



World Food
Programme

SAVING
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MARA-WFP Global SSTC Initiative

May 2023

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1. Foreword

As a vivid reflection of the strategic partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of the People's Republic of China (China) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), the following pages provide an overview of the significant achievements made in 2022 under the joint MARA-WFP Global South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Initiative, which is composed of the SSTC Country projects that started in 2019 and the SSTC Assistance Fund projects¹, as well as efforts to strengthen institutional capacity for the pilot coordination, management, and visibility.

Amidst the increasing demands from the Global South for WFP to facilitate and broker knowledge and expertise, while strengthening country capacities and promoting technology transfers among nations in the Global South, this report offers a concise glimpse into the WFP's work on SSTC.

It showcases WFP's commitment to brokering SSTC and integrating it into key areas of its mandate and operations at the country level.

The report was developed by the WFP Global SSTC Team, part of the Programme—Humanitarian and Development (PRO) Division, based at WFP Headquarters (HQ) in Rome, Italy, in close collaboration with WFP Country Offices (COs) hosting SSTC field projects in selected developing countries. Technical support was provided by the WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in China (China CoE).

¹ The SSTC Pilot projects were renamed as "SSTC Country Projects" and the SSTC COVID-19 Opportunity Fund Projects were renamed as "SSTC Assistance Fund Projects" as per the NFR signed by PRO on 20 July 2022.

2. Background

On a yearly basis, WFP PRO (SSTC Unit) shares insights into progress made under the MARA-WFP Global SSTC initiative. This year's report provides an overview of the 2022 achievements of WFP's efforts to promote SSTC with support from MARA.

The 2022 report contains detailed SSTC country information for both the SSTC Assistance Fund projects and the SSTC Country Projects, analyses of lessons learned and challenges, development solutions provided by the WFP's China CoE and proposed next steps that were collected from WFP's COs. Building on the successful achievements of the SSTC Country Projects and the SSTC Assistance Fund projects, WFP and China will consistently make joint efforts in up-scaling, expanding, and diversifying the development of SSTC in the future.

This report will also represent the basis for the development of a longer-term cooperation programme with MARA that includes mainstreaming SSTC into WFP's delivery models, as part of the updated corporate SSTC Policy to be endorsed by WFP's Executive Board in June 2023 and operationalized through a costed policy implementation plan that will guide the SSTC-related work throughout the different layers of WFP's SSTC portfolio.

Lastly, in 2023, WFP will continue to build on SSTC institutional capacity, coordinating with the China CoE, WFP's Regional Bureaux (RBx), and relevant WFP HQ Divisions to ensure smooth implementation, country ownership and expanding the impact and the scale and the impact of the MARA-WFP Global SSTC initiative.





3. Milestones and 2022 Achievements

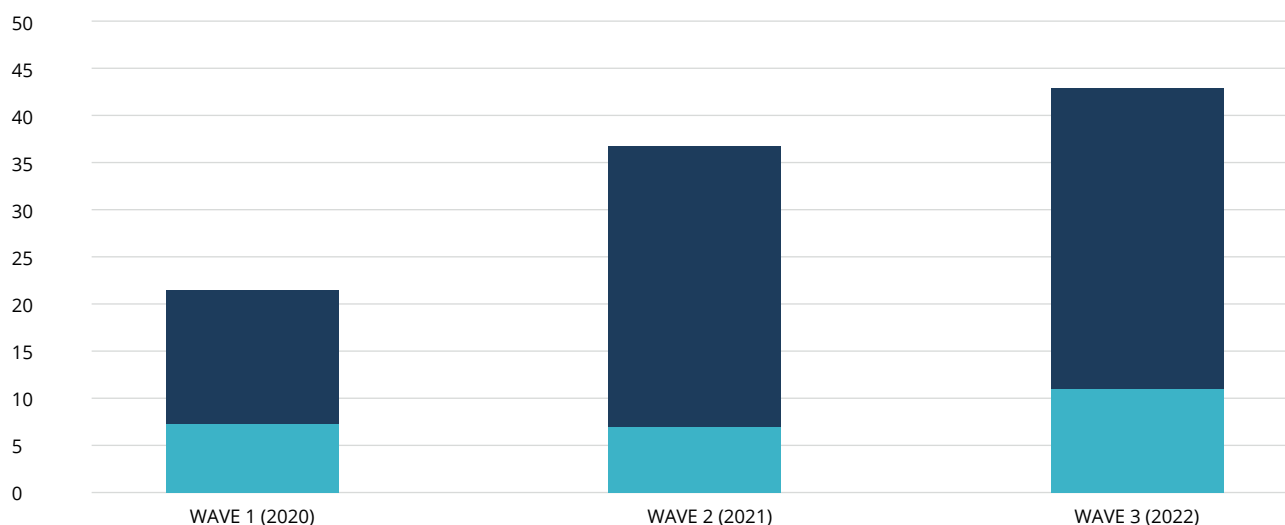
A. SSTC Assistance Fund: from 2020 to 2022

A.1. What is the SSTC Assistance Fund

- In 2020, in the context of multiple challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the WFP PRO established a new facility - "WFP COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund" - for short-term WFP-facilitated SSTC activities. This initiative was subsequently renamed as "SSTC Assistance Fund". The objective of this facility is to help developing countries to rapidly and flexibly respond to the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic through the SSTC mechanism. The facility makes seed funding quickly available for WFP COs to support host governments to tap into SSTC for COVID-19 response and mitigation.
- Over the past three years, WFP has supported over 30 COs across regions through the Fund. The SSTC Assistance Fund projects have been key to expand WFP's SSTC engagement both geographically and thematically.
- Out of 38 supported COs, 25 COs were funded through the contribution from MARA and other 13 COs from other sources. COs greatly benefitted from China's expertise mobilized by the WFP China CoE as well as intra-regional knowledge and technology exchanges.
- Thematic areas supported through the SSTC Assistance Fund include value chain development, supply chain, climate resilience and adaptation, social protection, school feeding, nutrition, and emergency preparedness and response (EPR).
- As the countries' demand for this type of flexible and swift SSTC funding increased and building on the achievements of 2020 and 2021 rounds of projects, the SSTC Assistance Fund was replenished by China for the third Call for Proposals in 2022. With a total funding of \$250,000 USD, the first wave of applications received a significant number of proposals, which motivated its expansion for two additional waves in 2021 and 2022. The WFP SSTC Unit, in turn, invested corporate funds in the SSTC Assistance Fund to further complement and expand the initiative.

SSTC Assistant Fund: applications received and countries supported (2020 to 2022)

Number of COs directly supported ■
Number of applications received ■



A.2. What has been achieved in 2022

- The SSTC Assistance Fund offered timely and flexible support for countries' food security in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic positioning MARA as a critical SSTC partner.
- From the development of an e-commerce platform to ease access of smallholder farmers to markets in Zimbabwe to the installation of a solar station to increase agricultural productivity at the community level in Armenia, grants have been used to tap into the Chinese expertise based on country demands – with the valuable contribution from the WFP China CoE and the WFP Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire (CERFAM).
- Supported projects ranged from community-level interventions to feasibility studies and strategic gap-filling of larger initiatives. For example, the initiative with Zambia allowed for the development of additional features of the Maano App: an e-commerce platform that enables farmers to access the market information, and provides strategic advice for project sustainability.²



(Local farmer receiving raspberry plants in Lusakert, as part of local capacity strengthening promoted by the project with Armenia.



20KW solar station in Lusakert, Shirak province of Armenia: establishment of new solar station also benefited from technical support provided by Chinese experts through an online webinar organized by the WFP China Center of Excellence for Rural Transformation



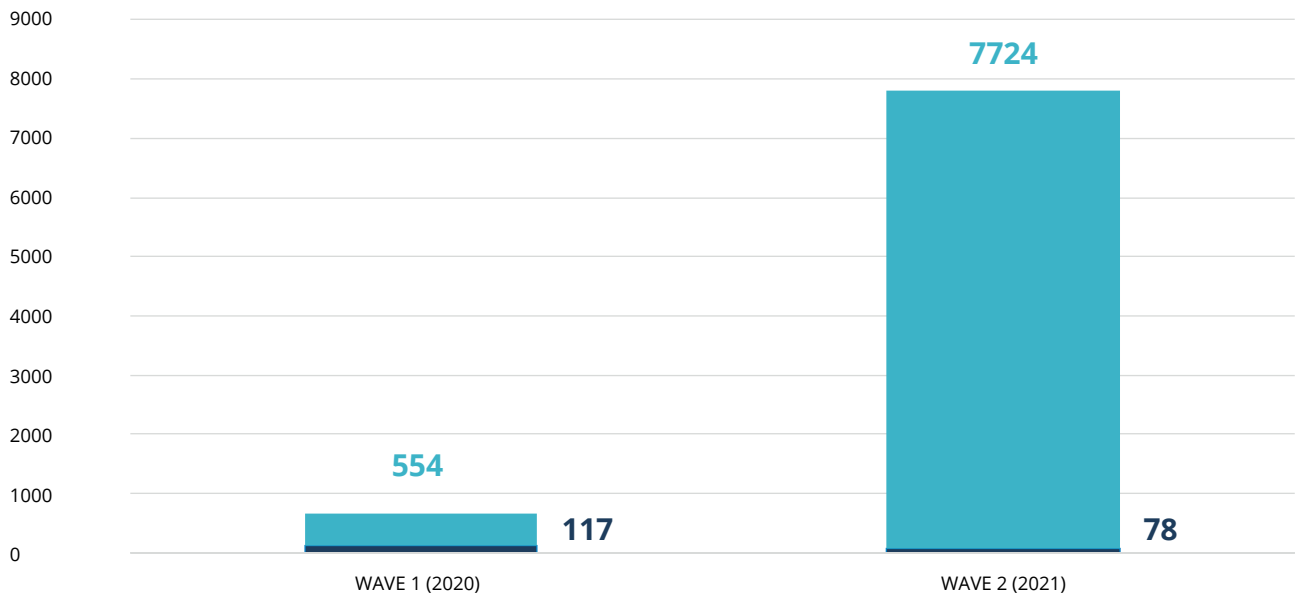
Lusakert, Armenia – WFP Armenia's beneficiary Gohar Nikolyan with WFP staff member at her backyard berry garden.

²Please refer to the SSTC Assistance Fund projects for information on each supported initiative on Wave 2.

This gap-filling approach allowed for a steep increase in the number of beneficiaries from wave 1 to wave 2³, as you can see from the graph below.

Waves 1 and 2 strengthened capacities: institutional staff and grassroots beneficiaries

Grassroot beneficiaries ■
 Institucional staff ■



(Maano app: the project with Zambia contributed to additional features of the app, originally leveraged by WFP's Innovation Accelerator, that increases rural smallholder farmers access to local and national markets. Photo: WFP. Innovation Accelerator.)

³ In wave 2, the MARA contribution (USD 25,000) was used to further develop the app and include enhanced features which provide vital agriculture support services. (Zambia survey, 2022).

A.3. SSTC Assistance Fund Projects

Armenia

Strengthening community-based capacities against multiple shocks and stressors of food security

Summary

WFP Armenia's "Green Energy for Productive Farming" project helps smallholder farmers in rural areas enhance agricultural production by using a self-sustaining, climate-sensitive, and community-led strategy. As a part of response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Armenia, the pilot project was launched under the SSTC Assistance Fund in 2021, with financial and technical support from China.

The Project invested in a China-manufactured solar station to help the community of Lusakert, in the Shirak – one of Armenia's most food insecure regions - to save money on electricity and then invest in agricultural works. Farmers also received training sessions on agricultural techniques (e.g., the drip irrigation systems for backyard berry gardens) as well as seeds for agriculture. Professor Jinghui Xu from Northwest Agriculture & Forestry University delivered an online session on green energy and photovoltaic power technologies attended by Government representatives, the private sector, and civil society.

SSTC partners

- MARA
- Northwest Agriculture & Forestry University, China

Lessons learned

The delivery of capacity-strengthening activity from the Chinese partner was affected by the internet connectivity: consider alternative delivery arrangements (e.g. recorded interventions).

Highlights and opportunities for follow-up

- Government uptake: Armenian Ministry of Economy funded similar project in an another location.
- Wave 3: strengthen the achieved results by expanding to other communities.

El Salvador

Increasing smallholder farmers access to markets: feasibility assessment for e-commerce platform of vegetable and fruits

Summary

In El Salvador, the restriction of mobilization caused by COVID-19 affected the smallholder farmers' access to markets, specifically impacting women who represent the majority of people working in open markets and fairs. For this reason, it is important to take advantage of increased opportunities in e-commerce that has grown more than 200% in Latin America and El Salvador due to COVID-19. This project contributed to the training of Ministry staff and their approach to the operation of the fresh fruit and vegetable market generating innovative ideas for the development of this market in El Salvador for the benefit of smallholder farmers. In addition, a webinar on e-commerce for fruits and vegetables was presented by a Chinese expert from Nanjing Agricultural University and attended by the agribusiness staff unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and a group of women vegetable producers. All the information provided in the webinar were practical cases applied in China that could be adapted to the Salvadoran reality.

SSTC partners

- MARA
- Nanjing Agricultural University, China

Lessons learned

COVID-19 related restrictions made it difficult to collect information from the field and frequent changes in focal points in the Ministry in El Salvador complicated the process.

Highlights and opportunities for follow-up

- The resulting study allowed the design of a marketing strategy proposal to create an e-commerce platform at the local level: additional funding will be needed to implement it.
- The devised e-commerce could be integrated into the existing initiative Gastrolab to provide a food systems approach.

Libya

South-South Cooperation on Climate Change in Libya

Summary

The project promoted a study visit of six Libyan Government officials of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office and the National Social and Economic Development Board to Zambia, to learn from the country's experience with Home-Grown School Feeding with Hydroponic technics. The visit was supported by the WFP Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition in Côte d'Ivoire – CERFAM – and by WFP regional office, and it considered the similar contexts between Zambia and Libya and its enabling factors to adapt and implement the National School Feeding programme. A demonstration unit was installed at the Ministry of Environment, allowing officials to get hands-on experience of how lettuce can easily be grown. In addition, over 150 smallholder farmers benefited from hydroponic support in the Fezzan region, partially thanks to the contribution from China, including the installation of nine greenhouses, allowing beneficiaries to start selling produce to boost their livelihood.

