



Seminar on Digital South-South Cooperation and Online Operation of the WFP-China South-South Cooperation Knowledge Sharing Platform

Summary Report

WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation



May 2022



Sharing for Learning

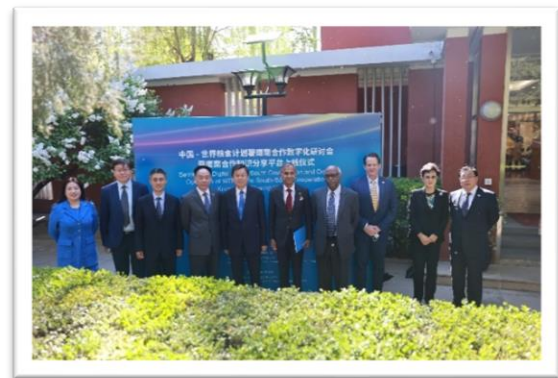
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Overview

The Seminar on Digital South-South Cooperation and Online Operation of the WFP-China South-South Cooperation Knowledge Sharing Platform was co-organised by United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and China Foreign Languages Publishing Administration (CICG) on 15 April 2022. The Seminar was sponsored by the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (MARA). This event witnessed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing between WFP and CICG for a long-term partnership on knowledge management. The WFP-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Knowledge Sharing Platform (www.wfpchinacoe.net) launch ceremony was also held during the Seminar. More than 100 representatives from Chinese government, foreign missions in China, international organizations and academia, attended the event either online or in person.

Supported by MARA, WFP-China SSC Knowledge Sharing Platform is established by WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in China (WFP China COE) with technical facilitation from China Internet Information Center (CIIC). Visitors can access information on the platform about China's experiences and solutions in the following four thematic areas: Value Chain Development for Smallholders, Post-harvest Loss Management and Food Systems, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Resilience, and Innovative Poverty Alleviation Initiative. These can help empower them to enhance food security in their local areas. The platform also offers Cloud School, which features programmes that are tailored to the needs of participants of all levels. It is a response to the rising demand for China's vetted knowledge about food security, nutrition improvement, poverty alleviation and rural transformation. Courses offered in Cloud School reflect WFP China COE's work on the four thematic areas, as well as the value chain development in rice, Juncao and cassava. Certificates of completion are awarded to those who successfully finish them.



After the Seminar, a workshop on the Working Mechanism of SSC Knowledge Sharing Platform and the Cloud School was held among WFP China COE, CIIC, and other technical partners. Representatives from WFP China COE’s technical partners made some suggestions on the future development of the SSC Knowledge Sharing Platform and the Cloud School.



The Seminar received widespread attention both inside and outside China, and was reported or reprinted by various media outlets. The press release and introduction video of the Platform were published in Chinese, English, Arabic, Spanish and French. The English version was repeated by 343 media outlets within 2 hours, reaching over 200 million audiences worldwide.

Event Statistic

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the number of participants on site had to be kept to a minimum. A total of 23 participants from Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, African Union Mission in China, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Fudan University, National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation of the People's Republic of China, and Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, etc. joined the seminar in-person.
- A total of 109 participants joined the seminar online, including representatives from WFP China COE's strategic and technical partners including National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration of the People's Republic of China, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China, Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China, Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, and China Agriculture Film and Television Center, etc.

- The recording of the event is available through the link:

[Seminar on Digital South-South Cooperation and Online Operation of WFP-China South-South Cooperation Knowledge Sharing Platform](#)



- The introductory video is available through the link:

[Introductory Video](#)

Opening Remarks

- **Dr. Qu Sixi**, Representative/Country Director of WFP China, pointed out that WFP China COE promotes knowledge exchange and partnership building among developing countries, while leveraging WFP's global network and ongoing programmes against food insecurity and malnutrition. The WFP-China SSC Knowledge Sharing Platform was established to respond to the need for web-based knowledge sharing which is hoped to serve as a knowledge hub for China's vetted experiences and solutions in food security and nutrition improvement.

- **H.E. Du Zhanyuan**, President of CICG, highlighted that we should grasp the important opportunities brought by digitisation, and make digital transformation an indispensable force to accelerate economic and social development. This is a critical topic we have to confront of our times and an important part of strengthening SSC in the digital era. It is hoped that the establishment of the SSC Knowledge Platform will share the experience of China and other countries in SSC, and jointly promote global development to a new stage of balance, coordination and inclusion.

