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South-South Cooperation Review and Strategy Analysis Report

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South-South Cooperation Review and Strategy Analysis Report



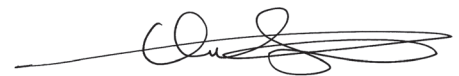
Foreword

2020 is a special year that posed challenges to human beings, a tough year while each of us is facing the potential risk. No one could stay at ease unless the whole world resumes its normal status. The same applies to human development. No development actor, government, or other entity can achieve the 2030 Agenda in isolation. South-South Cooperation helps to accelerate country-led progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals by mobilizing, sharing effective and proven innovations and solutions in developing countries, which can inspire other countries.

The WFP China Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China COE) stepped up its commitment to support South-South Cooperation since 2016 along with the WFP China's transformation. To facilitate experience exchange, mutual learning, technical cooperation, and know-how transfer between China and other developing countries, WFP China COE works to leverage expertise and resources to support progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 2 on ending hunger, achieving food security, and improved nutrition.

We recognize that all developing countries have experiences to share and that South-South Cooperation is valuable in improving food security and nutrition, especially through enhanced country capacities and nationally owned efforts and innovations. WFP China COE is driving on the track as an important vehicle to promote systematic matching of country demands with national solutions. This reality requires us to find new ways to engage our allies for Zero Hunger and to promote progress towards Zero Hunger worldwide.

Dripping water cuts stones. WFP China COE has already spanned its first Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021) while ready to enter a new stage for South-South Cooperation for the next Country Strategic Plan (2022-2025). To achieve even systematic, efficient, and effective South-South Cooperation, more efforts will have to be put in place to enable WFP China COE to take an insightful vision into both supply and demand sides, to capture the wealth of best practices and lessons learned from the global South, and to benefit maximally developing countries.



Dr. Sixi Qu
Representative/Country Director
World Food Programme China

Introduction

WFP China's South-South Cooperation has featured **demand-driven actions and country-led initiatives** through a **systematic, three-dimensional (policy-technical-community)**, and institutionalized approach by WFP China COE. Partnership and innovation are the two important components for technical cooperation, knowledge sharing, know-how transfer, and innovative financing explorations.

Throughout the four years since the establishment, WFP China COE carried on working towards Zero Hunger under the WFP China CSP Strategic Outcome 4: ***Selected developing countries assisted in enhancing food security and nutrition in line with their prioritized SDG 2 targets by 2030.*** Since 2016, WFP China COE has carried out 25 policy, management, and technical trainings for more than 2,000 agricultural officials, technicians, and key farmers in more than 40 countries. The South-South Cooperation engagement during 2017-2020 was focusing on **Value Chain Development for Smallholders, Post-harvest Loss Management (PHLM) and Storage Management, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Resilience, as well as National Food Security and Nutrition Strategy.**

During 3-4 November 2020, **the South-South Cooperation Review and Strategy Analysis Meeting** of WFP China COE was convened in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. The meeting reviewed WFP China COE's endeavour in past years and

analysed the evolving needs from developing countries that are strongly interested in South-South Cooperation with China. To better leverage China's experience through South-South Cooperation, WFP China COE restructured four prioritized areas as

- **Value Chain Development for Smallholders,**
- **Post-harvest Loss Management and Food Systems,**
- **Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Resilience, and**
- **Innovative Poverty Alleviation Initiative.**

The last priority is particularly based on China's rich experience of poverty reduction achievement. Before the meeting, an online survey was extended to some 15 countries to collect ideas, suggestions, and engagement initiatives with WFP China COE from the demand side.

This report is a reflection of the outcome of the **South-South Cooperation Review and Strategy Analysis Meeting** to systematically review WFP China COE's priority, function, and capacity, to analyse country needs for South-South Cooperation. Most importantly, the report will serve as a milestone for WFP China COE's progress along the South-South Cooperation journey in pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals, together with all concerned partners who share the same commitment towards global development.

1 Review of WFP China COE's Engagement (2017-2020)

1.1 Activities under Thematic Areas

In addressing the demand for appropriate technology solutions from China by WFP China COE, obvious outcomes have been achieved. Since 2016, WFP China COE has carried out 25 policy, management, and technical trainings for more than 2,000 agricultural officials, technicians, and key farmers in more than 40 countries. Participating countries rose from 25 in 2017 to more than 70 in 2019 and 2020.

