



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# FAO'S SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION STRATEGY IN ACTION

*Fostering partnerships  
among the Global South*

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*Innovation in the South is generating new tools and partnerships for tackling issues of food insecurity, poverty reduction and sustainable agriculture.*



# FOREWORD

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is playing a greater role than ever before in the development cooperation landscape. Innovation in the global South is generating new tools and partnerships for tackling issues of food insecurity, poverty reduction and sustainable agriculture. The South offers wide-ranging development solutions – knowledge, experiences and good practices, innovative policies, technology, know-how, and resources – that have proven cost-effective and have huge potential to be shared, adapted and adopted.

The examples are numerous and have yielded concrete results: Chinese drip-irrigation technology enabled Nigerian farmers to grow crops during the dry season and significantly increased their incomes; serious injuries incurred by lobster-fishers in Nicaragua were reduced through sharing knowledge of simple practices such as sea-bed *casitas* that are extensively used in Mexico. Through Triangular Cooperation (TrC), shared expertise from Viet Nam and funding from Spain improved the survival rates of catfish and tilapia in Namibia, giving a significant boost to the nation's aquaculture sector.

Building on over 20 years of experience in SSC, FAO's corporate strategy promotes SSC and TrC as an efficient and effective means to achieve development goals. The demand for SSC is ever increasing and through this strategy, FAO is working to: diversify the range of modalities for the exchange of Southern development solutions (including the short- to long-term deployment of experts, study tours, technology exchanges to support a broad set of technical issues); connect SSC and TrC providers with seekers; promote SSC and TrC policy-level dialogues; and create an enabling environment to mobilize broader partnerships and resources, as well as raise the visibility of SSC.

The strategy is a response to growing demand from member countries to benefit from experiences of other Southern countries. It was adopted in 2013 after extensive consultations with national governments, in particular from the group of G77 nations, international partners and FAO Strategic Programme (SP) teams and Decentralized Offices (DOs). FAO aims to serve as a leading global SSC facilitator in areas of its mandate, through joining

hands with a wide range of state and non-state actors to scale-up the flow of South-South knowledge exchanges.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as set out in the 2030 Agenda, requires new and innovative ways of working together and adopting creative approaches. SSC and TrC are strategically relevant to both FAO and its Members. They are an essential means by which the Organization can deliver on its five Strategic Objectives (SOs). Member Nations also stand to gain as each can profit from using SSC and TrC to achieve their own development priorities, as well as foster their external economic, developmental and foreign policy agendas.

Through this strategy, FAO actively seeks to engage more countries and a wider range of partners, and strongly promotes SSC and TrC as a complementary means to North-South development cooperation. It is only through broadening partnerships that FAO can respond to burgeoning SSC demands to meet pressing national and regional development priorities.

# ACRONYMS

ACP	African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Secretariat	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding	TCDC	Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations	NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development	TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
BAPA	Buenos Aires Plan of Action	NPFS	National Programmes for Food Security	TCS	South-South Cooperation and Resource Mobilization Division
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme	OECD DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	TCSS	South-South Cooperation Team
CPF	Country Programming Framework	OIF	Organisation internationale de la francophonie	TF	Trust Fund
CPLP	Community of Portuguese Language Countries	OPC	Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development	TPA	Tripartite Agreement
DAC	Development Assistance Committee	PAA	Purchase from Africans for Africa	TrC	Triangular Cooperation
DOs	Decentralized Offices	RI	Regional Initiatives	UN	United Nations
EMBRAPA	Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SFP	School Feeding Programme	UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
FFS	Farmer Field Schools	SSC	South-South Cooperation	UTF	Unilateral Trust Fund
GCP	Government Cooperative Programme	SIDS	Small Island Developing States		
GSSD	Global South-South Development	SOs	Strategic Objectives		
HLF	High-Level Forum	SP	Strategic Programme		
LDCs	Least Developed Countries	SPFS	Special Programme for Food Security		
		TAP	Tropical Agriculture Platform		





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Global demand for South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) is at an all-time high. Countries in the South have much to share given their recent experiences in overcoming development challenges, where one country context can readily relate to another. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), business as usual will not deliver at the pace and scale required and SSC has a crucial role to play.

The corporate SSC Strategy is part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) efforts to ensure the Organization is well positioned to rapidly respond to increasing requests to facilitate the scaling-up of knowledge and technologies that have contributed to enhancing agricultural and rural development and reducing hunger in the global South.

While there is no universally agreed definition of SSC, FAO sees SSC within its mandate of agriculture and food security, as the mutual sharing and exchange of development solutions – knowledge, experiences and good practices, innovative policies, technology, know-how, and resources – between and among countries in the South. Convinced that

all countries have innovative solutions to offer, and observing that in recent years, developing countries, in particular emerging economies, are increasingly cooperating and exchanging development solutions with other developing countries, FAO is fully committed to facilitating these connections.

FAO offers a framework for SSC, setting South-South transfers in a broader context to reach national and regional food security and agricultural development goals. Moreover, FAO ensures the technical quality of SSC exchanges, in line with the Organization's mandate and Strategic Objectives (SOs). The South-South Cooperation and Resource Mobilization Division (TCS) at FAO's headquarters and SSC Regional Officers collaborate closely with a broad network of country and regional offices, to promote the progress of a wide range of initiatives, as well as providing international visibility for each cooperating partner. The overarching strategy builds on FAO's successful track record and sets out renewed direction, with focus on:

**1. Facilitating exchanges of development solutions at the grassroots level:** based on the premise that a vast range of Southern



*FAO offers a framework for SSC setting South-South transfers in a broader context to reach national and regional food security and agricultural development goals.*

development solutions are available, FAO supports the process of identifying, transferring, adapting and scaling-up development solutions from one country to another. Exchanges can occur through multiple means, including through the deployment of experts, policy dialogues, technology exchanges, study tours and learning programmes. FAO provides practical guidance and support to ensure the quality of the knowledge-sharing.

**2. Promoting SSC knowledge networks and platforms at the institutional level:** knowledge brokering is one of FAO's core comparative advantages, connecting knowledge providers with users at all levels. FAO matches 'demand' and 'supply' by bringing together countries

and institutions via Southern platforms to share expertise, as well as through its own [SSC Gateway](#). FAO's SSC Gateway showcases Southern institutions and their expertise and is a starting point through which countries can engage with FAO to consider how SSC could be of benefit to them.

**3. Providing upstream policy support:** FAO engages in SSC and TrC at the highest policy level with governments and strategic partners as an important pathway in achieving agricultural development. The aim is to attain a favourable policy environment to enable countries across the global South to work together in support of common development objectives. There are increasing opportunities to share policy, lessons learned and best practices in one country that could be leveraged to enhance policy-making capacities in another. Among the methods of making this happen are high-level platforms and events, including workshops and other effective channels for policy dialogue, including parliamentarian forums. FAO also supports strengthening the capacity of member countries to make evidence-based decisions in favour of SSC and TrC, allowing them to develop their own national SSC strategies.

**4. Fostering an enabling environment for effective SSC:** central to delivering the aforementioned is the need to create strong institutional support for SSC, both internally and externally. This includes mainstreaming SSC as a means to deliver on FAO's SOs, building broader partnerships and strategic alliances, increasing visibility, monitoring and evaluation, and mobilizing resources. FAO also fosters the formulation of projects and agreements, provides technical backstopping as well as instruments and programme guidance to support cooperation.

