



Photo: WFP Sri Lanka

South-South Quarterly Newsletter September 2019

“South-South Cooperation must involve young people, civil society, the private sector, academia and others, building innovative partnerships and extending the reach of initiatives.

It must harness the potential of new technologies and digitalization that create opportunities and promote inclusivity.”

[António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General]



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South-South Cooperation

Carola.Kennigott@wfp.org **September 2019**

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What's happening in Rome?

Join us in the celebration of the United Nations Day on South-South and triangular cooperation



WFP will host the **RBA Celebration of the 2019 United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation** on **6th September** from **10:30-12.30** at WFP HQ. This year the event focuses on the theme **"Leaving no one behind in achieving SDG 2: Opportunities for the RBAs to broker South-South Cooperation after BAPA+40"**. It will

focus on voices from the field and concrete country examples and opportunities to reach the most vulnerable people through SSTC in areas such as **family farming, market access for rural women, and engagement opportunities for the rural youth**.

For further information, you can contact Carola Kenngott at the WFP Programme and Policy Division, HQ (carola.kenngott@wfp.org).

To register for this event, please contact Katherine Gaylord (katherine.gaylord@wfp.org). Webcast will be available at <http://webcast.go.wfp.org/webinar/>.

Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) Directors Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

On **5th August 2019**, the Fourth Annual RBA Directors Meeting on SSTC took place in Rome. The Directors of FAO, IFAD, and WFP came together to take stock of each agencies' approach to SSTC and **review opportunities for more RBA collaboration**.

WFP, building on its strong operational capacities and presence in over 80 countries, including at deep field level, placed a **focus on promoting joint operational activities in the field**. The RBAs also agreed to join efforts on monitoring and evaluation and the generation of evidence for informed decision-making.

WFP also highlighted the need to **keep global coordination on SSTC practical, light and manageable** in order

for the RBAs to align their work effectively, but to keep the focus on activities on the ground.

For further information please contact: Carola Kenngott at WFP HQ in Rome (carola.kenngott@wfp.org).



WFP Nutrition Division releases new strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In order to explore the full potential of SSTC, the WFP Nutrition Division developed a new [strategy for promoting South-South cooperation](#). The strategy outlines how SSTC can be incorporated more in nutrition activities and used as a tool to implement the WFP [Nutrition Policy](#).

Just as an example, **regional knowledge sharing** has been effective in **Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh** to support the introduction and scale-up of rice fortification to fight micronutrient deficiencies.

Mutual study visits and expert deployments demonstrated the value of SSTC to strengthen country capacities in the area of nutrition.

The vision proposed in this strategy is that **by 2021, SSTC will be systematically integrated in WFP Nutri-**

tion's work as a technical assistance and advocacy modality to promote knowledge-sharing, strengthen national nutrition capacities, scale up local nutrition innovations and promote country ownership of nutrition interventions to achieve SDG 2.

For further information please contact: Adriana Bianco at OSN, WFP HQ.



WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

The Gambia receives technical assistance from the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil



conducted a mission to **The Gambia** in order to develop a resource mobilization project. The project aims at fostering institutional markets for smallholder agriculture by integrating it into **social safety nets**, especially in the area of **school feeding**.

This initiative responds to government demand and is a **new type of project** that provides **direct assistance** to the government and WFP Country Office to mobilize resources for school feeding and other interventions.

For further information please contact: Isadora Ferreira at WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil (isadora.ferriera@wfp.org).

In August 2019, the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil

New policy brief series featured by the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil

The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil issued a new publication titled, "[Financing of the Brazilian School Feeding Programme PNAE](#)". This publication provides insights into the funding approach and financial management of the programme.

It forms part of a new **policy brief series** supported by the WFP CoE Brazil. It will provide policy-makers and other interested stakeholders with information on the different and complementary dimensions of the Brazilian programme, including financing, implementation, and monitoring.

For further information please contact: Isadora Ferreira at WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil (isadora.ferriera@wfp.org).



WFP Regional Centre of Excellence in Cote d'Ivoire promoting knowledge sharing and partnerships



WFP's recently established **Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM)** in Cote d'Ivoire held its first strategic consultation to inform the Centre's focus and approach.

This consultation brought together around sixty representatives, including high-level leaders of governments, WFP and other development partners. The goal was to develop recommendations that will inform **common priorities, challenges, and opportunities** for the Centre.

