CERFAM'S BULLETIN



FEBRUARY 2023 N°11

A member of a women's cooperative handling processed cassava in Bouanza, Republic of Congo ©WFP/Alice Rahmoun







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EDITORIAL



Share initiatives and good practices to improve Food Security and Nutrition in Africa.

Very year since 2003, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) observes September 12 as a day to highlight the importance of South-South Cooperation (SSC) and its pivotal role in facilitating political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, and technical collaboration between countries.

However, this day is way more than the recognition of country collaboration. It represents voices uniting for a common goal, and a demonstration of solidarity between countries in the Global South countries, that strive to take collective action for the well-being of their populations and the achievements of internationally recognized development objectives. For example, China supporting Uganda to strengthen farmers' resilience and revenues; Burundi visiting Benin to learn from their national integrated school feeding programme; the deployment of experts from Côte d'Ivoire and Benin to the Republic of Congo to strengthen the capacities of cassava producers and processors are all examples of countries from the global South joining hands to support one another within the framework of South-South Cooperation.

SSC is an entry point for dialogue, for learning, and for exchanges. It is an area that focuses on sharing information between countries within the global South. It promotes the sharing of innovative solutions as well as new approaches to address challenges by learning from the experiences of others within a similar context.

While China and Africa have developed their agricultural sectors under different historical conditions, China's agricultural growth is far more advanced, having lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty over the past four decades. On page 10, China reflects on what SSC stands for them and highlights its experiences with African countries in terms of development of the China-Africa rice value chain, post-harvest loss management initiative in Côte d'Ivoire, technical cooperation, and knowledge management support in Africa.

School feeding has been a key focus area for SSC in Africa. Several countries to improve national programmes by borrowing good practices and lessons from their regional neighbours. On page 26, the Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF) shares some examples on how countries and programmes in the South have contributed to the growth, guality, and impact of school feeding programmes over the last 20 years. The case of Zambia is a perfect illustration of this (page 7), witch transitioned from a school feeding programme mainly supported by the World Food Programme (WFP), to a national programme supported by the Government providing children with a regular source of nutrients essential for their overall development, while creating a stable market for local farmers, and ultimately strengthening the national food system.

CERFAM believes in the transformative power of SSTC. The expansion of its work in this area has allowed the establishment of new partnerships and the creation of many development opportunities. On page 19, a complete file on CERFAM's participation at the Global Expo on South-South Development 2022, organized in Thailand by the United Nations Office for South-South cooperation (UNOSSC) during which the Centre showcased its work on SSC.

<u>"Share good practices and innovations to improve food security and nutrition in Africa"</u>

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A student enjoying his meal at an elementary school, Benin. ©WFP/ Makeba Tchibozo

CERFAM NEWS



TEN YEARS OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION WITH THE AFRICAN CONTINENT: LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

reated in 2011 from a partnership between the Brazilian government and the World Food Programme (WFP), the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil (WFP CoE Brazil) has the mission of strengthening country capacity in school feeding, nutrition, and smallholder farming. To achieve this, the WFP CoE Brazil facilitates South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) and policy dialogue, learning, and technical assistance to promote action against hunger.

43 COUNTRIES SUPPORTED BY COE BRAZIL IN THE FRAMEWORK OF

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Since its creation, the WFP CoE Brazil has supported 43 countries and the African Union in their advocacy and development of their food security and nutrition programmes, particularly around school feeding. Over the past years, the WFP CoE Brazil has accumulated many successes, including their support for the inclusion of home-grown school feeding programs in the African Union's Continental Education Strategy for Africa 2016-2025, as well as supporting and inspiring the creation of Africa's first WFP Centre of Excellence, CERFAM. The growing commitment of African countries in developing their school feeding programmes is clear, and their interest in sharing their learnings with peers is also marked. Over the past decade, the continent has produced a culture of regional collaboration and a wealth of good practices that are drawing attention locally and globally.

Some cases of SSTC between WFP CoE Brazil and Africa

One good example is the case of Benin, Burundi, and Togo, who started a fruitful exchange in the topic of school feeding after a presential study visit organized by the WFP CoE Brazil brought them together to Brazil in 2014. In 2015, a workshop in Benin counted with the participation of Burundi and Togo for South-South exchanges. This event validated an Action Plan for the National School Feeding Policy in Benin and discussed common challenges, good practices, and next steps among those three countries.

WFP COE BRAZIL HAS SUPPORTED AND INSPIRED THE CREATION OF AFRICA'S FIRST REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION - CERFAM

SUMMARY

After the workshop, the government and WFP started a pilot project in 50 schools to foster school feeding with a multi-sectorial approach associating education, local production of food, nutrition, and hygiene. In 2016, it was Togo's turn to invite Benin and Burundi for a workshop that discussed school feeding implementation.

与日本 50 SCHOOLS BENEFICIARIES OI THE PILOT PROJEC

launched by the government and WFP to promote school feeding

In 2017, the WFP CoE Brazil went to Burundi on a technical mission to collect data, host strategical meetings with key stakeholders and visit schools, to support the development of a school feeding national policy for the country. After the presential two-week mission, work continued remotely. In 2020, the government of Togo approved the National School Feeding Law, a result of a long process of advocacy, technical support, exchanges, and cooperation supported by WFP. In 2021, the collaboration continued, with the government of Burundi asking the government of Benin to organize a study visit in the country about school feeding implementation, to be complemented by the remote support from the WFP CoE Brazil.

While the WFP CoE Brazil was at first idealized as a hub to share the successful Brazilian experience in fighting hunger, it soon started to increase its scope through country demand. It acts now as a global hub for exchanges between countries in the Global South, with the strong interest from African countries in investing their food security and nutrition programmes being a key driver of this transformation.



Lessons learned through years of SSTC

Through these years of fruitful collaboration with countries in the African continent, the WFP CoE Brazil has learned some key lessons:

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The goal of South-South exchanges is to promote country capacity strengthening and local ownership of the programmes. Therefore, it is strategic to invest in the development of legal frameworks and national resource mobilization, to promote long-term programme sustainability and continued political engagement.

Strong food security and nutrition programmes are always multisectoral, especially in challenging contexts of political uncertainty or climate vulnerability. This engagement must be done both vertically and horizontally. Vertically, it should combine high-level political advocacy with technical support for policymakers in the different points of government and implementation hierarchy. Horizontally, it should involve a diversity of actors engaged in the promotion of food security policies, such as different ministries (e.g., Education, Health, Social Development, Agriculture), civil society partners, international organizations, the private sector and parents and teachers' associations.

All countries have something to learn from others and they also always have something to share. It is important to position African countries not only as recipients of South-South exchanges but also as contributors of rich experiences and key knowledge in the design and implementation of food security programmes.

SSTC perspectives on sharing good practices

Looking forward, the WFP CoE Brazil sees that the documentation of African experiences is central for the sharing of good practices, as well as for the ongoing advocacy and technical support that countries in the region are asking for and that is necessary for development of local ownership and the engagement of a multisectoral stakeholder base. Building a community among countries using parallel challenges or similar cultural and geographic backgrounds also seem like an important strategy to ensure country buy-in, reflecting the vast size of the continent and diversity of countries and their policies. A recent successful experience from WFP CoE Brazil implemented in this area is the creation of tailored exchanges among Portuguese-speaking countries, which creates a basic commonality between participants that was well appreciated. Technical cooperation around key implementation challenges also seem to be of high interest among supported countries, including purchases from smallholder farming, nutritional guidelines and monitoring and evaluation of programmes. In the long run, the WFP CoE Brazil expects to continue expanding and strengthening the collaboration with African countries – not only as recipients of knowledge but also as central providers of expertise in the global fight against hunger.

Article written by WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil

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02

THE SUCCESS FACTORS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION EXCHANGES: THE BENEFITS OF PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING VISITS

he Zambian school feeding programme traces its origin from the drought experienced during the 2001/2002 rainy season. The drought resulted in negative coping strategies which increased dropout rates, including withdrawal of learners from school to engage in activities supporting household sustenance. Twenty years later, the country has made strides by initiating a national Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme as a key strategy to achieve global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). From a school feeding programme principally supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) initiated in 2002, to a national programme supported by the government. The HGSM in Zambia, has evolved into a programme that provides learners a regular source of nutrients that are essential for their mental and physical development as well as creating a stable market for local farmers, boosting the agriculture sector, and ultimately strengthening the national food system.

To date the HGSM programme is implemented in 70 districts in all 10 provinces targeting 2 million learners – encouraging children to stay in school and providing them the nutrients they need to thrive, promoting increased diversified agriculture production with the aim to consequently contribute to reduced development inequalities.