To summarize, member countries and FAO's Director-General place high emphasis on SSC and TrC and it is imperative that FAO turn this strategy into action. The SDGs require new and innovative partnerships and SSC and TrC have a clear role to play in meeting these targets. All member countries are invited to join in building further partnerships, by providing technical know-how, expressing needs, facilitating SSC exchanges and providing financial resources to deliver.

Countries, institutions, state and non-state actors are encouraged to engage with FAO and find out more.



## GROWING MOMENTUM

### Definition and Principles

There is growing consensus around the world, affirming South-South Cooperation (SSC) as an effective instrument for catalysing agricultural development, thereby expanding potential opportunities for collaboration and sharing resources. The SSC concept gained international recognition in 1955 during the Bandung Conference that brought 29 African and Asian leaders together in Indonesia, and has been used for decades as a basis for academic research and voluntary cooperative efforts between Southern countries to promote South-South trade and investment. The conference recognized the urgency of promoting economic cooperation among the global South and signalled the beginning of a trend, which was to have a profound influence on future international cooperation.

In the 1970s, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions calling on the international community to utilize the UN system as a vehicle to assist developing countries in increasing technical exchanges among

themselves. These efforts culminated in the UN Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), held in Buenos Aires in 1978. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) was adopted, representing a major milestone in the evolution of SSC to this day.<sup>1</sup> The BAPA stipulated guiding principles for SSC and gave specific recommendations for putting such initiatives into practice. The plan also mentions the role of developed countries' support for technical cooperation among developing countries, thus referring to TrC<sup>2</sup>.

Since the UN Conference on TCDC held in Buenos Aires, 1978, a whole host of events have built the momentum for SSC. Most of the high-level forums (HLF) have stressed the need for national ownership of development<sup>3</sup>. Perhaps most importantly, the Nairobi UN meeting on SSC in 2009 sought to promote and sharpen the benefits of mutual support among developing and transitioning economies, as well as maintaining support for the process from the developed world through TrC. The Nairobi Outcome Document adopted a

### DEFINITIONS

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

*TrC involves two or more countries of the global South in collaboration with a third party, typically a multilateral institution, traditional resource partner, or emerging economy, facilitating SSC through the provision of technical or financial resources.*

set of fundamental SSC4 principles, listed on page 2.

The document also urged UN funds, programmes and specialized agencies to take concrete measures to support SSC by acting as catalysts for cooperation and strengthening the capabilities of regional organizations. As such, in 1974, the UN Office for SSC (UNOSSC) was set up, offering a global platform for promoting SSC and TrC across a wide range of sectors<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> See <http://ssc.undp.org/content/dam/ssc/documents/Key%20Policy%20Documents/BAPA.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Buenos Aires Plan of Action, paragraph 60, recommendation 35

<sup>3</sup> Rome (2002), Paris (2005), Accra (2008), Nairobi 2010), Busan (2011) and Addis (2013).

<sup>4</sup> See <http://ssc.undp.org/content/dam/ssc/documents/Key%20Policy%20Documents/Nairobi%20Outcome%20Document.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> UN Office for SSC website <http://ssc.undp.org>

#### NORMATIVE PRINCIPLES:

- Solidarity
- Complementarity
- Respect for national sovereignty
- National ownership
- Partnership among equals
- Non-conditionality
- Non-interference in domestic affairs
- Mutual benefit

#### OPERATIONAL PRINCIPLES:

- Mutual accountability and transparency
- Development effectiveness
- Coordination of evidence- and results-based initiatives
- Multistakeholder approach



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*In the 1970s, the UN General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions calling upon the international community and the United Nations system to assist developing countries in increasing technical exchanges among themselves.*

## Evolving Context

The development landscape has changed considerably in recent years, to the extent that home-grown technological solutions are rapidly advancing in several emerging economies and other developing countries, creating unprecedented opportunities for SSC and TrC. Globally, more attention is now being paid to both the inclusivity of growth and its environmental sustainability. Attention is particularly focused on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which face development challenges that impede their capacity to leverage opportunities offered by globalization. Consequently, SSC and TrC is gaining momentum

and helping countries to jump-start and benefit from innovations, lessons and good practices, tried and tested elsewhere in the South.

Recent developments in SSC have seen an increased volume of South-South trade, South-South flows of foreign direct investment, movement towards regional integration, technology transfers, sharing of solutions and experts, and other forms of exchanges<sup>6</sup>. TrC is also on the rise, where developed countries, most of them Members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development

Assistance Committee (DAC), and multilateral organizations assist South-South initiatives through the provision of training, expertise, management, technology and funding. SSC and TrC hold huge potential to harness the comparative strengths of different partners, from the North and South, as well as multilateral institutions, to achieve synergies and greater impact than would have otherwise been achieved through individual or traditional bilateral partnerships.

SSC and TrC will be among the key means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, which explicitly calls for enhanced SSC and TrC on access to science, technology and innovation and knowledge-sharing. The Addis Ababa

<sup>6</sup> United Nations 2015, A/70/344, State of South-South cooperation, Report of the Secretary-General, see [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/344](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/344)

Action Agenda highlights the increased SSC and TrC contributions to poverty eradication and sustainable development<sup>7</sup>. At the same time the Agenda encourages developing countries to voluntarily increase their efforts to strengthen SSC, and to further improve its development effectiveness in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-Level UN Conference on SSC. The Agenda further commits to strengthening TrC as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation<sup>8</sup>. Internationally, UN agencies and a wide range of development actors are requested to take concrete measures to support SSC and TrC. Given the increasing demand for relevant agricultural knowledge and experience from countries that require development solutions tailored to their priorities and circumstances, FAO has much to offer as a facilitator of SSC, in its ability to connect countries and institutions in the South to create

opportunities for their mutual benefit. FAO's comparative advantages are anchored in: its status as a global knowledge Organization, drawing on lessons from multiple countries, projects and sectors; its convening capability as a neutral broker of agreements; its worldwide presence in the countries, and; its ability to rapidly respond to emergency situations.

Ultimately, SSC and TrC facilitate the achievement of FAO's Strategic Framework, serving as a means to meet member countries' priorities by promoting national ownership and strengthening countries' capacities to sustainably lead their own development processes. FAO's member countries, particularly emerging economies, also benefit through increased involvement in SSC. It is a mechanism for them to meet their own international development objectives and, therefore, is a valuable tool to increase their visibility and reputation in the international arena.

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*SSC and TrC will be among the key means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, which explicitly calls for enhanced SSC and TrC on access to science, technology and innovation and knowledge-sharing.*

<sup>7</sup> See [http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Reference to TrC is also made in the following agreements: Accra Agenda for Action 2008; Bogota Statement 2010; Busan Partnership 2011.



## FAO'S SSC STRATEGY

### Drivers of Change

Drawing on the feedback from wide consultations across FAO and externally, the Strategy builds on the Organization's comparative advantage and longstanding experience in fostering SSC and TrC. As such, the SSC Strategy provides a framework of reference for FAO's involvement in SSC and TrC at global, regional and country level.

The SSC Strategy has been shaped in the following ways:

- by strong FAO leadership support for SSC, which has led to the establishment of the South-South Cooperation team (TCS) as a full-fledged service for SSC and TrC;
- the reviewed Strategic Framework focusing on five Strategic Objectives (SOs), which includes SSC as a key implementation mechanism across the SOs;
- global development challenges and diversifying development cooperation and aid architecture, coupled with a strong drive towards achieving more with less, building on the principle of complementarities and working in partnership.