SSTC partners

- Beijing Agricultural Academy of Science, China
- Zambia
- CERFAM

Lessons learned

Participants from the Libyan side did not necessarily share the same level of previous knowledge on hydroponic techniques, which required additional time. Political crises also impacted government engagement.

Highlights and opportunities for follow-up

- High level of Government buy-in: successful combination of the Zambian experience with Chinese knowledge and support.
- Potential to integrate with Juncao initiatives.

Madagascar

Inclusive Cassava value chain development for community resilience and women empowerment

Summary

The COVID19 pandemic heavily impacted on Madagascan women, disrupting their economic activities and increasing their vulnerability. By providing support to 200 members of 10 women's groups and their households in Ambovombe district, Androy region, in the production, processing, and marketing of cassava products, and connecting them with school canteens for the sale of processed products, the project contributed to their sustainable economic empowerment. Chinese expertise on rural areas fresh food value chain digitalization contributed to strengthen capacities of Government officials and inform the country's agriculture digital transformation strategy, focusing on e-commerce for foods in rural areas. Additionally, the project promoted sensitization sessions on preventive measures against COVID-19, strengthening the role of women as vectors of messages and peer educators in the field.

SSTC partners

- CATAS
- IFAD

Lessons learned

There is a need for policy-level initiatives to foster a comprehensive Digital Strategy at the ministerial level (Ministry of Agriculture or/and Ministry of National Education).

Highlights and opportunities for follow-up

- Government buy-in: more stakeholders are interested in home-grown school feeding programmes connected to women's empowerment.
- Potential area of collaboration among the WFP, FAO and IFAD.

Guinea

Advancing Post-Harvest Loss Reduction and Rice Value Chain

Summary

Post-harvest losses especially in rural areas, have been increasingly exacerbated by the devastating and unprecedented outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic leading to market, trade, and supply chain disruptions. Building on the previous experience of CERFAM and WFP CoE China on the topic of reducing post-harvest loss as a way to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, the initiative was carried out in the region of Guinée forestière and Basse Guinée, to strengthen geographical convergence with the interventions of partners such as FAO and maximize its impact. A national workshop discussed and validated an action plan for national actors on rice post-harvest loss reduction, and identified potential sources of funding for the execution of the action plan. A Chinese agriculture expert was also invited to share China's experience in reducing food post-harvest losses on the workshop. Additionally, a series of training sessions was delivered for local smallholder farmers on rice processing, storing, and transporting in Koundara, Kissidougou, Gueckedou, Kankan, and N'zerekore

Chinese SSTC partners

- MARA
- Henan University of Technology, China

Lessons learned

Involving NGOs at the local level was an important factor of project sustainability and buy-in on behalf of local farmers.

Highlights and opportunities for follow-up

- The study resulted in a roadmap to support and accompany the Guinean government in managing post-harvest losses of rice (a staple food);
- The experience could be replicated for other crops such as corn, beans, to create an e-commerce platform at the local level.

Burundi

Support Rural Digitalization of Sustainable Agricultural Value Chains in Burundi

Summary

The project promoted a webinar, co-organized by WFP Zambia, to leverage China's experience in e-commerce for fresh food and vegetables for rural farmers in line with the government of Burundi's commitment to the inclusive and pro-poor digital transformation of the agriculture sector. Chinese knowledge and experience were complementary to an existing governmental initiative developed in partnership with the private sector - local private companies working with smallholder farmers in agriculture value chains - that started to design and build a digital platform to increase smallholder farmers' access to markets. The project resulted in a "Digital Agriculture Assessment Report: an Opportunity for Burundi's Sustainable Food System Transformation" that describes a roadmap for inclusive transformation in agriculture with valuable contributions from the Chinese experience that are adaptable to the country context.

SSTC partners

- MARA
- World Bank, AfDB, IFAD, FAO
- Dutch Embassy
- Interbank Burundi, Ecobank, Burundi Youth Investment Bank
- Bujahub, KIT Hub, Burundi Business Incubator, Elaga
- MediaBox, Auxfin Burundi
- Northwest Agriculture & Forestry University, China

Lessons learned

Strategic gaps: the lack of a comprehensive Digital Strategy in the Ministry of Agriculture. Supporting the Ministry to elaborate a Digital Strategy and Roadmap would help them to better lead their digitalization journey.

Highlights and opportunities for follow-up

- MINEAGRI has set a plan to modernize its agriculture Data Systems. This is an entry point for further support for more impact.
- The study resulted in a roadmap to support Digital agriculture assessment report.

Zambia

Enhancing Smallholder Access to Markets through the Digital Maano Virtual Farmers

Summary

Like in many countries in the Global South, in Zambia, smallholder farmers are the largest food producers, but they remain widely excluded from formal markets. Movement restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic increased post-harvest losses by farmers who were unable to sell their surplus crops increasing their food insecurity and vulnerability. To mitigate these challenges, WFP and the government of Zambia developed an e-commerce platform called the Maano-Virtual Farmers' Market (Maano App) - an app-based e-commerce platform that enables farmers and traders to exchange market information and trade while enabling farmers to negotiate better prices. The SSTC contribution from China was used to further develop the app and include enhanced features that provide vital agriculture support services. In addition, WFP with support from China's National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration (NAFRA), developed a go-to-market strategy aimed at marketing the app further and providing online training on smallholder access to markets.

Chinese SSTC partners

- MARA
- National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration (NAFRA)
- Northwest Agriculture & Forestry University

Lessons learned

There is a need for enhanced digital infrastructure in last mile rural areas that presented connectivity challenges for the application thereby limiting adoption. There is an opportunity to link with traditional cooperation partners to fill the infrastructure gap.

Highlights and opportunities for follow-up

- Opportunity to complement the mobile application by developing rural market infrastructure including aggregation hubs, storage facilities and development of rural enterprises.

B. SSTC Country Projects

B.1. What are the SSTC Country Projects

Since the SSTC Initiative was launched by WFP and MARA in 2019, China has been actively involved and has played an important leading role in WFP-facilitated SSTC. To date, China has supported more than thirty countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America with Chinese experts and technicians.

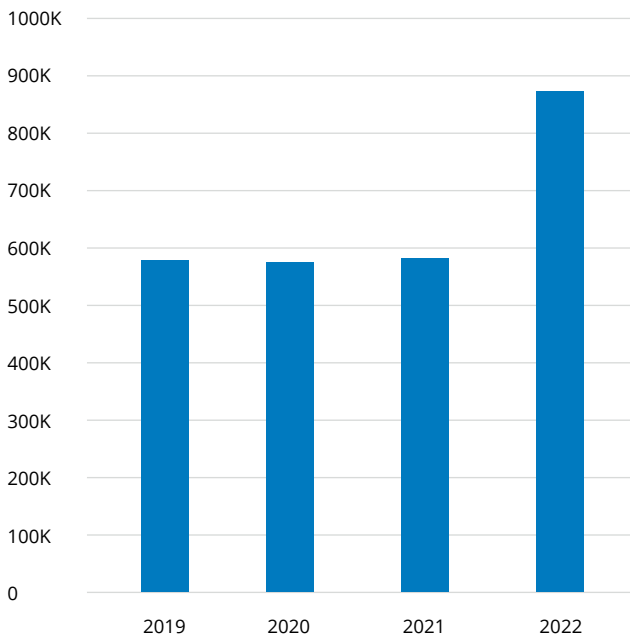
The MARA-WFP Global SSTC initiative was jointly designed to accelerate the impact in countries of the Global South that were interested in strengthening the capacity and resilience of smallholder farmers.

The technical assistance provided under the SSTC Country Projects has enhanced an effective solidarity among developing countries and allowed the recipient countries to benefit from relevant experiences and expertise from China.

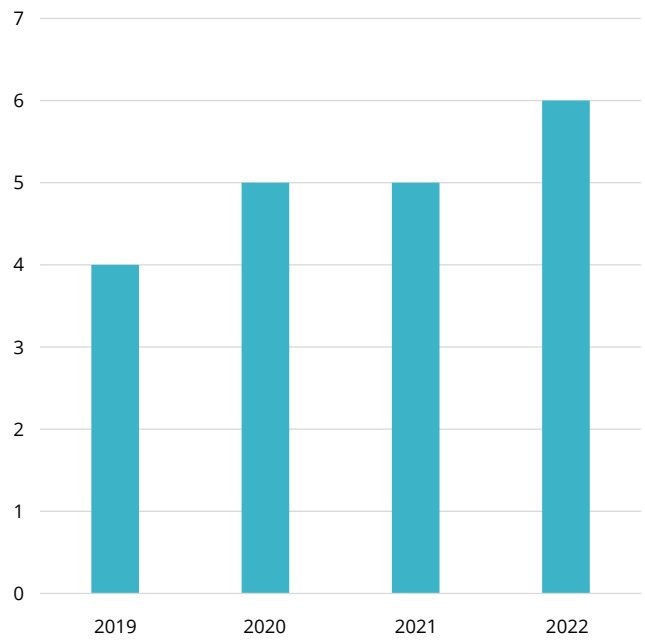
In 2022, facilitated by the WFP China CoE, WFP expanded its partnership with leading Chinese institutions to provide solutions and expertise to support the SSTC Country projects implementation. These Chinese Ministries and institutions included the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, China-Aid Agricultural Technology Demonstration Center, Nanjing Agricultural University in China, and the Jiangsu Academy of Agriculture Sciences among others.

The financial support received from MARA continued to increase over the years. The intention is to further consolidate and expand MARA-WFP Global SSTC initiative in line with the growing scope of WFP's SSTC work and funding levels from China, WFP's internal funds and a diversified partnership base.

Financial Support to SSTC Country Projects over the years (USD)



No of countries involved in the SSTC Country Projects over the years

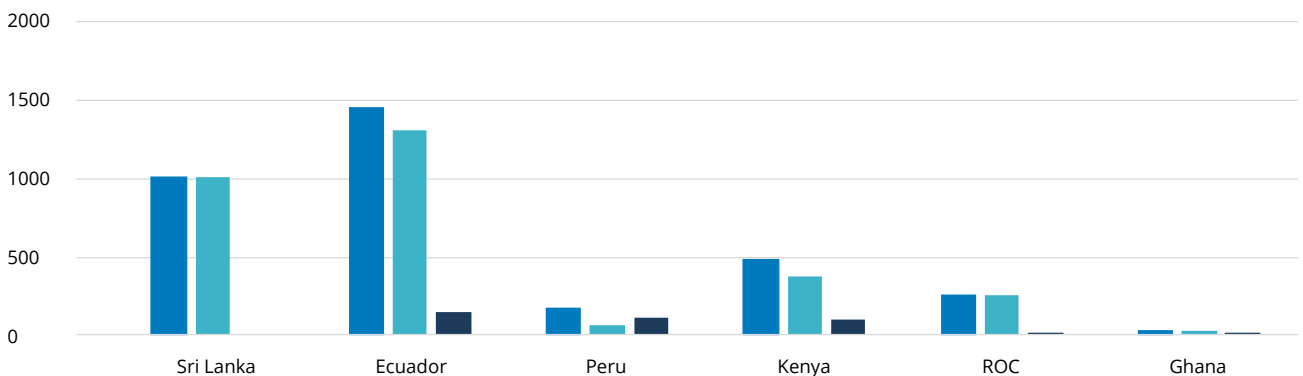


Since 2019, WFP, with increasing financial support from MARA, has formulated and launched field oriented SSTC Country projects first in Ecuador, Kenya, the Republic of Congo, and Sri Lanka and subsequently in Peru in 2020 and Ghana in 2022. Since 2019, four countries were supported by the SSTC Country Projects while in 2022, the total number of countries supported by this initiative increased to six.

In 2022, 3409 direct beneficiaries were reached by the SSTC Country projects at the grassroots and institutional level (including government, academia, think tank and private sector) according to the Monitoring and Evaluation survey results that were received by the COs (see Annex 2). Please note that the Ghana SSTC Country project started in July 2022 and the table above shows the results achieved in year 2022.

People Engaged in the SSTC Country Projects in 2022 (TOT 3409)

Beneficiaries ■
 Grassroot level ■
 Institutions (government, academia, think tank, private sector) ■



B.2. What has been achieved in 2022

B 2.1. Success Factors

- **Embedding SSTC projects in ongoing WFP activities in collaboration with national partners enabled a catalytic use of seed funding to pilot and/or scale up transformative models using the Chinese methodology of the rice-duck model.**

Ecuador: The continued expansion of the rice-duck model into new geographical areas has increased producers' awareness and trust in the model, seeing it as a feasible option to introduce to their contexts. MAG and other NGOs' support has also been essential to the model's expansion, as has been their support for gender-specific training to empower women producers to participate in the model. The support for direct sales has created sustainable market niches and generated higher demand and prices for the product. Finally, a Mandarin-Spanish translator allowed for simultaneous translation support in webinars for other countries in the region.

- **Close alignment between WFP's work at the country level with the Government priorities was key for ensuring the government buy-in**

Kenya: The alignment of WFP and the County Government priorities through discussions on joint annual workplans has been instrumental in successful design and implementation and prioritization of the project activities. Enhanced focus on the value chains applicable to the Arid and Semi-Arid lands (e.g., post-harvest management) has been a key positive factor. Another key factor has been the collaboration with the smallholder farmers and matching their needs and requests to practical/relevant sessions, as well as aligning learning/knowledge sessions with peer farmers who have valuable good practices to share.

Peru: The engagement of MIDAGRI at the national level was a key factor contributing to the success of this phase. A technical committee was established and included the subnational and national governments' representatives, as well as representatives from FAO, IFAD, and WFP. MIDAGRI's ownership of the actions assured that lessons learned and tools that were developed in Ayacucho will be included in the national policies. Involvement at the national level is also a key element for engagement at the subnational level.