THE HGSF PROGRAMME IS IMPLEMENTED IN 70 DISTRICTS ACROSS 10 PROVINCES IN ZAMBIA The New Dawn Government inaugurated in 2021 aspires to develop its peoples' "capacities to be educated, healthy and have a reasonable standard of living by building a highly skilled workforce that contributes effectively to economic growth and diversification by 2030." My Ministry, therefore, considers the home-grown school meals programme as a strategy to demonstrate the interconnectedness among sectors and calls for concerted efforts for appropriate strategies and mechanisms for supporting, resourcing, and sustaining a HGSM programme with multiple benefits among the education, nutrition and health, agricultural and social protection sectors. A fundamental policy adopted by the New Dawn Government is-the Free Education Policy which has removed barriers to accessing education, and has thus, enabled thousands of learners that may have been previously excluded from accessing education, to go back to school. This policy can only be successfully implemented if schools are linked to health and nutrition interventions such as what school feeding programmes promote.

To achieve more with less, a fundamental change was made to the procurement model in 2021 so to advance nutrition and diversify diets, reduce procurement lead-times, create a stable market for local farmers and boost the agriculture sector. The government decentralised the procurement of food commodities for the HGSM programme to ensure that the food is locally sourced and there is a return on investment for the local farmers.

2 MILLION LEARNERS TARGETED BY THE HGSF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED

in 70 districts of Zambia's 10 provinces to date







Successful exchanges with countries on SSTC

To make the fundamental policy and programmatic changes, the country has benefited immensely from the collaboration with regional organisations and platforms facilitated through the South-to-South Cooperation Framework. In 2016, the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil in response to a request from the Zambian government facilitated a learning visit to Brazil which laid the foundation for the transformation of school feeding in Zambia to a HGSM programme.

In 2022, the country was also privileged to have visited Namibia on a study tour to appreciate rural and urban development which among other aspects focused on school feeding. In reciprocity the country also hosted a government led delegation from Libya to exchange ideas on best practices on implementing HGSM programmes that incorporate innovative agricultural technologies that support diversified crop production. The exchanges and learning visits have invigorated government and partners ambitions to higher development status.

The Zambian government acknowledges South to South Cooperation as a critical tool that national governments particularly in developing countries can leverage to collaborate and share knowledge, skills and successful initiatives in specific areas such as agricultural development, food and nutrition security, urbanization, health, climate change to achieve sustainable development.

Innovative forms of knowledge exchange and technology transfer engaged in a transparent and mutual interest engaged by countries in the south have the potential to transform lives for their citizens. In Zambia, the HGSM programme heralds a new dawn for transforming citizens lives, supporting human capital development, and consequently contributing to the attainment of middle-income status by 2030. The attainment of this vision is partly contingent on concerted and increased South-South Cooperation focused on sharing knowledge, technological advancement and building capacities for sustainable national and global development.

Article written by HE Mr. Douglas Munsaka Syakalima, Minister, Ministry of Education, The Republic of Zambia



03

THE ROLE OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND THE SHARING OF GOOD PRACTICES IN ACHIEVING ZERO HUNGER IN AFRICA

Why we work for Africa?

frican countries have spent decades trying to jump start agricultural transformation, yet with mixed results, many still face critical challenges in this area today. While China and Africa have developed their agricultural sectors under different historical conditions, China's agricultural growth is far more advanced which has helped alleviating hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in the past four decades. Many lessons have been learned along the way which can be leveraged to support Africa's agrarian change.

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China's Rich cooperation experience in Food security, nutrition improvement, and poverty alleviation with other Africa developing countries

How we work for Africa?

WFP China Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China COE) endeavours to share China's rich experiences in food security, nutrition improvement, and poverty alleviation with other developing countries including those in Africa, in pursuit of Agenda 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 for Zero Hunger and SDG 17 on Partnerships. In line with WFP South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Policy, the WFP China COE's efforts include policy support, technical cooperation and sharing of knowhow so to provide practical knowledge on food security and nutrition to African countries.



Areas of South-South and Triangular cooperation (SSTC) between WFP China COE and Africa



China-Africa Rice Value Chain Development



WFP China Centre of Excellence Focused on China-Africa cooperation in Rice value chain Value chain development may be one of the most effective approaches to enhance smallholder farmers' income and livelihoods to achieve Zero Hunger through the different SDG 2 targets. The WFP China COE has been dedicated to the China-Africa Rice Value Chain cooperation, having heldtwo sessions of Rice Value Chain Seminar in 2021 and 2022. The series seminar was co-organised by the WFP China COE, THE United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), theBill & Melinda Gates Foundation (The Gates Foundation), CERFAM and other key Chinese partners with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the People's Republic of China (MARA).

Such events provide a useful platform for different stakeholders to exchange knowledge, technologies and insights on solutions and pathways to enhance rice value chain development for smallholders. In association, two country initiatives, funded by The Gates Foundation, were kicked off in early November 2022 upon signing of the Investment Document between WFP and The Gates Foundation. This is a joint effort by the WFP China COE and CERFAM, and aimsto support the rice value chain in Africa through capacity strengthening at policy, technical and grassroot levels in production, processing, quality control and storage by creating demonstration sites for local communities.

Postharvest Loss Management Initiative in Cote d'Ivoire



40 PERCENT OF PRODUCTION IS WASTED DUE TO LOW PROCESSING AND STORAGE CAPACITY Many African countries face small but hard-to-address challenges. For example, in Cote d'Ivoire, the rice sector is facing challenges like low-level application of technical itineraries, poor mechanization, and thus, up to 40 percent of production is wasted due to poor processing and storage capacity. To address these challenges, the WFP China COE launched the China-Africa Rice Value Chain Development Initiative in March 2021, with stakeholders from both China and Cote d'Ivoire. Responding to regional and local development demands and priorities, a demonstration site was established in the local community in northern Cote d'Ivoire and three types of equipment were purchased.

Meanwhile, Chinese experts from Henan University of Technology were invited to give lectures on rice processing, storage, and post-harvest loss management. A total of 614 local smallholders and their households joined this project and benefited from the technology transfer from the field demonstration and technical trainings. Besides, a China-Africa Rice Value Chain Development Synergy was formed to build a regular exchange mechanism between researchers and stakeholders in China and Africa and enhance the partnership in the rice value chain.

Technical **Cooperation in** Africa

Knowledge management to support Africa



Food security and nutrition are also important areas where WFP China supports collaboration among developing countries. With support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the People's Republic of China, in 2019, WFP launched a South-South and Triangular Cooperation Country Pilot Initiative. Pilot projects are now being carried out in selected African countries, such as Kenya, Republic of Congo, and Ghana. In Kenya, the project is empowering smallholders in dry areas to enhance their capacity in post-harvest management. Simple and cost-effective techniques like using moisture meters, can help reduce post-harvest losses for grains, pulses, and fresh foods.

In the Republic of Congo, WFP is transferring China's knowledge to hundreds of smallholders and linking their hand-made casava flour with the School Feeding Programme to diversify healthy and nutritious diets. In Ghana, series of capacity strengthening webinars are held on E-commerce for grain reserve and marketing, which helps better understanding the specific needs of the different sectors in Ghana and explore how Chinese academic and corporate partners can support the Ghana Smallholder Farmers E-Commerce Access (SFEA) project, to support smallholders' grain storage and improve their resilience to market risk and access the market with innovative measures.

Knowledge is productivity, which also holds true for agricultural transformation. Taking advantage of the increasingly important role that digital technology is playing in knowledge sharing, the WFP-China South-South Cooperation Knowledge Sharing Platform (www.wfpchinacoe. net) was launched on 15 April 2022. The Platform serves as a knowledge hub providing an enabling environment for partners to post demands, share solutions and connect with each other for smallholder value chain development, post-harvest loss management and food systems, disaster risk reduction and climate change resilience as well as innovative poverty alleviation initiative.

The Cloud School is an expanded function on this Platform, a learning space which offers an inclusive and tailored learning programme for learners at all levels in multi-lingual courses. French courses are specially designed to target an African audience. Video courses on cassava and banana are also produced to meet the specific learning demands. As a digitalised knowledge tool, the South-South Knowledge Sharing Platform aims to respond to the needs of developing countries and facilitated twoway exchange for knowledge sharing and remote learning on food security, nutrition improvement, poverty reduction and rural transformation.



WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation dedicated to enhance South-South Cooperation



WAY FORWARD

From the WFP China COE's perspective, capacity strengthening activities, such as technology transfer, the sharing of solutions and expertise, and other exchanges of China's successful experience in rural transformation and agricultural development are welcome by African countries.