In specific terms, FAO's new SSC Strategy differs from the previous approach, in that it:

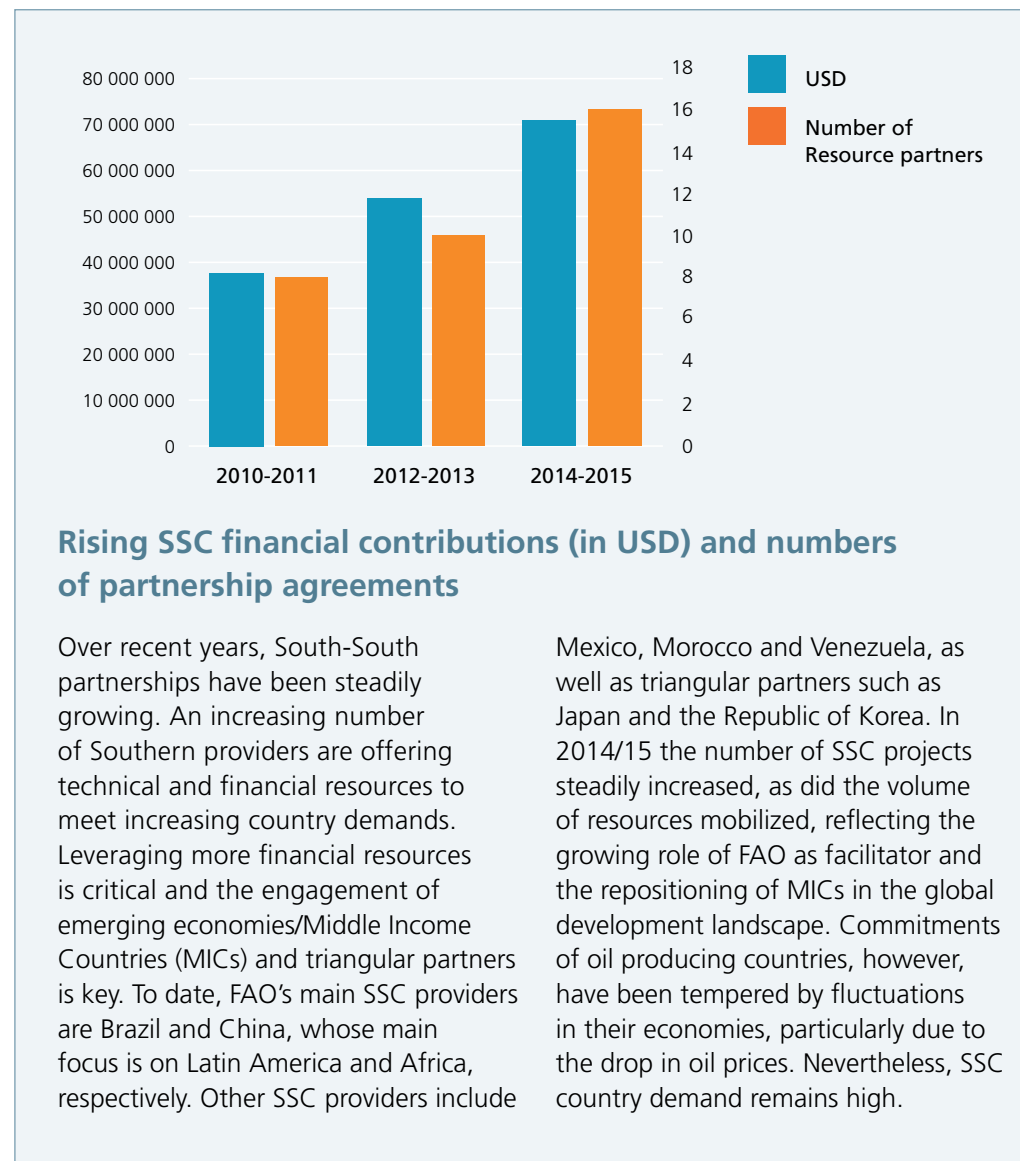
- **widens the scope and set of modalities:** the SSC Strategy embraces a greater diversity of modalities, that are multisectoral in scope and applicable across FAO's Strategic Framework, with the aim of facilitating the exchange of development solutions;
- **ensures a more flexible approach:** which is more demand-driven, with the possibility of long-, medium- and short-term expertise deployment, even at short notice;
- **mainstreams SSC into the Strategic Framework:** the Strategic Framework is at the centre of the new SSC Strategy. SSC is an effective mechanism to support the implementation of the Strategic Programmes (SPs), Regional Initiatives (RIs), and Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs). The new SSC approach closely aligns to FAO's core functions and, in this regard, complementarities are being sought with other FAO strategies;
- **is more field-oriented, in line with decentralization principles:** opportunities are being identified through relevant programming frameworks at country and regional level. Operational guidelines have been developed in line with the Strategic Framework;
- **maintains a critical mass at headquarters and Decentralized Offices (DOs):** the majority of SSC initiatives are based at the DOs. TCS oversees, facilitates and coordinates work on SSC, and supports the formulation, backstopping and implementation of SSC and TrC on a broader scale;
- **harmonizes the SSC approach across FAO:** TCS works in close collaboration with technical departments, DOs, the Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division (OPC) and other relevant units to facilitate SSC and TrC as a key means to support the implementation of SOs, RIs, and CPFs;
- **increases resource mobilization for SSC:** efforts are being made to proactively mobilize resources from a more diversified base in the context and in support of the reviewed Strategic Framework;

- **raises global relevance and local impact:** the Strategy is well harmonized within the UN South-South and Triangular Cooperation framework, with greater potential for increased visibility, in harmony with the development priorities of Members;
- **builds expanded partnerships:** the Strategy envisages building multilateral, inclusive and innovative partnerships and alliances to support SSC.

## FAO's Track Record and Role as Facilitator of SSC

In 1996, FAO established the Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) and subsequently the National Programmes for Food Security (NPFs) which were implemented through Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. In 2012, FAO set up an SSC unit at headquarters and placed SSC officers in each region. For over 20 years, FAO has facilitated exchanges of technical experience and know-how by fielding more than 2 000 experts and technicians to over 80 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Near East and North Africa.

The successful introduction of new technologies through SSC in many countries has contributed to increased food security, especially through the improvement of agricultural productivity, diversification of food crops, small animal and fish production, and rural incomes. Beyond the fielding of experts and technicians, many other relevant experiences at FAO are good examples of SSC. FAO contributes to a wide variety of



knowledge-sharing and exchange forums each year. Study tours, training, policy discussions and high-level events among governmental and other institutions in developing countries also take place

regularly. Many projects such as those concerning Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) make use of "champion" master trainers who go to another country to share their expertise with others.

Building upon this longstanding experience, and through extensive consultations with national governments, national institutions and international partners, FAO's SSC strategy strongly reflects and accommodates country needs and is able to respond more flexibly to SSC requests. The Strategy emphasizes the Organization's role as a facilitator, provider of technical oversight and interlocutor for its Members and partners, in line with international norms and standards, as well as reflecting inter and intraregional experiences in support of agricultural development, hunger and poverty eradication. FAO is well placed to facilitate SSC and TrC, due to what it brings to the partnership:

- **A framework for cooperation:** FAO sets SSC in a broader context to reach national food security and agricultural development goals. It also helps partners involved to develop the terms of their cooperation, the agreements among them and the programmes for implementing SSC and TrC; FAO also assists in ensuring that partners of an exchange adhere to their commitments;

- **Technical quality assurance:** FAO is able to ensure the technical quality of the exchange in line with FAO's mandate. As a knowledge organization it can capitalize on its own technical expertise;
- **Country presence:** FAO has a broad network of country, subregional and regional offices to facilitate the operational, logistical as well as technical aspects of the exchange;
- **Bring development cooperation to scale:** through FAO Southern and triangular partners can participate in regional/global initiatives supported by FAO and thus achieve greater impact which bilaterally would not have been possible;
- **Visibility and outreach:** by partnering with FAO, greater visibility and outreach of project results and impact can be achieved.

