



South-South News Quarterly October 2017

“South-South and triangular cooperation offer a path to balancing growth and equity and leaving no one behind.”

[Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations]



**World Food
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What's happening in Rome?

UNDP & WFP leverage South-South knowledge exchanges for development results

During the **2017 Session of the UN General Assembly**, the Director of WFP's Policy and Programme Division (OSZ)—Mr. Stanlake Samkange—was invited to join a high-level official side event on South-South Cooperation. The panel discussed the role of South-South Cooperation in promoting the 2030 Agenda. **WFP presented its approach to South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of advancing progress towards SDG2.**



Click [here](#) to access the recording of the official side event on South-South and triangular cooperation in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



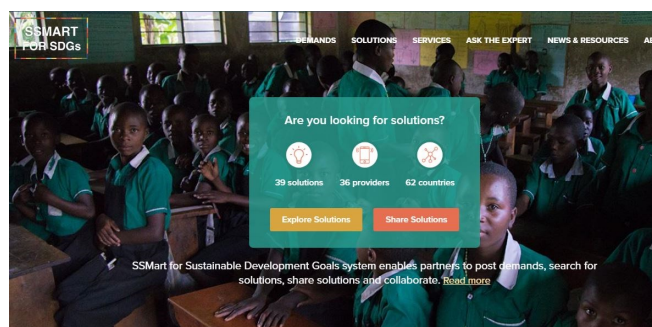
The side event was also an occasion to present **the new development platform** called [SSmart for SDGs](#) created by UNDP, in collaboration with WFP and other partners, **to feature and exchange successful South-South solutions.**

During his contribution to the side event, Jorge Chediek (Envoy of the Secretary General on South-South Cooperation) claimed that: *"Countries from the South*

have shown that they can find their own ways to development and several have succeeded in lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. However, this capital of thinking and practices can be hard to access."

It is precisely **to make these solutions more widely available and, therefore, to facilitate effective South-South exchanges**, that [SSmart for SDGs](#) was created.

Several **WFP-supported South-South cooperation solutions are now featured on the platform under the SDG2 window**, but more will follow as WFP aims to deepen its collaboration with UNDP on South-South Cooperation. To know more, please contact [Yan JIA](#), South-South Cooperation focal point (ad interim).



Homepage of "SSmart for SDGs" platform.

The UN Rome-based agencies celebrate together the UN Day for South-South Cooperation

FAO, IFAD and WFP – the three United Nations Rome-based agencies (RBAs) – are increasingly recognizing the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation to further their mandates of eliminating poverty, fighting hunger and malnutrition and delivering food assistance in emergencies. Therefore, the Rome sister agencies are increasingly devoting more attention to promoting and mobilizing South-South and triangular cooperation as a means for implementing the commitments of the 2030

Agenda. To commemorate the [United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation](#) on **12 September 2017**, the RBAs organized a joint event to share their approaches to South-South Cooperation and to discuss opportunities and challenges. **The event also helped to emphasize the solid RBA collaboration on mainstreaming South-South Cooperation** and to highlight the coordination efforts towards the 40th Anniversary of the Buenos Aires Action Plan in 2018. Please click [here](#) to read more about the event.

How to integrate South-South Cooperation in the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) Process?

A [guidance note](#) has been developed to help Country Offices identify various points in the CSP process where conversations about South-South Cooperation might be helpful. Along these points, Country Offices can **start to identify "key South-South Cooperation opportunities" not to be missed for the implementation of the CSP.** Country Offices can request support from WFP Regional Bureaus or the Policy and Programme Division (OSZ) to go deeper into the exploration, capturing and prioritization of South-South Cooperation opportunities in the CSP Strategic Outcome areas through the conduct of a full South-South review. You can find the full guidance note [here](#). To know more, please contact [Yan JIA](#), South-South Cooperation focal point (ad interim).



WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

The Global Child Nutrition Forum appeals to governments to secure funds for school meals



Plenary session of the GCNF. Photo: WFP/Isadora Ferreira.

The **Global Child Nutrition Forum**, jointly organized by the [Global Child Nutrition Foundation](#) and the [WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil](#), took place in Montreal on 17-21 September 2017. The 250 participants from 59 countries, including government

officials, academics, practitioners, NGOs and representatives of the private sector, called for a stronger commitment of countries towards school meals programmes, by ensuring that sufficient funding is allocated to school meals in national budgets.

Participants signed a [Communiqué](#) with concrete recommendations for countries to adopt and improve their national school meals programmes. To name a few, governments are encouraged to **1)** integrate school meals programmes into national policies, strategies and plans; **2)** take advantage of existing school meals regional networks; **3)** mainstream gender considerations in the design and implementation of the programmes and **4)** include school meals programmes into national budgets with high priority. Click [here](#) for the full article.