Under the prevailing circumstances, the world is facing great challenges to meet its SDGs, it is even more important to uphold mutual assistance and boost South-South Cooperation through multilateral platforms, so to empower the developing countries in their progress to eliminate poverty. Continued efforts should be made to expand partnerships and promote innovative cooperation. We will work closely with China to help African countries enhance their agricultural productivity, foster technical talents, and establish agricultural value-chain for food security, nutrition improvement and poverty reduction.

Article written by WFP China Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation

> In Africa, China supports the development of the rice value chain by providing its expertise and technical assistance to local communes.

SUMMARY



DOCUMENTATION AND CAPITALIZATION OF EXPERIENCES RELATING TO GOOD PRACTICES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR A ZERO HUNGER PERSPECTIVE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

radicating hunger in Africa by 2030 is a realistic prospect," world agriculture leaders said in Rome on the sidelines of the 2023 African Food Summit in Dakar.

The African Institute for Economic and Social Development (INADES-Formation), also believes that it is possible if strong appropriate political and practical measures are implemented. Indeed, INADES-Formation works in 10 countries for the economic and social promotion of populations, giving particular importance to their free and responsible participation in the transformation of their societies. Its strategic area of intervention is based on supporting rural communities, from field to plate, to contribute to healthy, sufficient, and sustainable food for all in sub-Saharan Africa. INADES-Formation's interventions have the goal of reducing poverty, increase the socio-economic resilience of populations and contribute to better management of Africa's natural resources.

To contribute to achieving the Zero Hunger objective in Africa, experiences developed by different actors in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) have been capitalized within the framework of South-South cooperation with a view of scaling up actions on the continent.



Innovative initiatives for the fight against hunger and the climate resilience of

rural communities

It is already quite evident that the effect of climate change in Sub-Saharan Africa will be significant in terms of climactic hazards and their magnitude on ecosystems and human settlements. There is also evidence of the correlation between soil nutrient loss, hunger and nutrition in Africa.

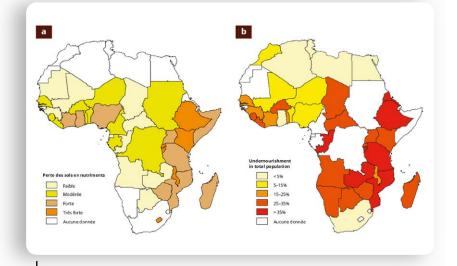


Figure : Correlation between loss of soil productivity and hunger and malnutrition in Africa (Source: Jones et al. 2013)

The capitalization and dissemination of experiences of different actors in Africa in terms of climate change adaptation and resilience stands out for its relevance and originality. In partnership with the Basque Agency for Cooperation and Development (ABCD), INADES-Formation has implemented a project (2019-2021) for the documentation and capitalization of good practices and community governance systems which aim to face the challenges of climate change on agricultural and animal production.

38 RURAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS FROM 11 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN

COUNTRIES GATHERED FOR THE CURRENT EXPERIENCE SHARING



Following a call for proposals open to 13 countries , 150 experiences were received of which 50 of them were selected. The current experience-sharing mechanism brings together 38 rural support organizations spread over 11 sub-Saharan African countries . Among the examples of contribution to the Zero Hunger perspective, we cite among others, the experience on :



The adoption of «Zaipits» systems developed in Kenya, to conserve water, humidity, and organic matter in the soil,



The use of managed solar pumps to develop ecological market gardening in Cameroon;



The development of climate information systems adapted to farmers in Burundi to enable farmers to better adapt to the agricultural calendar;

Kitchen garden systems to regularly produce market garden products near homes and deal with cope scarcity of land in Burundi;;

Safeguarding traditional seeds in Kenya to address food insecurity through the establishment of seed banks.

Some images of capitalized experiences (right: use of photovoltaic kit for watering a market gardening site in Cameroon.

What lessons can be drawn from this experience of capitalization and what perspective ?

The experiences documented in the 11 countries will have made it possible to highlight the good initiatives contributing to the fight against hunger, the constraints, but also lessons that can help INADES-Formation to pursue its strategy in terms of healthy, sufficient, and sustainable food in Africa. Lessons learned include:

> taking into account the gender dimension, particularly the participation of women and their specific needs, is a lever for the success of initiatives;

emphasis on the territorial approach as a lever on which to build a real collective dynamic of resilience and adaptation in the fight against hunger; the establishment of an online exchange platform to increase and strengthen the skills of the actors.

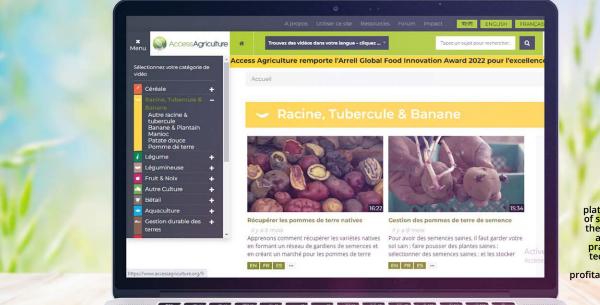
What prospects ?

For INADES-Formation, South-South cooperation is a ferment on which to build a real fight against hunger in Africa. This cooperation is essential to pave the way for greater progress on the continent, providing poor people opportunities to eradicate hunger and reduce poverty, the first two Sustainable Development Goals. To strengthen this dynamic of exchanges between agricultural development organizations in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of responses for resilient agriculture to climate change, another phase (2022-2014) has been opened and will be devoted to the scaling up of the 50 selected experiences. The principle is to encourage actors to select and reproduce an experience developed by the other partner located in another country and to promote exchanges between partners from the South.

Article written by INADES-Formation







The Accès Agriculture platform enables millions of smallholder farmers in the Global South to learn about best agricultural practices and innovative technologies to improve their productivity and profitability. ©AGRIDIGITALE

AN INTERACTIVE PLATFORM TO FACILITATE THE SHARING OF AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH

n all countries, research institutes, universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), enterprises and farmers' cooperatives are making considerable efforts to find or develop appropriate training materials for farmers and their staff. However, despite these efforts, the issue of access to good agricultural practices and technologies remains, including how to truly meet farmers' diverse demands in the areas of crop, livestock and fish production, processing, , attaining finances, market access and marketing.

South-South knowledge exchange through the Access Agriculture platform

Combining scientific and local knowledge, Access Agriculture is a world-leading service for quality agricultural training in local African languages and a perfect example of South-South cooperation. Access Agriculture was founded in 2012 following research commissioned by the Global Forum on Rural Advisory Services that revealed shortcomings in advisory services and the fact that farmers learn better by sharing their experiences with other farmers. Its mission is to promote agroecological principles and rural entrepreneurship through capacity building and South-South exchange of farmerto-farmer training videos in local languages. This online platform enables millions of smallholder farmers in the Global South to learn about best agricultural practices and innovative technologies to improve their productivity and profitability. Building on the South-South exchange, it offers an extensive collection of quality videos, classified into different categories covering cereals, roots and tubers, vegetables, legumes, fruits and nuts, sustainable land management techniques, integrated pest management, livestock production, aquaculture, mechanization, and water-efficient irrigation methods, etc.

1,000,000 PEOPLE WATCHED

and downloaded videos and training data sheets for producers

The impact of the platform in South-South cooperation

Access Agriculture is an essential service for smallholder farmers in the Global South, by: (a) Promoting agroecological principles and rural entrepreneurship through capacity building and South-South exchange of farmerto-farmer training videos in local languages, (b) and enabling smallholder farmers to learn about best agricultural practices and innovative technologies in their own language to improve their productivity and their cost-effectiveness, thereby contributing to poverty reduction and increased food security in these countries.

More than 1,000,000 people around the world watched and downloaded the videos and training data sheets for producers. The videos are disseminated to smallholder farmers, drawing on a network of local partners including NGOs, agricultural training centres, producer organizations, local media, and Entrepreneurs for Rural Access (ERA). A combination of survey data from a 2021 global online survey shows that at least 90 million farmers in rural areas have been reached through Access Agriculture videos through small or large media outlets.

To date, more than 200 videos in more than 80 local languages have been produced and massively disseminated thanks to the collaboration with local entrepreneurs and communication professionals around the world. In addition the platform has800,000 users, from 5,000 organizations in more than 170 countries, with more than 4 million views on the videos and 75 television channels that broadcast the videos, enabling smallholder farmers to understand and put into practice the information offered.