- **Close coordination between WFP HQ (SSTC Unit) and the China CoE as well as the experience of COs and RBx in facilitating SSTC projects or initiatives**

Peru: The support of WFP HQ and Regional Bureau Panama (RBP) assured strong and timely coordination between WFP China and the expert. The support in the coordination and experience sharing from other countries further supported the steadiness of the process.

- **Flexibility in the implementation timeline allowed for adapting to host governments' and SSTC partners' needs and changing operating context**

Peru: The extension of time granted for this phase supported the success of this project, given a delayed start due to the conceptual note development and government minister turnover.

- **Close coordination with other UN agencies at the country level, particularly the Rome-based agencies (i.e. FAO and IFAD) to ensure a bigger impact on the ground**

Peru: The alliance with FAO and IFAD added value to the project, considering the strong advocacy that the three UN agencies (WFP, FAO, IFAD) could generate with the government and the synergies of expertise shared among the organizations. IFAD played a strong role in this alliance, due to the projects that it was developing in Ayacucho, from which some were included in the field pilot initiative.

- **Ensure the sustainability of the project after the lifespan of the project**

Republic of Congo: The implication of the district-level Heads of Agricultural Sector (CSAs) was essential to ensure a continuous support to the smallholder farmers and food processors throughout the project. It will also enhance the sustainability of the project's results once the project activities are completed.

B 2.2 Challenges and solutions



- **COVID-19 pandemic:** Despite the initial challenges, an SSTC agile modality - a shift to virtual modalities (e.g., online training and webinars) - was ensured in response to the border closures and restricted mobility in various countries as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such a modality was implemented in Ecuador, where the project faced challenges early in the implementation with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. In response to the inability to hold five planned face-to-face workshops, Chinese experts made Mandarin-language videos in 2021 and 2022 and WFP with the help of a translator edited the videos in Ecuador adding Spanish subtitles. Workshops were also held, both virtual and face-to-face, to share the project's findings and the implemented model with project partners.



- **High turnover of Focal Points (FPs):** Change in FPs at both HQ and WFP China CoE levels posed a challenge in the implementation coordination.



- **High costs of key materials:** The shortage and high cost of some materials for the manufacture of equipment and infrastructure (refining machines, mills, sheds) and the limited number and capacity of local suppliers led to delays in the procurement process. To address this challenge, WFP fragmented the market and trained suppliers in business organization, management, and planning, and provided individual coaching as needed, which also contributed to the manufacture and delivery of equipment and sheds.



- **Government Ministers' turn-over:** The government ministers' turnover was a critical challenge in Peru. MIDAGRI was the main counterpart, and eight ministers were changed since the beginning of this phase. MIDAGRI's Director for Associativity was changed twice. This required additional advocacy efforts throughout the project to assure engagement at the highest level. The technical team remained stable most of the time, which mitigated the high turnover of decision-making authorities. However, the changes inevitably delayed the implementation of actions.



- **Short project duration:** The short project duration limited the results including the sustainability of the project. It is important to work with governments on their own timing and within their processes to achieve the goals set. The central focus on capacity strengthening required additional investment of time to have greater results.



- **Changes in the host government counterparts:** As an example, in Peru in 2023, the regional and local authorities changed, which presents a risk of reduced engagement in Ayacucho. To mitigate this risk, advocacy with new authorities is a central part of the activities during 2023 to keep the policy and activities on the regional agenda. The political situation continues to be critical, with a recent change of presidency and the ensuing transition period, and elections to be called in 2024. In that context, working with the local, regional, and national governments at the technical level, as well as with decision makers, will be reinforced for the next phase to ensure the results and sustainability.

Republic of Congo at a glance

South – South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Country Project

Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China



EQUIPEMENT NOTRE Avenir

Djone is a member of a cassava processing cooperative in Kayes, Bouenza department, headed by his father who received training from CERFAM and cassava processing equipment in 2021.

"I will make sure that the cooperative goes forward; being chosen to be trained and equipped comes with responsibilities. We are not going to give up".

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers to produce cassava-derived products and reduce banana post-harvest losses in the Republic of Congo

OBJECTIVE

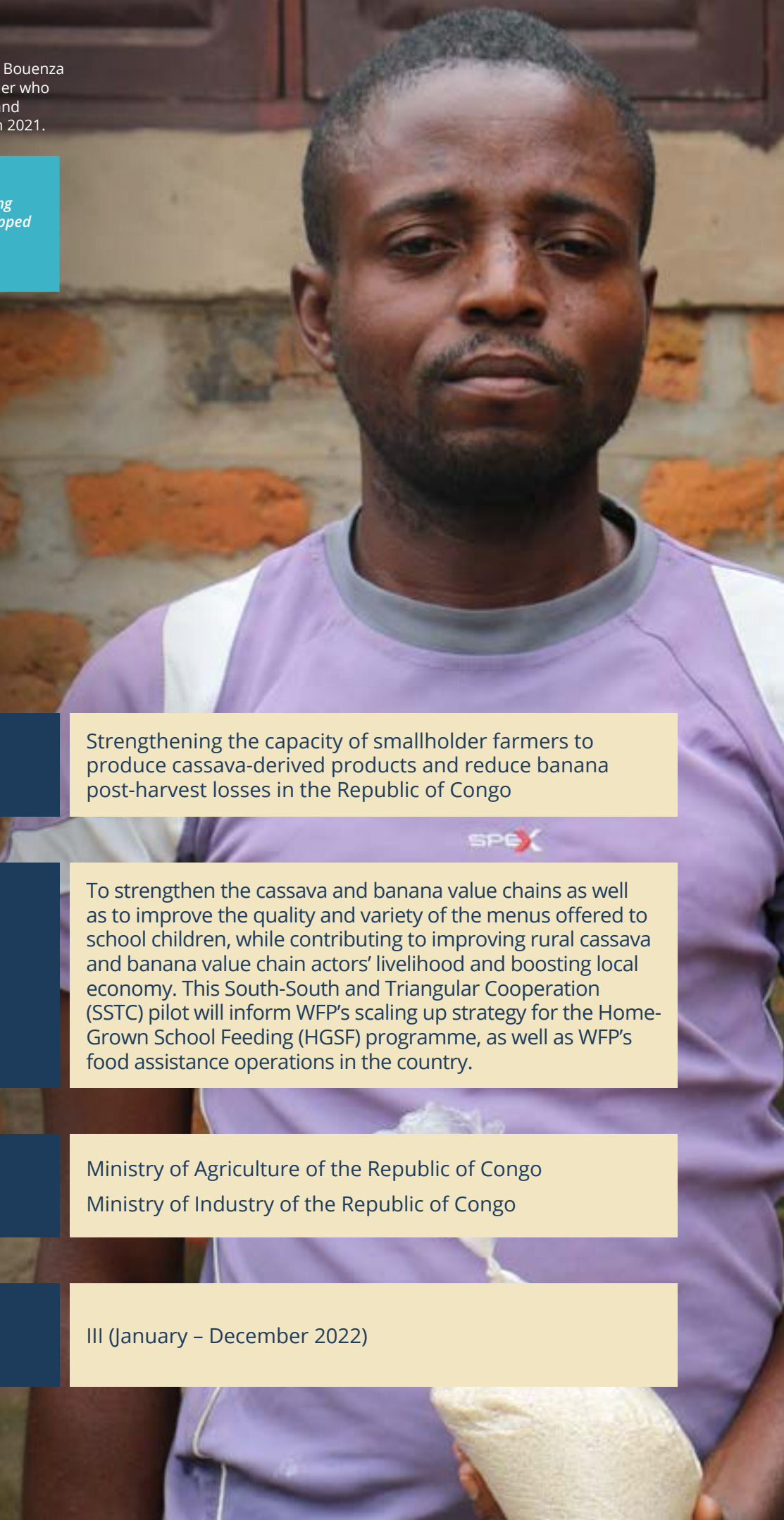
To strengthen the cassava and banana value chains as well as to improve the quality and variety of the menus offered to school children, while contributing to improving rural cassava and banana value chain actors' livelihood and boosting local economy. This South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) pilot will inform WFP's scaling up strategy for the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGFS) programme, as well as WFP's food assistance operations in the country.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Congo
Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Congo

PHASE OF THE INITIATIVE

III (January – December 2022)



THEMATIC AREAS



Value Chain Development
for Smallholder Farmers



Post-harvest Loss
Management and Food
Systems



Disaster Risk Reduction
and Climate Change
Resilience

SSTC MODALITIES



Online/offline training
courses (webinar and
Training of Trainers)

256 PEOPLE ENGAGED



250 smallholder farmers
(138 men; 112 women)



3 representatives from
the Ministry of Agriculture
(2 men; 1 women)



3 representatives from
research institutions:
1 (man) from IRA - Institut de
recherche agronomique and
2 (men) from INRSIIT - Institut
national de recherche en
sciences de l'ingénieur,
innovation et technologie

TECHNICAL PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE SSTC ACTIVITY

Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Affairs of the People's
Republic of China

WFP's Centre of Excellence for
Rural Transformation in the
People's Republic of China



Agricultural Technique
Demonstration Center (CDTA)

Chinese Academy of Tropical
Agricultural Sciences (CATAS)

Heads of the Agricultural
Sector

Development challenge and the SSTC solution

Despite being a middle-income country, the Republic of Congo (RoC) faces consistent food security and nutrition challenges. The latest national food and nutrition security assessment found that 33.3 percent of the population is food insecure (29.3 percent moderately and 4 percent severely).

It revealed a significant deterioration between 2014 and 2021: the number of people with an acceptable food consumption score dropped from 90.7 to 60.1 percent. Among children under the age of 5, global acute malnutrition is estimated at 5.2 percent and chronic malnutrition at 19.6 percent.

Domestic food production covers only 30 percent of the needs, making the country heavily dependent on imports. Artisanal food processing techniques and inadequate storage and transformation practices often lead to loss of produce and nutrients.

In RoC's National Development Plans (NDP) 2018-2022, 2022-2026, the Government of RoC identified enhancing the cassava value chain, as its main staple food, a national priority to tackle high dependence on imports and malnutrition, and create food availability and affordability.

In addition to cassava, Congo's NDP also places high importance to the development of the fruit sector, notably the production and transformation of bananas. Bananas' year-round availability, affordability, taste, and nutritional value make them an essential fruit crop in RoC.

The WFP-MARA SSTC project in RoC is supporting the Government in its endeavor to enhance the availability of affordable, nutritious, and high-quality cassava and banana products to improve food security and nutrition.



"Gari was made by hand, the work was difficult, it was reserved for men. With the knowledge and equipment, we can work easily and produce larger quantities of gari to sell in Dolisie, Pointe-Noire and Brazzaville".



Producer-processor tasting a banana chip she made during the training provided by agro-food experts from Benin and Côte d'Ivoire.

Georgette, President of "Notre Avenir" cooperative in Yamba, Bouenza department, learned how to transform cassava and bananas into derived products from agro-food experts from Benin and Côte d'Ivoire.

SSTC partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA)

The WFP's Global Field Pilot Initiative on SSTC in RoC started in 2019, with the support of WFP's Global SSTC Team in the Programme Humanitarian and Development (PRO-T) Division and WFP's Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in the People's Republic of China (China CoE).

The project in RoC marks the beginning of the financial SSTC partnership with MARA aimed at leveraging the SSTC mechanism to create benefits for the most vulnerable rural populations.

The initiative in the past three phases of implementation focused on strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers to supply cassava derived products to local markets in RoC.

Since 2019, WFP has partnered with the Agricultural Technique Demonstration Centre (CDTA) and the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) to mobilize international expertise and foster SSTC funded by MARA. Through the first two pilots, the Government of Congo, CATAS, CDTA, and WFP trained and equipped more than 313 smallholder farmers and artisanal processors in the Bouenza and Pool Departments to enhance the production and transformation of cassava products.

WFP also purchased and distributed some of these products to 5 schools in Mindouli (Pool department), reaching 3,653 school children.

In 2022, the project entered its third phase, which is expected to be completed at the end of 2023. With this third pilot, WFP together with partners looks to expand cassava-related activities in the Plateaux Department and introduce banana value chain activities in the Pool Department while continuing to support the sale of cassava-based products to schools.

Building on the results of the first two phases of the SSTC field project with the People's Republic of China, the third phase will focus on geographically scaling up the training in the Plateaux Department, which is located in the centre of the country.

Over the last year, RoC experienced such challenges as the unavailability and high cost of materials for the manufacture of equipment and infrastructure (e.g., refining machines, mills, sheds) and the limited number and capacity of local suppliers, which led to delays in the procurement process.

To address these challenges, WFP fragmented the market and trained suppliers on business organization, management, and planning, and provided individual coaching as needed, which contributed to enhanced manufacture and delivery of equipment and sheds.

The remote coordination of the production of the online courses was also a challenge as it involved many stakeholders in different time zones.



Key SSTC results achieved in 2022

This document provides a quick overview of the progress of the SSTC pilot project in RoC in year 2022, building on the achievements of the previous phases. During this timeframe the following activities were carried out:



Strengthened the capacity of smallholder farmers and artisanal processors to produce cassava flour

- WFP, working closely with the district-level Heads of the Agricultural Sector (Chefs de Secteur Agricole, CSA), identified and selected 140 cassava producers from 14 local associations in the Plateaux Department. In partnership with the CSAs and the Agriculture Directorate, WFP supported all 14 local associations to structure and identify needs in capacity strengthening.
- On 22-29 June 2022, WFP organized a training for trainers in Ngo (Plateaux Department), benefitting 50 farmers from 14 local associations. The training focused on the production of high-quality cassava flour and was followed by cooking demonstrations on the use of cassava flour to produce different dishes. The training was facilitated by a technical team from CDTA and CATAS.
- To support the transformation of cassava, WFP launched the procurement of 6 refining macNGhines used for the production of cassava flour. The local artisans started the construction of these machines in 2022 and plan finalized them in 2023.

- In the meantime, WFP launched the procurement of more than 10 banana mills from local artisans. The machines will be finalized and distributed to assisted smallholder farmers in 2023 to enable the transformation of bananas into flour.