CERFAM aims to serve as a platform for knowledge sharing and creating partnerships to accelerate progress towards the SDGs. It aims to **facilitate and mobilize** expertise, promote hunger and nutrition solutions, innovative approaches and networks by connecting national, regional and international stakeholders by facilitating South-South cooperation.

For more information contact: Issa Sanogo, Director of the WFP Abidjan Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (issa.sanogo@wfp.org).



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WFP Centres of Excellence: What's new?

WFP China Centre of Excellence

China-Africa cooperation and scaling up food security initiatives

In the spirit of China-Africa collaboration, WFP participated in the 1st China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo **26-28 June**. Dr. Qu Sixi, Country Director of WFP China Office, delivered a keynote speech at the **Ministerial Workshop on Food Security for Developing Countries** and joined a panel discussion at the **Seminar on China-Africa Agricultural Cooperation and Development**.

Dr. Qu Sixi emphasized that the P.R. of China is a strategic partner of WFP. The partnership aims to promote progress towards achieving zero hunger. He also advocated for the **development of smallholder farmers' value chains** in order to further improve the global food security and nutrition status.

The WFP China Office established in 2016, also functions as a **WFP China Centre of Excellence**, which shares China's rich experience in food security, nutrition and poverty reduction. It brokers **SSTC activities** based on country needs. A focus of the Centre is on market access for smallholders, supply chain strengthening, climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience building and implementation of national zero-hunger and nutrition strategies.

80 percent of the WFP China's SSTC project partners are **African countries**. In the event, the Liberian Minis-

ter of Agriculture specifically referred to WFP's support in Liberia to link smallholders and school feeding program through SSTC and expressed gratitude for the contribution from China made through WFP.

The Country Director of WFP China expressed optimism that **agricultural cooperation** between **China and Africa** will greatly contribute to a food-secure world in the future.

For further information please contact Yan Jia and Mengqi Jie at the WFP China Office (yan.jia@wfp.org and mengqi.jie@wfp.org).



Workshop with the National Disaster Reduction Center of China (NDRCC) to map out opportunities for South-South collaboration in the area of emergency preparedness



A team of experts from the **WFP Emergency Preparedness and Support Response Division (OSE)** met with counterparts in the National Disaster Reduction Center of China (**NDRCC**) for a three day discussion on how to

strengthen the existing collaboration.

The **six main thematic areas of collaboration** are disaster information management, disaster risk and loss estimation, remote sensing disaster monitoring and early warning, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) disaster monitoring, assessment system and equipment.

WFP and NDRCC **exchanged knowledge** on existing systems, **identified possible joint focus areas** and created a **collaboration roadmap** for South-South cooperation engagement. Moving forward, WFP will work further with regions and COs to identify specific pilot cases and design collaboration activities with NDRCC.

For further information please contact Rohini Swaminathan at WFP HQ in Rome (rohini.swaminathan@wfp.org).



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What is happening in the regions?

South-South Cooperation in Africa and Asia

Peer learning between Mauritania, Senegal, and Niger on early warning, preparedness and emergency response

In April 2019, WFP and the World Bank supported the organization of a South-South exchange mission from **Mauritania to Senegal and Niger**. The mission aimed at exploring and exchanging country experiences in the use of national systems for preparing and responding to emergencies.

The delegation was comprised of **11 Mauritanian officials**. The discussions among these two Sahelian countries evolved around the history, efficiencies and limitations of these systems. The **mission will inform**

the design of Mauritania's preparedness and response scheme which is currently being established in line with national priorities.

Following the mission, an **inter-ministerial technical working group** was formed which meets **bi-monthly** to develop concrete deliverables of the future preparedness and response scheme.

For more information contact: Damien Vaquier at WFP RBD (damien.vaquier@wfp.org).

Supporting smallholder cassava producers in the Congo with support from China

The **Republic of the Congo** imports over a billion dollars in food products every year – a lost opportunity for a country with favourable land and weather conditions. **Cassava is the main staple crop** and a burgeoning market for cassava flour exists in urban areas. But many consumers tend to buy cheaper imported wheat products instead.

The fortification of cassava is an opportunity to increase economic growth within the Republic of Congo and reduce chronic malnutrition affecting more than 21 percent of children under 5. The need to boost the cassava value chain and diversify the economy is explicitly mentioned in Congo's **2018-2022 National Development Plan**.

