



South-South Quarterly Newsletter

December 2022

“The United Nations will continue to champion South-South and Triangular Cooperation through its revitalized UN development system, to support country-led programmes and promote regional efforts that enhance knowledge sharing and collaboration.”

*Ms. Amina J. Mohammed,
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations*

*Remarks at G20 Leaders' Summit Side Event “Enabling Inclusive Development through South-South and Triangular Cooperation”
15 November 2022*

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WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

The Rome Based Agencies, JICA, and IFNA explore SSTC collaboration on Home Grown School Feeding as Follow-Up to the Global South-South Development Expo

In November 2022, the Directors for SSTC from the Rome Based Agencies - FAO, IFAD and WFP - met in Rome with representatives from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Initiative for Food Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA).

The participants discussed the new [RBA joint programme on South-South and Triangular Cooperation \(SSTC\) in Home-Grown School Feeding \(HGSF\)](#), presented during [the Global South-South Development \(GSSD\) 2022 Expo](#) in Bangkok in September.

The RBA joint summary of the event is accessible [here](#).

During the meeting, participants discussed the multi-dimensional benefits of national school meal programmes and the unique opportunity the three agencies have to contribute to building resilience in the face of the emerging global food crisis.

Key messages emerging from the discussion:

- HGSF programmes have multi-dimensional benefits, and Japan plays a role of key supporter of the [Global School Meals Coalition](#) based on its many good practices that can be shared with other countries.

- HGSF is a strategic priority for IFNA, which is increasing its efforts to support African countries, such as Nigeria and Botswana to expand their national HGSF programmes.
- Japan and the RBA share a strong political alignment on HGSF in the context of the current food crisis as HGSF enables the integration of resilience building and development work into emergency response.
- The SSTC collaboration with the RBA on HGSF provides Japan with a concrete opportunity to demonstrate its global leadership in the food crisis response.

In December the SSTC Unit in PRO attended the Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and triangular cooperation coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

The meeting provided an update on the country level and regional SSTC guidelines, framework for SSC measurement, the preparations for the 21th High-Level Committee on SSC in 2023 (from 30th May to 2nd June) and the LDC5 Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Doha in 7 March 2023.



Update: Second PRO-CoE Directors dialogue

In September, the second dialogue meeting between the director of the WFP HQ Programme Division (PRO) and the leadership of the WFP Centres of Excellence (CoE) took place, following the first meeting held in May.

The directors' discussion focused on:

1. Progress on key corporate processes in SSTC;
2. Key take-aways from GSSD Expo 2022 - in which PRO and the 3 CoEs were engaged - and joint follow-up actions;
3. Challenges and opportunities to better reflect the work of provider countries and CoEs in corporate reporting mechanisms; and
4. Priority areas for PRO-CoEs collaboration on SSTC until the end of 2022.

Some key action points include:

- China CoE and CERFAM to further explore synergies and alignment between their initiatives on China - Africa food value chains with corporate priorities and guidance on strengthening local value chains.
- PRO to look into mobilizing technical and financial support of potential provider countries (e.g., Brazil). In addition, PRO will find complementarities with ongoing initiatives led by CoEs as next steps regarding the RBA SSTC joint programme on HGSF.

- PRO and CoEs to further explore how to engage the private sector and IFIs to support WFP's SSTC work.
- PRO and CoEs to strengthen evidence generation on SSTC, particularly through the SSTC Global Task Force's Workstream 2 chaired by CERFAM and leverage collaboration with UNOSSC in this area.
- CoEs as next steps regarding RBA SSTC joint programme on HGSF.



WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

Takeaways from the SSTC Corporate Survey and the Informal Update with the Executive Board

Since July 2022, the SSTC unit has been conducting consultations to inform the update of [WFP's SSTC Policy](#).

By mid-October, more than 300+ staff members across COs, RBx, CoEs, and HQ technical divisions participated the first-ever corporate survey on SSTC.

Some key messages from consulted stakeholders include:

- There is a strong demand to expand WFP's support to SSTC among countries, based on WFP's comparative advantages.
- The potential of SSTC is yet to be fully explored as a driving force for capacity strengthening and partnerships throughout WFP's thematic agendas.
- COs are at the forefront of engaging with national and local stakeholders around South-South exchanges but often have limited access to high-quality solutions when most needed.
- Corporate stakeholders call for better quality resources which enable COs to engage with governments in the long-term and follow through from piloting to scaling up good practices and measuring their impact.

On 25th November WFP provided its Executive Board (EB) members an update on WFP's Policy Update on SSTC.

During the consultation, the SSTC Unit presented an update on the SSTC policy enabling a first exchange on the policy process.