Strengthened the technical capacities of the government, implementing partners and smallholder farmer associations through online course videos and online workshops

- 9 online course videos in French were produced in 2022 by CATAS, in collaboration with the WFP China CoE. The first version of the videos was shared with the Country Office (CO) in January 2023. The videos are currently being examined by the RoC CO to ensure their relevance to the Congolese agricultural and technological context.
- In 2022, WFP launched the construction of 5 warehouses in Ngo, which will allow local farmer associations to improve the storage and conservation of cassava products.



Supported smallholder farmers from the Pool department to produce banana-derived products

- WFP, in partnership with district-level CSAs and local partners, identified and selected 100 banana producers from 10 local associations in the Pool Department. WFP and its partners supported them to structure themselves as an association and identify their needs in terms of capacity strengthening.



Facilitated knowledge sharing of SSTC technologies

In July 2022, WFP together with CATAS organized an online workshop on cassava and banana processing technologies. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, research institutions (notably INRSIIT and IRA), entrepreneurs, farmers engaging in food transformation, and WFP staff from RoC, Madagascar, and the People's Republic of China.



Produced communication material to enhance the visibility of the project:

- 300 t-shirts and stickers with MARA logo were produced and distributed to the supported farmers and project stakeholders;
- The factsheet developed in 2021 in French, English and Chinese was updated in 2022 with the French and English versions;
- Due to conflicting availabilities, no communication content-gathering mission could be organized in 2022. In February 2023, a mission to document the training for trainers on banana post-harvesting techniques took place.



Next Steps

Building on the results of the past phases, in 2023 the team will seek to collect and consolidate evidence based on previous phases of the SSTC pilot project.

Showcasing results and lessons learned

- WFP, in collaboration with its partners, will produce a report (in French and English) with lessons learned and recommendations on opportunities for continued support to smallholder farmers through SSTC.
- This report, accompanied by multimedia materials, will be shared with national policy and decision-makers, donors, and stakeholders to inform future engagement on the sustainable development of local food value chains.

“The online technical workshops provided by WFP and partners, including the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences, are not only useful to the people who participate.”

Paul Raphaël ONGOUALA, Director General of Agriculture (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Congo).



Ecuador at a glance

South – South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Country Project

Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China





ECUADOR

Strengthening capacity and market access of smallholder farmers especially for rural women, with national and local government support.

OBJECTIVE

Strengthen sustainable food production systems and implement, with a gender approach, resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity by diversifying crops, especially rice through rice-duck farming modality of China.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
National Institute of Agricultural Research
Smallholder Farmer Associations and local governments in Ecuador

PHASE OF THE INITIATIVE

III (January 2022- December 2022)

THEMATIC AREAS



Value Chain Development for Smallholder Farmers



Innovative Poverty Alleviation Initiative, including rural e-commerce

SSTC MODALITIES



Policy dialogue and workshops/seminars/webinars



Online/ offline training courses

1,459 PEOPLE ENGAGED



146 from institutions (e.g. government, academia, think tank, private sector) (106 male, 40 female)



1313 Smallholder farmers (male 867, female 445)



TECHNICAL PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE SSTC ACTIVITY

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China

WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in China Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG)

National Institute of Agricultural Research,

Smallholder Farmer Associations and local governments in Ecuador.

Hunan University from China

National Institute for Agricultural Research (INIAP)

Local government



Development challenge and the SSTC solution

Ecuador is highly vulnerable to climate-related risks, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and landslides. Rice is the most extensive crop in Ecuador, occupying more than a third of the country's production areas. Recently high production costs and illegal exports affect the industry leading to a 125% increase in the cost of fertilizer in Ecuador.

Smallholder producers are responsible for over 60% of national food production while 70% of women work in this sector, but 54% are unpaid. Overall, 40% of the rural population in Ecuador lives below the poverty line, and 62% of children under one year old are anaemic.

The third phase of the rice-duck farming project in Ecuador was implemented within the SSTC framework to provide technical support to

smallholder farmers. The rice-duck model was shared by Chinese experts and adopted to the country context. This successful model, that was adapted to the Ecuador context, combines rice cultivation with duck farming, reducing the use of chemicals and improving and diversifying the livelihoods and diets of farmers and their families.

The innovative initiative supported the implementation of environmentally friendly agricultural practices that increased productivity. Crops as well as farmers' sources of income were diversified to equally improve food and nutritional security of their families, therefore promoting economic empowerment and decision making of rural women.

SSTC partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA)

In 2022, the WFP's Global Field Pilot Initiative on SSTC in Ecuador, supported by WFP's Global SSTC Team in the Programme Humanitarian and Development (PRO-T) Division, the WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in China (China CoE), and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBP) came to completion.

This represents the third phase of the financial SSTC strategic partnerships with MARA that started in 2019, aimed at leveraging SSTC to create benefits for the most vulnerable rural populations.

The initiative in the past three phases of the implementation focused on strengthening national institutions and programmes, including social protection programmes, that aimed to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition in Ecuador as well as sustainably increase income and improve productivity of smallholder farmers, especially women, in targeted areas.

The project faced challenges at the early stage of the implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., the five in-person workshops with Chinese experts that were planned for 2020 were not possible).

To overcome the challenges and ensure a smooth implementation of the project, in 2021 and 2022, Chinese experts developed Mandarin-language training videos and WFP Ecuador Country Office edited the videos by adding Spanish subtitles.

To share the progress, lessons learned, and results of the implemented model with other project partners in the Latin America region, both virtual and in-person workshops were conducted.

Key SSTC results achieved in 2022



SSTC strengthening capacity

Development of 11 Mandarin-language training videos, with Spanish subtitles and dubbing, featuring Chinese experts from the Hunan University outlining key features of the rice-duck model. These videos were shared with producers and technicians of MAG, INIAP as well as local governments.



SSTC knowledge sharing

- Organization of an in-person workshop on marketing for MAG technical teams that will be followed by a webinar where Chinese experts will be sharing their experience in e-commerce;
- Virtual exchange programme carried out with government representatives from Panama and Costa Rica with MAG of Ecuador and its local government to share experiences and knowledge on the rice-duck model;
- Development of three advocacy videos describing and promoting the rice-duck model and the SSTC project, with versions in Spanish with English subtitles and in Spanish; and
- Set up of four research plots for rice-duck cultivation with INIAP and carried out a preliminary survey to evaluate the results of the project; the results will then be presented as part of a best practices guideline that will be issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Ecuador in 2023.



Support producers

In 2022 WFP implemented 14 new rice-duck plots, four of which are managed directly by MAG, benefitting 1,313 producers (445 women and 868 men) in Guayas, Loja and Los Rios provinces. In particular:

- Producers benefitted from higher rice selling prices for farmers equal to USD 38.00 per quintal (1 quintal=45 Kg) compared to the price established by the government equal to USD 34.50.
- Farmers saved costs up to USD 880 per hectare per harvest cycle, due to the reduced use of fertilizer and costs related to the production.
- With the help of WFP, the smallholder farmers could sell 1,200 metric tons of rice produced through the rice-duck model and therefore receive a total of \$1million USD in 2022.
- Farmers could sell ducks for a price equal to \$14 USD each and save \$6 USD per week as they were able to consume duck meat and eggs produced locally.
- The model allowed to reduce carbon emissions and ensured a chemical-free rice production, representing a key element for the improvement of the local ecosystem.
- The project supported 445 women producers to play key roles in the rice cultivation sector and in agriculture in general, given the project's primary focus on training and empowering women farmers.



SSTC lessons learned

- The continued expansion of the rice-duck model into new geographical areas has increased producers' awareness and trust in the initiative, perceiving it as a feasible option to be introduced to their context.
- MAG and other cooperation agencies' support has been essential to the model's expansion, as they provided support for gender-specific trainings to empower female producers to participate in the model.
- The support for direct sales has created sustainable market niches and generated higher demand and increased prices for the product. The inclusion of ducks in the plots has favoured the improvement of family nutrition through the consumption of ducks' meat and/or eggs and created additional profit deriving from their local sales.

Next Steps

Building on the results of the past three phases, the following activities will be implemented in 2023 to deliver on the project objectives:

SSTC knowledge sharing

Organization of a virtual webinar with Chinese experts on e-commerce in order to transfer knowledge and experience on innovative rural e-commerce and other marketing practices with the Government. The webinar includes the implementation of actions focused on empowering women to ensure their full and effective participation in the different areas of the agricultural sector with a view to consolidate the sustainable and resilient integrated rice-duck farming system.

Sharing SSTC lessons learned

Organize workshops (also virtual) for the dissemination and expansion of the integrated rice-duck farming system within the Latin America region, considering the basic needs and strategic interests of women and men, such as equal participation in decision-making, autonomy and care work at home.



Testimonials



"The animals can serve as mosquito control, weeds, fertilizer, and therefore one begins to see them not only in an economic way but also as a friend who is helping you in your business...."

"In one cycle I saved \$600.00 in 1 ha without putting chemicals...."

Marcelo Granda, Macará-Loja

"The project we have with the ducks is very important, because now we want to produce organic rice. The duck eats all the weeds, the little bugs and we don't need to use any type of fertilizer...."

Rocío Pérez, Crucita-Manabí



"We wanted to feel important, to be able to fulfil ourselves as women and not be limited by the lack of resources... This has taught us that we can also be part of the economy, not only of a community but also of a parish, of a country".

María Calderón, Crucita-Manabí



Republic of Ghana at a glance

South – South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Country Project

Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China





REPUBLIC OF GHANA

Capacity Strengthening and Value Chain Development for Smallholders, Post-harvest Loss Management and Food Systems in support of Ghana Smallholder Farmers E-Commerce Access (SFEA) initiative Implementation through SSTC.

OBJECTIVE

To enhance food systems and value chains, strengthen private-sector capacity to produce affordable, safe, and accessible nutritious foods, create demand for nutritious products through public-private partnerships, market the products through a network of retailers, and build awareness and stimulate demand for the consumption of nutritious foods through social and behavior change communication

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana (MOFA)
Ghana Commodity Exchange (GCX)
National Food buffer Stock Company (NAFCO)
Chamber of Agribusiness, Ghana

PHASE OF THE INITIATIVE

III (July – December 2022)

THEMATIC AREAS



Value Chain Development
for Smallholder Farmers



Post-harvest Loss
Management and
Food Systems



Innovative Poverty
Alleviation Initiative,
including rural e-commerce

SSTC MODALITIES



Workshops (Webinar)

32 PEOPLE ENGAGED



30 at the institutional level
(24 men and 6 women)



2 at the grassroots level
(1 man and 1 woman)

TECHNICAL PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE SSTC ACTIVITY

Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Affairs of the People's
Republic of China

WFP Centre of Excellence for
Rural Transformation in the
People's Republic of China
(China)

Private sector

International Organization

Henan University
of Technology



Development challenge and the SSTC solution

Over the past 20 years, the Republic of Ghana (RoG) has made progress in reducing poverty and hunger among its population. However, improvements at the national level mask huge inequalities between the north and the south of the country, as well as between rural and urban areas. Hunger and malnutrition persist primarily in northern Ghana, as well as in many rural and peri urban communities across the country.

The WFP-MARA SSTC project in the RoG supports the Government of Ghana in its endeavor for rural transformation through facilitating smallholder farmers' access to structured markets and financial services. In particular, the pilot initiative is mainly focused on building the capacity of government agencies and ministries to sustainably support agricultural value chain activities.

This is ultimately aimed at reducing high post-harvest losses and thereby improving quality and safety standards. The pilot project also aimed at building the capacity of government agencies like NAFCO and GCX to create sustainable structures and systems that facilitate access to better markets for farmers' products.

Through this arrangement GCX and NAFCO, thanks to the successful experience of China, will promote e-commerce models, and innovations that will enhance key services in the value chain with particular attention to women and young people.

In China, innovative and digitalized models, such as grain bank and an e-trading platform, were adopted to support smallholder market access and better post-harvest management. The grain bank supports smallholders from grain storage and processing to financial services, among other activities.

There are large grain banks in Shandong, Henan, Heilongjiang, and other major grain-producing areas in China. The e-trading platform is another model showcasing the informatized and digitalized grain storage to support smallholder market access. China has gained experience from the past decades in the above-mentioned models, which can be shared and exchanged with other countries.



SSTC partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA)



The WFP's Global Field Pilot Initiative on SSTC in the RoG started in 2022, with the support of WFP's Global SSTC Team in the Programme Humanitarian and Development (PRO-T) Division and WFP's Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in China (China CoE).

The project in RoG marks the beginning of the financial SSTC partnership with MARA aimed at leveraging the SSTC mechanism to create benefits for the most vulnerable rural populations.

In 2022, the initiative focused on addressing high post-harvest losses and poor market linkages, as these were expressed as areas for improvement from key government/authorities.

In particular, GCX and NAFCO offer well-known and organized market linkages for smallholder farmers and therefore create better awareness on such opportunities for smallholder farmers that increase their participation on the GCX and NAFCO platforms. GCX and NAFCO expressed the lack of awareness about their operations, poor quality grain quality standards, and limited participation of smallholder farmers in structured markets.

Key SSTC results achieved in 2022

This document provides a quick overview of the progress of the SSTC pilot project in the RoG in year 2022. During this timeframe the following activity was carried out:



Facilitating SSTC knowledge sharing

As a response to the local needs expressed by the government and key stakeholders in Ghana, thanks to the technical support provided by the China CoE, WFP Ghana Country Office (CO) organized a virtual webinar on 18 October 2022. The webinar aimed at sharing China's innovative model and pragmatic practice to support smallholders' grain storage and processing, improve smallholder market access, as well as strengthen resilience against market risks. Two Chinese experts from Henan University of Technology and Gansu Xinliyuan Farmer Cooperatives presented China's experience in an Innovative model for smallholders as well as China's local case on a post-harvest service for smallholders. 30 participants from Ghana, India, Sri Lanka, and China attended the event including government representatives, the private sector, and international organizations. This is the first of a series of Workshops on Innovative and Digitalized Smallholder Market Access aimed at improving smallholder market access in Ghana using the SSTC mechanism..