Value chain development and market access for smallholder farmers. From 2017-2020, sixteen events targeting smallholder farmers' value chain development were conducted by WFP China COE through the modalities of policy support (L₁) and institutional level (L₂) and grass-roots (L₃), with a total of about 1,000 participants from developing countries.

Supply chain strengthening, including processing, post-harvest loss management, and storage systems. During

2017-2020, WFP China COE hosted fifteen events under this thematic area through symposium, training workshop, study tour, seminar, etc. About 1,000 participants from various countries participated in the events.

Climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and resilience building. In combating climate change and building smallholder farmers resilience, WFP China Office organised thirteen events on Climate Adaptation, DRR & Resilience from 2017 to 2020. Hundreds of participants from various countries participated in the events.

Implementation of national zero hunger and nutrition strategies. From 2017-2020, WFP China COE organized fifteen events, aiming to achieve zero hunger, to help smallholder farmers build grain reserve system and share knowledge on food fortification, and to meet the nutrition strategies. Hundreds of participants from different countries participated in the events.

1.2 Outcome Analysis

The outcomes of WFP China COE from 2017-2020 are embodied in three aspects.

Building Smallholder Value Chain Capacity for Developing Countries

- The indispensable role of rural e-commerce for smallholders in China has been flagged.
- Strengthening farmer aggregation is deemed as effective for product marketing.
- Supply chain enhancement is important in rural value chain development.

Creating Knowledge-sharing Platform Based on Chinese Experience

- The platform provides an institutional space to boost operational engagement.

- The platform builds an enabling environment for partners to publicize demand and share solutions.
- The platform supports matching a solution-seeker to a Chinese solution provider.

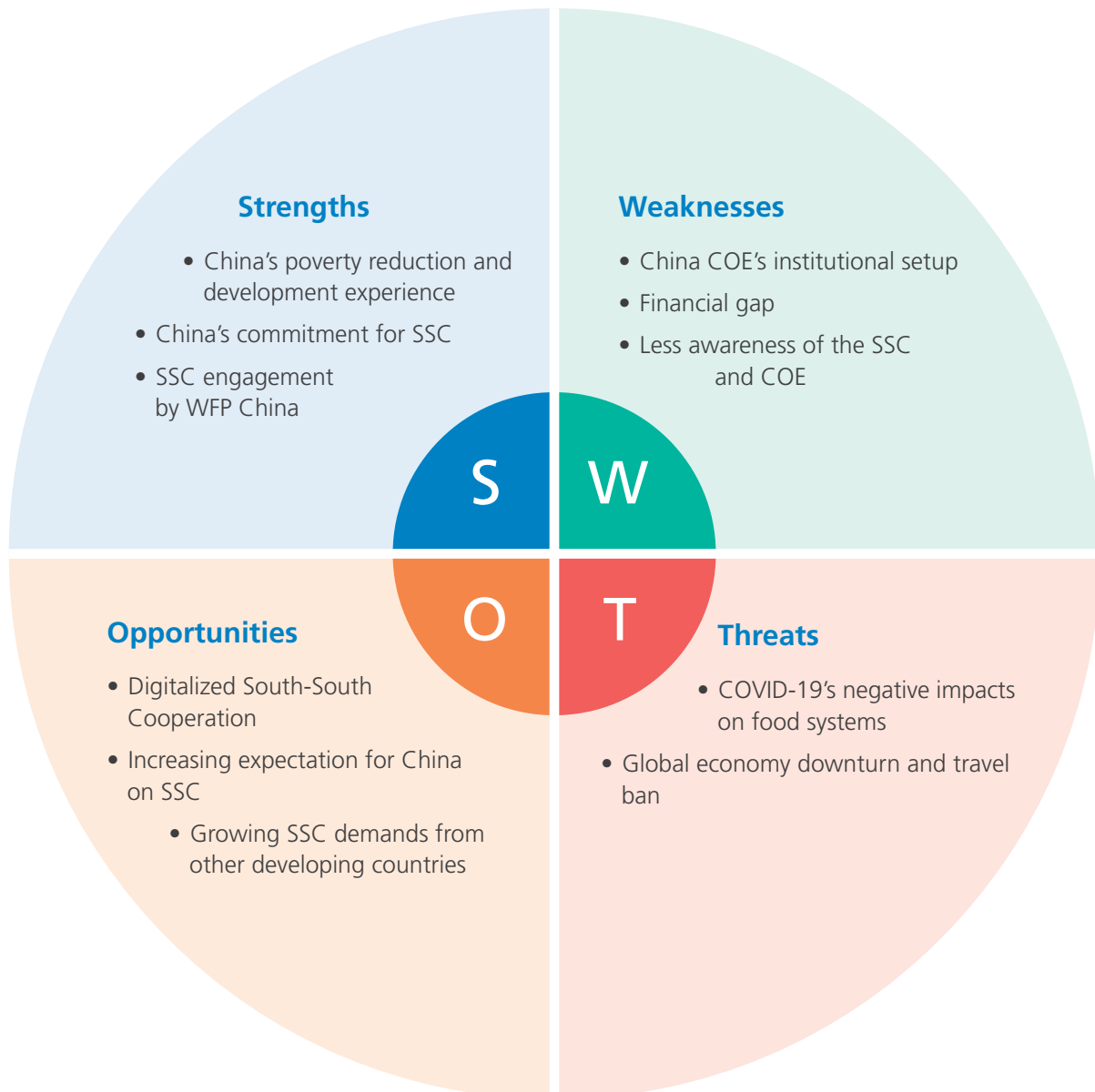
Forming Diversified Mechanisms and Extensive Network Partnership