Downloaded or saved videos, which can be watched offline, are also available from each ERA through a solar-powered smart projector containing all the videos on the platform and projected during the exchange meetings with farmers in each partner country.



SOME USER TESTIMONIALS

Sean Granville-Ross, Country Director, Mercy Corps, Uganda.

It is the best and largest library of agricultural training videos, available online and in multiple languages. We have had a better impact in our agricultural work through these videos,»

Gominan Osséni Séïdou, FAO in Benin.

"These types of videos are recommended for our students, especially at the end of their training in agricultural schools. Other relations with the United Nations (FAO, UNDP and World Bank) are to be developed, especially in terms of sharing knowledge of local languages",

Boazi Winston, Entrepreneur for Rural Access in Tanzania.

"The dissemination of videos on sustainable agriculture in Kiswahili facilitated learning among illiterate youth and women in Buhingu and Igalula villages in the Greater Mahale ecosystem",

Article proposed by Mr. Giovanni Hounkpati, Senior Community Manager and Entrepreneur at Agridigitale.



frica has a plethora of good practices and boast an abundance of innovative, indigenous solutions, which have yielded promising results in reducing hunger and malnutrition. A good practice refers to an initiative or experience that is implemented in a country over a given period of time and that generates satisfactory results. These may include interventions, business practices, systems and processes or methodologies that show tangible impact or demonstrate a certain level of effectiveness in a context, with the ability to be scaled and replicated.

A practice may be considered to be «good» when it has been proven to be successfully replicated in another country. Yet, despite the continent's vast potential these local initiatives and solutions are little or not promoted at all, making them difficult to replicate in other contexts.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION, A POWERFUL TOOL FOR COUNTRIES' DEVELOPMENT

Defined as an exchange of knowledge, skills, resources, technologies, and technical know-how between two or more developing countries, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), seeks to facilitate exchanges on good practices and lessons learned as well as deploying capacity-building activities among countries with similar contexts. SSTC remains an important cornerstone of development activities. Member States meeting at the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) held in Argentina in March 2019 identified it as a key component in addressing poverty eradication, trade and investment, climate action, health, education, youth, job creation and technology transfer. They also reaffirmed its principal role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and renewed their commitment to work in solidarity to achieve the SDGs.

SUMMARY



A PLATFORM DEDICATED TO PROMOTING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

From 12 to 14 September 2022, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), whose role is to promote, coordinate and support SSTC globally, organized the 11th edition of the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD expo), an annual event to showcase successful evidence-based development solutions and initiatives, jointly with the Government of Thailand and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), and in collaboration with UN agencies and all other partners. The theme of the 2022 edition was «Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and **Resilient Future».**

As the largest international platform for the promotion of South-South cooperation, it allowed more than 4000 participants to reflect on the implementation of adequate policies to support post-COVID recovery efforts, through the use of South-South and triangular cooperation, including by addressing extreme poverty, food insecurity and other global challenges. In total, GSSD Expo 2022 reached 1.5 million people through social media, and mobilized more than 30 UN agencies, including CERFAM, 150 governments, international organisations, international institutions, civil society representatives, civil society representatives, from the private sector and academia.

SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION (SSTC), AT THE HEART OF CERFAM'S OPERATIONS

South-South cooperation and capacity building are at the heart of CERFAM's modus operandi as it is a key instrument in supporting countries advance the fight against hunger and malnutrition and achieve their development goals. CERFAM believes in the transformative power of SSTC, because it offers an effective framework for sharing experiences and exchanging solutions amongst developing countries.

+30 PARTNERS,

including CERFAM mobilized for the success of GSSD expo 2022





EXAMPLES OF EXPERIENCE SHARING AND LEARNING FACILITATED BY CERFAM

Leveraging the impact of South-South Cooperation, CERFAM invests in facilitating experience sharing and learning among developing countries, particularly amongst African countries, to accelerate progress towards Zero Hunger in Africa. School feeding, considered as an efficient intervention in Africa to fight hunger and malnutrition, the reduction of post-harvest crop losses, the development of agricultural value chains, amongst many other themes, have been those most exploited by the Centre in its facilitation of SSTC between developing countries:

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In June 2021, CERFAM facilitated a study visit of a delegation from Burundi to Benin, led by HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, whose objectives were to learn from Benin's National Integrated School Feeding Programme (NISFP). More specifically to learn from Benin's model of inter-ministerial integration and community mobilization and engagement within the programme.



In June 2021, an assessment and analysis of post-harvest losses in the rice sector and the capacities of smallholder farmers was carried out in Guinea by CERFAM and its partners (HELP Logistics and WFP's Supply Chains Division) for appropriate technical assistance in the framework of South-South Cooperation.



In July and August 2021, CERFAM facilitated the deployment of experts from Côte d'Ivoire and Benin to the Republic of Congo to train artisans and processors in cassava and banana processing techniques, manufacturing of processing equipment, and good food safety practices.



CERFAM has been providing technical assistance to women farmers' groups in Korhogo, Côte d'Ivoire, since November 2021, for the improvement of the rice value chain, in collaboration with the WFP office in Côte d'Ivoire, the Rice Development Agency (ADERIZ), Bühler, Africa Rice Center, the Chinese mission of the rice perimeter technical assistance project based in Guiguidou.



In March 2022, CERFAM facilitated, a study visit of a delegation from the Government of The Gambia to Côte d'Ivoire to learn about good practices in school feeding based on local production (HGSF) and smallholder farming.



A delegation from the Libyan government undertook a study visit to Zambia in May 2022, facilitated by CERFAM, to learn how hydroponics in schools can contribute to nutritious meals, with the school serving as an entry point for nutrition-sensitive innovations and initiatives.



In the framework of the 2022-2023 WFP Working Groups for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), CERFAM chairs Sub-Group2 which focuses on strengtheningWFP's approach to generating evidence and fostering learning on WFP supported SSTC.



Complementary to facilitating study visits, field missions, and capacity-building trainings within the framework of knowledge exchange, CERFAM organizes webinars and workshops, and identifies and documents good practices on its digital knowledge exchange platform KEPT.

GSSD 2022, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PROMOTION OF GOOD PRACTICES IN AFRICA

By participating in GSSD 2022, CERFAM's objective was to raise awareness among participants, present and online, of the benefits and importance of South-South exchanges, including knowledge management through documentation and dissemination of good practices, through its Digital Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEPT). The presentation of successful and evidence-based development solutions and initiatives, and the identification of potential partners to achieve food security in Africa also motivated CERFAM's participation in this global event. Through a side event under the theme «South-South Dialogues and Learning in Africa: A Powerful Strategy and Tools to Improve Food Security and Nutrition», CERFAM invited partner countries and organizations to share their initiatives and good practices to improve food security and nutrition in Africa, including Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, the African Union Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and WFP. These organizations also presented their tools and insisted on the benefits of investing in South-South cooperation to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda. The promotion of good practices and the facilitation of national capacity improvement were at the heart of the exchanges during the event.

It was an opportunity for meetings and opportunities for collaboration in the programmatic areas of CERFAM to achieve Zero Hunger. CERFAM met, among others, with the Saudi Fund for Development, the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNOSSC, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Brazilian Cooperation Agency affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and theInternational Policy Center for Inclusive Growth, a global forum on innovative development policies to promote policy dialogue and facilitate learning among developing countries on development policies that contribute to inclusive growth, poverty and inequality reduction, and human development.

The CERFAM delegation, composed of Mr. Patrick Teixeira, Director a.i. of CERFAM, Dr. Patricia N'Goran, Senior Adviser, focal point for CERFAM and Dr. Christiani BUANI, Head of Operations Management at CERFAM, also participated in bilateral meetings, and well as leadership roundtables. These events included government officials and ministers from Africa, Asia and Latin America, where high-level authorities shared experiences in exploiting South-South Cooperation to advance their development agenda, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations.



SSTC, AN INSTRUMENT AT THE SERVICE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

SSTC can contribute to the achievement of the SDG's and the structural transformation of developing countries. This is justified for several reasons:



SSTC is recognized as an important way to help developing countries recover from the pandemic and address global crises facing the world;



SSTC takes many forms, must respect countries' national context and priorities, and draw on countries' expertise and experience to promote peer-to-peer learning.;



Knowledge management and evidence generation for SSTC must be a priority and existing knowledge must be exploited, identified, documented and made accessible to decision-makers;

SSTC is a key strategy to support the improvement of countries' institutional capacity and strengthen innovative governance structures;

Partnership is central to SSTC. The establishment of innovative and complementary partnerships can help advance the SSTC's contribution in the field and multiply the knowledge and expertise available to address the challenges;



A strategic approach to the sustainable financing of SSTC is needed, particularly with regard to engagement with international financial institutions (IFIs) and the private sector.