Next Steps

Building on the results of 2022, in 2023 the team will collect and consolidate evidence based on the previous activity of the SSTC country project. In particular, the CO will develop and share a testimony or a success story from one of the participants of the webinar in the subsequent reporting.

During this phase, the Ghana CO intends to facilitate GCX and NAFCO to conduct training activities in selected regions of Ghana.

These training sessions aim at building the capacity of government staff, regional leaders, and lead farmers on various subjects including post-harvest management, grain quality standards, and structured markets, but they also aim at creating visibility and understanding of GCX and NAFCO operations.

This will be achieved through a combination of activities such as physical workshops, radio sensitization programmes, and farmer mobilization meetings. The CO will facilitate a forum to discuss innovative financing and insurance models suitable for the value chain actors in Ghana.

Sharing SSTC lessons learned

Organization of workshops (virtual and in-person) for the dissemination and expansion of the integrated rice-duck farming system within the Latin America region, considering the basic needs and strategic interests of women and men, such as equal participation in decision-making, autonomy and care work at home.



Kenya at a glance

South – South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Country Project

Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China





KENYA

Post-Harvest Loss Management Practices and Technologies through a Food System Approach and exploring opportunities to link smallholder produce to new markets (e.g. schools) for scaling up.

OBJECTIVE

Promote increased food availability and reduce post-harvest loss through appropriate technology and skills development for small-holder farmers, micro and small enterprises, and government agricultural officers (grains-cereals and pulses, fresh foods -vegetables, fruits and livestock products- milk).

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

County Government Departments of Agriculture and Trade (Isiolo, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana counties), SokoFresh Agri Innovations EA Ltd (SokoFresh); State Department of Agriculture; National Irrigation Authority; Cereal Growers Association; AMPATH Kenya.

PHASE OF THE INITIATIVE

III (January – December 2022)

THEMATIC AREAS



Value Chain Development for Smallholder Farmers



Post-harvest Loss Management and Food Systems



Innovative Poverty Alleviation Initiative, including rural e-commerce



Explore opportunities to link smallholder produce to local markets (e.g. schools) with a look at Kenya's expanding national school meals programme.

SSTC MODALITIES



Policy dialogue and workshops/seminars/webinars



Online/ offline training courses



Expertise deployment/exchange visit



Visibility and advocacy initiatives

480 PEOPLE ENGAGED



County Government Departments of Agriculture and Trade representatives (Isiolo, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana counties)
53 (men 43, women 10)



Smallholder farmers 345
(men 207, women 138)



Micro & Small Milling Groups (Etic, Morulem, Loyal & Jenga Maisha)
44 (men 17, women 27)



Farmer Service Centers representatives 25
(men 15, women 10)



Rice producers (10) and 3 Agriculture Officers



Dialogue with Kenyan government partners at national level (e.g. Ministry of Education and National Council of Nomadic Education in Kenya) to pave the way for scaling up and linking smallholder produce to markets (e.g. schools)

TECHNICAL PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE SSTC ACTIVITY



Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China

WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in the People's Republic of China (China)

Departments of Agriculture and Trade

State Department of Agriculture

National Irrigation Authority (Mwea)

Cereal Growers Association (CGA)

AMPATH Kenya

Development challenge and the SSTC solution



As highlighted in the recent UN Common Country Analysis for Kenya, agriculture is central to Kenya's economy. The sector accounts for 65 percent of the export earnings and provides the livelihood (employment, income, and food security needs) for more than 80 percent of the Kenyan population.

Despite the valuable contribution of the agriculture sector to growth and employment, it remains largely underdeveloped and low in productivity. Furthermore, poor post-harvest management renders much agriculture unprofitable, with an estimated 40 percent of harvested crops being lost every year, representing financial losses of up to USD 500 million.

Climate change is putting additional pressure on the food and nutrition security of Kenya's rural population and requires the adoption of climate-smart production techniques. The social protection and safety nets coverage is limited in rural agricultural and pastoralist communities.

Kenya is facing the challenge of low availability of nutritious foods, therefore, increasing the value addition and economic return of the most vulnerable smallholders in the arid and semi-arid counties is a priority. WFP seeks to address the low availability of nutritious foods while introducing value addition to increase economic returns of smallholders in the arid and semi-arid counties through the SSTC project.

Additionally, the project helps to enhance Post-Harvest Loss Management Practices and Technologies through a Food System approach specifically for fresh foods and vegetables.

The SSTC project in Kenya is focusing on promoting increased food availability and reducing post-harvest loss through appropriate technology and skills development for small-holder farmers, micro and small enterprises, and government agricultural officers.

This project was designed in consultation with the local government authorities and is in line with Kenya's national priorities in food security, nutrition, emergency, agriculture, youth, gender, and social protection.

Additionally, the demand for access to markets, inputs and training for smallholders was addressed through the piloting of the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) Farmer Service Center (FSC) model. The FSCs are groups of rural entrepreneurs, farmer groups, aggregators or similar, that are key service hubs connecting private and public sector partners with smallholder farmers.

They play a key role in bridging the last-mile gap between value chain players and smallholder farmers effectively and efficiently. The FSCs, which were introduced to the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) in phase II of the project under the SSTC funding, are supporting rural arid lands farming communities increase their farming skills through agriculture extension, access inputs and new marketing outlets.

China expertise in rural technical and extension services, and transformation for agriculture development was shared through a webinar by a MARA nominated expert – Dr. Qiao Liang, associate professor on Agricultural Economics & Management at School of Public Affairs, Zhejiang University. The expert also initiated a virtual peer-review of the FSC business model.

SSTC partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA)

In 2022, the third phase of the WFP's Global Field Pilot Initiative on SSTC in Kenya, supported by WFP's Global SSTC Team in the Programme Humanitarian and Development (PRO-T) Division and WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in China (China CoE), came to completion.

This represents a step forward in the financial SSTC partnership with MARA that started in 2019, aimed at leveraging the SSTC mechanism to create benefits for the most vulnerable rural populations.

In particular, Phase III of the Pilot Project Initiative was built on the results and lessons learned of phases I and II undertaken jointly with County governments, FAO and FtMA. Earlier achievements include the production of five TV show episodes that informed over 9 million people in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda on pre- and post-harvest management, food safety and quality, and marketing.

Additionally, a post-harvest loss management communication strategy was produced delineating how WFP will continue to promote, deliver, and document activities on post-harvest loss reduction in Kenya.

Other documents were produced and disseminated: the Human centered design study report on adoption of a hermetic technology, a webinar on the FSC model with presentations by MARA nominated Dr. Qiao Lian of Zhejiang University, government, private sector as well as the FSCs that were established in the ASALs using MARA funding, and Introduction of trade fairs as a platform for linkages between farmers, youth groups, Farmer2 Cooperatives, Government (national and county), and private sectors to enhance adoption of a hermetic storage, enhance access to credit and private sector manufacturers of hermetic devices.

The partnership with MoA was strongly focused on the county level MoA representation so far. As the project expands and moves into phase 4, we have established a strong connection with MoE and NACONEK at the national level to link smallholder produce to markets in view of home-grown school feeding (strategy and roll-out plan being developed as we speak, taking this project into account).





Lessons Learned

The third phase is now generating experience to scale up SSTC results of previous activities and strengthen linkages to Chinese solutions in line with the national priorities of the host countries.

The following lessons have been identified during the project implementation in 2022:

- 1. Early engagement and joint development of the concept note with all levels of the host government counterparts (country and national governments) are essential to ensure that their priority interventions are addressed to minimize challenges related to the time differences and enable steady implementation of the project.**
- 2. Effectiveness in deliverables when building on existing ongoing projects and interventions is valuable as it allows for streamlining the adoption of best practices for any gaps identified.**
- 3. Leveraging funding to test innovative models (i.e., the FSC model) has been essential in ensuring flexibility during project implementation.**
- 4. As Kenya has made firm commitments to put in place strategies for local procurement (e.g. 30% of procurement from local smallholder farmers in specific counties) and to scale up access to markets (e.g. scale up of the national school feeding programme from 2.5 to 10 million children), China's expertise and technical assistance is key to support Kenya on this process.**
- 5. Aligning learning/knowledge-sharing sessions with peer farmers who have had successes and valuable good practices has been impactful in enhancing smallholder farmers' capacity (e.g. Mwea Rice Irrigation learning event).**
- 6. Leveraging a flexible and tailored combination of in-person and virtual SSTC modalities is key to adapting to COVID-19-related travel restrictions while preserving close interaction among project stakeholders.**
- 7. The pilot's period needs to be proportionated to the pilot's expected results and time to enable proper engagement of the SSTC partners and preparation of SSTC activities. Multi-year projects with more flexible time horizons for implementation have yielded the best prospects for longer-term success, in-country capacity strengthening, and generating benefits for vulnerable populations in the field.**

Key SSTC results achieved in 2022



SSTC trainings

Training sessions with group leads of farmer organizations targeting over 50 participants, including FSCs, were held, allowing blended online and in-person training of value chain actors in partnership with the County and national governments counterparts in post-harvest management and value addition/ processing for milling and fortification.

Three knowledge-sharing and demonstration sessions on post-harvest loss, milling, and fortification were held with farmer groups and processors by the County and WFP at the county levels. This also included private sectors partners and 53 government officials. Four milling groups (44 members) received business and financial training as they are producing fortified sifted flours.



Capacity building of Farmers Organizations

Lead farmers (10) and sub-county agricultural officers (3) attended a field exchange programme organized by the State Department of Agriculture and National Irrigation Authority based at Mwea Irrigation Project in Kirinyaga County.

This included a tour of the rice scheme, water uses management committees, farmer-to-farmer engagement, farms demonstration, fresh produce mass production sites, and milling cooperatives.

The exchange visit aimed at building capacity and technology transfer to enhance production and productivity. The farmers visited farms and milling sites to enhance their knowledge and exchange experiences, ideas, practices, and improved rice production technologies that will benefit the groups to scale up rice production in Tana River.



Private sector engagement

With complementary funding, WFP partnered with SokoFresh Agri Innovations EA Ltd (SokoFresh) to install two solar-powered cold storage rooms in Garissa and Tana River Counties at both farm and market levels. With its business model, SokoFresh avails an innovative platform for farmers and aggregators of fresh foods that creates an opportunity to sell in volumes and provides a secondary benefit of food loss reduction.

The SSTC funding was used to layer on this engagement for training smallholder farmers (67 farmers) and county agriculture and trade officers (15) on the value, utilization, and management of the cold storage units. From quarter three of 2022, 0.3-0.5 % losses in fresh produce were recorded, a lower trend compared to 20-30% experienced before the installation of the cold storage solutions.

Smallholder farmers and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) aggregate stock and sell their produce at a premium price due to the maintained quality of the produce. The farmers also received fresh food post-harvest loss training.



Next Steps

Building on the results of the past three phases, the activities to be implemented in 2023 (phase IV) should deliver on the project objective of smallholder farmers benefiting from enhanced capacities in climate-smart production, post-harvest management, food processing and marketing strategies of biofortified foods such as Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes (OFSP).

WFP will draw on China's successful experience and technical expertise to build on the experiences of this pilot to facilitate cross-county/peer learning; inform Kenya's national and county-led government assistance programmes (e.g., national, county Early Childhood Development (ECD) and school meals programmes as "markets" for the OFSP, disaster risk management policies and programmes); and develop a concrete roadmap for scaling-up the activities and expanding market access (e.g., schools) in various counties that are growing the OFSP.

The project will target two counties – Migori, in the high potential area in western Kenya, and Tana

River in ASALs. This will create opportunities for knowledge exchange across the two counties with potential for replication in other parts of Kenya. The initiative will be implemented in partnership with FAO and relevant line ministries (agriculture, trade, education, and health), as well as smallholder farmers' organizations, research, and private sector partners. The proposal will indirectly target other value chain actors such as transporters, aggregators, distributors, processors, and packaging entities, and build on lessons learned from the previous SSTC field pilots on the use of digital platforms to inform the broader population on post-harvest technology, the FSC model, and the strong partnerships forged between government, academic, and non-government institutions. As Kenya embarks on the journey of expanding the coverage of its national school feeding programme from 2.5 to 10 million children, there is a key opportunity to reach smallholder communities and their children at scale by linking their produce to schools (as expanding market).





Showcase results and lessons learned

The evidence generation and successful adoption of best practices from smallholder farmers and FSCs who participated in the various training and knowledge sharing events is being monitored. This will inform the capacity strengthening model and support the identification of the necessary improvements.

Strengthening local capacity

Continued involvement of the government, both at national and sub-national levels, to contribute to the concept note development to ensure the government buy-in for effective collaboration and efficient alignment on the priorities.

SSTC technologies

Focus on climate smart/conservation agriculture and the use of digital solutions continues to be a priority. WFP Kenya has submitted a proposal for 2023 that aims to strengthen the resilience and livelihoods of smallholder farmers through the adoption of nutritious value chains.

Building on the success of the existing WFP-MARA SSTC Field pilot project in Kenya, the upcoming

phase IV of the pilot will leverage the fruitful SSTC partnership between Kenya and China and strive further to promote value chain development, sustainable and inclusive food systems, and benefits for vulnerable smallholder farmers in Kenya.

The main objective target smallholder farmers in Kenya benefitting from enhanced capacities in 1) climate-smart production, 2) post-harvest loss management and food processing, and 3) marketing strategies to facilitate linkages between supply and demand actors of nutritious orange flesh sweet potatoes (OFSP) and create new markets for it.

WFP will draw on China's successful experience and technical expertise in those areas to build on the experiences of this pilot and China's experiences to facilitate cross-county/peer learning, create new markets by linking smallholder produce to Kenya's national and county-led government safety nets (e.g., national and county Early Childhood Development (ECD) and school meals programmes as "markets" for the OFSP); and develop a concrete roadmap for scaling-up the activities and expanding market access (e.g., schools) in other counties that are growing the OFSP. This is mainly addressing the challenge smallholder farmers face in accessing institutional markets (e.g., schools and hospitals) due to lack of knowledge and/or compliance with the Kenya public procurement regulations.