- Establishing cooperative mechanisms with Government agencies including CADFund, NAFRA and MEM.
- Partnership with UN agencies as RBA, ESCAP-CSAM, UNOSSC, CERFAM.
- Active role in regional frameworks as China-Arab States Expo, China-ASEAN Agricultural Cooperation Forum.

2 SWOT Analysis

This report identifies the internal strengths and gaps of opportunities in the work of South-South Cooperation shown the WFP China COE and the external challenges and in the SWOT analysis below (Figure 1).

Figure 1. SWOT Analysis of WFP China COE



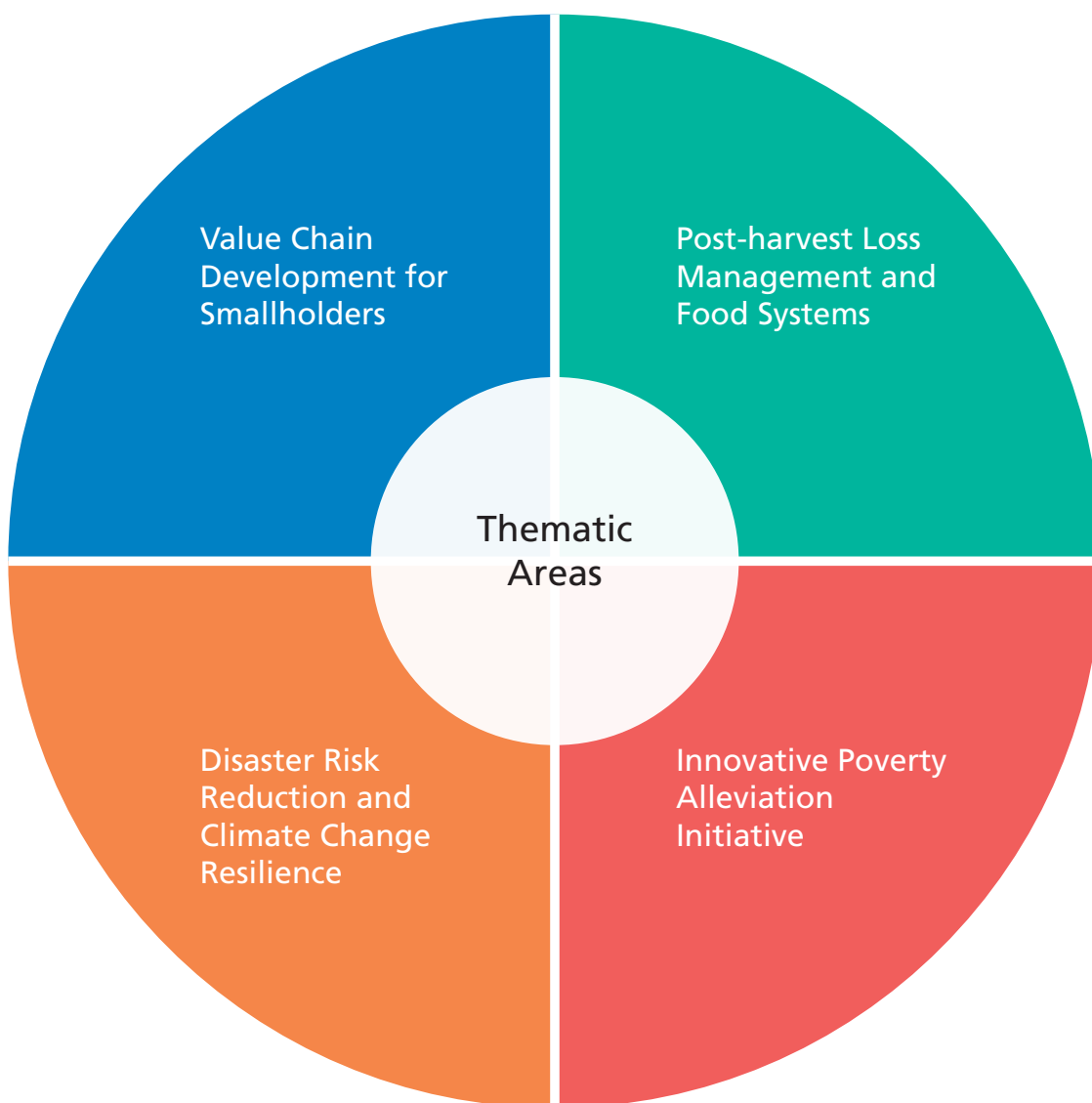
3 Strategy Analysis

3.1 Priority Areas and Solutions

The updated thematic areas are as follows(Figure 2):

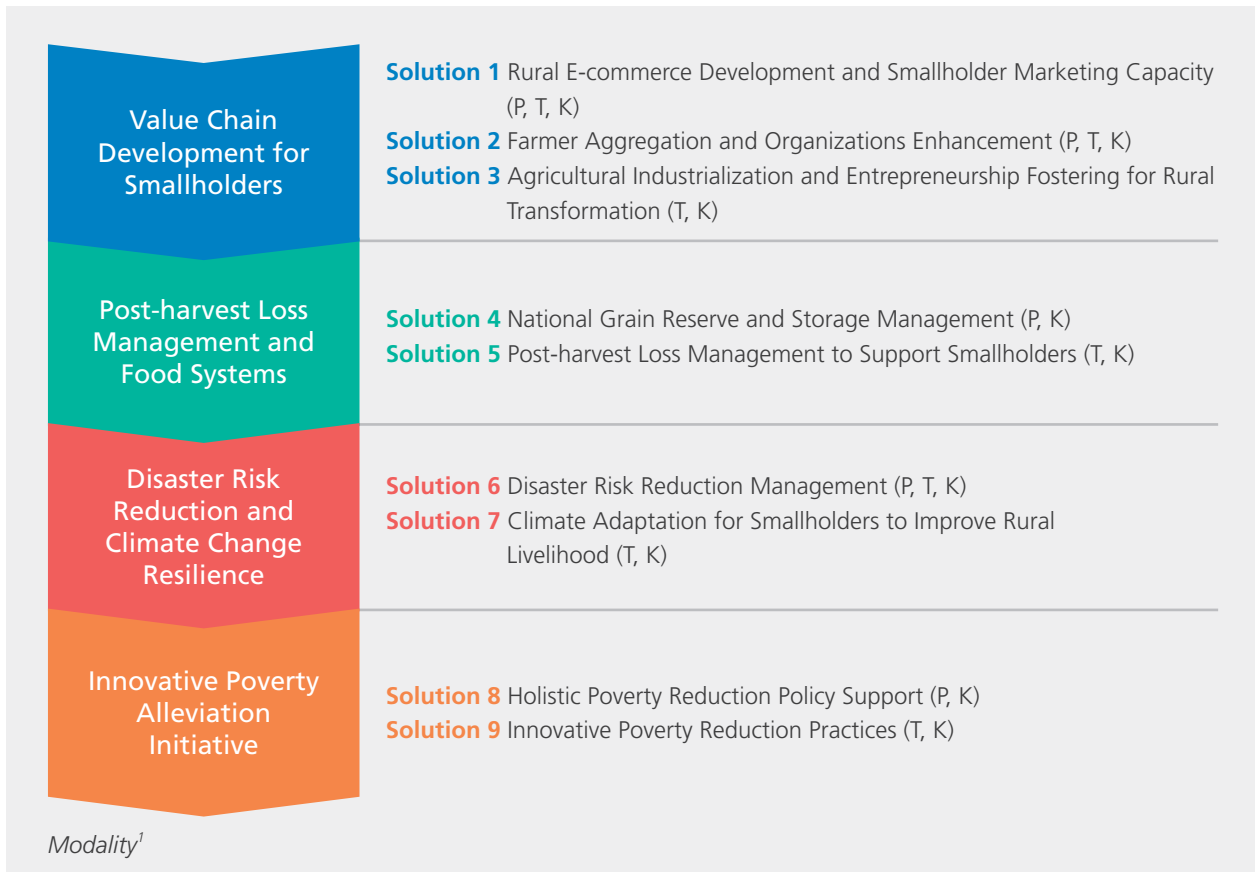
- (1) Value Chain Development for Smallholders;
- (2) Post-harvest Loss Management and Food Systems;
- (3) Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Resilience;
- (4) Innovative Poverty Alleviation Initiative.