Launching the session, Valerie Guarnieri, Deputy Executive Director, highlighted many countries of the global south have a wealth of knowledge they can share with others, to contribute to their systems strengthening.

In view of this, there is a need for WFP to embrace the role of a dynamic SSTC actor, particularly for SDG 2.

David Kaatrud, Director of PRO, further underlined the contribution of SSTC to the current global challenges and its role in the international development architecture.

There is increasing demand from the Global South for more SSTC engagement and ongoing consultations with WFP staff show a strong commitment of the organization to capitalize on the work done so far and expand its focus.

The SSTC Unit presented three levels of ambition which will articulate the SSTC Policy Update:

1. Further consolidating what WFP does best, by scaling up areas of strength and innovation to become even more effective;
2. Exploring other areas of demand particularly based on the requests from developing countries; and
3. Delimiting the engagement in SSTC by clarifying areas which WFP will not engage in.

High-level representatives from Morocco, Argentina, China, Brazil, and Australia participated in the discussion. They welcomed the quality and relevance of the content shared and stressing the role of the policy for WFP's engagement with the Global South.

As next steps, the EB agreed to meet again in January to discuss the zero draft of the policy update.



Key messages from the SSTC Corporate Survey

SSTC Unit Holds Corporate Results Framework SSTC Indicator Webinar

In November, the PRO-T SSTC Unit organized in collaboration with the Monitoring Unit (CPPM) a webinar on the SSTC indicators and marker included in the new Corporate Results Framework (CRF) 2022-2025.

The webinar aimed to familiarize Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and SSTC focal points in COs, RBx, HQ technical units and CoEs with the indicators' methodologies and their relevance to enhance corporate reporting on SSTC.

The webinar was part of the CPPM-led series of CRF indicator webinars.

During the webinar, the SSTC Unit provided an overview of the M&E work done so far on SSTC in WFP with the related challenges.

Reference was made to SSTC in the wider UN system and the recommendations of the SSTC Policy Evaluation that informed the development of new SSTC indicators and marker.

The webinar then focused on presenting the revised methodology of the SSTC outcome indicator and the new SSTC output indicator and SSTC marker.

Participants engaged in a lively discussion on:

- How to reflect SSTC in the 2G CSPs, including through the recently developed [guidance](#) on this topic and [the South-South Reviews \(SSR\)](#). The SSR methodology was developed by the SSTC Unit to allow COs to capture the specific interests of host governments in engaging in SSTC and identify short- to mid-term SSTC opportunities

to be included in the CSP under the relevant Strategic Outcome.

- The need to further develop corporate criteria to define and capture southern solutions in relation to SSTC output indicator.
- Estimating the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries of SSTC initiatives at the outcome level results.
- How to report on the contribution of a South-South exchanges to outcome level results.

As next steps, SSTC Unit offered their availability to deliver more webinars to present and clarify further the CRF SSTC indicators and marker upon demand of interested RBx and COs.

For more information, please see here the [recording](#), the [presentation](#) and the [NER](#) of the webinar.



WFP's Global Work on South-South Cooperation

SSTC News: SSTC Champion Card Series and the South-South Match.com Knowledge Platform

The SSTC Unit has been exploring innovative approaches to give visibility to SSTC focal points and SSTC opportunities from the Global South.

The unit has developed two initiatives – [the SSTC Champion Card Series](#) and the South-South Match.com knowledge platform to do this.

The SSTC Champion Card Series recognizes efforts made by focal points in championing SSTC in the Global South.

The aim is to highlight focal points in different regions and invite colleagues to put their names as country focal points for a global SSTC contact list which will be reflected across SSTC channels (e.g., [SSTC Resource Centre](#), [SSTC Manual](#), South-South Match.com).

South-South Match.com - to be officially launched soon - developed by the SSTC Unit provides an overview of demands and offers in SSTC from the Global South.

This platform is designed to help WFP Country Offices (COs) and Regional Bureaux (RBx) find the right solution and partner for their host governments to leverage SSTC. It provides opportunities across 5 thematic areas: Nutrition, School Feeding, Social Protection, Smallholder Farmers, and Emergency Preparedness & Response.

Keep up to date on all SSTC activities and the latest news by exploring [the SSTC WFPGo page](#), [the SSTC Yammer Channel](#), and the SSTC Resource Centre.



I think SSTC is an opportunity for countries not only to **learn** but also to **share their best practices**. I believe, the **equality** of this process is what makes **SSTC important** for the countries of the Global South.