CERFAM'S COMMITMENT TO SSTC IN AFRICA

In addition to mobilizing technical expertise, tools and strategies to strengthen the capacity of governments and partners to improve the quality of program and policy design and implementation, CERFAM engages and fosters peer-to-peer dialogue and exchange so that African countries have access to the best information to make progress in ending hunger and malnutrition.

As a facilitator of the South-South cooperation, CERFAM remains convinced that the achievement obtained through the exchange of experiences between countries will support and contribute to the ambitious objectives of Agenda 2063 as it will require the engagement of all stakeholders at all levels and in all countries, leveraging their diverse and unique advantages. SSTC can be a game changer to accelerate the progress made by African countries in achieving the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063, in order to achieve «The Africa We Want».

Dossier prepared by CERFAM





06

Finda Ahou Deborah, a 10-year old CM2 student, doing her homework. ©Mohamed Aly Diabaté

FAO, IFAD AND WFP COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

ver the last few year, the world has been faced with unprecedented crises - the COVID-19 pandemic crippled societies to the core, exacerbating global poverty and inequality. Communities who were already facing civil unrest, armed conflicts, and the effects of climate change, were also, unfortunately, those who bore the biggest burden of the pandemic, propelling millions deeper into destitution and food insecurity. Against this grim backdrop, the surge in food, fuel, and fertilizer prices as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict has resulted in the largest hunger crisis in generation. The world is entered 2023 with as many as 50 million people who are on the brink of famine.

Within this context, the Rome-based UN agencies (RBA's) FAO, IFAD and WFP, with their shared mandate to ensure food security for all, continue to strengthen their collaboration by supporting one of the most effective evidencebased interventions to positively transform global food systems: national "Home Grown School Feeding" programs (HGSF).

As a key outcome of the UN Food Systems Summit held in September 2021, the HGSF has been recognized as an effective way to reach the most vulnerable children who suffer from hunger. In parallel, HSGF boost local economies by creating reliable and accessible markets for local value chains small-holder farmers in surrounding areas. Amidst the global food crisis, HGSF generates long-term multi-sectoral benefits in the areas of education, health, and livelihoods of children and communities.

A platform for promoting South-South and triangular cooperation

A joint initiative on HGSF was carried out by the 3 UN agencies in Rome, and presented during the 11th edition of the Global South-South Development Expo 2022-GSSD, on the theme: Unlocking the potential of local national school feeding programmes to transform local food systems and support sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, through South-South and triangular cooperation.

The World Expo, held in Thailand from 12 to 14 September 2022, was a great forum for exchanges where development actors discussed their engagement in South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), and a space to promote successes and explore opportunities towards more SSTC.

For the 3 UN agencies, the GSSD served as a platform for countries in the South to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned on HGSF, to show their commitment to improving national HGSF programmes and to share their views on how they can benefit from SSTC in this area. The joint initiative on HGSF presented by the 3 UN agencies based in Rome responded to the objective of complementing and scaling up ongoing interventions in countries by: (i) identifying their progress in national HGSF programmes, (ii) outlining their challenges and (iii) proposing solutions successfully implemented in other countries and contexts.

The commitment and role of the 3 UN agencies in promoting the HGSF

National governments can benefit from the extensive expertise of the 3 RBA's in supporting school feeding, their geographical coverage and knowledge of the poorest and hardestto-reach populations, and their collaboration with more than 100 countries on sustainable national school feeding programmes. They have the ability to thus draw on their mutual strengths and experiences to support national stakeholders at the policy level, from the perspective of each agency.

FAO's commitment: FAO is committed to improving nutrition indicators, reducing rural poverty and fostering inclusive food systems. It recognizes that the school environment is an ideal platform for an integrated approach that can support complementary actions and positive results in these areas.

WFP's commitment: As part of the strategic shift from food aid to food assistance, WFP strives to establish sustainable, high-quality school feeding programmes that are owned and funded by national governments. Central to WFP's school feeding policy is the intention to transfer responsibility for school feeding to national governments.

IFAD's commitment: Although IFAD is not directly involved in the development of school feeding programmes, its objective of strengthening short supply chains, improving the living and production conditions of smallholder farmers, and transforming food systems is aligned with school feeding, allowing for multisectoral and cross-cutting action.

Given their role in coordinating the follow-up to the UN Food Systems Summit and their expertise in facilitating SSTC for SDG 2, the 3 UN agencies base in Rome, play a catalytic role in bringing together synergies, skills and innovative solutions from the Global South to scale up national HGSF programmes in selected partner countries of the Global Coalition for school meals.

Article written by CERFAM



SUMMARY



07

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR CHILD NUTRITION: GLOBAL AND MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACHES TO EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMMES

Chool meal programmes are operating around the world and have been for many decades. Some are small, some large, some are operated by external partners, some by national or local entities. The Global Child Nutrition Foundation's (GCNF's) Global Survey of School Meal Programs© conducted in 2019 and 2021. Of the 139 countries that responded in 2021, 125 (90 percent) reported having at least one large-scale school meal programme. (GCNF 2022).

While it would be impossible to identify all the connections between them, there is evidence of cooperation related to school feeding between people, programmes, and countries over the past 25 years, at least.

A Forum for to promote school feeding programmes through South-South cooperation

For 23 of the last 25 years, GCNF has presented an annual Global Child Nutrition Forum for government leaders, implementing partners, and other stakeholders of school meal programmes. Forums feature presentations of programmes by participating government officials, visits to schools to observe the local programme(s), participant networking, workshops, and plenary sessions on topics of high interest (e.g., nutrition, local purchasing, and fortification), and a participant Communique consisting of key messages and goals for the next year.

The Forums have been documented over the years, giving a historical record of the countries, participants, and topics covered, and demonstrating how powerful South-South collaboration has been in the past, is now, and can be well into the future.



have at least one large-scale school meal program This author has attended 17 of the 23 Forums and worked with school feeding via positions with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and GCNF. Some observations on South-South cooperation in school meal programmes are :



Early GCNF Forums held in the United States were small, averaging about 21 participants/year from 1997 - 2008. Attendance escalated when the Forum began to be held in a different country each year, averaging about 257 participants/year when the Forum was held in South Africa (2009), Ghana (2010), Kenya (2011), Ethiopia (2012), Brazil (2013), South Africa (2014), Cabo Verde (2015), Armenia (2016), Canada (2017), Tunisia (2018), Cambodia (2019), virtually (2020), and in Benin (2022).



Examples of South-South partnerships with lasting impact are: The Government of Chile, WFP, and GCNF worked together to form a Latin American School Feeding Network. Cote d'Ivoire's school feeding leaders visited and coached peers in other francophone countries on what became known as "home-grown school feeding" (HGSF). Connections made at the 2019 Forum led to the creation of a Pacific School Food and Nutrition Network.



Two Millennium Development Programme Task Forces elicited lessons from school meal programmes in the Southern Hemisphere, resulting in HGSF being highlighted as a "quick win" for helping to achieve multiple Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The New Partnership for Africa's Development was an early proponent of HGSF to achieve the MDGs and food and nutrition security. In 2003, the African Union adopted the HGSF approach, and in 2007, African Ministers of Education endorsed HGSF.

Brazil's HGSF programme under the Fome Zero initiative was key to the expansion of HGSF, especially in Africa, as it provides an excellent example of HGSF under Southern Hemisphere conditions. Brazil and the WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger hosted many delegations from Africa, and the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) programmes with Brazil supported local purchasing, particularly for school feeding programmes in Africa. Brazil presented its example at many GCNF Forums and in 2013 hosted a Forum with 300 participants.

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grants--Purchase for Progress ("P4P", with WFP), HGSF (with the Partnership for Child Development), and a grant to SNV--were complimentary, focused on Africa, and contributed significantly to the knowledge base, drawing, and sharing data and lessons from and between countries in the Southern Hemisphere.

These are just a few examples of how countries and programs in the Global South have contributed to the growth, quality, and impact of school meal programs over the past 20+ years.



VISUALS BY TERESA FOR Ovimality >

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23RD ANNUAL GLOBAL CHILD NUTRITION FORUM OCTOBER 2022 COTONOUBENIN



VISUALS BY TERESA FOR Ovimality >

The need for further South-South learning and sharing

Looking forward, there are important South-South learning and sharing opportunities Of high interest, for example, is for programmes to (re)turn to traditional crops and menus that meet local tastes and are resilient and nutritious, to identify and use neglected and underutilized plants indigenous to Southern Hemisphere countries, to achieve contextappropriate and independent management and funding mechanisms to sustain programmes, and to demonstrate and maximize the multi-sectoral benefits of climate-smart, nutritious HGSF programmes.