- **Mr. Xie Jianmin**, Counsel (Director-General Level) of Department of International Cooperation of MARA, mentioned that WFP-China SSC Knowledge Sharing Platform and Cloud School will use digital technology to disseminate and share knowledge, technology and experience in a more effective way in the development of smallholders, the value chain of agricultural products, post-harvest loss management, disaster risk reduction to help more developing countries improve their food production capacity and disaster resilience.




- H.E. Rahamtalla Mohammed Osman**, Representative of the African Union to China, emphasised that people are living in a digitalised world that is experiencing remarkable technological transformations. It is important that these digital tools are used for activities that save lives and protect people from the threats of hunger and malnutrition. The African Union firmly believes in the power

of knowledge sharing and management for skills transfer, capacity-building, and, ultimately, food security for all.

- Mme. Jin Nuo**, Former Secretary of the Communist Party of China Committee of Renmin University of China, pointed out that SSC is an important way to deal with hunger, malnutrition and poverty in developing countries. International cooperation in agricultural science and technology is of great importance for securing food supply, maintaining stable food prices, addressing global and regional food security challenges, and achieving the goal of Zero Hunger. It is of great significance for WFP China and CICG to sign a MOU on strengthening SSC and build SSC knowledge-sharing platform together.



- Mr. Siddharth Chatterjee**, UN Resident Coordinator in China, emphasised that digital technology needs to be part and parcel of our SSC efforts. The UN family in China will continue to work with partners to explore new models of SSC in the post-pandemic information era, focusing on knowledge sharing through digital innovation and fostering country-specific technical

cooperation projects, including as part of our contribution to the GDI. It is hoped that SSC, through digital means, will reach even more beneficiaries.

- Mr. David Kaatrud**, Director of Humanitarian and Development Division of WFP, expressed that the Platform responds to the increasing need of host governments to engage with SSC providers from China, enhances access to forward-looking insights from a network of experts, and promotes SSC experience sharing around the globe.



Keynote Speech

Prof. Wang Xiaolin, Executive Director of Shanghai (Fudan University) Institute for Cooperation & Development/ Deputy Dean of Institute for Six-Sector Economy of Fudan University, delivered a keynote speech entitled ***Digital South-South Cooperation and the Path towards Zero Hunger*** and pointed out that human society is in the process of transforming from industrial civilization to digital civilization, and digital economy is becoming a major model of development in many developing countries. In terms of digital development and cooperation, knowledge sharing which is the mainstay of SSC will also adapt to the trend of the times and make digital transformation.



- Digital technology has become an important driving force of global economic and social development, and big data is of great importance to eliminate hunger and extreme poverty. The typical features of economic digital transformation are that data has become the new production factor, IoT and advanced wireless have become the new infrastructure for economic and social development, digital technology has become the key to promoting product and service innovation, digital platform has become the new industrial organization model, and digital mindset is the necessity for leadership.



- Digital SSC would be a powerful approach for the majority of developing countries to move towards the Goal of Zero Hunger, while the deep integration of digital technologies with agriculture, manufacturing industries and services provides new solutions to achieve the SDGs. Digital technology bridges the gap in agricultural knowledge and technology for farmers in developing countries and plays an important role in agricultural production, processing, warehousing,