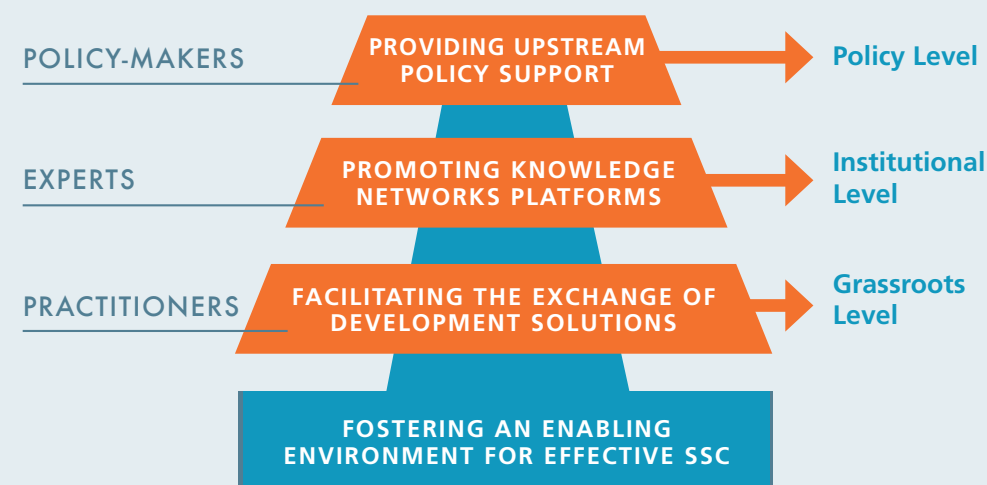
SSC and TrC offer a compelling vehicle towards achieving FAO's main goals and ultimately reaching food security for all.

## Pillars of FAO's SSC Strategy

The goal of FAO's Strategy is for SSC and TrC to be effectively used as a **key means to deliver on FAO's Strategic Framework, through facilitating the exchange of development solutions**

**among countries in the global South, towards achieving food security, poverty reduction and the sustainable management of natural resources.** The Strategy follows four SOs:

FIGURE 1. PILLARS OF FAO'S CORPORATE SSC STRATEGY



## Pillar 1: Exchange and uptake of Southern development solutions (downstream)

This pillar is based on the premise that a vast range of Southern development solutions are available to meet knowledge and capacity gaps in the South. FAO facilitates the process of identifying, transferring, adapting and scaling-up development solutions from one country to another. Exchanges can occur through multiple means, including through deployment of experts, policy dialogues, technology exchanges, study tours and learning programmes on multiple development topics. FAO provides practical guidance and support to ensure the quality of the knowledge-sharing.

### Key outputs:

- broadened and strengthened SSC modalities of exchange;
- demand-driven and responsive SSC initiatives at country and regional level;
- building national and institutional capacities.

### Scope of work

#### *Broadened and strengthened SSC modalities*

As described above, FAO will pursue a more diverse set of SSC modalities, which offer greater flexibility. Appropriate operational guides are being developed for each modality to assist implementation.

Technology exchange is often part of the above and includes agricultural inputs, small machinery, farm equipment, improved varieties, and/or methodology associated with technology exchanges. There is an urgent need for the exchange of sound technologies, particularly between developing countries, as well as building countries' technical and managerial capabilities to efficiently use and further develop the acquired technologies.

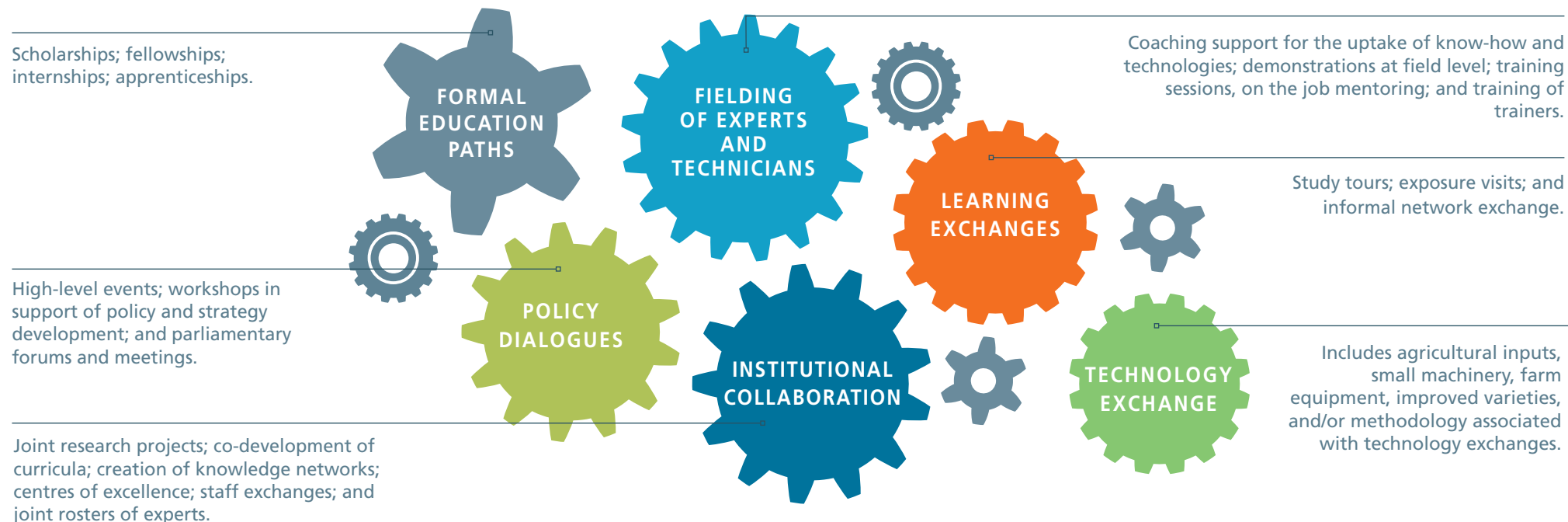
#### *Demand-driven SSC initiatives at country and regional level, building national and institutional capacities*

The range of modalities described respond to knowledge and capacity needs on a number of levels:

- **at country level**, opportunities for SSC and TrC are identified in line with priority areas in FAO's CPFs and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), which relate to government priorities. This establishes the link between the deployment of SSC experts to the identified needs of the host country;
- **at regional and subregional level**, opportunities are identified via FAO's RIs and in close collaboration with Regional Economic Commissions and organizations. SSC opportunities are sought that closely align to key regional frameworks, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Africa's Capacity Development Framework.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> African Union and New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), March 2010, 'Africa's Capacity development Strategic Framework'

FIGURE 2. DIVERSE AND FLEXIBLE SSC MODALITIES



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## SSC modalities case studies



### Angola and Brazil projects strengthening agriculture and veterinary research institutes

Angola, Brazil and FAO have been working closely together since 2014 to enhance Angola's research capacities. Under an SSC agreement, Angolan researchers are receiving technical assistance and training from the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), which played a key role in Brazil's successful domestic programme to drastically reduce hunger. Angola provided USD 2.2 million and Brazil contributed with EMBRAPA's expertise amounting to USD 875 000 in support of veterinary and agricultural research,

rehabilitation and capacity development in Angola. The project is formulating a national strategy for agricultural innovation in addition to training some 60 researchers from Angola's Agricultural Research Institute and 45 researchers from its Veterinary Research Institute. Following the positive outcomes of the initiative the Government of Angola hopes to commit additional funds to ensure the continuation of this project. The SSC project actively contributes to achieving "Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025", FAO's Regional Initiative, to which Angola is a focus country.