Success Story

RICE FARMING FORTUNES (WFP Garissa Field Office)



John Macharia went to Bura, in Tana River County, for official duties as a young man aged 22 years. Macharia found a gold mine in farming in Bura which is one of the country's oldest irrigation schemes. In 1982 he started farming commercial maize, seeds maize, and cotton production, the dominant crops at the time.

"I was determined to engage in farming and expected to get good production to feed my family and at the same time get good returns from the enterprise. I was growing cotton in six acres at the irrigation scheme and I would get about Sh36,000 which was good money at that time".

However, he and other farmers encountered numerous challenges producing these crops ranging from disease and pest infestation to market price fluctuations (e.g., army worm, aflatoxin in maize, and the African bollworm in cotton).

"I would invest money in the production of these crops only to find that the market prices were low and the profit margin very small. At some point, 200 MT of maize from Bura was condemned due to aflatoxin, and, since I was one of the suppliers of the Kenya seed maize, I ended up incurring losses for no money was paid out that season".

Mr. Macharia asserts that trends demotivated the morale of the farmers and most abandoned cotton and maize production.

"In 2017, I stopped growing maize seed and shifted to rice farming. I felt that growing maize was no longer profitable, so I shifted to growing rice", he said.

"I am happy that rice farming has changed my life. This season, I am expecting to harvest an average of 34 bags of 90kgs from 1.5 acres".

Growing Rice from scratch costs an average of KSh130,000 per acre. He started with six acres of land where he grew the Basmati rice variety and then expanded to Kwamboka new rice variety, which is ready for harvest within 76 days.

"The first Kwamboka rice harvest of 6 acres earned me a profit of Kenya Sh300,000. Then I increased it to 10 acres that earned me about half a million", he said.

"Apart from being a cash crop, it is a food crop. I have stopped buying food as I used to. I have now built a permanent house from the proceeds and shifted from the mud-and-wattle house, where I had lived for over 25 years. I have also managed to comfortably pay school fees for my seven children unlike in the past when I struggled to do so", John Macharia said.

Mr. Macharia also says that support from the Government and non-government organizations has contributed to the success of rice production in Bura.

"I received hermetic bags and silos from WFP, and this has enabled me to store my rice easily and storage pests and aflatoxin no longer bother me. In December 2022, WFP facilitated twelve lead farmers and county officials to Mwea Rice Irrigation Scheme in Kirinyaga County for exposure to learning modern techniques of rice production and this has really motivated me to do even better".

Mr. Macharia states that agriculture extension officers also train on new rice technologies and methods to further increase productivity.

"In the future, I want to expand the rice acreage because I have discovered that the bigger the garden, the more profits I get. Being a WFP Farmer service center (FSC), I want to start aggregating rice from smallholder farmers and selling to Coastal and Northern Eastern Counties in Kenya".





World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Veal Q+
toxin

FOOD SAFETY & QUALITY

CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Safe Food Now
a Healthy
now

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Peru at a glance

South – South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Country Project

Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China





PERU

Fresh food value chain development to benefit smallholder farmers in Ayacucho, Peru.

OBJECTIVE

Contribute to the strengthening of capacities of farmers and authorities on associativity and food safety of fresh foods and to enhance access to the public procurement markets.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI), Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS), Ministry of the Production (PRODUCE), Regional Government of Ayacucho, Nanjing Agriculture University.

PHASE OF THE INITIATIVE

II (January 2022- December 2022)

THEMATIC AREAS



Value Chain Development
for Smallholder Farmers



Post-harvest Loss
Management and
Food Systems

SSTC MODALITIES



Policy dialogue
and workshops/
seminars/webinars



Online/ offline
training courses



Study tours to China
(virtual or in person)



Expertise deployment/
exchange visit

1012 PEOPLE ENGAGED



60 producers



107 Officials personnel from
government

TECHNICAL PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE SSTC ACTIVITY

Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Affairs of the People's
Republic of China



WFP Centre of Excellence
for Rural Transformation
in China

Nanjing Agricultural
University in the People's
Republic of China (China)



Development challenge and the SSTC solution

Zero Hunger has emerged in Peru as a key national priority to address the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The relevant Ministries, such as MIDAGRI, MIDIS and PRODUCE, are intensifying their joint efforts to tackle food insecurity while at the same time creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for smallholder farmers.

In November 2020, the Peruvian Government approved the Law 31071 and its regulations on state purchases of food of family farming origin in order to enhance the farmers organization and improve its possibilities to connect with the market.

The first phase of WFP's project was focused on generating evidence through studies and interchanges with countries in the region and with Chinese experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA) aimed at identifying the most important

barriers that were preventing smallholder farmers to be included in the public procurement process.

As a result of this collaboration, a policy paper aimed at strengthening the linkages between smallholder farmers and public procurement was published and represented a key element for the issuance of the subsequent regulations that allowed the implementation of the Law 31071.

In this context, the WFP-MARA SSTC project in Peru is now focusing on strengthening the fresh food value chain development for smallholders in Ayacucho to connect the local production with public and private markets.

Through the SSTC mechanism, knowledge from China on food safety and associativity was shared with key stakeholders in Peru at central and sub-national levels.

SSTC partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA)

In 2022, the second phase of the WFP's Global Field Pilot Initiative on SSTC in Peru, supported by WFP's Global SSTC Team in the Programme Humanitarian and Development (PRO-T) Division, the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBP) and WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in China (China CoE), came to completion.

This represents a step forward in the financial SSTC partnership with MARA that started in 2020 aimed at leveraging the SSTC mechanism to create benefits for the most vulnerable rural populations.

The initiative in the past two phases of implementation focused on two main challenges, namely the need to support smallholder farmers to sell their products into public social protection programmes as well as in ensuring that they obtain a national certificate that identify them as family farmers producers.

In 2021 a policy paper was developed to inform the national public policy (Law 31071) on smallholders' inclusion in institutional food procurement.

The paper provided a comprehensive analysis of smallholder farming in Peru building on the peer learning with China and countries from the region. Furthermore, a policy-level webinar and a

technical workshop were organized to discuss five studies' findings, aimed at generating evidence on the challenges and opportunities for smallholder farmers' access to public markets, including school feeding programmes, and facilitating knowledge sharing with China and other countries from the region.

In view of this, and upon host government demand, the phase II focused on the field implementation of the Law 31071 in Ayacucho to capitalize on good practices obtained in past intervention.

The project mainly focused on strengthening the government and producers' capacity through the implementation of policy dialogues and a workshop with the support of an expert from the Nanjing Agricultural University in China.

In particular, this project aimed at enhancing the capacity of farmers and authorities to obtain key national certificates. The project supported smallholder farmers to receive the family farmers' brand for their products, and now is in the process of strengthening the capacity of the smallholder farmers to obtain the food safety certificate for their fresh foods.

Key SSTC results achieved in 2022

This document provides a quick overview of the progress of the SSTC country project in Peru in year 2022, building on the achievements of the previous phase. During this timeframe the following results has been achieved through capacity strengthening activities, policy dialogues, workshops and webinars:



SSTC training curriculum

A national training curriculum was developed for producers and government authorities with the participation of MIDAGRI, MIDIS, PRODUCE and the Regional Government of Ayacucho. This curriculum included 8 modules that tackled the problems of certifications and food safety, among other topics. The curriculum was then adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Peru.



Capacity building

- 107 national and subnational government staff members and 60 smallholder producers improved their knowledge about food safety of fresh food value chain, through the policy dialogue and workshop developed with an expert from the Nanjing Agricultural University in China. FAO and IFAD participated in the event;
- 39 (out of the 60 above) smallholder farmers from Ayacucho received the family farming producers brand from MIDAGRI. The farmers registered in MIDAGRI's list of associations and requested certifications for their products as locally produced and up to standards. This certification is required by public institutions to prove they are buying from family farms in compliance with the Law.



Access to markets

- 5 Municipalities of Ayacucho established “Compragro”, a committee responsible for following all the purchase processes that allows buying products directly from smallholder farmers. These are the first Municipalities in the country that are using “Compragro”;
- The policy of public purchases for smallholder farmers, that was listed as one of MIDAGRI's priorities, was strengthened through the project with WFP's technical assistance in the development of the action plan and in the mapping of capacity needs.
- Biohuertunchik, a women producers' association that was initially supported by the project, strengthened its capacity to sell vegetables to complement the Qaly Warma national school feeding programme through the purchases made by the Municipality of Jesus Nazareno.



Next Steps

Building on the results of the past phase, the following activities will be implemented in 2023 (phase III) to deliver on the project objectives:

Strengthening local capacity

- Ensure the completion of the training programme with smallholder farmers producers and government representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Inclusion and Social Development and regional and local governments;
- Develop a webinar/workshop focused on e-commerce that can help in linking smallholder farmers with public and private purchases and exchange experience on this topic with China;

Strengthening access to market

- Strengthen technical assistance for smallholder farmers associations in order to ensure family farming public purchases from the government;
- Advocacy actions to be taken with new sub-national authorities involved in the market access to continue the support to smallholder farmers and ensure that the implementation of the public purchases law stays a priority in the agenda;

Showcasing results and lessons learned

- Develop visibility products to showcase the support received from China and the results achieved in 2023 in order to scale up the project and reach more beneficiaries.



Farmer history



Delivery of vegetables of Biohuertunchiq to the school - 2023

Biorhuentunckick is a small enterprise of female farmers who live in a rural village in Ayacucho. They had been struggling to sell their vegetables to the market due to a lack of knowledge in marketing and food safety issues. They saw a great opportunity when the school feeding program Qali Warma with the support of WFP started a pilot to include fresh and healthy vegetables in school menus in 2018-2019.

Excited by the prospect of a reliable market, the group of female farmers decided to take action. They started by organizing themselves into a small enterprise “Biohuertunchiq” and received training on vegetable production, food safety, and management, among others, organized by WFP and counterparts. The female farmers learned about different varieties of vegetables that were in high demand and the best practices for harvesting, storing, packeting, and labeling. In 2018-2019, they provided vegetables to 21 schools for 5 months. However, they had to stop their business because of the schools’ closure in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2022, they resumed business activities with the support of WFP and the SSTC project financed by China. Considering that food safety was the most important requirement of the school feeding programme Qali Warma, they pooled their resources

together and invested in the primary process center to assure the quality control of the vegetables. They also improved their knowledge through workshops and webinars about the food safety of the fresh food value chain developed by a Chinese expert.

Additionally, in 2022 they received the family farming brand from the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation, that allows them to sell their products to public institutions. That year they sold one batch of vegetables to Jesus Nazareno Municipality to be used in pre-kindergarten schools in Ayacucho. In 2023, the female farmers are enhancing their primary process center and looking forward to becoming a sustainable provider for public institutions (e.g., the school feeding programme Qali Warma).

The female farmers became successful entrepreneurs and role models in their community, inspiring other women to start similar ventures. They overcame their initial challenges and turned their struggles into a success story. They were able to support their families, contribute to their community’s nutrition, and empower themselves through their cooperative effort.



Biourtunchiq with the certificate of family farming brand

Sri Lanka at a glance

South – South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Country Project

Supported by the Ministry of Agriculture
and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China





SRI LANKA

Strengthening the Resilience and Livelihoods of Vulnerable Smallholder Farmers to Climate-related Risks in Sri Lanka.

OBJECTIVE

To equip smallholder farmers, government officials and local private enterprises with relevant knowledge, skills, and technologies to increase productivity, improve harvest and post-harvest management and enhance access to markets.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

President Secretariat (Office responsible for WFP-Sri Lanka Partnership)

Ministry of Agriculture of Sri Lanka

Department of Agriculture, District Secretariats, Divisional Secretariats

Farmers Organizations of Anuradhapura and Monaragala districts

CBL Plenty Foods Pvt Ltd and Maliban Agribusiness Pvt Ltd

Industrial Services Bureau (ISB) Sri Lanka

PHASE OF THE INITIATIVE

III (January – December 2022)

THEMATIC AREAS



**Value Chain Development
for Smallholder Farmers**



**Post-harvest Loss
Management and
Food Systems**

SSTC MODALITIES



**Policy dialogue
and workshops/
seminars/webinars**



**Online/ offline
training courses**



**Study tours to China
(virtual or in person)**



**Expertise deployment/
exchange visit**

1012 PEOPLE ENGAGED



613 men and 399 women



TECHNICAL PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE SSTC ACTIVITY

**Ministry of Agriculture and
Rural Affairs of the People's
Republic of China**

**WFP Centre of Excellence
for Rural Transformation
in the People's Republic of
China (China)**

**Department of Agriculture
of the Government
of Sri Lanka**

ISB Sri Lanka



Development challenge and the SSTC solution

Sri Lanka is ranked among the ten most affected countries by extreme weather events. In the dry zones of Sri Lanka, recurrent droughts and sudden rains result in major losses for smallholder farmers that are largely dependent on their rice and maize production. This combined with challenges in post-harvest management puts the vulnerable communities at risk of food insecurity and acute malnutrition.

Currently, the country is experiencing its worst economic crisis since it gained independence in 1948. It comes on the heels of successive waves of COVID-19 threatening to undo years of development progress, severely undermining the country's ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

More than 6 million people – nearly 30 percent of the population – are currently food-insecure and require humanitarian assistance. Reduced domestic agricultural production, scarcity of foreign exchange reserves and depreciation of the local currency have caused food shortages and a spike in the cost of living, which is limiting people's access to healthy and affordable meals.

The economic crisis will push families into hunger and poverty – some for the first time – adding to the half a million people who the World Bank estimates have fallen below the poverty line because of the pandemic.

Smallholder farmers form the backbone of the food systems but are among those hardest hits by the economic crisis. Rice and maize production in Sri Lanka dropped by nearly 50% in the year 2022 according to the Crop and Food Security Assessment conducted by FAO in WFP.

Non availability of imported fertilizers, weedicide and pesticides, shortage of fuel were the main reason of this drastic fall. In addition, prices for farming inputs and food commodities were soaring to 2-3 folds. Smallholders' capacity to cope has been stretched to the limit, severely undermining their ability to invest in farming and withstand any future disasters such as floods and drought.