SHARON FREITAS
Programme Policy Officer in Brazil CoE
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WHAT GOOD PRACTICES HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED IN YOUR COE?
In 2014 we welcomed three countries: Togo, Benin and Burundi, for a two-week **study visit** in Brazil. The support started from the **Brazil CoE** and the relative **COs**, now the **COs lead the work** together with **CERFAM**.
Now **Burundi** and **Benin** are helping each other to **resolve their challenges** together. They are leveraging SSTC **independently** on their own as a **concrete result of WFP's SSTC efforts**.

WHAT CHALLENGES DOES BRAZIL COE FACE AND HOW CAN SSTC ADDRESS THEM?
There is **hunger, poverty, and other problems** in the countries of the Global South that can take years to solve, but these countries are **seeking ways prevent, adapt and mitigate**. Although we have faced many challenges these past few years, we did not lose the perception of how **important it is to continue the fight for zero hunger**.
SSTC has a big influence on how people **share their solutions** and **support** each other and is being increasingly leveraged to address global challenges.

[SSTC Champion Card](#)

WFP's SSTC Efforts Highlighted in the Secretary-General Report on SSTC and Asian Journal of Peacebuilding

In 2022, [the Secretary General Report on the state of SSTC](#) and [the Asian Journal of Peacebuilding](#) highlighted WFP's efforts in mainstreaming SSTC.

The Secretary-General report on the state of SSTC highlights the follow-up to the second High-level United Nations Conference on SSTC.

Particularly, the numerous initiatives undertaken by the UN development system in support of SSTC for sustainable development in 2021 and the intensified search for multilateral solutions to global crises advance the 2030 Agenda.

The report referred to the WFP's SSTC work 9 times highlighting that all of the WFP Country Strategic Plans (CSPs) approved in 2019 reflect SSTC as key engagement modalities.

It also acknowledged the SSTC exchanges brokered in 18 countries across all regions through [the WFP COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund](#) and WFP's network of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Brazil, China and Côte d'Ivoire, among other achievements.

In addition, Sebastian Haug, a researcher at the German Development Institute (DIE) and Ernst Mach Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna, published an article in the Asian Journal of Peacebuilding Vol. 10 No. 1 (2022).

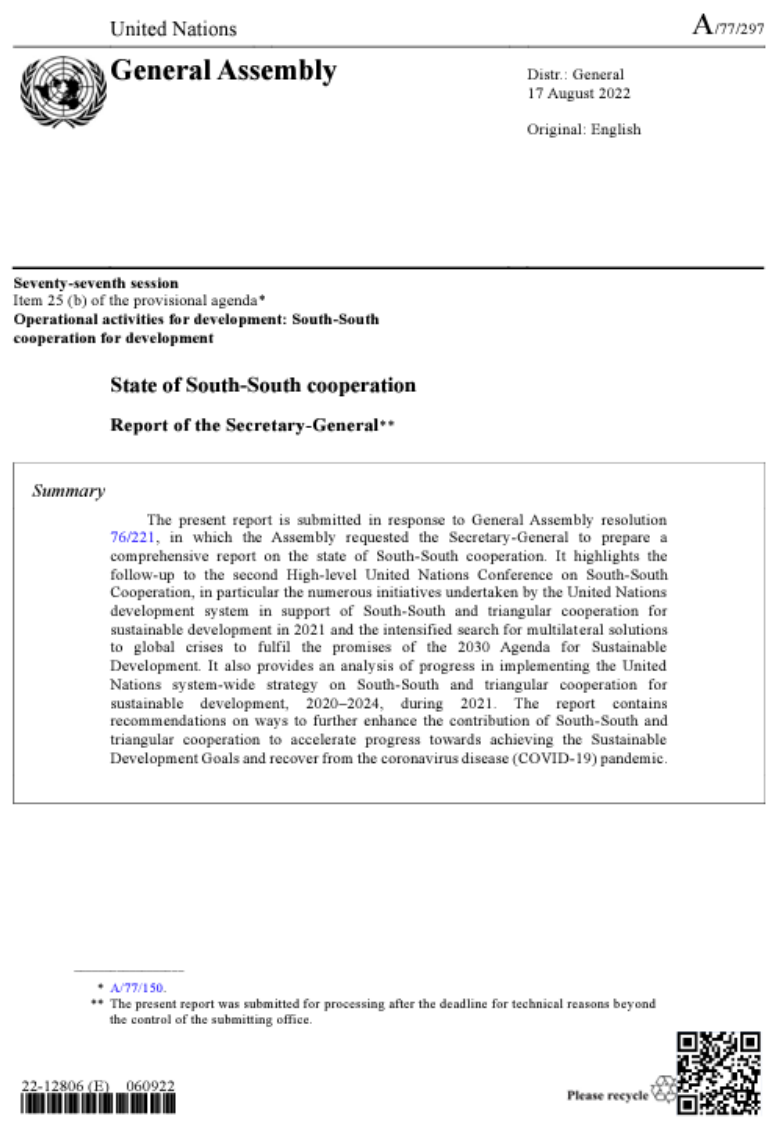
The article analyses organizational efforts over the last two decades to integrate SSTC support into institutional processes across the UN development system.