### School Feeding – harnessing what worked for Brazil

Some 34 million people have overcome hunger across Latin America and the Caribbean over the past two decades. Thanks to initiatives such as that backed by the Government of Brazil, School Feeding Programmes (SFPs) are now in place in a number of countries across the region. This SSC initiative focuses on sharing Brazilian knowledge, technical know-how, policies and practices for school feeding with 14 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Saint

Lucia. SFPs have proven an effective tool for overcoming poor learning performance due to hunger and malnutrition, and for reducing school absenteeism and dropout rates. Through this initiative, technical support and experience are being exchanged with each of the countries concerned, engaging more than 5 200 qualified experts. Over 26 000 school children receive a daily healthy meal and the nutritional status of children and school attendance rates have improved. Partner countries have built awareness and developed legal frameworks for school nutrition, institutionalizing school feeding policies and the public purchase of food from family agriculture. Establishing schools as reference



centres for sustainable school feeding has helped share good practices regarding the provision of healthy food and how to go about nutrition education with students. The SSC programme started in 2009 and will run until the end of 2017, thereby actively consolidating the region's Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 initiative.

### **Integrated Rice-Fish Systems – tapping ancient Chinese know-how**

The integrated rice-fish system is an ancient practice employed by farmers across Asia. China, in particular, has mastered this farming technique where rice and fish grow simultaneously in a symbiotic relationship. Rice-fish co-cultures lessen the environmental impact of agricultural chemicals and help make rice farming more profitable. Through the FAO-China SSC Trust Fund, over 80 Chinese rice-fish experts have been fielded to countries in Africa, Asia and the South Pacific for two-year periods. Other tools for knowledge exchange including training courses and workshops have been organized in China for participants from partner countries. A wide range of partners and stakeholders benefited from these exchanges, including farmers and key decision-makers supporting them.

In 2014, 31 Chinese experts began working in Uganda, supporting farmers, extension officers and government officials in adopting and adapting to a wide range of aquaculture techniques. Knowledge and techniques were shared, including: the nets application covering ponds to protect fish; fish feed preparation for fingerlings; the water quality control and the prevention of fish diseases.

The uptake of these practical technologies achieved significant results: fish fertilization rates increased from 26 percent to 81 percent; cat fish fingerlings' survival rates improved from 80 percent to 98 percent. Moreover, fish feed formulas for different fish growth stages were developed and improved, including the use of cassava residues. This resulted in an increased uptake of fish-farming and farmers' incomes grew.

### **Purchase from Africans for Africa – Family farmers supply nutritious meals for school children**

Brazil is lending support to the Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA) programme. PAA is based on the success of Brazilian local purchase schemes for school feeding and food assistance and is currently implemented by Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, the Niger and Senegal. School Feeding Programmes that directly purchase from smallholder farmers can provide important nourishment for children, enhance school attendance and enrolment, support family farmers' livelihoods and local food markets. The PAA Programme links smallholder agriculture with school feeding through local procurement. To date, more than 128 000 pupils in 420 schools have received school meals through the scheme, with 1 025 tonnes of food purchased locally. The productivity rates of more than 5 500 family farmers increased by an average of 114 percent, guaranteeing markets for an average of 37 percent of the food they produce. The SSC project, running from 2012 to 2016, actively contributes to achieving "Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025", FAO's African Regional Initiative.

### **Raising Fish in Dry Lands – Aquaculture Development in Namibia**

In 2011, an FAO-facilitated SSC exchange was launched to improve the aquaculture sector in Namibia through aquafeed production, species diversification and the development of aquaculture in dry lands. Viet Nam supplied three long-term experts and five technicians who were supported by funding from the Government of Spain. Early results show a substantial improvement in African catfish survival rates, by increasing feeding frequency and the use of live food and artificial feed. Success has also been recorded in the breeding and rearing of catfish as well as three-spotted tilapia. The exchange enabled the Department of Aquaculture (DoA) to identify and promote improved aquaculture practices and technologies at the national level, through effective extension services, which led to their uptake by the local fish farmers.

### **Namibia building optimum agriculture production**

In 2014, Namibia received USD 1.5 million from the Government of China to enhance agricultural production and nutrition security through improving the implementation of the Fourth National Development Plan and concerned agricultural policies in Namibia. Since then, significant numbers of agricultural demonstration projects have been flourishing. Family farmers and agricultural enterprises are seeing the direct results through hands-on training and on-farm demonstrations. Yields are reportedly improving significantly, particularly in areas such as watermelon grafting and tomato drip irrigation in addition to maize cultivation. Exchanges on veterinary policies are also

taking place. As a mark of progress, Namibian laboratory technicians and scientists are being trained to produce meat of a quality suitable for export to China, thereby promoting the country's agribusiness potential for future generations.

### **Coalition for Africa Rice Development (CARD) member countries vouch for reliable statistics on rice production**

Japan is providing support to enhance rice production in numerous African nations supporting two projects totalling USD 8.8 million enabling short-term knowledge exchanges between experts from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and member countries of the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) using technologies developed in Japan. A recently concluded project on rice and aquaculture successfully shared technical know-how with 29 African countries through 16 regional and national workshops led by over 50 experts from seven Asian countries. Moving forwards, the aim of the project is to improve capacity for timely collection of reliable statistics on rice for planted areas and yield with a view to reducing poverty and increasing food security through more evidence based agriculture. The project's statistical methods will be pre-tested to identify appropriate methods before rolling it out to Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal and Uganda. The total budget of the project is USD 2 500 000 and the duration is from 2013 to 2018. The SSC project contributes to achieving "Africa's Commitment to End Hunger by 2025", FAO's African Regional Initiative.

Further details are available on our website: <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/south-south-cooperation/en/>

## Pillar 2: Platforms for SSC knowledge networking (midstream)

### Strengthening Knowledge Platforms and Networks

Knowledge brokering is one of FAO's core comparative advantages, connecting knowledge providers with users, at all levels. Through this pillar, FAO facilitates the connection between 'demand' and 'supply' through strengthening knowledge platforms to share expertise, knowledge and agricultural development solutions, and also, at the request of countries, can accredit institutions as FAO Reference Centres. FAO plays the role of knowledge intermediation or brokering of SSC and TrC arrangements. A wide range of SSC providers are coming on board. The means to share information and network with people or institutions are multiple, including through dedicated Web sites, Web-based virtual learning tools, e-lists, and forums such as market places and Share Fairs.

### Key outputs

- existing SSC knowledge platforms identified, promoted and strengthened;
- FAO's online [SSC Gateway](#) developed.