Figure 2. Four thematic areas for WFP China CSP (2021- 2025)



Nine solutions are identified as shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3. South-South Cooperation Solutions



Thematic area 1: Value Chain Development for Smallholders.

Solution 1: Rural E-commerce Development and Smallholder Marketing Capacity

- Topic 1: Rural E-commerce Development: Policy and Practice
- Topic 2: Rural E-commerce: Concept and Operation Model
- Topic 3: Digitalized Countryside: Digital Technology in Rural Development

Solution 2: Farmer Aggregation and Organisations Enhancement

- Topic 1: National agricultural technology extension system and new vocational farmer training
- Topic 2: Fostering leading farmers in agricultural and rural development
- Topic 3: Women's empowerment for rural development

Solution 3: Agricultural Industrialisation and Entrepreneurship Fostering for Rural Transformation

- Topic 1: Agrobusiness and rural entrepreneurship development

Topic 2: Micro-finance and credit service in rural China

Topic 3: Integrated farming and diversified agribusiness management

Thematic area 2: Post-harvest Loss Management and Food Systems.

Solution 4: National Grain Reserve and Storage Management

- Topic 1: National grain reserve and storage management: policy and management
- Topic 2: Grain storage facilities building and the management
- Topic 3: E-trading platform for grain

Solution 5: Post-harvest Loss Management to Support Smallholders

- Topic 1: Post-harvest loss reduction and storage of key crops in Western Africa (e.g. maize, millet, cassava)
- Topic 2: Post-harvest loss management and storage system in tropical agriculture

¹ WFP China COE's South-South Cooperation modalities are categorized into three types: P- Policy dialogue, T- Technical cooperation, and K- Knowledge sharing. See 3.2 for more details.

Thematic area 3: Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Resilience.

Solution 6: Disaster Risk Reduction Management

- Topic 1: Disaster risk reduction and mitigation policy system
- Topic 2: Technical measures and management of disaster risk reduction and mitigation in tropical agriculture
- Topic 3: Post-disaster resumption

Solution 7: Climate Adaptation for Smallholders to Improve Rural Livelihood

- Topic 1: Low-carbon and emission reduction in agriculture and new energy use
- Topic 2: Solar water-saving irrigation facilitating diversified operation development for smallholder farmers

- Topic 3: Risk transfer mechanism through insurance and rural financial support against adverse effects of climate change

Thematic area 4: Innovative Poverty Alleviation Initiative

Solution 8: Holistic Poverty Reduction Support

- Topic 1: Poverty reduction for rural transformation
- Topic 2: Public support system for poverty reduction
- Topic 3: Social protection for the most vulnerable