WFP in the Republic of the Congo supports **1,000 smallholder farmers** with quality planting material, techniques and infrastructure in Loudima (Bouenza) through a new South-South project. A mill capable of producing

16,000 mt of fortified cassava flour each year will be built on land provided by the Government. WFP will purchase fortified cassava flour for use in its programs in Congo and potentially in the region.

Chinese companies in Congo are part of the exercise and are investing their own resources for cassava production and milling.

For further information please contact Jean-Martin Bauer, WFP Country Director, Republic of Congo (jean-martin.bauer@wfp.org).



Photo: WFP Jean-Martin Bauer

Intra-regional peer learning on school meals in Laos and Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka hosted a meeting with delegates from Laos to facilitate **South-South peer learning on school meals**. Sri Lanka was identified as a partner, given the strength of Sri Lanka's national school meals programme and the integration of key components of WFP's school meals programme support. Peer learning activities complemented the demands of both countries.

The peer learning focused on how school meals can go beyond feeding programmes and become an integral part of larger education programmes. Participants also discussed how school meals programmes can contribute

to achieving critical nutrition and health outcomes for the students.

Sri Lanka learned from Laos about the potential for establishing multisector cooperation and fostering home-grown school meals programmes.

For further information please contact: Brenda Barton, WFP Country Director Sri Lanka, RBB (brenda.barton@wfp.org).



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What is happening in the regions?

South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean

Field demonstration in Bolivia with support from Argentinian experts



At the request of the Bolivian Government, the Government of Argentina sent agricultural and marketing experts to Bolivia to help develop and showcase agricultural practices in vulnerable rural areas.

This **South-South project** can help to improve the **value chains of certain fruits and vegetables**, such as

potatoes and pineapples, that are of strategic importance to Bolivia's export market.

Argentinean experts in partnership with Bolivian technicians will help **create demonstration plots** which will showcase best practices in food production and marketing. Bolivian government technicians will also visit Argentina to deepen their technical knowledge in agriculture.

WFP will complement these efforts by undertaking a capacity gap analysis to identify the main bottlenecks faced by smallholder farmers in terms of production and marketing for these commodities. The analysis will help farmers access stable, private markets in Cochabamba and Santa Cruz. The study will also inform the Bolivian Government's **national policies and programs**.

For further information please contact: Elisabeth Faure, WFP Country Director in Bolivia (elisabeth.faure@wfp.org).

Dominican Republic and Barbados exchange good practices in social protection to reach the most vulnerable in fragile contexts

WFP Barbados and WFP Dominican Republic are partnering with SIUBEN (Single System of Beneficiaries) and the Centre for Emergency Operation in the Dominican Republic to bring together **disaster management and social protection officials for a South-South exchange**. The event will identify opportunities for social protection to address **disaster preparedness and response actions in fragile contexts**.

The Dominican Republic will share experiences with

their **single system of beneficiaries (SIUBEN)**, a database used for targeting the main social assistance programmes, and the **Index of Vulnerability to Climate Shocks (IVACC)**. The event takes place **10-11 September 2019**, on the eve of the International Day for South-South Cooperation.

For further information about the event contact Juliette Maughan, WFP Barbados (juliette.maughan@wfp.org).

Intra-regional collaboration between Peru, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica on rice fortification

Peru and the Dominican Republic came together in April 2019 in order to discuss a joint South-South project. The collaboration focuses on the exchange of knowledge, good practices and **lessons learned** in the areas of social protection, nutrition, and emergency response. The objective is to strengthen policies, programs and institutional capacities in **both countries through peer learning**.

Peru is also **strengthening ties** with Costa Rica to learn about Costa Rica's surveillance methods in laboratories during the fortification of rice process. **Future coordination and collaboration** will involve representatives of produc-

ers associations of rice from **Costa Rica and local rice producers in Peru**.

For further information please contact Lorena Cardenas at WFP Peru.



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In the Spotlight: South-South pilot projects with RBA partners in the field

Strengthening resilience of vulnerable smallholder farmers to climate-related shocks in Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka is the second most affected country by extreme weather events. Recurrent droughts and sudden rains result in major losses for smallholder farmers. Harvest and post-harvest losses for the two main crops, rice and maize, are significantly high with an average of 10-15% of the total production. China's expertise in rural development can offer innovative solutions to Sri Lanka in order to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers and contribute to achieving SDG2.