### Scope of work

#### *Existing SSC knowledge platforms promoted and strengthened*

To fully leverage the power of SSC, platforms for collaboration have been identified that allow member countries and research for development (R4D) entities to tap into an unrestricted flow of knowledge at local, regional and global levels. FAO joins forces with other actors to revitalize and strengthen existing platforms and networks, whether SSC specific or related in terms of thematic or geographical focus.

Examples include:

- support the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo and other annual meetings among agencies, organized by the UNOSSC, and the forthcoming UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism, as well as regional networks, such as The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);

- support SSC related FAO-led platforms and networks, such as the Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP)<sup>10</sup> to address capacity gaps. There is prospect for effective partnership and synergies using the TAP facilitation mechanism, especially in the South.

#### *FAO's online SSC Gateway developed*

The [SSC Gateway](#) supports information sharing on the wide range of Southern institutions and expertise. It enables Southern countries to access information on best-practices in SSC, an inventory of Southern providers, including regional rosters of experts on an emergency or regular basis.

### Networking Southern Institutions

The SSC Gateway currently showcases institutions from Argentina, China, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Peru and Uruguay, and more countries are coming on board. Discussions are ongoing with over 20 countries, including Cameroon, Chile, Indonesia, Kenya, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Viet Nam, among others. The full-fledged version of FAO's SSC Gateway is released in 2016.



<sup>10</sup> TAP is a G20-led initiative established in 2012, based at FAO headquarter, to address innovation capacity gaps. Its three main elements – policy-dialogue space, marketplace and TAPipedia, match well with SSC Objectives 2 and 3. See <http://www.fao.org/nr/research-extension-systems/capacity-development/tropical-agriculture-platform/en/>

## Policy dialogue and learning exchanges: Conservation Agriculture – Sharing best practices to ensure increased crop production while safeguarding the environment in Southern Africa

As a result of SSC knowledge-sharing and policy dialogue, Conservation Agriculture technologies are being shared among the Southern African region. Conservation Agriculture farming practices help manage agro-ecosystems for improved and sustained productivity and security and are helping address the interlinked problems of food insecurity, degradation of natural resources and poverty.

Ninety-nine policy-makers, 151 farmers' unions and extension personnel, together with 28 parliamentarians participated in the regional Conservation Agriculture learning pathways. The South-South collaboration involved policy dialogue and study tours. These activities were facilitated by the Conservation Agriculture Regional Working Group, in which 20 Southern African countries were represented. Conservation Agriculture has been increasingly adopted by more than 460 000 farmers, leading to better and more stable crop yield. Farmers are better able to cope with in-season dry spells. Awareness and knowledge of Conservation Agriculture were improved among senior government extension officers, policy-makers and representatives of farmers' organizations. Five countries have developed national strategies, and Conservation Agriculture has been included in the National Agricultural Investment Plans in six of the participating countries.



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## Pillar 3: Upstream policy support for effective SSC

### Exchanging or Jointly Developing Policy

FAO engages in SSC and TrC at the highest policy level with governments and strategic partners, as an important pathway to achieve agricultural and rural development, and poverty and hunger reduction. The aim is to attain a favourable policy environment for SSC and TrC to enable countries of the global South to work together in support of common development objectives. There are increasing opportunities to share policy, lessons learned and best practices in one country that could be leveraged to bolster policy-making capacities in another. A means to this end includes the facilitation of high-level platforms and events, including parliamentary forums. FAO also supports the strengthening of institutional capacity of member countries to make evidence-based decisions in favour of SSC and generate national strategies while advising on appropriate operational units to oversee SSC.

FAO also acts as an advocate and knowledge broker in broader international processes to ensure that SSC and TrC are adequately featured in policy discussions and related outcomes. FAO regularly contributes to the global SSC and TrC discourse by sharing its experience gained over more than two decades, and in particular through guidance material and policy papers based on lessons learned.

### Key outputs:

- global policy awareness and advocacy for SSC strengthened;
- policy advice and support to member countries enhanced;
- SSC policy dialogue and exchange facilitated between countries.

### Scope of Work

#### *Global policy awareness and advocacy for SSC strengthened*

FAO provides the evidence-base for planning and decision-making with regard to SSC and TrC, which involves reviewing and assessing existing policies and practices and engaging in high-level advocacy.

### *SSC and TrC High-Level Events*

Recent events attended or led by FAO include High-Level Meetings of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation; FAO's Council Side Events on SSC; and the Global South-South Development Expos, the Moroccan International Conference on SSC which was attended by Ministers for Agriculture of over 20 African countries and China. More recently, the ACP SSC and TrC Symposium on "Women and Youth Empowerment through jobs and entrepreneurship".



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### *SSC Policy Advice*

FAO is in the process of supporting South Africa to develop a national SSC Strategy for Food Security and Agriculture, based on an SSC scoping exercise examining the extent to which South African institutions are already engaged in SSC.

### *Policy advice and support to member countries enhanced*

FAO provides advice on how to shape a conducive policy environment for SSC and TrC, supporting the development of national strategies for SSC, relevant units to oversee implementation and supports resource mobilization to enable exchanges.

### *SSC policy dialogue and exchange facilitated between countries*

In order to promote the sharing of policy information and its subsequent adaptation and adoption, FAO facilitates the short-term exchange of policy expertise and experience among countries in the South, particularly to enhance countries' uptake and role in SSC and TrC. In addition, high-level policy events are convened, facilitated or supported among Southern countries.

## *Policy dialogue: Women and Youth at the forefront of forum to promote integrated rural development through South-South and Triangular Cooperation*

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), FAO, the *Organisation internationale de la francophonie* (OIF), supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) held a symposium early 2016 pledging to build new partnerships to empower women and youth. The two-day event saw governments, civil society, private sector and development partners debate the key issues of jobs and entrepreneurship, with a special focus on how the mechanisms of South-South and Triangular Cooperation can help bring about change in developing countries across the ACP region and beyond. Participants examined key areas including the development of skills, enhancing institutional capacities, improving access to technology, land and efficient business services, with a specific focus on women and youth.

Development agencies and countries including Benin, Mali, Mozambique and Uganda introduced their initiatives and projects at the symposium, as a catalyst to discussions on how similar techniques can be introduced elsewhere in the world to help combat hunger and improve rural livelihoods. FAO presented the Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools. The project, which was launched in 2003, is now in place in over 20 countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East – providing support to over 25 000 young women and men. Food security in these countries has improved and rural poverty rates have dropped.

Groups at the symposium agreed on an action plan to ensure that other ACP countries benefit from the shared experiences and best practices to fulfil their targets in line with the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including two key objectives to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls, as well as to promote decent work and economic growth.

## Pillar 4. Creating an enabling environment for SSC – externally and internally

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Central to delivering on the three aforementioned SOs, is the need for strong institutional support for SSC, both within FAO and externally. Effective SSC and TrC requires building broader partnerships and strategic alliances, increasing visibility, enhancing technical capacities within FAO, mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluating, and resource mobilization. All of these approaches are pivotal to expanding SSC initiatives.

### Key outputs:

#### Internal:

- SSC and TrC mainstreamed as key delivery mechanisms across the SPs and in support of RI, CPFs and the United Nation Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs);
- technical SSC capacity enhanced at FAO headquarters and in DOs;
- monitoring and evaluation of SSC programmes strengthened.

#### External:

- partnerships and strategic alliances broadened and SSC visibility enhanced;

- adequate and sustainable resources mobilized.