The work centres around a scorecard of fifteen UN entities that maps the levels and contours of their organizational focus on SSTC.


Using the scorecard methodology, the researcher awarded the highest 12 scores to WFP as well as five other UN organizations marked under a tentative label of a Champion.

The article also emphasized that the RBAs working on issues related to nutrition and agriculture have been particularly prominent supporters of the SSTC agenda.

As demand grows for SSTC, the SSTC Unit will continue to aim for increased visibility and awareness for the efforts done at WFP to leverage SSTC and innovative solutions to reach the most vulnerable on the ground.



United Nations A/77/297

 **General Assembly** Distr.: General
17 August 2022
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Seventy-seventh session
Item 25 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

State of South-South cooperation
Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 76/221, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation. It highlights the follow-up to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, in particular the numerous initiatives undertaken by the United Nations development system in support of South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development in 2021 and the intensified search for multilateral solutions to global crises to fulfil the promises of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also provides an analysis of progress in implementing the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development, 2020–2024, during 2021. The report contains recommendations on ways to further enhance the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and recover from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

* A/77/150.
** The present report was submitted for processing after the deadline for technical reasons beyond the control of the submitting office.

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[The Secretary General Report on the state of SSTC](#)

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

WFP China Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China CoE)

WFP China CoE Jointly Organizes a Seminar on Post-harvest Loss Management for National Food Security

In November, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of China, WFP China CoE and CERFAM in collaboration with the Henan University of Technology (HAUT) organized a seminar on "Post-harvest Loss Management (PHLM) for National Food Security — A SSTC Policy Dialogue on Food Systems Transformation."

The seminar discussed the role of SSTC in strengthening national grain reserve systems and digitalized technologies for food systems transformation to advance country-led progress toward effective food systems.

A total of 303 participants from 31 countries attended the seminar remotely and in-person.

David Kaatrud, Director of PRO expressed his appreciation of WFP's partnership with China and mentioned that WFP has been increasingly leveraging SSTC to complement its work in PHLM.

This is in view of SSTC's untapped potential for facilitating innovative solutions and good practices that can be used to support food systems transformations.

During the seminar, WFP China CoE signed an MoU with HAUT on establishing the partnership and the guidance framework on SSTC, with a focus on PHLM & Food Systems.

WFP China CoE highlighted its commitment to working with all partners for global food security and poverty reduction.



Photo: WFP/China CoE

WFP China CoE Jointly Organizes Workshop on Climate Smart Mechanization for Transforming Agriculture

In September, WFP China CoE jointly organized a virtual workshop on Climate Smart Mechanization for Transforming Agriculture in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas.

The co-organizers included the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Administrative Committee of Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Industry Demonstration Zone of China, as well as the International Poverty Reduction Centre of China.

The event aimed to enhance regional cooperation in tackling climate vulnerability through knowledge exchanges and knowledge management.

The goal was to strengthen resilience of farmers to the climate crisis and support mechanization of dryland agriculture.

The workshop provided a platform to address climate challenges and food insecurity in arid and semi-arid areas such as Central Asia.

Including, how innovative agricultural technologies applied in agricultural machinery can build resilience and support transformation in the agricultural sector for vulnerable rural communities.

Participants counted with 129 representatives from more than 30 countries, including experts in the field of climate-smart mechanization, research institutes and international organizations.

As an important outcome of the workshop, ESCAP, WFP China CoE and the Administrative Committee of Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Industry Demonstration Zone of China reached consensus on the extension of their partnership framework.

The aim of the partnership framework is to share knowledge and expertise on innovative and sustainable agricultural mechanization technology and practices with countries of the Global South.



Ghana Co-Organizes a Workshop on Smallholder Market Access with WFP China CoE

In October, the Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX) and National Food Buffer Stock Company co-organized a workshop with WFP Ghana CO and WFP China CoE, on Innovative Smallholder Market Access. This is a part of capacity building activities under SSTC Country Pilot Project in Ghana funded by MARA.

The workshop aimed to share China's innovative model and good practices to support smallholders' grain storage and processing and to improve smallholder market access and resilience against market risks.