For more information, contact [Peter RODRIGUES](#) or [Christiani BUANI](#), WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil.

WFP Centre of Excellence in China

Sharing Chinese agricultural innovations to help smallholder farmers in Asia, Africa & Arab States

1) Building smallholder farmers' resilience to climate change through value chain management: From 18-20 September 2017, the [WFP Centre of Excellence in China](#) together with the [UN Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization](#) organized a Seminar in Kunming (Yunnan Province) to **boost South-South Cooperation as a tool to help smallholder farmers in Asia and Africa fight climate change.**

Over 40 participants - including representatives of United Nations agencies; officials from the Chinese central Government and Yunnan's provincial government; and delegates from twelve Asian and African countries - **reviewed Chinese national policies, innovative technologies and good practices relevant to building resilience against climate change.** Part of the two day seminar included a **field visit to Yuxi (Yunnan province) to showcase the solar-driven irrigation scheme** implemented by the Chinese Government in this drought-prone area. Finally, participants to the Seminar urged for greater South-South Cooperation to assist smallholder farmers combat the adverse impacts of climate change. Click [here](#) to read more about the seminar or contact [Qiang Li](#), South-South Cooperation focal point, WFP Centre of Excellence in China.

2) China-Arab States Agricultural Cooperation Forum 2017: On 7 September 2017, Dr. Sixi Qu, Representative of the [WFP Centre of Excellence in China](#), attended the **China-Arab States Agricultural Cooperation Forum:** a key event that was held during the third edition of the China-Arab States Expo 2017 in Yinchuan, China. **This year's Forum focused on agricultural innovation through technical advancement to achieve a sustainable agriculture for smallholder farmers in China and Arab States.**

Information and views were exchanged on (i) China-Arab states agricultural economy; (ii) technical cooperation and development of agricultural brands; (iii) establishment of China-Arab states agricultural cooperation mechanisms and (iv) construction of agricultural industrial parks. Thanks to the dialogue promoted by the Forum, **30+ Arab States have entered into protocols of agricultural cooperation with China's Autonomous Region of Ningxia.** The successful establishment of the China-Arab Agricultural Technology Centre was also achieved.

Please click [here](#) to read the full article. To know more, please contact, [Qiang Li](#), South-South Cooperation focal point, WFP Centre of Excellence in China.



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What is happening in the regions?

North Africa: Regional initiative to foster food security early warning & disaster risk management

The **Climate Risk Nexus** is a multi-partner initiative which aims at developing capacities of the League of Arab States and Arab Member States **to enhance decisions and policies that better support the resilience to climate change of people in the Arab Region.**

The Climate Risk Nexus initiative focuses on analysis, services, and capability-building to strengthen national policies and programmes in response to climate change-related risks, while also promoting alignment with the global 2030 Agenda. WFP, in collaboration with regional partners such as the Arab Water Council, the Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, and regional academic institutions, supports the League of Arab States and the initiative in the following areas: (i) climate risk analysis; (ii) research on social vulnerabilities in the region; (iii) advocacy on food security; (iv) tools and systems to increase resilience.

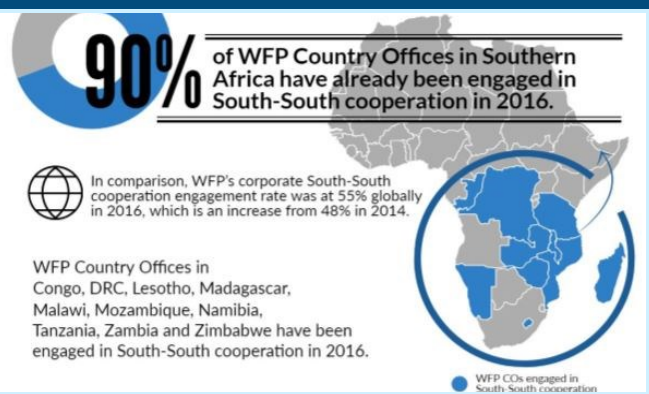
Some of the tools promoted by the initiative are, for example, **related to multi-hazard food price monitoring**, to the benefit of decision makers at regional and country level. One of them is the [Safety-Nets Alert Platform](#): a demand-driven, innovative food price monitoring system developed by WFP with partner institutions. It offers state-of-the-art analytical tools that **serve to enhance food security early warning, risk management and social protection in the Middle-East and North Africa Region.**

The Climate Risk Nexus was set up to improve coordination between countries in the region and to share experience and expertise on early warning systems with international, regional and national stakeholders. To know more, please contact [Oscar EKDHAL](#), Disaster Risk Management Officer, WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo.

Southern Africa: Overview of engagement in WFP-supported South-South Cooperation

In 2016, 90% (10 out of 11) of WFP's partner countries in the Southern Africa region engaged in South-South initiatives facilitated by WFP. Most collaborations occurred in the areas of [social protection and safety nets](#) and [connecting smallholder farmers to markets](#).