### Scope of Work

#### A. Mainstreaming SSC in FAO's Work

The implementation of the SSC strategy is a corporate responsibility. It is not the sole responsibility of TCS and Regional SSC Officers, and instead relies on the combined effort of the various FAO departments and units. While TCS coordinates and facilitates its implementation, SSC is multidisciplinary, interdepartmental and cross-cutting in nature and requires joint ownership across the Organization.

#### *SSC mainstreamed as a key delivery mechanism across the SPs, RIs and within CPFs*

SSC is being mainstreamed into SPs and seed funding from the Regular Programme supports catalytic SSC initiatives. In this context, TCS jointly assists in identifying potential SSC partners and funding opportunities at global, regional and national level, ensuring an adequate needs assessment and quality formulation, as well as creating full awareness of each party's responsibilities and obligations.

#### *Technical capacity enhanced at FAO headquarters and in DOs*

In addition, TCS develops and oversees the delivery of the SSC Strategy through awareness briefings and trainings, tools and guidance material, making them available to a wide range of staff throughout FAO and externally, in order to enhance understanding and knowledge of SSC and relevant implementation modalities.

#### *Monitoring and evaluation of SSC programmes strengthened*

In general, monitoring and evaluation of SSC is undertaken in the context of FAO's broader corporate approach to reporting. Measuring the impact of SSC is no easy task, however, efforts are being made to assess long-term outcomes for targeted interventions promoted through SSC, tracking and reporting achievements, experiences and lessons learned. For this purpose TCS has developed a global database of FAO facilitated SSC initiatives, publicly accessible via its web site and searchable on an interactive [map](#). This is helping to highlight and monitor FAO's important contribution to SSC and TrC.

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## NEW TOOLS TO ENHANCE CAPACITIES IN SSC

TCS launched the Quick Guide to SSC and an e-learning which is widely accessible to all employees on [you@fao](mailto:you@fao). For MICs specifically, in their role of Southern providers, TCS is working to support FAORs foster dialogue with governments to develop national strategies for SSC, scoping the technical expertise the country can provide and, where possible, secure financial resources through national framework agreements/Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), for example, with China, Mexico and Morocco.

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## B. Strategic Partnership Building and Visibility

### *Partnerships and strategic alliances broadened and SSC visibility enhanced*

In line with FAO's core functions and building on the corporate partnership strategy, as well as related strategies for civil society, the private sector and for resource mobilization, FAO nurtures existing relationships with member countries and develops innovative partnerships to capitalize on respective comparative advantages. FAO engages in fostering broader partnerships with governments and UN agencies (particularly the Rome-based agencies and UNOSSC), as well as with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and regional organizations, foundations, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. Key institutions with regional and or global cooperation experience are being explored.<sup>11</sup>

In certain cases, FAO is not directly involved in the formal partnership, and instead purely assists in bringing partners,

<sup>11</sup> These include Universities, CGIAR Centres and other research for development (R4D) institutions. Partnership with the regional organisations such as NEPAD, African Union, APEC, ASEAN, ECO, ECOWAS, COMESA, FARA, FARNPAN, and important blocs like BRICS, ACP countries, etc.

bilateral, trilateral and multilateral institutions, together to achieve synergies. This includes, gathering data and intelligence, monitoring trends, anticipating opportunities and providing advisory services to Member Nations and non-State actors wishing to engage in SSC in food and agriculture. Partnership models, profiles and a database are being developed to efficiently track and follow-up.

TCS ensures that SSC's visibility is effectively promoted to reach targeted audiences, including member countries, financial investors and partners. This includes undertaking effective advocacy campaigns for SSC and TrC.

### *Adequate and sustainable resources mobilized*

Although there are vast global financial flows for SSC, especially those involving bilateral agreements, a limited and narrow funding base has previously affected FAO-facilitated SSC development, uptake and sustainability. FAO is consequently pursuing new prospects and innovative approaches to resource mobilization. Sourcing funds requires a joint effort, Organization-wide in the context of delivering on the SPs, RIs and on CPFs. Funding will need

to be sought from a number of different sources, and at all levels:

**A. Regular Programme:** supports a critical mass of TCS staff at headquarters and within regional offices to coordinate and facilitate SSC and TrC Organization-wide.<sup>12</sup> In promoting SSC as a delivery modality across FAO, this should result in higher budget allocations and expenditures by SOs and programme managers.<sup>13</sup>

This is particularly important for Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs), in which SSC expertise and networks could be preferentially used to develop capacities and provide specialized advice.

<sup>12</sup> Recommendation 9 of the UN Secretary-General's report of the Sixty-sixth Session on, "South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the United Nations System," asked each agency to consider earmarking at least 0.5 percent from its Regular Programme budget for the implementation of SSC.

<sup>13</sup> The SO teams offer an excellent opportunity for channeling the needs of SSC in support of the implementation of the Strategic Framework.

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## EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY FOR PARTNERS IN SSC

TCS continues to use and re-style a series of communication products, ranging from publication material to regularly-updated web pages and is currently building-up FAO SSC presence on social media platforms including Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. A number of explainer videos has been produced in-house, in which the concepts and targets of SSC and TrC are explored in a format suitable for publication online and intended for use at conferences both beyond and within FAO. New brochures and leaflets include an introductory guide to FAO's SSC Gateway platform. A file of nine fact-sheets and a brochure have been produced, profiling the Government of China's renewed commitment and financial contributions to SSC and the field activities which are directly linked to partnerships with China.

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## B. Extrabudgetary Resources:

extrabudgetary resources are sought in the context within which SSC activities will be implemented (at global, regional, and country level). In addition, the prospect of obtaining in-kind contributions is being perused (including human resources such as through secondment and UN Volunteers, interns).

In keeping with the theme of cooperation, FAO anticipates that each partner contributes financially to ensure the successful ownership and implementation of SSC initiatives. To this end, TCS supports outreach to potential resource partners to mobilize resources for SSC.<sup>14</sup> FAO is securing resources through multiple channels:

**Host country contribution:** governments contribute financially to the cost of implementing SSC in country by establishing **Unilateral Trust Funds (UTF)**.

- **provider country contribution:** countries providing technical assistance for SSC exchanges may also provide financial resources through the creation of **Government Cooperative Projects (GCPs)** and

**Trust Funds (TF), and through in-kind contributions**, including paying the home salaries of the experts and language training prior to deployment;

- **TrC:** traditional donors, emerging economies and multilateral organizations, facilitate SSC through the provision of resources to allow the exchange to happen. Some TrC partners also provide technical assistance where necessary.

## ANGOLA PAYS FOR BRAZILIAN KNOW-HOW

In 2013, FAO stepped in to accelerate Brazil's assistance to Angola's 'Reorganization of the Agrarian Research System Programme'. Legal and administrative hurdles which had delayed the initiation of the project for two years were solved by FAO putting forward a Tripartite Agreement within the framework of SSC. As a result the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) is providing technical assistance and short-term training to Angolan researchers, boosting veterinary and agricultural research capability in the country. Meanwhile, the Government of Angola has committed USD 2 million as a sign of its confidence in the project, having already provided USD 10 million to the African Solidarity Trust Fund earlier, as a mark of the country's growing engagement in the field of agriculture and food security.

## TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGE: THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO BENEFITING FROM CHINESE TECHNOLOGIES

In April 2016 FAO, China and the Democratic Republic of the Congo signed a two-year agreement worth almost USD 1.5 million aimed at increasing food and nutrition security in the African nation. The deal established a new SSC partnership to make Chinese technical advice and expertise available to the country's agriculture sector. It was developed via the FAO-China SSC Programme, which was created in 2009 and supports developing countries in building sustainable food systems and inclusive agricultural value chains. The new partnership will help the Democratic Republic of the Congo improve the sustainable management and use of these resources to reboot the agricultural sector and improve rural livelihoods. Five Chinese experts and eight technicians will be stationed in the country's capital, Kinshasa, and in the city of Lubumbashi, in the southeast for two years. The new FAO-China effort in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will not only help farmers to increase production, improve the quality of their produce, but also assist them in moving from a subsistence level to selling surplus at market.

<sup>14</sup> FAO's Guide to Resource Mobilization: [http://intranet.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/resource\\_mobilization/docs/RM\\_guidepdf.pdf](http://intranet.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/resource_mobilization/docs/RM_guidepdf.pdf)

# 03

## HOW TO ENGAGE IN SSC AND TRC AND A CALL FOR EXPANDED PARTNERSHIPS

As described, SSC and TrC is mainly about capacity development and bridging knowledge or technology gaps in countries, through sustainably enhancing capacities at a number of different levels (individual, organizational and enabling environment). SSC and TrC are based on the premise that although developing countries face many development challenges, they also possess numerous innovative solutions to effectively address them.

FAO has developed guidance on how to engage in SSC and TrC, whether from a host, provider or triangular partner perspective. This involves six steps, which are closely related to FAO's Project Cycle (see **Figure 3**):

1. Identify and make request/offer (scope the match between countries).
2. Formulate the SSC/TrC initiative (technical scope, SSC modalities of exchange etc.).
3. Reach an SSC/TrC agreement (make the match between countries).
4. Implement the SSC/TrC initiative.
5. Monitor and evaluate.
6. Communicate results.

FIGURE 3. KEY STEPS





Given that SSC and TrC involve a wide range of development solutions and modalities for exchange, it is important that the host country carefully specifies the exact needs and that these are matched with a specific provider and their specific offer (and possibly a triangular partner). Furthermore, options for funding the exchange need to be looked into right from the start, as financial resources can often be the 'make or break' of the initiative.

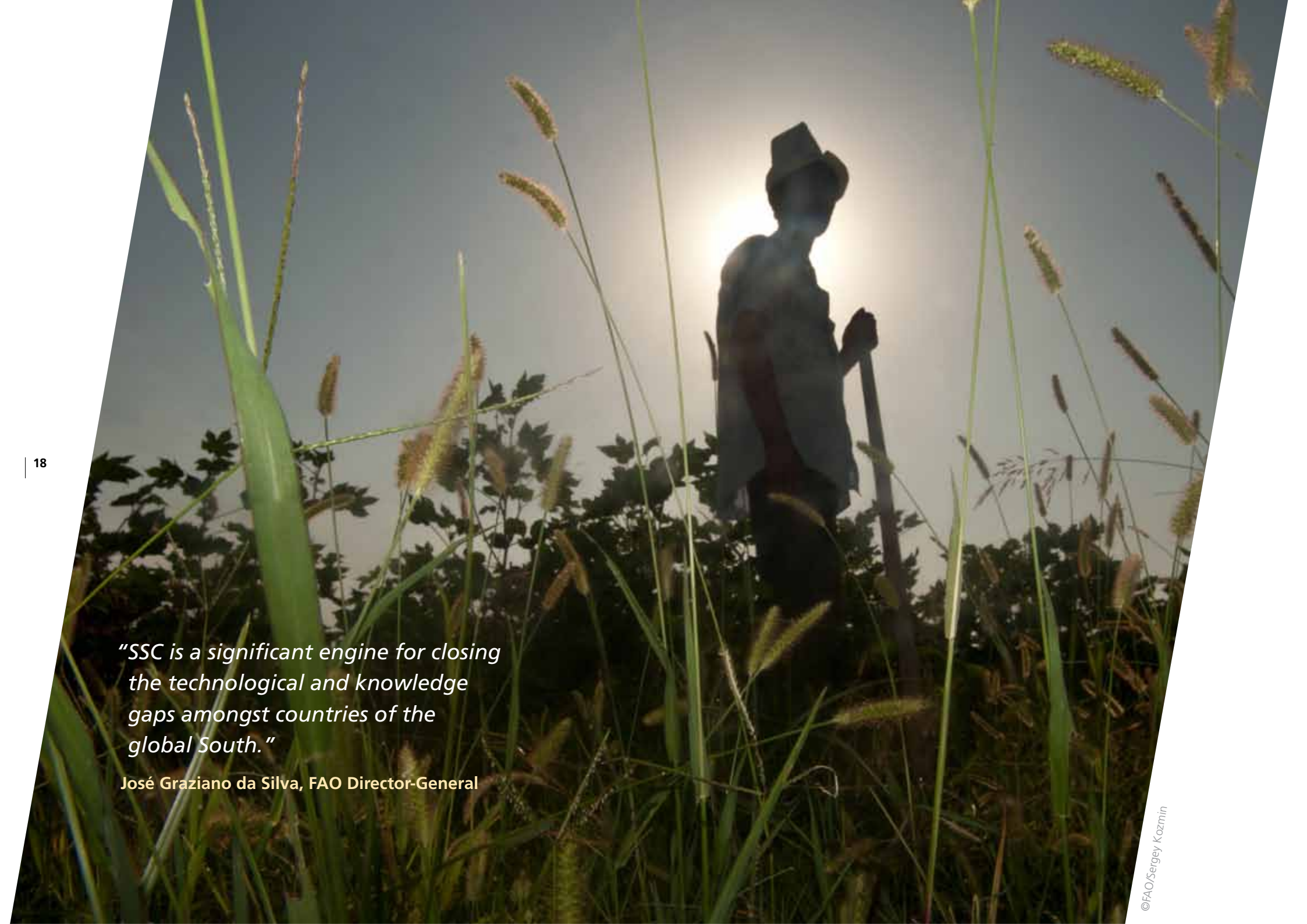
Since SSC is country-driven, a key juncture at which SSC and TrC should be considered is during CPF formulation and review. During CPF design, dialogue with the government provides an important opportunity to discuss country needs that could be met through SSC and TrC as well as what the country may offer as a provider.

In light of the ever increasing demands for SSC and TrC, FAO invites a wide range of partners to join hands in broadening knowledge-sharing and capacity development through SSC. Governments, academic institutions, Civil Society and the Private Sector have a role to play and can all contribute to mutual learning by:

- **providing technical expertise**, though relevant government ministries and institutions. FAO invites governments to indicate institutions of excellence on the SSC Gateway and enter into a partnership agreement to share expertise to build capacities in a wide range of technical areas related to agriculture and food security;
- **expressing needs** as to which kind of technical support and know-how are required and from where;
- **facilitating SSC exchanges** to jointly meet capacity needs through and ensure a high quality and standard, building on lessons learned;
- **providing financial resources** to enable the SSC knowledge sharing to happen, including funds for formulation, implementation and logistical support.

FAO stands ready to facilitate and scale-up SSC development solutions to achieve food security, poverty reduction and sustainable development so that no country is left behind in the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





*“SSC is a significant engine for closing the technological and knowledge gaps amongst countries of the global South.”*

**José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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[www.fao.org/partnerships/south-south-cooperation](http://www.fao.org/partnerships/south-south-cooperation)

