



FAO One Country One Priority Product Newsletter

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Highlights



FAO delegation meeting with CATAS President Dr. Sanwen Huang

Promoting the implementation of FAO’s global OCOP Initiative in the tropics. The OCOP Initiative supports the green development of Special Agricultural Products (SAPs), 64 percent of which are produced in the tropics. For that reason, Xia Jingyuan, NSP Director, and Hafiz Muminjanov, OCOP Initiative Global Coordinator, visited the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) in Hainan, China. They met with leaders, learned about their research capacities and discussed potential cooperation with the OCOP Initiative. Research Institutes at CATAS has expertise in cassava, banana, mango, coffee, cocoa, jackfruit, vanilla, coconut and date palm; all selected as SAPs under the OCOP Initiative. CATAS collaborate with farmers and

technical experts in tropical countries around the world and each of their research institutes takes an integrated approach, which means they seek improvements for tropical agricultural products along the entire value chain.

African Regional Organizing Group established for the OCOP Initiative. This group will provide oversight and support for the implementation and coordination of all OCOP Country Projects in the FAO Africa Region. Abebe Haile-Gabriel, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Africa noted that OCOP is a country-owned and -led initiative for transformation that contributes to **FAO’s Strategic Framework**. FAO Deputy Director-General Beth Bechdol praised these collective efforts in Africa. Director Xia encouraged everyone involved in the OCOP implementation at global, regional and national levels to use resources and examples presented in meetings such as these to proceed with their own projects successfully, using best practices.

More details about these highlights are available on the OCOP news webpage¹

¹ <https://www.fao.org/one-country-one-priority-product/news-and-events/news/en>

Current status of the OCOP initiative



82 countries have applied to promote 53 Special Agricultural Products (SAPs).



Global series of OCOP events from May to October 2023: five regional launch events and workshops on the implementation of the OCOP Country Projects.



10 million USD mobilized to implement OCOP field projects.



FAO will appoint an expert to conduct value chain analysis of five OCOP demonstration SAPs.

Implementation and Coordination

Five demonstration countries coordinate their initial phases of implementation. Bangladesh, Egypt, Malawi, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uzbekistan each provided updates about their project on 13 April, including the inception workshops listed below. Malawi's project was presented in more detail because its implementation is the most advanced. Their National Task Force includes government, technical experts, farmer representatives and private companies working together to develop bananas sustainably. They stressed the increasing vulnerability to climate shocks, pests and diseases in Malawi. Faced with this challenge, bananas will be developed under OCOP as a proof of concept for strengthening food security sustainably with higher yields and better livelihoods. Director Xia urged each country to contribute to OCOP coordination by producing three-year workplans which other country projects can use as a reference for best practices.

31 January: Bangladesh holds inception workshop about the humble jackfruit, a star product for the country, ripe for export for processed goods that are in high demand globally.

7 March: Malawi kicks off project to develop banana value chain highlighting the opportunity for innovation to make this product more sustainable and create decent jobs.

13 March: Uzbekistan promotes sweet cherries at their OCOP project workshop which explored their suitability to the local climate and widespread production by Uzbek smallholder farmers.

23 March: Trinidad and Tobago project plans in place to invigorate cocoa sector by improving productivity, adding value and linking sectors – all building on an international reputation for high-quality.

More detail about these implementation and coordination activities available on the OCOP news webpage²

² <https://www.fao.org/one-country-one-priority-product/news-and-events/news/en>

³ <https://www.fao.org/one-country-one-priority-product/pilot-countries/en>

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/one-country-one-priority-product/ocop-global-action/en>

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/one-country-one-priority-product/resources/trainings-and-webinars/en>

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/farmer-field-schools/ffs-overview/en/>

Communication and Partnerships

Explore the **OCOP website** for information about each demonstration country³ and wider regional activities⁴.

Watch the online training sessions by FAO in partnership with CATAS. Resources available online⁵ cover twelve SAPs, including all those chosen for development by the OCOP demonstration countries.

Field story from Uzbekistan



Farmers harvesting cherries in Uzbekistan

Sweet cherries are the Special Agricultural Product (SAP) chosen by the Government of Uzbekistan under the OCOP Initiative. They are important for small-scale farmers who produce 70 percent of the country's horticultural output. Cherry trees flourish in rural and peri-urban areas across the country, often on family homesteads, with agricultural inputs that are less expensive than other popular fruits. Sweet cherries could be developed into a sustainable, high-value product that brings farmers 4 - 5 times more income.

The OCOP Initiative in Uzbekistan will focus on developing the value chain of sweet cherries to increase the product's yield and quality, build capacity for sustainable practices and improve livelihoods. Along with superior cherry varieties adapted to the local climatic and farming conditions, other crops can benefit from OCOP development of technologies like integrated pest management, drip irrigation and fertigation on the homestead. OCOP will also promote Farmer Field Schools⁶ to facilitate the development of sustainable and inclusive value chains for family farming and smallholders.

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