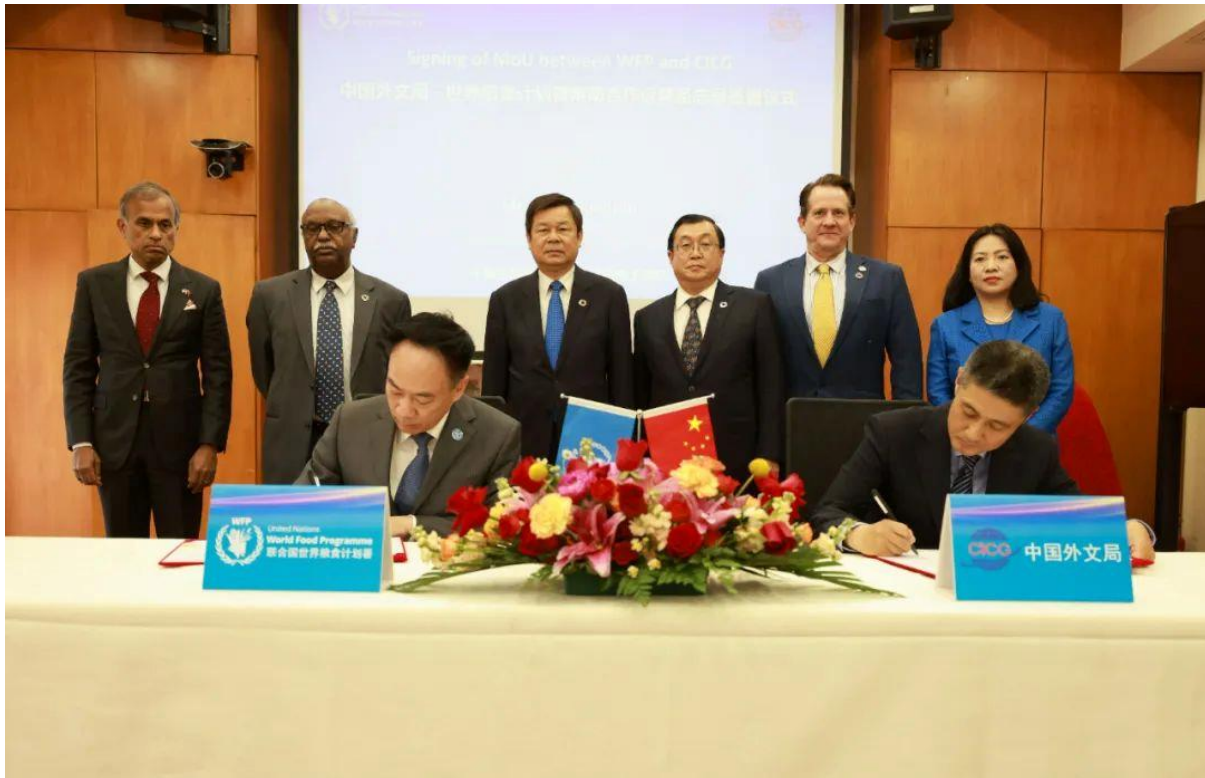
logistics, and retail, etc. SSC in remote sensing technology and disaster prevention and reduction, supporting more farmers in developing countries to benefit from digital South-South cooperation.

- The construction of the website is a key step in the digital transformation of WFP SSC as well as an important milestone for digital SSC globally. In recent years, the way of knowledge management has gone through profound changes with the widespread use of new digital technologies. For SSC, strengthening knowledge sharing on digital technology and digital economy, along with changing the traditional ways of knowledge management in SSC, would be the adaptation to this digital era. It is expected that this platform on SSC knowledge Sharing (www.wfpchinacoe.net) could make contribution to the SDG Goal 2 - Zero Hunger further.

- [The Presentation slides by Prof. Wang Xiaolin:](#) 

The Signing Ceremony of MOU

A MOU between WFP and CICG on providing additional knowledge products for developing countries, enhancing international dissemination of information related to exchange activities, and promoting the international sharing of development experiences was signed, by Dr. Qu Sixi, Representative and Country Director of WFP China, and Mr. Gao Anming, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of CICG.



The two parties pledged to develop SSC knowledge products, provide training, and share China's technical solutions, best practices, experiences, and development approaches with other developing countries. Focusing on United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2-Zero Hunger, WFP and CICG will promote the development of SSC knowledge products by conducting research, organizing online offline knowledge sharing and exchange activities, building SSC websites and taking other actions together.

The Online Operation Ceremony of the WFP-China SSC Knowledge Sharing Platform

The WFP-China South-South Cooperation Knowledge Sharing Platform was launched at the seminar. Supported by MARA, the platform is established by WFP China COE with technical facilitation from CIIC.

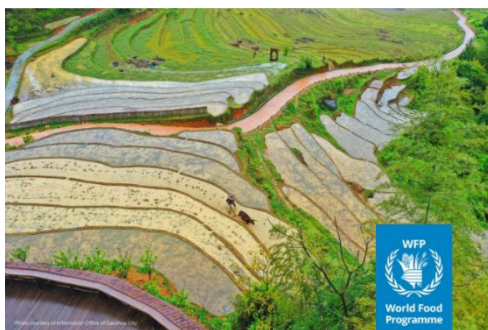


WFP-China SSC Knowledge Sharing Platform serves as a knowledge hub that provides an enabling environment for partners to post demands, share solutions and connect with each other for food security, nutrition improvement, poverty reduction and rural transformation. The Cloud School is embedded in this Platform, which offers an inclusive space and tailored learning programme for learners at all levels.