The Deputy Director of Ghana CO noted that the smallholders' value chain has been facing multiple challenges (e.g., insufficient agricultural inputs, severe post-harvest losses, etc). In addition, Ghana is seeking to strengthen its capacity building and create more local investment opportunities in agricultural and rural areas to achieve the SDGs.

Another workshop on Digitalized Smallholder Market Access will be held late December.

The workshop aims to share China's experience on grain value chain digitalization to strengthen smallholders' market access, e-trading platforms and digitalized applications.

Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) Against Hunger in Brazil

WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil Conducts Virtual Exchanges on School Feeding Programmes with Portuguese-Speaking Countries

In August and November, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the National Fund for Education Development (FNDE), WFP Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) participated in [a series of virtual exchanges](#). The exchanges were organized by WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil (WFP CoE Brazil).

The exchanges included school feeding managers and staff from WFP COs in Angola, Timor-Leste, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Brazil.

The online dialogues aimed at sharing best practices in school feeding programme implementation, with a focus on nutrition and HGSF.

The objective of the events was to bring together UN agencies, researchers, and third-sector organizations to share knowledge, support the development of strategies to re-establish and improve school feeding programmes.

The participants also discussed best practices in SSTC within the community of Portuguese-speaking countries.

Participants shared common challenges and good practices that could be adapted in their countries.

This included implementation strategies for menu prepara-

tion, programme financing and monitoring, regulation of purchases from smallholder farmers, creation of community gardens and use of new technologies for payments.

This virtual exchange was a first step in establishing working mechanisms between the Brazil-WFP partnership and the community of Portuguese-speaking countries, as well as bilateral dialogue between participating countries.

A follow-up event on monitoring and evaluation strategies in school feeding is planned for 2023, as well as further targeted exchanges of good practices.



WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil Hosted a Side-Event for 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security on Virtual Study Visit Support

In October, the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC), WFP CoE Brazil, in collaboration with FAO, organized a side event at the 50th Session of the [Committee on World Food Security \(CFS\) 2022](#).

The CFS is an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition.

Using a multi-stakeholder approach the CFS develops and endorses policy recommendations and guidance on a wide range of food security and nutrition topics.

The session showcased the ["Virtual Study Visit"](#), an innovative solution developed by Brazil and WFP. The objective was to increase access to Brazilian expertise on school feeding through digital technologies and help countries from the Global South improve their national school feeding programmes.

The session also highlighted the collaboration between FAO and WFP CoE Brazil to digitally collect evidence, share best practices, produce training materials and provide technical support. With a focus on improving HGSF programmes through a Sustainable Food Value Chain for Nutrition approach.

The event counted with participants from Angola, Brazilian Fund for Education Development, Brazilian Cooperation Agency, FAO, WFP Lesotho CO and WFP CoE Brazil.

It marked the official launch of the joint initiative between WFP CoE Brazil and FAO, including a series of online events on linking public procurement from smallholder farmers to school feeding programmes.

Learn more about the event [here](#).



CFS
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WORLD FOOD
SECURITY



CFS 50
10-13 October 2022



**SIDE
EVENT**

Virtual Exchanges

Digital South-South Triangular Cooperation for Home-Grown School Feeding

Join Here

October 12th 2022

18:30 – 19:45 (GMT+2)

Speakers:

- World Food Programme (WFP)
- WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil
- WFP Lesotho
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Brazilian Cooperation Agency
- National Fund for Education Development – Brazil
- Government of Angola

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Update from WFP's Network of Centres of Excellence

WFP Regional Centre of Excellence Based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM)

CERFAM's Participation at the Global South-South Development Expo 2022 Highlighting Leveraging SSTC to Foster Learning and Knowledge Sharing in Africa

In September, during [the Global South-South Development \(GSSD\) Expo 2022](#), CERFAM, hosted the side event, "South-South dialogues and learnings in Africa: powerful strategy and tools to improve food security and nutrition."

Key partners and more than 20 government officials contributed to the exchanges and presented their initiatives in Africa. Some participants included, the African Union Commission, FAO, the UNOSSC, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP.

The aim of the event was to raise awareness among participants of the benefits and importance of South-South exchanges and their ability to inform efficient design and implementation of national policies and programmes. Including, knowledge management through documentation and dissemination of good practices.

A useful tool for this is [CERFAM's digital knowledge exchange platform \(KEPT\)](#), which has already 13 good practices documented and 10 under analysis from more than 20 different countries.

A key takeaway included that Africa has a wide range of good practices, innovations, and skills to address the challenges of hunger and malnutrition.

It was acknowledged that these good practices need to be identified, documented, and disseminated, through SSTC and collaborative actions with all stakeholders to foster transformation and advance the SDGs and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

CERFAM is updating KEPT's functionalities for 2023, establishing a partnership with a research institute to expand the repository of good practices for Africa and strengthening collaboration with the RBA on knowledge management.