The WFP-MARA SSTC project in Sri Lanka is focusing on strengthening the resilience and livelihoods of vulnerable smallholder farmers to climate-related risks. Capitalizing on the cutting-edge technological solutions from China in rural development, the project identified technology gaps in Sri Lanka and promoted the sharing of need-based solutions with China in the area of climate change adaptation and resilience building.

Through the SSTC mechanism, knowledge from China on agricultural solutions to increase productivity, lessen the risks of climate change and related extreme weather events impact was shared with key stakeholders in Sri Lanka at central and sub-national levels.



SSTC partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China (MARA)



In 2022, the third phase of the WFP's Global Field Pilot Initiative on SSTC in Sri Lanka, supported by WFP's Global SSTC Team in the Programme Humanitarian and Development (PRO-T) Division and WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation in China (China CoE), came to completion.

This represents a step forward in the financial SSTC partnership with MARA that started in 2019, aimed at leveraging the SSTC mechanism to create benefits for the most vulnerable rural populations.

The initiative in the past three phases of implementation focused on strengthening country capacity in resilience-building to assist the most vulnerable rural populations in Sri Lanka.

Between 2019 and 2022, the WFP Country Office (CO) in Sri Lanka collaborated with WFP China CoE and the Jiangsu Academy of Agriculture Sciences (JAAS) in China to carry out a study visit to China where local officials and farmers leaders were trained to learn about Chinese's solutions for maize and rice value chain development and support to smallholders' access to market.

Based on the results of the visit, an online training programme on rice and maize post-harvest management practices for local government officials and representatives of smallholder farmers associations was developed. Furthermore, 5 videos were prepared by JAAS on different thematic areas to support a training of trainers (ToT) programme aiming at disseminating China's good practices and technologies on post-harvest management to smallholders in the project target districts.

Key SSTC results achieved in 2022

This document provides a quick overview of the progress of the SSTC pilot project in Sri Lanka in year 2022, building on the achievements of the previous phases. During this timeframe the following activities were carried out:



SSTC trainings

- 369 farmers (227 men and 142 women) were trained on China's successful rice and maize post-harvest management policies and strategies, social protection services targeting smallholders, and post-harvest technologies. Following a ToT approach, the 5 videos prepared on different topics by JAAS and subsequently dubbed into local language were used by the local trainers to train the farmers and provided a space for joint reflection on lessons learned and opportunities to address common challenges. The local trainers were the same government officials and farmers leaders previously trained through the videos produced by Chinese experts.
- 565 farmers (324 men and 241 women) were trained through ToT videos delivered by Chinese experts on improved production techniques including post-harvest management of maize and mung bean. The trainings focused on improved agronomy practices, timely harvesting, reduction in cost of production, quality concerns in maize value chain, and awareness on the market opportunities.
- 50 farmers and government staff (34 men and 16 women) were trained on the use of the grain dryers and harvesters. The training aimed to raise awareness on the importance of the mechanization that leads to efficiency gains such as reduced time for the harvesting and drying operations, improved about efficiency as well as enhanced grains quality. Mechanization also supports climate-resilient measures to protect harvest from the sudden rains and potential damages caused by birds.



SSTC technologies

- Smallholder farmers were willing to adapt the technologies learned through the training videos produced by JAAS in China. They were fully motivated and supported by the farmer leaders who previously joined the study visit to China in 2019 and had the opportunity to witness the results of the adoption of these technologies and their benefits. The smallholder farmers well understood the necessity for the use of machines and equipment in rice and maize farming and proper land development for good crop growth and yield. Upon their request, the SSTC project supported the in-kind provision of the following technologies:
- 3 rice transplanters and 3 power weeders were provided to farmers organisations (FOs) and to the Department of Agriculture of Sri Lanka in the project area to disseminate technologies and improve rice farming; and
- Land development and irrigation systems were supported by the SSTC pilot project and were instrumental for enhanced farming practices with effective water management.



Early recovery

To aid recovery from economic losses and to invest in the major farming season that started in October 2022, WFP supported 525 maize farmers and 40 mung bean farmers to receive seeds and other inputs through the Department of Agriculture. This early recovery support was timely and critical to assist these communities in meeting their immediate food needs while helping to restore food security in the country.



Capacity building of Farmers Organizations

FOs in Sri Lanka traditionally provide voluntary services to their members and implement government subsidy programmes. WFP aimed at developing sustainable business model for the FOs for them to be able to provide better services to their members including on aggregation and marketing by enhancing the skills and capacity of their leaders and key members.

A three-day residential workshop for FOs on business planning to strengthen residents' services was conducted in Kandy. 28 members (13 men and 15 women) participated in the activity. WFP contracted ISB Sri Lanka to train and coach the representatives of the 3 FOs that have been supported by the SSTC pilot project over the past 3 years.



Private sector engagement

- The project facilitated linkages between Sri Lanka's largest maize processing companies, namely CBL Plenty Foods Ltd and Maliban Agribusiness Ltd, and smallholder farmers. These companies are pioneers in nutritious blended ready-made food products in Sri Lanka. They both are engaged as SSTC partners for the project Phase III with a view at enabling smallholders to sell their products to these two companies while allowing them to have access to services provided by these companies (e.g., input supply for credit, technical assistance, and machinery services); and
- WFP leveraged the companies' supply network to facilitate smallholders' access to seeds and other inputs to address market bottlenecks

Next Steps

Building on the results of the past three phases, the following activities will be implemented in 2023 (phase IV) to deliver on the project objectives:

Strengthening local capacity

- Design and deliver tailored trainings for government staff on post-harvest management, products development, and supply chain management, building on China's relevant expertise and technologies.
- Provide smallholder farmers with equipment for the post-harvest management of grains.
- Design and deliver training to FOs and provide equipment for organic fertilizer production and distribution.
- Carry out assessments on harvest and post-harvest losses in rice and maize supply chains with the engagement of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sri Lanka universities/think tanks with knowledge/technology transfer from Chinese universities/institutes.

Showcasing results and lessons learned

- Develop knowledge products (e.g., videos, brochures, training materials, etc.) and disseminate them to local stakeholders.
- Organize the final SSTC event with partners and key stakeholders of the pilot project at the completion of Phase IV to present achievements, lessons learned, and recommendations.

Engaging with local private sector

- Explore options for knowledge/technology transfer from China to Sri Lanka's private sector actors on product improvement and diversification and market development in close collaboration with CBL Plenty Foods Ltd and Maliban Agribusiness Ltd.

4. The way forward: Lessons learnt and next steps

The lessons learned and recommendations expressed by the WFP COs participating in this initiative provide valuable insights, shedding light on the path ahead to enhance the MARA-WFP partnership in SSTC.

These insights pave the way for a more effective and impactful joint engagement, directly benefitting our Southern partners and their institutions in tangible ways. As the partnership enters the next phase, WFP is fortunate to leverage the impetus and mandate generated by the upcoming update of the corporate WFP Policy on SSTC, which has benefited from the unwavering support of the government of China and other Southern delegations to the WFP executive board.

The endorsement of this policy in June 2023 will mark a significant milestone in WFP's collective efforts. Given this juncture, it is fitting to embrace a renewed ambition and reaffirm WFP's commitment to jointly contribute to the policy's objective, namely to "enable Global South country actors (institutions and individuals) to sustainably share, adapt and implement zero hunger solutions in order to strengthen their national and local food security and nutrition systems with a focus on vulnerable groups."

Building on the significant successes so far, the following focus areas are proposed for the way forward:

A. Prioritized SSTC modalities:

- **Capacity building activities** (i.e. SSTC training or workshops). These activities could be delivered by Chinese experts who are deployed for a short-term in the COs to conduct training activities; government staff from target countries could also visit key Chinese institutions (i.e. study tour) to receive trainings; by taking advantage of the lessons learned due to the virtual modality that has been tested over the past years, a hybrid training modality (i.e. mixed online training and onsite training courses, including dispatch of short-term and mid-term Chinese experts) could also be considered when necessary;
- **SSTC Technology exchanges.** Small field demonstration of technologies that are needed in the COs could be considered. Chinese experts could provide support on how to use specific technology or provide guidelines for field operations. Part of the project cost could be used for small-scale infrastructure, equipment, and agricultural inputs, which are deemed necessary for supporting field demonstration;
- **SSTC Policy exchanges** (i.e. high-level study tours to China or high-level policy-oriented conferences). High-level official visits from government representatives of recipient countries to China may support country learning from the Chinese experience and this exchange may support the government in better informing their decision-making.
- **SSTC innovative modalities that may eventually be designed by COs are also encouraged.** Should the majority of countries involved in the MARA-funded initiatives express the interest to learn more on a specific topic where China has a successful experience to share (ie. access to market and e-commerce), a thematic centre (i.e. demonstration centre) hosted by the China CoE could be established in the continent where most of the countries requiring assistance are located. Besides supporting the local private sector in helping smallholder farmers accessing the local markets, the centre could also serve for inter-regional SSTC exchanges among continents where countries are facing similar development challenges, increasing reach and impact. In addition, ways to leverage the existing China-Aid Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centres will be further explored.

B. Scalability of SSTC projects

The pilots supported by previous phases helped identify needs and opportunities, build partnerships, and invest in operational excellence. Given the success of different pilots and considering demand from Southern partners to conduct longer-term, multi-year exchange with Chinese institutions and experts, it is timely to step up our ambition and invest in a larger scale of SSTC projects to ensure a bigger impact on the ground. These pilots have provided manifold opportunities to mainstream SSTC throughout WFP's portfolio, helping to consolidate SSTC as an impactful and efficient modality in areas such as resilience, capacity building and smallholder market access support, as well as school feeding. As we jointly aim to further pollinate WFP operations with the power of SSTC, lessons can be applied in accelerating demand from WFP units while also addressing new areas of emerging demand.

- Consolidation of scalability approach in SSTC based on clearly identified criteria – which will create a strong framework for scaling up, thus minimizing risks, and maximizing the potential of growing partnerships (see annex V for more details on scalability criteria)
- Design, implementation, and M&E of multi-year flagship projects with a view to greater impact – a project duration of at least two years would support the scaling up in practice with trusted partners and as part of already ongoing initiatives showing success and relevance for the Global South. Shorter term projects of 6-9 months are also not an adequate period for agricultural-related projects as it does not coincide with the cropping season.
- Continuous evidence-based documentation of experiences with scaling up – a way to ensuring that we continue learning and investing in best practice, while adjusting to the evolving opportunities of larger scale projects.
- Joint formulation missions with MARA: A Joint WFP-China-Host Country(ies) Formulation Mission could be conducted to develop the SSTC Project Concept Note, comprising of experts from each party (i.e. MARA, SSTC Unit, RBx, and potential technical divisions from WFP). The main tasks of these missions will be to assess the scalability of the SSTC projects.



C. Enhanced SSTC visibility and communications:

In the new workplan template WFP could ensure to develop one communication product per each planned activity so as to maximize the visibility of the projects (see annex VI for a list of proposed communication materials).

At global level, strengthening the projects' visibility and communication through joint efforts from WFP and China to give visibility to the results and impact of WFP-China SSTC global initiative with a view to securing ongoing working collaborations and financial contributions, as well as local governments or other potential financial partners (i.e. Triangular partners or the private sector) or UN agencies on the ground.

The SSTC Quarterly Newsletter developed by the SSTC Unit and shared with the Executive Board, could also be considered a tool where the project-related news articles could be showcased. The SSTC Unit could also support COs in producing high-level training videos that could be shared with other countries in the region that are facing similar development challenges so to maximize the impact on the ground.

Going forward the SSTC Unit in HQ is looking to further align and coordinate our knowledge management and communications with various stakeholders, including the knowledge platform of the WFP China CoE and its "Cloud School".

As an example, South-South Match knowledge platform (VPN required) developed by the SSTC Unit, showcases initiatives from the Global South in five thematic areas (nutrition, school feeding, EPR, smallholder farmers, and social protection,) and will further ensure the corporate alignment with CoEs knowledge platforms.

As WFP is seeing an increase in digital knowledge platforms also at the county level, the SSTC unit will develop a system that avoids duplication of efforts and supports the platforms feeding into each other in alignment with the corporate knowledge management guidance.



D. SSTC M&E and Research & Learning Agenda

The MARA-WFP partnership and its distinct ramifications has driven an increasingly solid and sophisticated M&E and learning environment for WFP's overall SSTC portfolio. Ongoing work – largely inspired by the joint work on pilots – is focusing on a full-fledged M&E toolkit which will be integrated in a Research and Learning Agenda catering both WFP and country partners' needs to plan, implement and account for results and ultimately being able to share the success and impact of SSTC.

Key areas of focus would be:

- Develop a research and learning agenda to collect evidence, facilitate knowledge capture and promote organisational learning on the results of WFP facilitated SSTC and its contribution to WFP's Strategic Plan;
- Improved M&E system: To address the recommendations of the SSTC policy evaluation and in line with the priorities set out in WFP's SSTC policy update, WFP is developing an M&E toolkit to enhance its evidence generation approach to SSTC. The toolkit, which is expected to be finalized by Q2 2023 with inputs from HQ divisions, RBs and Centres of Excellence, will provide a standard approach to M&E for SSTC initiatives aligned with corporate guidance.

Moreover, it will help expand the evidence base for SSTC gathered through corporate mechanisms (e.g. Annual Country Report and Annual Performance Report) by providing a list of complementary SSTC indicators to tell a more compelling story on WFP-facilitated SSTC results. The M&E toolkit will be instrumental to support COs engaged in MARA-funded SSTC projects to provide a more coherent and solid account of SSTC results while contributing to make the case for more internal and external resource to scale up WFP's SSTC work. In addition to the SSTC M&E tool kit, in order to ensure a proper monitoring of the SSTC projects, it is suggested to have Chinese experts deployed in the COs to better support the project implementation and have a SSTC project coordinator based in HQ who can supervise the projects and ensure a timely and effective implementation.

- Ensure that SSTC lessons learned are correctly captured throughout the project: the SSTC Unit will support the COs in collecting and disseminating the lessons learned from the MARA-WFP global initiative as well as the best practices collected so to better guide and smoothly improve the implementation of the projects.