Solution 9: Innovative Poverty Reduction Practices

- Topic 1: E-commerce for rural poverty reduction
- Topic 2: Innovative model for poverty reduction

3.2 South-South Cooperation Modalities

Modalities of South-South Cooperation are redefined based on the WFP China COE's mandate as follows(Figure 4):

- (1) **P**olicy support- Provide policy support through roundtables, high-level visits, and research;
- (2) **T**echnical cooperation- Support technical cooperation through
 - Exchange visits, study tours, workshops, expert deployment,
 - Demonstration in Africa/Asia/Latin America by Africans/Asians/Latin Americans (DAA) which conducts

in-field technical demonstration and other capacity-building activities,

- Country Pilot Project (CPP) which includes the combination of expert deployments, farmer-to-farmer cooperation, peer learning, study visits, seminars, and intra-regional collaboration;

- (3) **K**nowledge sharing- Support knowledge sharing by expanding the function of the current platform and launching WFP China South-South Cooperation Cloud School with other developing countries based on a demand-driven approach and needs analysis.

Figure 4. PTK Working Modalities



Policy Support. WFP will cooperate with the Chinese Government to provide advice and consultations at the policy level to support other developing countries to promote food security, nutrition improvement, and poverty reduction.

Technical Cooperation. WFP China will cooperate with the Chinese Government to share China's experience with other developing countries by facilitating experience and know-how sharing at the institutional and grassroots levels. Activities will include exchange visits, study tours, workshops, seminars, webinars, and training online or offline or combined both. WFP China COE will also provide technical assistance and support technical cooperation through country pilot projects and DAA, strengthening smallholder farmers' capacity, increasing agricultural productivity and incomes, and encouraging rural economic development at the community level.

Knowledge Sharing. The web-based South-South

Cooperation Knowledge Sharing Platform will be upgraded to showcase more successful experiences, lessons learned and knowledge products about Chinese rural transformation and poverty reduction. The function of the platform will be extended by launching the WFP-China South-South Cooperation Cloud School, equipped with various modalities and sources while maximizing the adoption of digitalized approaches and smart applications.

WFP China COE will facilitate other countries to improve their relevant capabilities through sustainable natural resource management knowledge and practices. New energy utilization will be a focus against climate change. South-South Cooperation activities will prioritize gender approach and encourage women's participation. Entrepreneurship fostering through South-South Cooperation field projects among rural women and vulnerable people, including persons with disabilities, will be promoted through rural value chain development.

3.3 Partnership Strategy

WFP China COE is dedicated to partnership forging with government agencies for strategic cooperation; with academia, universities and think tanks for technical

collaboration. Private sector is also a focus to expand South-South Cooperation scope.

Table 7. Strategic Partner in Thematic Areas and Field Technical Cooperation

Value Chain Development for Smallholders	Post-harvest Loss Management and Food Systems	Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Resilience	Innovative Poverty Alleviation Initiative
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)	National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration (NAFRA)	Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE)	International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC)

Field Technical Cooperation

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), ESCAP-CSAM, China-Africa Development Fund (CADFund)

With the accelerating process of economic transformation and technology development worldwide due to pandemic and other major international events, there could be two

new types of partners, which are e-commerce value chain partner and knowledge sharing partner, expected to be further developed by WFP China COE in near future.

4 Conclusion

Based on reviewing WFP China COE's South-South Cooperation progress in 2017-2020, this report analyses and identifies possible challenges and opportunities for the South-South cooperation of WFP China COE in the next five years, as shown in the SWOT analysis. To meet these challenges, seize the new opportunities and enhance the capacity and outcome of South-South cooperation for WFP China COE, the report recommends improving the Four Thematic Areas, optimizing the three-tier modules, and exploring two new types of partnerships.

The strategic thematic areas of WFP China COE are:

- (1) Value Chain Development for Smallholders;
- (2) Post-harvest Loss Management and Food Systems;
- (3) Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Resilience;
- (4) Innovative Poverty Alleviation Initiative.

The South-South Cooperation modalities are:

- (1) Policy support- Provide policy support through roundtables, high-level visits, and research;
- (2) Technical cooperation- Support technical cooperation through exchange visits, study tours, workshops, expert deployment, DAA, and CPP;

- (3) Knowledge sharing- Support knowledge sharing by expanding the function of the current platform and launching WFP China South-South Cooperation Cloud School with other developing countries based on a demand-driven approach and needs analysis.

