best practices from across the region with the support from stakeholders.

Second, an understanding and collection of ideas of how other regions document and what the lessons learnt are from their mechanism of documentation. Third, how to support Chad in its programming developments.

This process aims at helping CERFAM to establish itself as an **"enabler"** in connecting and strengthening programming in West Africa with the overall mission towards zero hunger, as well as taking a first step in contributing to South-South exchanges and dialogue. By facilitating SSTC, CERFAM aims at boosting countries' ability to **exchange and learn** from one-another, such as with this process of documenting good practices of HGSF.

For more information contact: Issa.Sanogo@wfp.org and/or Christiani.Buani@wfp.org (CERFAM).



CERFAM and the International Centre on Evaluation and Development Partner on Knowledge Management and Good Practices to Achieve Zero Hunger in Africa

On April 14, 2020 CERFAM and the International Centre for Evaluation and Development (ICED) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance the practice of **monitoring and evaluation**, in support of sustainable and resilient development in Africa. The MoU was signed by Issa Sanogo, Director of CERFAM and David Ameyaw, Executive Director of ICED.

This partnership will jointly promote the production and dissemination of a solid set of good practices based on evidence-based research and innovation in evaluation in Africa.

Through the establishment of this partnership, the two institutions intend to collaborate actively in thematic and mutual interest areas, including **rural development**, management of **post-harvest losses**, **community resilience**, **food** and **nutritional security** and **school feeding** based on local products.

The objective is to strengthen the effectiveness of their development efforts in order to contribute effectively and efficiently to the achievement of the **SDGs** and the **African Union Agenda 2063**.

This will be done in partnership with other academic experts, the private sector, civil society, governments and interregional institutions in Africa.

The partnership between CERFAM and ICED will focus on the implementation of activities in the priority intervention areas such as: (i) improving the production of evidence and results-based management through **research, evaluation, monitoring** and **technical support** to encourage the effective and efficient design and implementation of national policies and programs; (ii) assess new opportunities, identify sources of funding and advocate for impact evaluations of policies and programs against hunger and malnutrition; and (iii) jointly implement activities that involve research, studies and evaluations in thematic areas that have an impact on food security, nutrition and food systems in Africa.

For **CERFAM and ICED**, this partnership will serve as a platform and sounding board for advocacy, communication and mobilization of human, technical and financial resources to strengthen knowledge management, exchange and implementation of good practices in the areas of food security and nutrition in Africa.

For more information, please contact: Issa.Sanogo@wfp.org (Director of CERFAM) and dameyaw@iced-eval.org Executive Director of ICED).

PRO SSTC Field Pilot Projects

Progress Update from PRO's First Wave of SSTC Field Pilots in Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Kenya and Sri Lanka

In 2019, WFP implemented a **first wave of SSTC pilot projects** in the field with seed funding from China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). The pilots in **Ecuador, Kenya, Sri Lanka and the Republic of Congo** aimed at strengthening the resilience and livelihoods of vulnerable smallholder farmers by tapping into the expertise of China and leveraging RBA collaboration on the ground.

In 2020, the four pilots are scaling-up while a new pilot begins in **Peru** with further investment from MARA.

For more information please contact: Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org (WFP PRO HQ) and Anna.Graziano@wfp.org (WFP PRO HQ).

Key results from the first wave, which informed the design of the second wave of these projects, include:

Country	Objective	Results Achieved	Contribution To
Ecuador	Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) to support vulnerable smallholder farmers	The Ecuador new family agriculture policy endorsed the recommendations of the nation-wide participatory process	Smallholder farmers and rural women farmers
Sri Lanka	Strengthen the resilience of rice- and maize-growing smallholder farmers in selected dry zone areas	197 rice/maize farmers and 6 government officials enhanced their knowledge on China's policy framework	Rice- and maize smallholder farmers from a drought-prone district increase their income by reducing post-harvest losses
Kenya	Strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers to use improved practices and more cost-efficient technologies	170 smallholder farmers and 3 government officials increased their knowledge of value addition methods	Improved nutrition status for smallholder farmers and increased income by reducing post-harvest losses
Republic of Congo	Design a participatory and evidence-based strategy for the testing of cassava products in HGSF	40 smallholder farmers from 5 districts increased their knowledge on producing cassava varieties	Vulnerable groups have access to cassava products and smallholder farmers increased their income

More than **30 partners** engaged in realizing the SSTC pilots:



Launch of a Second Wave of PRO SSTC Pilot Projects in Partnership with China and the WFP China Centre of Excellence

The launch of the **scaling-up phase of the four SSTC pilot projects** began in April. WFP COs drafted project concept notes in close consultation with host governments and local partners including RBAs and with technical guidance from PRO, RBs and WFP China CoE drawing on the lessons learned from phase 1.

After the host government's endorsement, implementation plans were **jointly drafted** by national stakeholders together with technical partners from

China to agree on **key milestones and responsibilities**. Implementation challenges and risks related to the unfolding **COVID-19 pandemic** were duly assessed and mitigation measures, including remote support modalities, were included in the projects' roadmaps.

For more information please contact: Carola.Kenngott@wfp.org (WFP PRO HQ), Anna.Graziano@wfp.org (WFP PRO HQ), jia.yan@wfp.org (WFP China CoE).



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What is Happening in the Regions?

Latin America and the Caribbean

Peru and Dominican Republic United to Strengthen Capacities in Social Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction



From February 2-6, 2020 a South-South project between the governments of **Peru and the Dominican Republic** was developed with technical support from WFP and financial support from the Government of Peru.

