



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**FAO – CHINA**  
**SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**  
**PROGRAMME**



# FAO-CHINA SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION PROGRAMME

## BACKGROUND

The People's Republic of China has been actively involved in and largely contributed to FAO South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme since its launch in 1996. Its achievements were highly praised by FAO and the host countries' governments. China has become the major participator, supporter and promoter of the SSC Programme. Since 1996, through the FAO-China SSC Programme, China has deployed 1 023 experts and technicians in 25 countries and regions (56 percent of the total FAO SSC experts) of Africa, Asia, the South Pacific, Latin America, and the Caribbean (as of end April 2015). These experts and technicians provided a large contribution in the technical areas of irrigation, horticulture, livestock, agriculture, crop production, agroforestry, agricultural mechanization, food processing, marketing of agricultural products, agricultural machinery manufacturing and others.

## FAO-CHINA SSC TRUST FUND

China was the first country to establish an SSC strategic alliance with FAO through a Letter of Intent signed in May 2006. In 2008, the government of China decided to establish an FAO Trust Fund for USD 30 million in support of the SSC Programme. This SSC Trust Fund was a milestone in the FAO-China partnership development which promoted the cooperation to a new level.

In this context, the FAO-China SSC Programme has supported, as of April 2015, 11 SSC country projects and two global projects, in which 287 Chinese experts have been fielded in Mongolia (Phases I and II), Ethiopia,



Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Uganda (Phases I and II), to carry out agricultural technical assistance and extension work. The FAO-China SSC Programme (Phase I) supported eight capacity development activities in China

and one High-Level-Forum on SSC Achievements in Africa held in Nigeria. The FAO-China SSC Programme also provided backstopping to the China-Nigeria SSC project, which was funded by the FAO-Nigeria Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF).

## THE SSC PROGRAMME ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

- over **400** practical agricultural technologies were transferred to the host countries;
- there were **268** suitable crops, vegetables and other varieties tested and **174** sets of agricultural machinery tools designed;
- there were **237** pilot demonstrations in more than **80** project sites conducted;
- there were **408** research reports and recommendations prepared and submitted;
- over **1 300** training activities were organized in the field;
- nearly **20 000** local farmers and agricultural technicians received field training, **70** percent of which adopted the technologies;
- more than **65 000** beneficiaries.

## LESSONS LEARNED

The aforementioned achievements and results would not have been possible without FAO's, China's and all host countries' joint efforts and commitments. The main lessons learned are as follows:

- **High-level commitment and support:** High-level attention and commitment from each party involved in SSC is a key foundation for the projects' success. This could timely solve foreseen issues and challenges in implementation and thereby ensure project success.
- **SSC modalities innovated:** In order to strengthen SSC development and sustainability, ongoing innovation and improvement of the SSC modalities is important. The new

modalities, such as combining long and short-term experts, enhancement of capacity at grassroots and institutional levels, facilitation of knowledge and technology sharing and transfer, and the networking of the FAO Reference Training Centres in China were introduced and should continue to be built upon.

- **Management strengthened:** The SSC management has been improved by setting effective coordination mechanisms, facilitating backstopping and technical support missions to the fields, developing SSC documentations (SSC Guidance and Operation Manual for the SSC projects' support by the Chinese Trust Fund), and setting-up a legal framework

to ensure the success of the SSC projects.

- **Monitoring and evaluation system established:** To jointly evaluate the project achievements, a monitoring and evaluation system was established by setting-up an appropriate baseline and log-framework for the SSC projects. This allowed for the timely review of the progress reports, and mid-term and final reviews of the project.
- **Communication and visibility improved:** To maximize impact and increase the visibility, communication materials, such as the SSC brochure, the FAO-China Partnership and China-Nigeria SSC booklet were prepared.

## THE WAY FORWARD

Based on the successful achievements of the FAO-China SSC Programme (Phase I), the Premier of the State Council of the Peoples Republic of China Li Keqiang emphasized, during his visit to FAO headquarters in Rome on 15 October 2014, that China was willing to continue strengthening the sharing of agricultural technologies, experience and development solutions with other developing countries through bilateral and multilateral partnerships. He also announced a new commitment of USD 50 million to FAO in support of the FAO-China SSC Programme to improve food security and promote sustainable agricultural developments in developing countries.



## CONTACT US

Interested partners are invited to contact FAO for more information.  
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