E. Improved project-related documentation:

It is suggested to simplify the project-related documents (i.e. Project Concept Note, Survey, TORs templates to be revised and provide an ad hoc reporting template) to ensure a better and more realistic design of the SSTC projects. Two templates could be suggested: one is a roadmap with the proposed activities for the whole duration of the projects with the indication, per each activity, of the budget, the visibility product, the proposed timeline (month) as well as the involvement of Chinese experts (1 pager document); the second document could be a revised project reporting template (max 2 pager document), building on the templates used for the current reporting period, where each CO can share the results achieved (Number of beneficiaries reached, lessons learned, potential resource mobilization opportunities on the ground) and the challenges/proposed solutions encountered during the project implementation.

F. Catalytic use of SSTC in mobilizing additional resources:

WFP conceives SSTC as a critical opportunity to strengthen collaboration with sister agencies, including the RBAs that are also partnering with and relying on support by China for SSTC. Specific MARA-WFP initiatives such as the support to cassava smallholder producers in the Republic of Congo, have already led to deeper inter-agency work in benefit of the Global South, and specifically, inspired a wide-ranging and highly visible joint SSTC initiative for National Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF).

WFP also sees catalytic use of SSTC in mobilizing additional resources including through funding arrangements from host countries or in collaboration with other UN agencies on the ground.



G. The current target countries can become future SSTC providers:

Countries that have successfully benefited from SSTC projects can be encouraged to assume the role of providers of technical assistance to other developing countries, leveraging their acquired resources and expertise in specific fields. A dedicated SSTC FP in the government could be appointed.



Annex I

2022 Visibility SSTC products from the SSTC Country Projects

Ecuador

Knowledge Product	Thematic Area	Link if available
Systematization Videos	3 different videos (each one on versions: Spanish, Spanish with English subtitles and Spanish with sign language).	https://mega.nz/folder/3hQ1jBhD#BiKs3H93wG286psYt-IN9g
Life history of beneficiaries	Life history of farmers in charge of a rice-duck demonstration plot	https://ecuador.un.org/es/197479-arroz-pato-dinamizando-la-economia-local-la-produccion-y-el-consumo-agroecologico-en-ecuador
Online article	"Rice-duck": boosting local economy	https://cronica.com.ec/2022/08/25/ii-encuentro-comercial-mayorista-de-arroz-se-realizara-en-loja/
Online article	Rice-duck trade meeting (marketing)	https://www.agricultura.gob.ec/ii-encuentro-comercial-mayorista-de-arroz-se-realizara-en-loja/
Twitter	Dissemination of the rice-duck model at a corporate event	https://mobile.twitter.com/WFP_Ecuador/status/1570190948201537539?s=20&t=bFUT2V5ObgSAPIfUViWqyA
Twitter	Marketing opportunities for smallholder farmers	https://mobile.twitter.com/Agricultura_CZ5/status/1604937857935745024
Twitter	Dissemination of the rice-duck model	https://twitter.com/matteo_wfp/status/1605336283005431808?s=46&t=LXtocyvW8bcfQWmYu6eXQ
Twitter	"Rice-duck": boosting local economy	https://twitter.com/wfp_ecuador/status/1565684020326825986?s=46&t=LXtocyvW8bcfQWmYu6eXQ
Twitter	"Rice-duck": boosting local economy	https://twitter.com/agriculturaec/status/1564353750306783244?s=46&t=LXtocyvW8bcfQWmYu6eXQ
Twitter	Presentation of the rice-duck model at Sustainable Challenge Latam 2022	https://twitter.com/wfp_ecuador/status/1577852808392544256?s=46&t=LXtocyvW8bcfQWmYu6eXQ
Twitter	Promoting the product of rice-duck plots, with brand and logo	https://twitter.com/matteo_wfp/status/1613298057805701124?s=46&t=LXtocyvW8bcfQWmYu6eXQ
Twitter	Diagnosis of rice-duck plots by the Agency for Phytosanitary and Zoosanitary Regulation and Control (AGROCALIDAD)	https://twitter.com/iniapecuador/status/1595426715521716225?s=46&t=LXtocyvW8bcfQWmYu6eXQ https://twitter.com/agricultura_cz5/
Meeting	Meeting between the CD WFP and the Chinese ambassador in Ecuador, where the actions carried out with the rice-duck project were discussed. Rice from the implemented plots was delivered	Chinese Ambassador to Ecuador
Photos	Cultivation, products, fields, signs, logo material China	Photos SSTC 2022
PPT	Rice-duck presentation	PPT rice-duck presentation 2022
Videos	Chinese expert videos with English voice over	Videos expertos Chinos arroz-pato
Article in the SSTC Quarterly Newsletter – December 2022 Edition	Building Sustainable, Resilient and Nutritious Agri-food Systems	SSTC Quarterly Newsletter – December 2022 Edition (page 9)

Ghana

Knowledge Product	Thematic Area	Link if available
e.g., Dossier of national good practices	Social protection	
e.g., Video training courses; photos	Smallholder access to markets	
Article in the SSTC Quarterly Newsletter – December 2022 Edition	Innovative Smallholder Market Access	SSTC Quarterly Newsletter – December 2022 Edition (page 6)

Kenya

Knowledge Product	Thematic Area	Link if available
Photos	Various activities	Photos Phase III

Peru

Knowledge Product	Thematic Area	Link if available
CMN (Capacity Needs Mapping for the implementation of the Publica Purchases Law	Public purchases law management	Capacity Needs Mapping - Final Report.pdf
Public Purchases Implementation Training plan	Capacity Strengthening	Plan de Capacitacion Ley de Compras Estatales - Ayacucho.pdf
Technical note of the policy dialogue and video of the event	Management of Fresh Food Products	Technical note: https://wfp-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/rolando_wilson_wfp_org/EbmSndfUSz5Cs3-9o3DzXI8Bsg6UJKC-u_3wdyhZyRNcWA?e=O0RIHS Video: https://wfp-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/rolando_wilson_wfp_org/Ecmj1k7jyFNiIbHjAXNn6WbjnnCYItaTW5keCAbpSYxMQ?e=10tboS
Technical note of the workshop and video of the event	Best practices of Fresh Food Products	Technical note: https://wfp-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/rolando_wilson_wfp_org/Eer_RZwicGIBu8IIULcprhgBaf1gGjBYq0SI2fA8scbpGw?e=3lgE1X Video: https://wfp-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/rolando_wilson_wfp_org/Efn756aszEdCnojVPU_0ddUBMSLW_McT XOAUxwsfX_S0zg?e=rkYhSn
Agenda and Journalistic note of the launch of the public purchases law and photos	Public purchases law	Journalistic note and agenda: https://wfp-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/rolando_wilson_wfp_org/EdBptWr8eAxDnntrj5bdv10BHwBfKo43M-9HI9VyKOjIKQ?e=xlyntU Agenda del Lanzamiento de la Ley de Compras Publicas.pdf https://wfp-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/lena_arias_wfp_org/EkZO2Qxtd5BvIBVg72e5NgBNnrWI-TbKNe5tzN_KFCEzg?e=86AIF2
Video of SSCT Second phase	Public purchases law and fresh food value chain development to benefit smallholder farmers in Ayacucho	https://wfp-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/rolando_wilson_wfp_org/EW0o0mCvxUpLqMyiabdSgqABPseeUK8lp89spAzPWT-hOw?e=i6PluW
Photos of the public purchase to Biohuertunchick	Fresh food purchases	https://wfp-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/lena_arias_wfp_org/EkZO2Qxtd5BvIBVg72e5NgBNnrWI-TbKNe5tzN_KFCEzg?e=xNmX5l
Article in the SSTC Quarterly Newsletter – September 2022 Edition	Strengthening Food Safety in Fresh Produce Supply Chains	SSTC Quarterly Newsletter – September 2022 Edition

Republic of Congo

Knowledge Product	Thematic Area	Link if available
Photos & quotes	Cassava value chain	2023 02 02 SSTC initiatives photo selection
Online course videos (still being reviewed by the CO)	Cassava and banana value chain	WFP China - videos on the processing of cassava and banana - Tous les documents (sharepoint.com)
Factsheets	Information management	9_MARA Project
Stickers	Visibility	Stickers.pdf
T-shirts	Visibility	Tshirts.pdf

Sri Lanka

Knowledge Product	Thematic Area	Link if available
Banners	Resilience Building	ToT banner_resilience building.png ToT banner_resilience building.png
Pictures	Case studies	SSTC
Video		https://we.tl/t-4QpOsSRxvF

Annex II

Survey Template Capturing experiences and results from WFP’s Field Pilot Initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in 2022

1. Country demand and capacity gaps (150 words max per question)

- Please briefly describe the country demand and capacity gaps which were addressed through the pilot.
- To which CSP outcome/activity (and – if applicable – to which national priority/programme/strategy for SDG 2) did the project contribute?

2. Overview of results

- Please provide a brief description of the activities and key results achieved in 2022 (300 words max).
- Who benefitted from the pilot activities in 2022?

Institutions (e.g., government, academia, think tank, private sector)	Nr. of Men (staff involved)	Nr. of Women (staff involved)	Total
E.g., Ministry of Agriculture	75	28	103
Total	113	31	144
Beneficiaries (grassroots level)	Nr. of Men	Nr. of women	Total
e.g., Smallholder farmers	308	92	400
Total	421	123	544

Type of South-South activities ⁴	Participants in recipient country (Policy makers, technical staff, community members/farmers)	Was this activity supported by any other international partners beyond WFP? (e.g., FAO, IFAD, etc.)
Training of Trainers on post-harvest methods	Was this activity supported by any other international partners beyond WFP? (e.g., FAO, IFAD, etc.)	FAO Country Office

- Which partners in “SSC provider countries” (e.g., government institution, private sector partner, or research institution) have supported this project in 2022?

Partner	Type	Provider country
E.g. Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences (JAAS), China	Government institution	China

- Please list any visual or knowledge products (e.g., article, video, photos, good practice brochure, etc.) that were developed in 2022 related to the pilot. Please kindly share those with the PRO-T/SSTC team.

Knowledge Product	Thematic Area	Link if available
e.g., Video for Training of Trainers	Marketing opportunities for smallfarmers	

3. Experience with the pilot (100 words max for each question)

- What factors have positively contributed to achieving the project’s results in 2022?
- What challenges or risks did the project face during implementation? Please share your suggestions/recommendations to address those.
- What opportunities and options for scaling up do you see for this project going forward?

⁴You can refer to the Overview of SSTC modalities.

Annex III

MARA-WFP GLOBAL SSTC INITIATIVE

SSTC Country Projects	Phase of the initiative (2022)
Republic of Congo	III
Ecuador	III
Peru	III
Kenya	III
Sri Lanka	III
Ghana	III

Please note that the above table refers only to the SSTC countries involved in Wave III. The implementation of wave IV of the SSTC Country Projects is ongoing.

SSTC Assistance Fund projects (MARA-funded)	Wave
Armenia	II
Guinea	II
Burundi	II
El Salvador	II
Lybia	II
Madagascar	II

Please note that the above table refers only to the SSTC countries involved in Wave II. The implementation of wave III of the SSTC Assistance Fund Projects is ongoing.

Annex IV

WFP SSTC Country Project - Phase IV scalability criteria

How to access the prospects for scalability								
Target country (based on the surveys received from last wave)	% of the pilot project implemented/Project budget spent	SSTC Knowledge product/s produced	Prospects for scalability explored (see guiding questions under N1 below)	Ownership and interest of the project beneficiaries ensured (see guiding questions under N 2 below)	Other potential donors engaged/thematic areas interested by main donors	Other RBAs engaged	Private sector actors engaged	Links with other key units (CCS/SF/SP/EPR/Resilience)
Ecuador								
Peru								
Kenya								
Republic of Congo								
Ghana								
Sri Lanka								

SSTC Guiding Questions:

1. Has the pilot attained intended results, positively influenced and/or contributed to policy and legislative implementation?

- Was there a rapid return on investment analysis and/or a self-evaluation with the stakeholders to inform scaling/flagship. (Light exercise to gauge the "effectiveness" of the pilot).

- Has the host government indicated formal interest in scaling through a letter or request for evaluation documentation to WFP?

2. Who were the critical stakeholders involved in the project design and implementation and have these stakeholders continued to invest in the process throughout?

- Does it seem likely that the host government is interested in investing in the pilot scale-up with in-kind and/or financial resources?

Annex V

2023 proposed SSTC communications materials

Beneficiary interest story	<p>Short story of a person/household whose life has changed thanks to the China-SSTC project, highlighting the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• area/region of the country;• people involved;• type of activities carried out prior to the project; • skills learned/ improved through the project;• describe the changes in people's lives/activities using detailed indicators.
Printed material	<p>Wherever feasible, and subject to WFP corporate guidelines, it could be developed some printed materials such as leaflets, t-shirt etc.</p>
SSTC Country fact sheet	<p>Create a country fact sheet based on the SSTC project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• main objective;• areas of cooperation;• main SSTC activities;• main results achieved with detailed indicators;• main outcomes of the project;• development solutions transferred
News article	<p>The news article could be then inserted in the SSTC Quarterly Newsletter and on the SSTC Yammer channel, external channels may be explored as well.</p>
High-resolution Photos	<p>Key requirements of the photos for each SSTC project activity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• photos should contain an obvious link to the project;• it is important to illustrate the impact and activities of the project by going on location;• try to take images of people who are performing tasks;• the background should always be interesting, relevant and appealing;• take some wide images to include the surrounding environment, giving an overall impression;• photos should always have a caption. The caption is the key to unlock the story behind the photo.• Every caption should answer the questions used by journalists: WHO is in the picture; WHAT are they doing; WHY does it matter; WHEN and WHERE was it taken; the caption should also CREDIT the photographer and carry copyright information.
High-resolution Videos	<p>The SSTC Unit could also support COs in producing high-level training videos that could be shared with other countries in the region that are facing similar development challenge. Key requirements of the videos for each SSTC project activity are similar to the Photo's.</p>

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