There will be global and regional mechanisms to support such efforts: GCNF's Global Survey database and country reports provide a common vocabulary and standard format for easy comparisons and learning across countries and programs, and the GCNF Forum will facilitate sharing into the future. The School Meals Coalition formed in 2021 can also encourage sharing and cooperation at the global level, and the African Union's initiatives for school feeding and nutrition can continue to have impact in the region. The key word for all involved is cooperation.

Article written by Global Child Nutrition Foundation (GCNF)

Green and flourishing vegetables at Olympic High School, Kenya ©WFP/Martin Karimi



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INTERVIEW WITH PATRICK TEDEELRA Director a.i., CERFAM

> SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING ARE AT THE CORE OF CERFAM'S MODUS OPERANDI. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO USE THIS APPROACH TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2, 'ZERO HUNGER'? WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN ADVANCING THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA IN THE REGION?

South-South cooperation is a cost-effective investment for sustainable solutions to end hunger and malnutrition

he Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition- CERFAM's mission is to serve African countries and their partners by supporting their efforts to accelerate the achievement of Zero Hunger. CERFAM's value proposition is to harness the significant potential of the continent's traditional know-how and innovative knowledge and South-South cooperation to promote

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION AT THE CORE OF CERFAM'S WORK sustainable, high-impact, local solutions.

By promoting good practices and innovative solutions that are adapted to the local context and reality, CERFAM puts its expertise at the service of countries, as a facilitator and a platform for exchange of experiences and knowledge. South-South cooperation is a proven strategy and one of the best mechanisms for the exchange of successful experiences, for learning and capacity building between countries sharing the same challenges and constraints. Strengthening countries' leadership and capacities, and

cooperation among countries that share the same priorities, are essential in advancing the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Alongside policy dialogue and financial cooperation, South-South cooperation has fostered many exchanges of knowledge, expertise and through programmes, projects and initiatives that have contributed to addressing specific problems in the countries of the South.

South-South cooperation is a powerful tool available to developing countries

An effective tool for national capacity building

South-South cooperation is at the core of CERFAM's work because it is a powerful tool for developing countries to leverage the exchange of knowledge and of experience to strengthen their national capacities and to establish collaborative networks with other national, regional, and international actors. The approach we adopt is holistic and inclusive, which allows countries or partners to learn from the experiences of peers and practitioners to improve their own interventions, projects, and programmes. Through this approach, practices can be adapted and improved to be replicated, and scaled up by others, leading to a multiplier effect with greater impact on food security and nutrition in Africa.

WHAT HAVE BEEN CERFAM'S MISSION AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE ITS CREATION IN MARCH 2019? WHAT STRATEGIES HAS THE CENTRE DEVELOPED TO FACILITATE LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE SHARING AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES?

Cote d'Ivoire and WFP, catalysts for a new dynamic in South-South cooperation

In its four years of existence, and thanks to the decisive support of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the World Food Programme (WFP), CERFAM has built the foundations to achieve its vision of being a catalyst for good practices and innovative solutions against hunger and malnutrition in Africa. The Centre has been implementing its roadmap by focusing on priority programmatic areas, namely nutrition, rural development, community resilience to socio-economic and climate shocks, home-grown school feeding and strengthening agri-food value chains.

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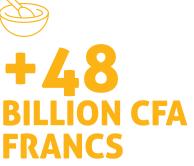
CERFAM, A CATALYST FOR GOOD PRACTICES AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN AFRICA

CERFAM is a platform, which serves to support countries and development partners

CERFAM has developed a range of services to respond to requests for technical assistance from several African governments, including Benin, Burundi, Chad, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, and Togo. These collaborations address the need to highlight the good practices that are abundant in Africa, but for which little action has been taken to identify, document systematically, and above all make them accessible. The strategies developed around South-South and triangular cooperation are already based on the benefits generated by this approach for Governments and their populations, mainly that of fostering solidarity and equality between countries and peoples, or intensifying investments that improve the efficiency of scaling up innovative solutions from one developing country to another.

CERFAM PROMOTES PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES FOR ZERO HUNGER

WHICH OF CERFAM'S MAIN AREAS OF INTERVENTION HAVE BEEN MOST INVOLVED IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION? COULD YOU PRESENT THESE AREAS, WHILE NOTING THEIR RELEVANCE AND VALUE ADDITION FOR THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED?



for the implementation of Benin National Integrated School Feeding Program (PNASI)

Facilitating exchanges and providing assistance by responding to countries' specific needs

CERFAM aims to be a platform for exchange, partnership, and cooperation, which allows African countries to have access to a range of sustainable solutions to accelerate their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2. To this end, we work to promote an enabling environment, to foster countries' ability to build broader partnerships, and to increase the visibility and value of South-South cooperation on their programmes, projects, and initiatives. To facilitate networking and to create synergies, we have established operating procedures for requesting CERFAM's assistance to facilitate and support the organization of study visits, cross-country exchanges, and technical assistance missions. These procedures allow us to clearly define the objectives and expectations, to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders involved, and to ensure a coherent and robust collaborative process that effectively responds to the specific needs and priorities of the countries we work with.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063 guide CERFAM's areas of intervention

At CERFAM, we are committed to contributing to address the challenges Africa is facing. We work on nutrition related issues with a focus on food safety and quality, food fortification, and agri-food value chains with a particular emphasis on smallholder farmers, post-harvest loss management, community resilience to multiple socio-economic shocks, school feeding, social protection, climate change as well as a framework for coordination and exchanges between countries to drive the desired momentum and change. In the face of the current multiple global crises, there is growing attention and mobilization around issues related to food sovereignty, around the valorisation of indigenous foods and environmentally friendly practices for sustainable management of land and other natural resources, and around the free movement of goods and services in Africa. This attention translates into a demand for massive investments for rapid transformation towards sustainable solutions through building country capacity for greater ownership, enabling replication and scaling-up of game-changing solutions on the ground.

Addressing current issues and country priorities

The thematic areas of intervention offer new opportunities for job creation, youth and women's empowerment, income-generating activities, and development of the local economy with a positive impact on natural resource management and the environment. The reduction of post-harvest losses, the development of agricultural value chains and home-grown school feeding programmes are among the themes most exploited by the Centre in its facilitation of south-south cooperation initiatives.

School feeding, a popular topic for study visits and experience sharing

School feeding is an efficient intervention to support children's health, nutrition, and education as well as the local economy through supplying school canteens with local products. The Republic of Benin, for example, considers school feeding to be a development priority, and has allocated more than 48 billion CFA francs from its national budget of the implementation of its National Integrated School Feeding Programme (PNASI). In Zambia, the school feeding programme is the largest food safety net, benefiting an estimated 1.9 million children across 5,100 primary schools across the country. The number of districts covered increased from 39 in 2019 to 70 in 2022, out of a total of 116 districts.

IN FEBRUARY 2022, THE 35TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION, HELD IN ADDIS ABABA, **SELECTED "NUTRITION" AS** THE THEME OF THE YEAR 2022. A THEME PROPOSED BY THE **PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC** OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE, H.E. **MR. ALASSANE OUATTARA.** WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED **BENEFITS OF THE YEAR OF NUTRITION AND HOW CAN** SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION **CONTRIBUTE TO ENSURING** THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE **ABIDJAN DECLARATION TO ENSURE ADEQUATE NUTRITION FOR ALL IN AFRICA?**

HUNGER HAS AFFECTED 278 MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN AFRICA IN 2021

Raising the alarm about the dramatic increase in hunger and malnutrition in the world

Africa continues to face multiple challenges, including conflicts, climate change, rising commodity prices exacerbated by the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and the Russo-Ukrainian crisis. More than ever. it is essential for countries to work together to address the challenges of food security, nutrition, and sustainable food systems. According to projections in the 2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report, between 702 million and 828 million people were hungry in 2021; nearly 670 million people will still be hungry in 2030. Nearly one in three people worldwide suffer from at least one form of malnutrition: wasting, stunting, vitamin, and mineral deficiency, overweight or obesity, and diet-related noncommunicable diseases. This situation is particularly alarming in Africa, where hunger affected 278 million in 2021, or one in five people, 20.2 percent of the population.