You can find the detailed overview [here](#).



Latin America & the Caribbean: Strengthening resilience in Haiti by leveraging Cuba's expertise

Haiti and Cuba share a similar exposure to natural hazards, such as tropical storms and hurricanes: phenomena that have devastating impacts on the food security and nutrition of affected populations, especially the most vulnerable.

To strengthen the disaster risk management capacity of Haiti, WFP has been facilitating South-South exchanges with Cuba over the last few years, because of its technical comparative advantage in the region. The current collaboration receives support from Germany through its [Forecast-based Financing mechanism](#) to strengthen early warning systems.

Between 2016 and 2017, **WFP facilitated various visits of Cuban experts to Haiti** to set up a short-term meteorological forecasting system for hurricanes. Haitian meteorologists also participated in a field visit to Cuba and received training on several tropical

cyclone forecasting methodologies. Finally, experts from the Cuban Civil Defence had a first exchange with their Haitian homologues to strengthen the contingency plan for hurricanes.

In the coming months, **the two countries will continue to focus on capacity strengthening activities** to enhance hurricane contingency plans and monitoring tools, as well as to improve the communication channels for the dissemination of forecast information and local food handling during natural shocks.

With this cooperation, **Haiti has new tools to strengthen its disaster risk management** and mitigate the impact of extreme weather events on the levels of food security of its population. To know more, please contact [Miguel Angel PUIG](#), South-South Cooperation focal point in WFP Cuba Office.



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What is happening in the regions?

Asia-Pacific: Promoting rice fortification in Cambodia and Sri Lanka through South-South exchanges

1) **Cambodia's South-South Cooperation mission to WFP Centre of Excellence in China** : On 10-15 September 2017, a South-South Cooperation mission from Cambodia visited China to initiate a dialogue with Chinese policymakers and **learn from China's experience on strengthening smallholders' capacity, rice fortification, and grain reserve system.**



The Cambodia Delegation visiting the National Institute for Nutrition and Health, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention to receive overview of food fortification in China. Photo: WFP/ China.

The delegation was composed of a broad number of participants including several Cambodian ministries, non-government actors and representatives from the WFP Cambodia Office. During this six day mission, the **Cambodian delegation had a chance to exchange policy views with China's Ministry of Agriculture and State Administration of Grain in Beijing.** In addition, the group travelled to Jiangsu province to **observe and capture China's successful practices on grain reserve systems and nutritional kernel production for rice fortification.**

Apart from the learning outcomes achieved as a result of the presentations and visits showcasing China's experiences, the South-South exchange was an opportunity for Cambodian Government officials to foster inter-sector collaborations and to strengthen relations with WFP Cambodia staff. You can find more information about this visit [here](#). To know more, please contact [Qiang LI](#), South-South Cooperation focal point, WFP Centre of Excellence in China.

2) **Sri Lanka learning lessons on nutritious foods from Bangladesh, India and Rwanda:** Under the Sustainable Development Fund Project (SDG-F), funded by the Spanish Government, **several key steps were taken by WFP Sri Lanka to support the Government in improving the availability, accessibility and utilization of nutritious foods in Sri Lanka.** Recognizing that good practices exist in other countries where WFP operates, WFP Sri Lanka supported the Government, the private sector and academia to learn from the ongoing, similar efforts in countries such as Rwanda (for Thripasha, Super Cereal Plus production in Sri Lanka); Bangladesh and India (for rice fortification).

On 16- 19 July 2017, **WFP Bangladesh organized an exchange visit for Bhutan and Sri Lanka to learn from Bangladesh's rice fortification initiative.** For this purpose, WFP Sri Lanka facilitated the visit for the Deputy Director of the Sri Lanka National Food Promotion Board under the Ministry of Agriculture, an entity supported by WFP to establish fortified rice blending facility in Sri Lanka. Further to the visit to Bangladesh, on 19-21 October 2017, **WFP Sri Lanka and WFP India, organized a visit to India for Sri Lanka delegates, comprising of 18 members of several ministries, academia and WFP staff.** The team visited Delhi and met with the WFP Country Office, and the Indian Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to learn about the mechanisms that have been adopted in India to establish food fortification standards and guidelines.

WFP Sri Lanka, jointly with WFP Rwanda, organized an exchange visit to Rwanda from 20 August to 1 September 2017. The mission included a visit to the African Improved Food factory, a newly established Super Cereal Plus production facility supported by WFP, [DSM](#) (a global science-based company) and the Rwandan Government. As a result of the visit, the Thripasha factory in Sri Lanka is planning to put in place the quality control system required by the Super Cereal Plus production process. Please click [here](#) to read the full article.

To know more, please contact [Brenda BARTON](#), Director of WFP Sri Lanka.

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