Looking into the next phase of CSP (2022-2025), there is more endeavour to be in place for South-South Cooperation engagement by WFP China COE. Women's presence will be more encouraged, gender transformative approach is widely adopted, and efforts be maximized to adopt digitalized tools and smart applications to achieve remote support and virtual capacity-building efforts with themes including climate change and environmental related areas. China's experience from all dimensional poverty alleviation in innovative approaches for rural vitalization will be leveraged as a valuable reference for more developing countries.

Affected by the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and time and budget limitation, this needs analysis report is based primarily on case studies, online interviews, and web-based meetings. Its shortcoming is the disadvantage of not being able to conduct face-to-face interviews with participants engaging in those South-South Cooperation activities in developing countries, which is expected to be improved in later studies and researches.

Acknowledgement

This report is an outcome of the discussion from the **South-South Cooperation Review and Strategy Analysis Meeting** organized by the WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China COE) in November of 2020 in Suzhou City, China. All insightful contributions and valuable inputs from partners at the meeting are thereby highly acknowledged.

Along with the South-South Cooperation team of WFP China, it is **Dr. Wang Xiaolin**, Professor and Vice Dean of Institute of the Sixth-Sector Economy Institute for Six-sector Economy, Fudan University, and his team who made dedicated efforts on this report since July of 2020. It is the enlightening thoughts and inspiring ideas from Professor Wang that guided composition of the report in the months followed.

Due to COVID-19, most of the communication and correspondence were done online. It is grateful that colleagues, who took interviews in August and September of 2020 remotely from their tight schedule, and shared constructive visions and advice towards an efficient and effective Centre of Excellence in the coming years. Interviewees are **Dr. Sixi Qu**, Country Director of WFP China, **Ms. Maha Ahmed Sulliman**, Deputy Country Director of WFP China, **Mr. Dageng Liu**, Country Director of WFP Timor Lest, **Dr. Christiani Buani**, Head of Program, WFP Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition, **Dr. Wu Lifeng**, Director of International Organizations, Department of International Cooperation

Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and **Ms. Hu Yaoqing**, Chief of International Cooperation Division, National Food & Strategic Reserves Administration.

WFP China COE couldn't achieve today without the visionary guidance from the Division of Strategic Partnership and Cooperation led by **Mr. Stanlake Samkange**, who has been compassing WFP China COE's progress since the very scratch. WFP China COE enjoys the good company of technical units in WFP HQ as PRO-S, PRO-F, PRO-C, PRO-T, Divisions of Emergency, Nutrition and Supply Chain, and COEs in Brazil and Cote d'Ivoire, to name a few. Regional Bureaux and Country Offices that are eager to engage with China for South-South Cooperation demonstrate their ambition and dedication with WFP China COE along the South-South Cooperation journey.

All partnerships and collaboration are highly valued. It is the **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China** who deserves full acknowledgment for the solid support and appreciable collaboration since the first day to help WFP China COE pave the way towards South-South Cooperation.

One percent inspiration needs ninety-nine percent of perspiration. WFP China COE is looking into the next Country Strategic Plan (2022-2025) with our due contribution for a world free of hunger.

Acronyms

BRI	The "Belt and Road" Initiative
CADFund	China-Africa Development Fund
CERFAM	Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition
COE	Centre of Excellence
CPP	Country Pilot Projects
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
DAA	Demonstration in Africa/Asia/Latin America by Africans/Asians/Latin Americans
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ESCAP-CSAM	Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IPRCC	International Poverty Reduction Centre in China
MARA	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China
MEE	Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China
MEM	Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China
NAFRA	National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration of the People's Republic of China
NDRCC	National Centre of Disaster Risk Reduction of China
NRIAM	Nanjing Research Institute for Agricultural Mechanization of the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China
PHLM	Post-Harvest Loss Management
RBA	Rome-based Agency
RBB	Regional Bureau of Bangkok
ROC	Republic of Congo
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SSCAF	South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund
SSC	South-South Cooperation
UNOSSC	United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation
WFP	World Food Programme