Nutrition remains a key concern for African Union member states

The adoption of nutrition as the theme of the year 2022 by the African Union served as an impetus for the African Union Member States to federate their efforts, pool in their resources to boost a new, transformative, and irreversible dynamic at the national, regional, and continental levels. Nutrition is a priority area of intervention for CERFAM. Furthermore, supporting the implementation of the work plan for the African Year of Nutrition is crucial for the positioning and commitment of the Centre, with support

SUMMARY

from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and WFP, and collaboration with partners to strengthen and expand our interventions through inclusive and innovative strategic and operational alliances and coalitions.

HOW HAS CERFAM DEPLOYED SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN AFRICA AND WHAT RESULTS HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE BY DOING SO?

of hydroponics implemented across 71 schools in Zambia

Leveraging South-South cooperation to access expertise and share knowledge

CERFAM supports governments, institutions and development partners in the formulation, planning, implementation and monitoring of policies and interventions to improve food security and nutrition in Africa. South-South cooperation is a fundamental dimension of CERFAM's work, building on its four pillars (i.e., research, technical assistance, partnership, and advocacy) to facilitate access to the best available technical skills, technologies, knowledge, and expertise to help African countries and partners accelerate the progress towards Zero Hunger, in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the aspirations of the African Union's 2063 Agenda "The Africa We Want».

Facilitate exchanges for the replication and scaling up of sustainable solutions to end hunger and malnutrition

At CERFAM, we rely on South-South cooperation as an effective and efficient means of sharing good practices that have a sustainable impact and can be replicated and scaled up across the continent. In addition, CERFAM facilitates the deployment of expertise to support capacity building and knowledge transfer initiatives between countries and supports evidencebased operational research to guide the design and implementation of interventions.

Promising opportunities to boost South-South cooperation on the African continent.

This strategic approach strengthens collaboration and synergies between countries and continental institutions with a focus on the West and Central African region. To date, CERFAM has deployed several South-South cooperation initiatives in the region:

> In June 2021, CERFAM facilitated a high-level study visit to Benin, led by Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, with the Ministers of Education, Agriculture and Health, who came to immerse themselves in the model of the National Integrated School Feeding Programme of Benin (PNASI), and the impact of school feeding on improving children's quality of life and human capital development;

In July and August 2021, CERFAM facilitated the deployment of experts from Côte d'Ivoire and Benin to the Republic of Congo to share their know-how and experience, and to train producers, artisans, and processors in cassava and banana processing techniques, manufacturing processing equipment, and adequate food safety practices;

Since November 2021, CERFAM has also been facilitating the mobilization of technical assistance to women farmers' groups in the Poro region of northern Côte d'Ivoire, to foster improvement of the rice value chain. The aforementioned capacity building initiative is done in close collaboration with the WFP office in Côte d'Ivoire, the Rice Development Agency (ADERIZ), Bühler, Africa Rice Center, and the Chinese technical rice assistance project in Guiguidou, Côte d'Ivoire. Through this South-South cooperation initiative, local actors benefit from Chinese technical and technological experience to strengthen their capacities, and from agro-machinery such as threshers, peelers and tractors to support rice production in target communities;

In March 2022, CERFAM hosted a study visit by a delegation from the Government of The Gambia to Côte d'Ivoire with the objectives to learn more about the Centre, to learn from and exchange with local actors on good practices in Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) and smallholder farming initiatives;



In May 2022, CERFAM also facilitated a study visit by representatives of the Libyan government to Zambia to learn about innovative hydroponic techniques, implemented in 71 schools, which aim to improve the quality of school menus of 45,000 schoolchildren, with more nutritious products;

CERFAM has organized or supported the organization of forums, including highlevel consultations and expert meetings, providing an advocacy platform for senior government officials, regional and continental institutions and platforms, technical and financial partners, civil society, and the private sector.

All these examples illustrate the current dynamics; with African countries showing a growing interest in learning from each other and developing collaborations to find sustainable responses to common challenges. CERFAM is well positioned to be a key player in facilitating South-South cooperation and supporting national capacity building.

YOU RAISED THE ISSUE OF LACK OF DOCUMENTATION AND PROMOTION OF GOOD PRACTICES, WHICH ARE NUMEROUS ON THE CONTINENT, AND WHICH HINDERS THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION. WHAT IS CERFAM'S SERVICE OFFER TO DISSEMINATE THESE GOOD PRACTICES?

Promoting a culture of knowledge management and capitalisation

Indeed, in almost every country on the continent, there are good practices and local solutions to reduce hunger and malnutrition. The difficulty lies not in the existence of these initiatives but in their identification, documentation, and promotion across Africa. The inadequacy, and sometimes absence, of systematic and quality documentation of these practices is due to the absence of a culture of knowledge management and capitalization, lack of strategies, mechanisms, and adequate tools that can be used to share knowledge and translate it into



concrete results on the ground. CERFAM's strategic objective is to foster and facilitate access to and sharing of knowledge to transform good practices and lessons learned into opportunities for promoting food security, nutrition, and sustainable food systems.

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KEPT, A DIGITAL PLATFORM DEDICATED TO EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE

Leveraging technology and innovation to facilitate availability and access to good practice

To this end, we launched in November 2020, an innovative digital platform dedicated to knowledge exchange, <u>KEPT</u>. The KEPT platform is accessible to a wide range of users including experts from national and regional institutions, academics, research centres, governments, centres of excellence, United Nations agencies, NGOs, and the private sector. Our platform addresses the knowledge gap, by facilitating the identification and documentation of potential good practices in a given region, through a rigorous methodology that includes evaluation criteria covering a wide spectrum of important dimensions, including effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, feasibility, innovation and learning, partnership and multisectoral approach, accountability (i.e. good governance and transparency), replicability, sustainability and potential for scale up. This throughout approach ensures that all the initiatives we identify are systematically analysed and evaluated before being published on our platform. The KEPT platform also includes features that enable sharing of processes, mobilization, and deployment of experts to support the replication and scaling of these good practices in any interested country across the continent. To date, more than nine countries have benefited from CERFAM's support for good practice documentation: Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, etc.

CERFAM'S BULLETIN N°11 FEBRUARY 2023



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MORE THAN NINE COUNTRIES OF AFRICA BENEFICIARIES OF CERFAM SUPPORT IN TERMS OF DOCUMENTATION OF GOOD PRACTICES

ARE THERE ANY CHALLENGES WHICH CERFAM FACES, WHICH CAN BE SOLUTIONED THROUGH SSTC?

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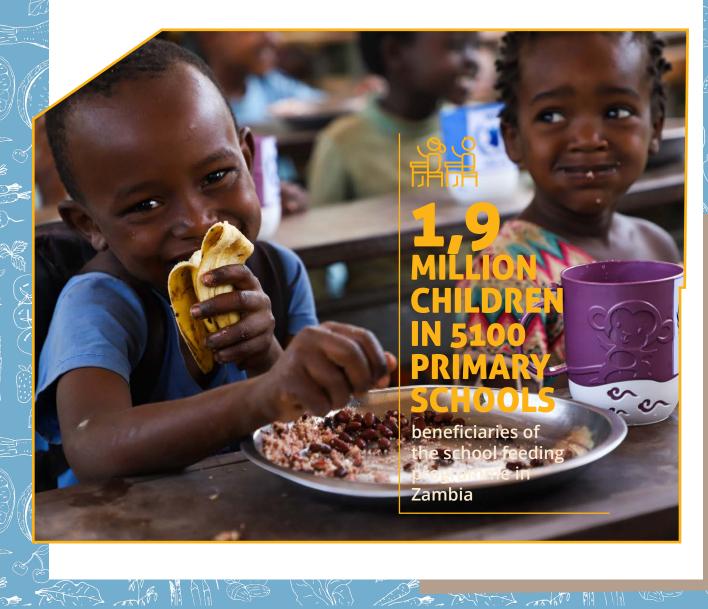
THERE IS A POTENTIAL DIVIDEND OF KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION IN THE CONTINENT THAT NEEDS TO BE FURTHER EXPLOITED

South-South cooperation as a transformative strategy for countries

South-South cooperation has emerged as a powerful tool for strengthening national systems, advocating for reforms and investments, and facilitating learning on Zero Hunger solutions in the African context, to enable countries to achieve SDG 2. South-South cooperation should be seen as an embodiment of political will, strategies, collaborative initiatives, crosscountry programming, joint elaboration of agreements by developing countries to help reduce poverty and develop human capital. At CERFAM, we believe in the transformative power of this approach, moving from inspiration to concrete results. However, to sustain progress towards the goals of the Zero Hunger challenge, we need to move from good intentions and resolutions to actions by changing the paradigm and by giving impetus to a new dynamic supported at the highest level by political will and massive and sustained investments. Concrete actions are needed to mobilize additional and complementary resources, expertise, skills, capacities, technologies, equipment, and innovations in developing countries to ensure the implementation and sustainability of initiatives. This implies exploring, being creative, joining efforts, pooling resources, and creating more innovative development opportunities to achieve set objectives.