China-Africa Collaboration to Foster Knowledge Sharing and Good Practice Dissemination to Improve Rice Value Chains

In September, the Government of China, WFP China CoE, and CERFAM organized a series of initiatives to foster knowledge exchanges between African stakeholders on rice value chain improvement.

One of the initiatives was a China-Africa rice value chain seminar. The seminar provided a platform for both China and Africa stakeholders to exchange knowledge, technologies, and insights on solutions and pathways to enhance the rice value chain, focusing on rice processing, storage, and quality control.

Through SSTC dialogue, the seminar enabled African countries to learn from similar/local contexts in food security and agricultural development, as well as China's expertise in innovative solutions and good practices in rice value chain development.

A total of 160 participants from 33 countries, including Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya joined the seminar online.

The China-Africa collaboration was also highlighted at a side event during [the GSSD Expo 2022](#). The side event showcased the results of the rice value chain improvement project in Cote d'Ivoire, managed by the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, Chinese institutes, CERFAM and WFP China CoE.

The collaboration aimed at improving living conditions of rice smallholder farmers in Cote d'Ivoire by providing technical support to strengthen rice value chains and helping to enhance the resilience of vulnerable groups, especially women.

These two initiatives demonstrate that SSTC can play an important role in helping countries to pursue successful national food systems transformation and to actively engage in innovative partnerships.

As next steps, CERFAM in collaboration with WFP China CoE and the Gates Foundation in China will continue the initiatives in Cote d'Ivoire while expanding the support to Guinea in 2023, planned under the CERFAM and WFP China CoE workplan for 2023.



Photo: WFP/CERFAM

Strengthening Cameroon's Capacity on SSTC Initiatives and Home-Grown School Feeding

In October, within the framework of SSTC, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Education of Cameroon in collaboration with WFP Cote d'Ivoire CO hosted CERFAM for a scoping mission.

The mission aimed at supporting the finalization of Cameroon's SSTC strategy in food security and nutrition and capacity strengthening framework development for a national HGSF programme.

CERFAM worked closely with government officials and WFP experts to share regional good practices, the methodology for documenting good practices, and technical advice on school feeding and agricultural value chains.

In addition, CERFAM is providing guidance on how to document initiatives and share successful practices from Africa in pre-identified areas.

As part of Cameroon's SSTC strategy, countries have been selected for knowledge exchanges to respond to government and WFP CO demands to scale-up HGSF pilots, improve value

chains and strengthen linkages between school feeding and social protection.

In view of this, exchanges on good practices and lessons learned are planned for the beginning of 2023.

Just as an example, peer learning exchanges are in the pipeline between Cote d'Ivoire, Brazil and Benin. Visits to Ghana and Egypt have already taken place.

In addition, a matrix informing main programmatic gaps was prepared and will guide the implementation of the strategy.

As next steps, CERFAM in collaboration with WFP Cameroon CO will continue to provide support to the Government on technical assistance needs identified for agricultural value chain transformation, social protection and HGSF.

Particular attention will be given to developing a work plan for the implementation of SSTC strategy, reviewing the school feeding policy and documenting the HGSF pilots for potential scale up.

Regional Outlook: Latin America and the Caribbean

Building Sustainable, Resilient and Nutritious Agri-food Systems in Ecuador

Since 2019, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) in Ecuador and WFP Ecuador have been working on strengthening technical capacities of smallholder farmers for resilient and sustainable production. The project is also supported by with the support of the WFP China CoE and MARA.

This SSTC field pilot project leverages the rice-duck methodology from Chinese experts, optimizes production costs and reduces the use of chemicals for weed cultivation used to feed ducks.

The rice-duck methodology refers to the form of cultivation. This includes, the planting of rice combined with the growth of ducks, pest control and more, for which ducks are used to eat pests reducing the use of chemicals in rice cultivation.

The rice-duck methodology promotes the production and consumption of healthy and sustainable products and supports smallholder farmers' direct access to local markets.

The project aims to provide access to better quality foods, supports the generation of additional income for families and endeavours to strengthen the leadership role of rural women in the development of public policies for farmers.

This initiative brought together WFP with government actors, such as MAG, National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP), and local governments, academy, producers and others in joint and coordinated work in Ecuador.

During the months of October and November in the province of Loja, local producers managed to sell 55 tons of agro-ecological rice, valued at more than USD 46,000, and plan to scale up to new markets.