Smallholder farmers in Sri Lanka face challenges from production to post-harvest management which put their food security and livelihoods at risk. Among those challenges are lack of resilience against climate-related shocks, access to water, low productivity, inadequate technology and techniques for production and value addition, limited access to markets and low prices, lack of aggregation systems, which results in a vicious cycle of debt and poverty.

Driven by country's demand and building on their comparative advantages, FAO and WFP, with the Government of Sri Lanka, are working together to address these gaps through a strategic South-South and triangular cooperation pilot project in Sri Lanka to ensure that no one is left behind in hunger. This pilot, supported by technical expertise and seed funding from the People's Republic of China, aims at improving agricultural services, enhancing access to markets and equipping smallholder farmers with innovative tools and technology in post-harvest management.

Activities under the pilot target two farmers' organizations in the Monaragala district and focus on farmers' leaders and smallholder farmers (approx. 1000 smallholder farmers'/households). A special emphasis is

given on the engagement of female smallholders, youth and lead farmers.

The **first deliverables** of the SSTC pilot include:

1. Joint FAO and WFP scoping mission to Sri Lanka, in the district of Monaragala, carried out in July 2019. FAO and WFP facilitated discussions with farmers' leaders and organizations as well as government officials, at district and national levels, to identify main challenges as well as the cooperation modality and responsibilities of each party.
2. Ongoing rapid assessment to identify in-depth learning needs and capacity gaps from production to post-harvest management to inform a demand-driven SSTC approach. The assessment is to be finalized by the end of September 2019.
3. Informed by the findings from the assessment, a study tour is to be held by the last quarter of 2019 to expose farmers and government's officials to models and innovations by China. The visit includes institutes, grains processing plants, mills, agricultural machinery and more.
4. After the study tour, in-field demonstrations and trainings are to be delivered by Chinese experts, as well as peer learning sessions, drawing on technology and expertise from China to build the skills of smallholder farmers.

It is an opportunity to capture lessons learned and generate evidence and to develop a joint FAO-WFP approach to brokering SSTC in the field, which may be applied later on to other countries as model for SSTC collaboration on the ground.

For more information, contact Rohini Singarayer (rohini.singarayer@wfp.org) at WFP Sri Lanka.



Photo: WFP/Laksiri-Nanayakkara

In the Spotlight: First wave of SSTC RBA Pilot Projects

Progress in the Field

RBA collaboration to reduce post harvest losses in Kenya through knowledge transfer with China

From July to December 2019 in Kenya, the RBAs identified **challenges** impeding efficiency in the midstream segment of the food system. These include high post-harvest losses due to insufficient storage, skills and technology and a low level of value-addition of local agricultural production.

The People's Republic of China has provided seed funding for SSTC activities in line with the government priorities reflected in the WFP Kenya Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023). The funding will be channelled to facilitate **access to markets** and provide **technical expertise** in supply chain management to **smallholder farmers, retailers, and processors**. It will contribute to addressing bottlenecks in the Kenyan food systems.

In **August 2019**, a **learning event** took place with participants from WFP, FAO, and Government Officials from Kenya. The event highlighted the importance of information sharing, food waste mitigation techniques, and lowering cost of access/manufacturing. This event **informed the adoption** of various techniques and good practices in multiple counties in Kenya.

This collaboration is demonstrated in the study tour of **25 participants** which includes **WFP, FAO, Chinese**

partners, government officials and trader/farmer group leaders from Turkana, Tana River and Makueni. This project may inform the adoption of similar SSTC project approaches in other counties in East Africa.

For further information please contact: Olive Wahome at WFP RBN (olive.wahome@wfp.org).



Strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers and rural women



From **13 to 17 May 2019**, a formulation mission from the Program and Policy Division and the Regional Bureau of Panama went to Ecuador to develop the implementation plan for the **SSTC project** supported by the **WFP China Centre of Excellence**. Meetings took place with

high-level government representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the main partner of the project. FAO is a partner who will also be contributing to the project.

The focus of the project is on strengthening the **Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock capacities** to enhance their rice production and support their access to alternative markets, while also diversifying their production and providing more nutritious products to their diets.

The project will promote **intra-regional dialogue** and the development of an **evidence base** in order to strengthen the role of **rural smallholder women** in public policies, and to facilitate their participation in market opportunities.

For further information please contact Carmen Galarza (Carmen.Galarza@wfp.org) at WFP Ecuador.

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