Proposing adapted, evolving, and sustainable solutions to current challenges

The main elements involved in the South-South cooperation approach, namely partnership development and assistance, are part of CERFAM's 4 pillars, along with research, and advocacy and communication. Having made South-South cooperation our modus operandi, we therefore work to: (i) capitalize on the exchange of expertise, know-how, technologies and maximise synergies and complementarities, (ii) assist countries in strengthening their policy, legal and institutional frameworks and implement good practices against hunger and malnutrition, (iii) mobilise appropriate expertise and resources to leverage investments to promote and implement good practices and innovative solutions in the region and in Africa. Through South-South cooperation, countries can identify solutions that are appropriate, adaptable, and scalable to their local economic and social conditions.



HOW DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN AFRICA? WHAT ARE THE UPCOMING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION INITIATIVES AT CERFAM?



SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IS A MAJOR FOCUS OF INTERVENTION FOR CERFAM IN 2023

Recognising, celebrating, and popularising African know-how

Over the past two decades, many African countries have cumulated substantial development experience and acquired a certain level of expertise, know-how, and technology, which has ensured them enormous potential that should be shared with other countries in the South. The examples referred to above, and many others in Africa and around the world, illustrate the potential of South-South cooperation to help governments, partners and organizations promote their own methods and models, while taking advantage of successful experiences from their neighbours to improve their programmes or inspire more innovative approaches to improve food security and nutrition. I have no doubt about the contribution and impact of South-South cooperation on people and countries in Africa. There is a potential knowledge and innovation dividend on the continent that needs to be further exploited, as well as a multitude of local solutions and innovations to eradicate hunger. To this end, there is a strong need to expand the evidence base on South-South cooperation to demonstrate the effectiveness, sustainability, and replicability of solutions by countries, and to increase peer-to-peer learning and sharing opportunities. It is equally important to build on past experiences and lessons learned to encourage countries to try new approaches and be innovative.

WFP's Centres of Excellence, key players in South-South cooperation for Zero Hunger

South-South cooperation is one of the areas of work of WFP and its Centres of Excellence, including those in Brazil and China. Since its creation, the WFP Centre of Excellence in Brazil has supported some 40 countries and the African Union in their advocacy efforts and in the development of their food security and nutrition programmes, particularly around school feeding. WFP's Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China CoE) shares China's rich experiences in food security, nutrition improvement, and poverty reduction with the African continent.

WE BELIEVE THAT ALL COUNTRIES HAVE SOMETHING TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND SOMETHING TO SHARE

CERFAM's priority areas of intervention in 2023

South-South cooperation is a major focus of intervention for CERFAM in 2023. We will continue to increase the documentation of good practices and to capture experiences that are evidence-based and offer innovative solutions that can be replicated by countries. Our KEPT knowledge management platform is being updated to improve its functionality, including for the replication of good practices, and sharing of expertise. We will also continue to encourage study and learning visits, provide technical support to help implement the outcomes from these exchanges. We will continue providing technical assistance on the rice value chain development project in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, in collaboration with WFP Centre of Excellence in China, as well as in other countries. In addition, we are preparing a high-level consultation on food quality and safety, bringing different experiences in this thematic area from experts across the African continent and beyond. We believe that all countries have something to learn from each other and something to share. We are at a stage where it is important to position African countries not only as beneficiaries of South-South exchanges, but also as contributors of rich experiences and essential knowledge in the design and implementation of food security and nutrition policies, strategies and programmes that contribute to the wellbeing of their populations.



GERFAM NEWS



From 19 to 27 October 2022, an assessment of postharvest losses in the rice and cowpea value chains was conducted in Liberia by CERFAM, WFP and HELP Logistics at the request of the Liberian Ministry of Agriculture. This in-depth secondary evaluation is the result of key recommendations made following the food supply evaluation conducted in July 2022, the results of which were validated at a national workshop.

On 25 November 2022, CERFAM, in collaboration with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and WFP, organized a webinar considering the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27), to elucidate the severity of climate change impacts on the African continent. The webinar highlighted the complex interconnection between climate change and food and nutrition insecurity, impacts on food systems, diets and health, livelihoods, and sustainable development of states.





A training workshop to strengthen the capacities of rice sector actors in Guinea was organized by CERFAM in collaboration with WFP Guinea and the Supply Chain Division and the Food Systems Division at headquarters, from 9 to 11 November 2022. This training is the result of a 2021 post-harvest rice sector loss assessment conducted by these entities, which identified challenges affecting the sector and proposed recommendations for developing the rice supply chain in the country. The training aimed to share best practices and technologies for proper post-harvest management to improverice quality and reduce losses.



On 28 November 2022, CERFAM participated in the 18th Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP PP), around nutrition-smart agriculture. The acting Director of CERFAM, Mr. Patrick Teixeira, participated in a session organized by Harvest Plus, where he spoke on the integration of biofortification into national nutrition programs. On the sidelines of this annual event organized by the African Union, CERFAM organizedasideeventunderthetheme«Thetransformative power of knowledge management to leverage good practices in agriculture and food systems and evidence-based solutions to end hunger and malnutrition in Africa».



From 29 to 30 November 2022 the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (MIRAH) of Côte d'Ivoire, in collaboration with CERFAM, organized an awareness and training workshop, in the format of open days for the promotion of surimi products in Côte d'Ivoire. The organization of this workshop, which is the result of collaboration between the two institutions, aimed to strengthen the capacities of processors, for better market access to improve their production and sales capacity, while promoting Surimi products and locally processed fishery products to partners and the Ivorian population.

GERFAM NEWS



From 7 to 8 December in Abidjan, GIZ and DLG International, organized a hybrid conference on post-harvest losses to discuss technologies, tools, techniques, and innovative solutions to combat post-harvest losses in Côte d'Ivoire, in the presence of H.E. Mr. Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani, Minister of State and Minister of Agriculture and Development, and other Partners and Technical and Financial. At this meeting, DLG International and CERFAM signed a letter of intent that includes the transfer of a virtual knowledge management platform on postharvest losses from DLG International to CERFAM.



From 6 to 8 December, CERFAM participated in the high-level meeting on the African Year of Nutrition, organized by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and its partners including CERFAM. As a prelude to this high-level event, CERFAM also took part in a pre-meeting organized on the first two days with 54 experts from across the continent. The objective was to hold technical discussions to better understand the realities in each country represented, taking stock of available data, including studies on the cost of hunger. The discussions also highlighted the importance of multisectoral and people-centred strategies at the heart of national nutrition action plans.



On 8 December 2022, a high-level meeting on the African Year of Nutrition was held in Abidjan, in the presence of King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Champion of Nutrition of the African Union, the Vice President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and other senior officials. It was an opportunity to take stock of the nutrition situation in Africa and progress towards the goals and commitments made under the Malabo Declaration, the Food Systems Summits and the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Abidjan Declaration, a call for action, more investment and better coordination to accelerate the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms in Africa.

CERFAM was awarded at the 4th edition of the «Business and Institutions Awards» on December 8, 2022 by AB Communication, organizer of this annual award ceremony. In the presence of several members of the government such as the Minister of Economy and Finance, the Minister of Sports, the Minister of Public Service and Administration Modernization, and the Minister of Reconciliation and Social Cohesion, and 51 other organizations, companies and institutions, CERFAM was recognized as the best Research Center against Hunger and Malnutrition in Africa.





The Sahel University Network for Resilience (REUNIR) and CERFAM organized on January 16, 2023, a webinar on the theme «Sustainable management of agricultural land in the Sahel for better community resilience: Issues and Challenges». The objective of the meeting was to share knowledge on the causes

and consequences of land degradation in the Sahel, propose strategies for sustainable land management and formulate related recommendations. It mobilized nearly 300 participants who benefited from presentations by illustrious professors and climate specialists.



of digitalization in transforming nutrition and food systems to improve nutrition putcomes, healthy and sustainable diets.

Female community members processing cassava for school meals in Amboasary, Madagascar. ©WFP Madagascar

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" I remain convinced that South-South cooperation is an essential tool for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By working together, we can develop sustainable strategies to enhance the South's success and help others adapt them to their own circumstances." António Guterres, UN Secretary General

REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

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