To date, 2,689 direct beneficiaries have been covered. 239 government technicians have been trained, 20 direct demonstration plots, 10 replicas of self-managed plots with the expertise shared by WFP and 4 research plots with INIAP (winter and summer cycle).

Next year, with the support of Chinese experts, Ecuador is planning to strengthen its e-commerce.

Additionally, by 2023, the entire process will be systematized, as well as good practices and lessons learned. Cultivation guides will be prepared.

The rice-duck farming model will be consolidated as a model of a sustainable rice-duck agri-food system.



Photo: WFP/RBP

Haiti and Benin Exchange Best Practices in School Feeding

In October, the Government of Benin in collaboration with the Global Child Nutrition Foundation, Catholic Relief Services, and WFP hosted the [23rd Forum on School Feeding of the Global Child Nutrition Foundation](#) (GCNF).

Participants counted with 244 representatives from 44 countries.

During the forum, Benin and Haiti exchanged knowledge on learning and sharing of best practices and programmes in the area of agricultural production and the design, implementation, and sustainability of school feeding programmes.

The forum enabled the Haitian delegation to review the mechanisms and processes of school feeding programmes in Benin. In addition, the delegation shared with the Benin Minister of Primary Education, and other school feeding officials in Benin, the ongoing improvements to Haiti's National School Lunch Programme (PNCS).

The key takeaways of the Haiti-Benin exchanges were the following:

1. Haiti's school feeding programme is well advanced in view of having an institutional organization (e.g., the Ministry of Education) leading the programme;
2. The commitment and coordination of the school feeding programme among high-level institutions, as well as

political stability, road infrastructure and security are essential for the success of the programme;

3. The effective involvement of the community is a major asset for school feeding programmes.

Next steps included the need for:

1. Stronger commitment from the high-level authorities to involve ministries and other offices to achieve collaborative and cohesive activities;
2. An awareness campaign on the importance of school canteens in the community and promoting community involvement;
3. Advocacy on the importance of food fortification;
4. Strengthening the PNCS staff capacity in monitoring and evaluation, as well as the capacity of companies, associations, cooperatives, and local producers involved in feeding programmes; and
5. Strengthening the collaboration between the Government of Benin and WFP for advancing school feeding in Haiti.

WFP Haiti CO and WFP Benin CO are now jointly drafting a post mission action plan between the governments of their respective countries to build on the key takeaways and elicit concrete action.

Regional Outlook: Africa and Middle East

Democratic Republic of Congo Conducted an Exchange Visit to Burundi to Learn about Post-harvest Management and Commercialization Techniques

In October, representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), WFP DRC and cooperating partner APETAMACO conducted a peer learning visit to Burundi.

The aim of the visit was to learn from Burundian cooperatives on post-harvest management and marketing activities of agricultural products.

12 representatives of six agricultural cooperatives, including 12,476 smallholder farmers, learned best practices of post-harvest management and commercialization activities from agricultural cooperatives supported by WFP Burundi CO.

Participants visited school canteens in Burundi to provide WFP DRC CO with practical examples of Burundi's school feeding programme and how the provision of food in schools is linked to smallholder cooperatives and local communities.

In addition, participants discussed insights on how Burundi implements their school feeding programme.

Some key takeaways of the mission include the need for:

1. Government buy-in for the management of agricultural cooperatives,
2. Tax reduction on the activities of cooperatives,
3. Improved access to legal documents to facilitate transactions, and
4. Close monitoring of agricultural product costs on the market by authorities.

Next steps include:

- Completing the process of the legalization of cooperatives enabling them to conduct business,
- Piloting some of the identified good practices in the activities of cooperative in DRC (e.g. access to agricultural credit via banks),
- Replicate WFP Burundi CO's energy-efficient stove model in primary schools assisted by the school feeding programme in DRC.



Photo: WFP/ RBJ

Leveraging India's Expertise in Millet Mainstreaming in Asia and Africa

In July, the Government of India in collaboration with WFP India CO launched the "the Mapping & Exchange of Good Practices (MEGP) Initiative", in preparation for the 2023 International Year of Millets.

As part of this initiative, in September, WFP India CO together with the SSTC Unit hosted a webinar on the MEGP Initiative for Millet Mainstreaming in Asian and African countries.

The objective of the webinar was to exchange knowledge on mainstreaming millets as a climate resilient and nutritious crop and facilitate informed decisions to scale-up/replicate this initiative.

The webinar mapped the food value chain from production to consumption and participants exchanged experiences for promoting millets in view of its environmental and nutritional benefits.

During the webinar, India shared lessons learned and expressed readiness to share their knowledge with other countries of the Global South.

The Government of India requested all WFP COs to encourage their partners to submit good practices on [the MEGP platform](#).

