

United Nations South-South Cooperation Day

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN ACHIEVING SDG2

Opportunities for the RBAs to broker South-South and Triangular Cooperation after “BAPA+40”

Concept note



Objective

WFP, in partnership with FAO and IFAD, will jointly celebrate the 2019 United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation with an event on 6 September 2019 at WFP headquarters. The event will shed light on the topic “Leaving no one behind in achieving SDG2: Opportunities for the RBAs to broker South-South and triangular cooperation after “BAPA+40””. The theme is in line with the call of the 2019 High-level Political Forum for empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The joint event in Rome will provide a platform for voices from the field and host governments to be heard. The dialogue will allow the exploration of country needs and the showcasing of work undertaken by the three United Nations Rome-based agencies (RBAs) to broker South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) in the context of the above theme. Examples on empowering rural women to better access market opportunities, promotion of family farming and the creation of opportunities for the rural youth will be in the spotlight during the discussions.

A stock-take with the RBAs will identify new opportunities for renewing their collaboration on SSTC which is fundamental to WFP, FAO and IFAD’s joint efforts in ensuring no one is left behind in achieving zero hunger by 2030.

Background

The overarching objective of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, which is to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and to promote sustainable agriculture is one that is common to the mandates of the RBAs. To reach the over 820 million hungry and malnourished people that exist worldwide today and the 2 billion more who are projected to be undernourished by 2050, FAO, IFAD and WFP need to redouble their efforts in providing technical assistance in food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture to governments on the road to development. Increased investments in those areas, both financial and in kind, will be important catalysts in bringing about the profound change that is needed for a world with zero hunger.

As a complement to the traditional development interventions employed by the three RBAs, SSTC is increasingly supporting the mandates of the three agencies. As captured in SDG 17, it is a vital component of our international development efforts and critical means by which the already existing expertise, technologies and financial resources in developing countries can be accessed, mobilized and shared. For the RBAs, facilitating SSTC is an opportunity to expand their capacity to provide, inter alia, technical assistance to host governments and reach the vulnerable people in need.

BAPA+40 and the call for leaving no one behind in SSTC

The rising importance of SSTC, and the call for more investments in this area also found global endorsement earlier this year at the United Nations Second High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation or BAPA+40, which was held in March in Argentina. At this conference, SSTC was recognized as a critical driver for attaining the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. In accordance with this recognition, agencies of the United Nations were called upon to increase their investments in SSTC as an integral feature of their programmes of work.

One of the key issues that was highlighted by the Secretary-General and the Group of 77 and China countries at BAPA+40 was the need to ensure no one is left behind in benefitting from SSTC. For the work of the RBAs this means addressing inequalities, which comes in many forms, and ensuring that all developing countries and people in those countries can benefit from progress towards zero hunger through SSTC. This is at the heart of the challenge faced by the RBAs in their response to the hungry and malnourished people of the world, whose numbers are increasing after a significant reversal in the downward trend.

Opportunities for RBA collaboration

The RBAs have been supporting developing countries to tap into SSTC for years in order to advance progress towards zero hunger. The few examples presented below demonstrate some of the ways in which the three agencies can generate benefits for the most vulnerable communities and smallholder families through SSTC, including promoting family farming, creating opportunities for the rural youth, and empowering rural women to better access markets opportunities.

For FAO, the creation of an efficient institutional framework to ensure food security and nutrition cannot be realized without improving the livelihoods of family farmers and supporting their active engagement and leadership towards the establishment of diversified, sustainable and inclusive food systems. The Mesoamerica without Hunger Programme aims to strengthen the capacities of the institutions through technical cooperation, exchanges and internships in establishing effective legal frameworks and social protection schemes in support of family farmers. Furthermore, +Cotton Project promotes sustainable development of rural territories and the creation of income generating options for family farmers. FAO and IFAD are also leading the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNDF) 2019–2028. RBAs-supported SSTC can serve as a catalyser for strengthening investments, capacities and local innovations by and for family farmers in order to make sure no one is left behind, and in line with the UNDF Global Action Plan.

For IFAD, generating benefits for the most vulnerable also means investing in rural youth. Young people are a unique asset which requires proper support. When valued for their comparative advantage as early adopters of new technologies, as innovators and risk-takers, young people can act as agents of change and the engine for economic and social progress. The importance that IFAD places on youth is enshrined in the recently launched Rural Development Report and in a number of projects currently under implementation, such as the Rural Youth Innovation Award. The latter aims at creating a platform for sharing information and knowledge among youth-led innovative solutions to smallholder farmer challenges.

For WFP, ensuring inclusivity and equality for the most vulnerable people is enshrined in WFP's principles for SSTC. It finds expression in many initiatives, building on WFP's nature of work and strong field-oriented structures in over 80 countries, including at deep field level. One example of how WFP supports SSTC with a focus on leaving no one behind is by creating market opportunities for rural women, strengthening their roles and livelihoods in the rural context and contributing to ease their burden through innovative techniques in areas such as post-harvest management. One such example is the joint WFP-FAO work on the ground to facilitate SSTC in partnership with the People's Republic of China and other governments in the context of family farming in Latin America (e.g. Ecuador) and in Asia (e.g. Sri Lanka).

Building on the relative strengths of one another and deepening the already strong RBAs' partnerships in SSTC will help the agencies to achieve even more results.

Format of this event

This two-hour event will be delivered in form of two interactive panel discussions, focusing on voices from the field, and RBAs' opportunities in the context of the event's theme.



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