This initiative aimed at strengthening the policies, programmes and institutional capacities of Peru and the Dominican Republic in the areas of **social protection** and **disaster risk reduction** (DRR) through the exchange of information, knowledge, good practices and lessons learned between **both countries**.

In Peru, social protection is led by the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS) that has made significant progress and results have been evident in targeted populations. There are a variety of social programmes in the country, such as **Cuna Más, Qali Warma, Juntos, Pensión 65 and FONCODES**.

MIDIS also implements a good model of territorial management, as it articulates the implementation of social programmes at different levels of government. In addition, it has some expertise in **shock-responsive**

social protection, which is key in a highly vulnerable country like Peru.

Peru has made considerable progress in DRR as well. The National Disaster Risk Management System (SINAGERD) is the national mechanism which moved the agenda from preparedness and emergency response toward a more comprehensive **disaster risk management approach**.

The National Civil Defense Institute (INDECI) is a decentralized system, in charge of reactive management, which is a set of actions and measures in order to identify and reduce the risks associated with disasters.

During the exchange in Peru, the visiting delegation was made up of **five officials** from Dominican institutions such as the Emergency Operations Centre, Civil Defense, the Economic Food Service, the Dominican Red Cross and WFP Country Office Dominican Republic.

Participants visited Lima and the region of Piura to exchange ideas with local actors and learn more about public programmes in **supply chain** and **warehouse management**.

The Dominican team gained knowledge and experience with the Peruvian public sector management of **social protection and DRR**, especially in the management of humanitarian assistance, supply chain and response protocols.

The exchange will be followed up with a visit by **Peruvian officials** from INDECI, MIDIS and the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI) to the Dominican Republic in **June 2020**.

For more information please contact: Lorena.Cardenas@wfp.org (WFP Peru) and Maria.Pino@wfp.org (WFP RBP).

Challenges and Opportunities on Rice Marketing in Ecuador: Training Enabled by SSTC

From January 29 - February 1, 2020 a training workshop, was facilitated in **Guayaquil, Ecuador**. The workshop focused on rice commercialization and market access and was implemented within the framework of the SSTC pilot project organized by China and Ecuador and facilitated by WFP.

Interactive sessions, with more than **60** participants between smallholder farmers, government technicians, community leaders and the academia, analyzed the context of the country, identified challenges, gaps and opportunities in the area of **rice marketing for smallholder producers**.

This **learning space** also benefitted from technical support from WFP, FAO, an international expert, government counterparts, the academia and research entities. The workshop provided an enriching

experience for the participants who increased their capacities to improve their rice commercialization knowledge and to diversify production with a view of **expanding access** to national and alternative markets.

For more information please contact: Maria.Pino@wfp.org (WFP Regional Bureau Panama); and/or Anna.Graziano@wfp.org (WFP PRO HQ).



What is Happening in the Regions?

Asia and Africa

Government Officials and Farmers Leaders from Sri Lanka Visit China to Learn about Rice and Maize Innovative Farming Practices and Technologies

From December 22-29, 2020 **twelve Sri Lankan participants** went on a study visit to Nanjing in China, organized with support from WFP CoE in China, to learn about rice and maize post-harvest management, value aggregation and market access for smallholders.

The Sri Lankan delegation was composed of **four farmers leaders, five central and local government representatives** from the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of National Policies and Economic Development, **one** researcher from the Institute of Post-Harvest Training (IPHT) and **two** WFP Sri Lanka CO staff.

The objective of the visit was to gain a sound understanding and hands-on knowledge of innovative **technologies and systems** developed in China in rice and maize farming.

The Sri Lankan participants attended lectures delivered by professors of the Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (JASS) and China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). In addition, participants went on **field visits** to learn about local farmers' cooperatives, e-commerce sales platforms, rice processing and storage base, harvest and post-harvest machineries and more.

The lessons learned will help smallholder farmers in the drought-prone district of Monaragala reduce their post-harvest losses, increase quality of their rice and

maize produce and, as a result, get **higher prices** in the **local markets**.

Once back in Sri Lanka, the farmers leaders who participated in the study visit conducted **four workshops**, with the support of WFP CO, to share the knowledge acquired with the members of their Farmers Organizations.

Going forward this year, a series of online sessions with JAAS experts is being organized to follow up on the study visit results and prepare for the replication of the training in other communities.

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Smallholder Farmers in Congo Attend a Training Course on Cassava Farming Techniques to Strengthen their Participation in the Local Cassava Value Chain



From December 14-19, 2020 WFP Congo CO in collaboration with local government authorities, farmers organizations, and the Agriculture Techniques Demonstration Centre (CDTA) organized a training course on **good agronomic practices** for improved, high-yielding and disease-resistant **cassava varieties** in Loudima District.

CDTA is a **local partner** of the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS).

This training was the **first activity** under the recently established collaboration framework between WFP and CATAS in Congo.

Forty farmers (eight women) from **four districts** attended the training, which aimed at equipping smallholder farmers with effective cassava farming practices to increase their cassava productivity rates.

To accompany the whole farming cycle and assess the results, the CDTA scheduled **four follow-up visits** (from January to December 2020).

In the coming months, the smallholder farmers who participated in the first training will attend another training course on **cassava processing techniques** to be delivered by CATAS and will receive technical support to be able to sell their produce in the local market, including to the schools that participate in the HGSP pilot implemented by WFP.

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