



# Middle-Income Countries prove key South-South and Triangular Partners in the fight against hunger

FAO is recognized as a leading facilitator of South-South Cooperation (SSC) for food security and agricultural development. With over two decades of experience, FAO has helped to “make the match” between Southern country demand and supply, as well as ensure the quality of exchange. Middle Income Countries (MICs) are increasingly contributing to the global development agenda, and many are leading figures in SSC, providing technical expertise and financial support to countries in the South.

To date, demand for SSC is outstripping supply. More and more countries are requesting FAO to facilitate SSC, recognizing the Organization’s role as central broker and seeing SSC as a cost-effective and highly relevant means for agricultural development, based on principles of mutual benefit and solidarity.

In the last two decades, over 50 percent of FAO SSC projects have been funded by MICs, with Brazil and China being the two main providers. Together, these two countries finance approximately 35 percent of all FAO SSC projects. Brazil’s focus is largely on Latin America and Africa, whereas China’s is mostly on Africa and Asia.

Other Southern countries and triangular partners are coming on board, as both technical and financial providers, including Japan, Mexico, Morocco, the Republic of Korea and Venezuela. Innovatively, Angola is funding the supply of expertise from Brazil from its own national budget, and Nigeria is doing similarly so to acquire expertise from China.

In addition, new funding sources, such as the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund SSC Facility with contributions guided by the principle “Africans for Africans”, are beginning to provide more flexible resources in support of intraregional SSC.

## A diverse group of actors

Since 2012, FAO has facilitated over 55 SSC partnership projects, of which 42 have been funded by MICs totalling USD 83 million. The following countries have provided the bulk of support: Angola, Brazil, China, Mexico, South Africa, Turkey and Venezuela. In addition, in 2014 alone, pledges from MICs amounted to a total of USD 69 million.

A review of these projects shows that while FAO’s main SSC partners are governments, diverse actors are involved, including research and academic institutions, international institutions, the private sector, Civil Society Organizations, foundations and cooperatives.

**South-South Cooperation (SSC)** is the mutual sharing and exchange of development solutions - knowledge, experiences and good practices, policies, technology and resources - between and among countries in the global South.

**Triangular Cooperation** involves partnerships between two or more developing countries along with a third partner, typically a traditional resource partner and/or multilateral organization.

The top three technical areas covered by the projects include: food and nutrition security, crop intensification/diversification, and irrigation/water and soil fertility management. The main means of exchange has involved the deployment of long-term experts; however, short-term knowledge/expertise exchanges and study tours/training are also increasing.



### **More countries coming on board**

Moving forward, FAO intends to engage more countries as SSC providers and upscale programmes with existing partners to meet growing demands in the realm of food security and agriculture. Every country has a role to play, joining hands to upscale knowledge sharing and capacity development through SSC:

- providing financial resources to enable the SSC knowledge sharing to happen, including funds for formulation, implementation and logistical support;
- providing in-kind expertise, through relevant government ministries, institutions, etc., to build capacities in a wide range of technical areas related to agriculture and food security;
- expressing needs as to what kind of technical support and know-how are required and from where;
- jointly supporting the SSC knowledge sharing to ensure it is of high quality and standard, and building on the momentum and lessons learned.

FAO recognizes MICs as major and highly relevant players, who have much to share based on their own success in lifting millions out of poverty. More dialogue is needed to encourage greater partnership, to jointly shape ways that rise to the challenge of meeting ever-increasing demands for SSC. FAO stands ready to facilitate this discussion.