- Factsheet of WFP-China South-South Cooperation Knowledge Sharing Platform:



- Factsheet of WFP-China South-South Cooperation Cloud School:



WFP-China South-South Cooperation Knowledge Sharing Platform

Sharing for Learning



WFP-China South-South Cooperation Cloud School

Learning Together for a Better Life



Workshop on the Working Mechanism for SSC Knowledge Sharing Platform and Cloud School

WFP China COE, CIIC, and other technical partners had an in-depth discussion about the knowledge source and management, cooperation mechanism and development of the Platform. Prof. Wang Xiaolin, Executive Director of Shanghai (Fudan University) Institute for Cooperation & Development/ Deputy Dean of Institute for Six-Sector Economy of Fudan University, put forward some ideas and suggestions about the future development of the Platform in terms of knowledge cooperation mechanism. Technical partners shared their suggestions about the development of digital SSC, and highlighted that the Platform would provide a digital innovative space for SSC contributing to the achievement of SDG Goal 2 Zero Hunger further.



Annex 1 List of Participants Offline

No.	Organization	Name	Title
Government Agencies			
1	Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China	Xie Jianmin	Counsel (Director-General Level)
2		Feng Yan	Advisor
3	Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences	Bi Jieying	Director of Overseas Center Office of Agricultural Information Institute
4	Department of State and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China	Li Guannan	Third Secretary
5	National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation of the People's Republic of China	Zhang Zhiqiang	Director of General Management Department
Academic and Technical Partners			
6	Renmin University of China	Jin Nuo	Former Secretary of the CPC Committee
7	Fudan University	Wang Xiaolin	Deputy Dean, Institute for Six-sector Economy
Embassy and International Organization			
8	African Union Mission in China	Rahamtalla M. Osman	Permanent Representative, African Union Mission to China
9	Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in China	Siddharth Chatterjee	Resident Coordinator, United Nations in China
10	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Carlos Watson	Representative
11	United Nations Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (ESCAP-CSAM)	Li Yutong	Head
Event Host			
12	China Foreign Languages Publishing Administration	Du Zhanyuan	President
13		Gao Anming	Vice president and Editor-in-Chief
14		Liu Shuangyan	Director of the International Cooperation Department
15		Lu Jie	Secretary of President
16	China Internet Information Center	Wang Xiaohui	Editor-in-Chief
17		Zhao Lin	Deputy Director
18		Jiao Meng	Deputy Director of China Development Gateway

No.	Organization	Name	Title
19	WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation	Qu Sixi	Representative/Country Director of WFP China
20		Jia Yan	Head of South-South Cooperation Unit
21		Liang Yunjuan	Programme Consultant
22		Sha Sha	Programme Policy Officer
23		Jiang Mengxuan	ICT Assistant
24		Chen Siyuan	Programme Assistant
25		Wei Zhe	Volunteer

Annex 2 List of Partners Online

No.	Organization
Government Agencies	
1	National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration of the People's Republic of China
2	China Grain Research and Training Center
3	Academy of National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration of the People's Republic of China
4	Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China
5	Ministry of Emergency Management of the People's Republic of China
6	National Disaster Reduction Center of China
7	Foreign Economic Cooperation Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China
8	Center of International Cooperation Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China
9	Central Agricultural Broadcasting and Television School
10	China Agriculture Film and Television Center
Academic and Technical Partners	
11	AliResearch
12	Biogas Institute of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China
13	Beijing Jiaotong University
14	Beijing University of Agriculture
15	Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences
16	China Grain Wuhan Scientific Research & Design Institute
17	China International Public Relations Association
18	China National Engineering Research Center of JUNCAO Technology
19	Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University
20	Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences
21	Henan University of Technology
22	Hunan Agricultural University
23	Hunan Academy of Agricultural Sciences
24	Jiangsu University
25	Nanjing Agricultural University
26	Nanjing University of Finance & Economics
27	Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University
28	Sinograin Chengdu Grain Storage Research Institute

Private Sector	
29	Inspur Group
30	Zhongyu Food Company