They also highlighted their willingness to engage in more knowledge sharing exchanges to address challenges and ways to scale up the MEGP initiative in collaboration with WFP.

A key takeaway from the webinar was that millets are important for achieving food security and promoting resilient food systems, diversifying diets and creating health benefits for communities, particularly, school children.

A detailed framework of millet value-chain and mainstreaming criteria used in the MEGP initiative was informed by the webinar.



Photo: WFP/India

Regional Outlook: Asia and the Pacific (RBB)

Cambodian Government Conducts Knowledge Exchange with Thailand to Learn about the School Lunch Programme

In November, Thailand's Ministries of Education and Public Health and WFP RB Bangkok (RBB) welcomed 21 delegates from Cambodia for a study visit to learn about Thailand's School Lunch Programme.

The Cambodian delegation included representatives from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), the National Social Protection Council, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and WFP Cambodia CO.

The visit aimed to foster sharing of experiences, knowledge, skills, information, and practices between Cambodia and Thailand.

The visit focused on institutional arrangements and programme implementation of national school meals programmes, supporting capacity strengthening efforts for ensuring quality and sustainability.

Cambodian delegates met with Thai School Lunch Programme national stakeholders and representative from the Philippine Department of Education and visited four schools across three provinces.

Some key takeaways from the exchange for an effective national school lunch programme include:

- Stable funding, good facilities, and capacitated implementers;
- Strong inter-ministerial coordination; and

- Flexibility in procurement and adherence to core nutrition and food safety standards.

As next steps, Cambodian delegates and KOICA plan to discuss actions for enhancing the National HGSF Programme.

MoEYS delegates met with representatives from the Philippines to explore the idea of establishing a working group to strengthening national school meals programmes across ASEAN member states.



Photo: WFP/RBB

WFP India Country Office Held a Workshop on Updating the SSTC Strategy (2019-2023)

In September, WFP India CO, jointly with WFP RB Bangkok (RBB) and the SSTC Unit, held a workshop to update WFP India CO's SSTC Strategy (2019-2023) in view of the new CSP (2023-2027).

As a modality to inform the new CSP, a [South-South Review](#) was carried out in India in 2019, using the SSR framework, to help the CO identify and prioritize SSTC opportunities both as provider and recipient of SSTC solutions.

The details of India's SSR are available [here](#).

As a follow up to the SSR, the workshop aimed at taking stock of the CO engagement in SSTC, enabling dialogue on SSTC opportunities per CSP Outcome and identifying concrete next steps in the short and medium term.

Key takeaways of the workshop include:

1. WFP India CO has an opportunity to continue leveraging its long-standing engagement and positioning as a partner for SSTC, tapping into WFP's network of partners with the Government of India (GoI) in areas such as school feeding, social protection, resilience building, nutrition and more to evolve WFP India CO's service offer in SSTC.
2. WFP India can further mainstream SSTC in the next CSP while ensuring collaboration and coherence across strategic outcomes.

Follow-up actions and next steps include:

- Build an "investment case" for WFP India's engagement in SSTC capturing demand for support in an overview for internal and external advocacy with the Government.
- Package WFP India's "service offer" in SSTC in key thematic areas both to enhance positioning with the GoI and inform recipient countries.
- Enhance approach for accountability and follow-up with recipient countries. For instance, using tools such as [South-South Match.com](#).

Please see the full report [here](#).



Photo: WFP/India

SSTC Unit in PRO with RBB Conducted a South-South Review in Timor-Leste

In September 2022, the SSTC Unit in PRO in collaboration with RBB conducted a SSR analysis for the WFP Timor-Leste CO.

The objective of SSRs is to identify demands from the Government for SSTC support from WFP and enable the CO to expand its engagement in SSTC as a means to strengthen capacities and partnerships.

The SSR team met with Timor-Leste Government counterparts across the CSP portfolio.

The SSR enabled dialogue with strategic partners on the ground including the local embassy of China, FAO, the UN Resident Coordinator and the [G7+](#) to facilitate cooperation between countries of the Global South.

As a result of the review, 8 investment opportunities in key areas were mapped for the CO to broker SSTC in areas such as school feeding, supply chain, and nutrition.

The opportunities identified are in line with the rapid capacity needs mapping conducted in Timor-Leste in 2021 and will contribute to longer-term capacity strengthening efforts in the country.

As next steps, WFP Timor-Leste CO may receive seed funding to kick off the engagement and tap into cross-country learning opportunities with partners from the Global South to support the delivery of its CSP.

To submit an article to the SSTC global team for the next edition of the SSTC Quarterly Newsletter, please contact:

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