



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Investing in rural people



World Food
Programme

10 September 2018

Celebration of the UN South-South Cooperation Day

FAO HQ - Sheikh Zayed Centre / 10:00-12:40



I Background

The UN General Assembly decided in 2003 to observe an annual South-South Cooperation Day to highlight the importance of South-South Cooperation “as an important element of international cooperation for development”. In 2011 it was agreed to move the date to 12 September (from 19 December) to commemorate the adoption on that day in 1978 of the [Buenos Aires Plan of Action](#) for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA). Thus, 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of BAPA, which will officially be celebrated with the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) from 20 to 22 March 2019 in the city of its adoption Buenos Aires.

At the global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo in November 2017 in Antalya, Turkey, the three Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) presented a joint Roadmap entitled “Towards BAPA+40: strengthening Collaboration among Rome-based Agencies on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)”. The Roadmap presents a shared action plan for enhanced collaboration between the RBAs in the area of SSTC, outlining the working mechanisms and shared priorities that the three agencies are putting in place, in particular with a view to coordinating efforts leading to BAPA+40. One specific activity mentioned in the Roadmap is the organization of a joint RBAs SSTC Event to commemorate the UN Day on South-South Cooperation. The Roadmap stipulates that the 2018 event will identify approaches and pathways towards BAPA+40, and will be hosted by FAO, after IFAD did so in 2017. Subsequent events will be organized and hosted by the RBAs on a rotational basis.



II Overall objectives

- Raise awareness about SSTC and its strategic importance to deliver results towards BAPA+40 and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Showcase SSTC success stories, in particular in the thematic area of climate change.
- Present advances on the implementation of the Joint RBA Roadmap on SSTC and climate change.



III Thematic focus

The thematic focus of the UN SSC Day 2018 will be SSTC and climate change.

Discussants will showcase and highlight RBAs’ efforts, in collaboration with partners, in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation through SSTC as one important element of the 2030 Agenda, and SDG13 on climate action in particular, pointing out RBAs’ joint contributions on the road to BAPA+40.

- **Rationale**

As a historic triumph to address climate change, the Paris Agreement is the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal that seeks climate neutrality before the end of the century. The Agreement offers a wide range of actions on transparency and global stocktaking, adaptation, dealing with loss and damage as well as the role of cities, regions and local authorities. Increased development cooperation initiatives led by the global South will inject new and enhanced momentum for climate cooperation, and SSTC is recognized as an effective tool for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

SSTC initiatives include innovative, complementary and cost-effective alternatives to adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects. Countries from the global South, many of whom are particularly affected by the effects of climate change, often not only share similar climatic and environmental challenges, but also share similar agricultural value chains, production methods and technologies.

Cooperation between countries of the global South facilitates the exchange of knowledge, expertise, technologies and good practices to reduce, for instance, emissions of greenhouse gases through more efficient and profitable practices, such as achieving more effective fertilization, or to promote the use of agricultural inputs that reduce nitrous oxide emissions. SSTC is also a key driver to promote risk insurance, community-level planning process for resilience building and the strengthening and adaptation of livelihoods of smallholder farmers that are affected by the adverse effects of climate change. Effective measures to maintain agricultural productivity in the context of intensifying climate change include the adoption of climate-smart agricultural inputs or switching to more efficient irrigation methods. However, SSTC not only provides technical solutions and opportunities for technology transfers for addressing climate change, but also management models to deal with the changes and reforms required, be they on the policy front, or in the institutional and grassroots arenas. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures will require a range of actions at different fronts, including for instance through strengthening regional cooperation, establishing regional centers and networks, enhancing capacity-development, mobilizing pooled funding for climate risk insurance, as well as ensuring policy coherence and coordination. These actions go beyond fostering mitigation and adaptation to climate change and include disaster risk reduction and management, reducing vulnerability, and building resilience, preparedness and responsiveness to extreme weather events. For example, tapping into South-South opportunities for regional collective action on climate risk insurance, through engagement with regional bodies like the African Union (AU) or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as strengthening capacities on resilience-building are becoming increasingly important opportunities of many governments in the developing world in order to meet the Zero Hunger Goal of SDG2. Actions to achieve SDG2 will accelerate progress across a great many goals and targets, including poverty (SDG1) and climate change (SDG13). Overall, sharing expertise, resources and investments as part of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (SDG17) is crucial to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- **Rome-based Agencies work on SSTC and climate change**

Climate Change is a cross-cutting theme of FAO's strategic framework. This means that climate action (in terms of adaptation and/or mitigation) is integrated into every facet of FAO's work. The 40th FAO Conference (2017) designated "Climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO" as its biennial theme for 2018-19. All FAO Governing Bodies have been asked to include this as an agenda item during their sessions to engage in a critical review of linkages between trends and challenges relating to climate change, and the work and activities of FAO including vis-à-vis nutrition, food security, migration, oceans, fisheries, resilience, land uses, forestry management, disaster risk reduction and others. FAO's Strategy on Climate Change (2017)¹ specifically mentions SSTC as one mechanism to share experiences and lessons learned. FAO's work on climate change, builds on lessons learned from disaster risk reduction and emergency response to current hazards and supports long-term climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. For FAO, SSTC serves as a complementary tool to ensure access to knowledge and technology adapted to local circumstances. Farmers who, with the help of their peers, or experts, can gain access to information on the efficient use of resources, tailored to their local realities, will eventually be in the position to use innovative technologies to support a sustainable and climate-sensitive agriculture. This is why almost all SSTC initiatives facilitated by FAO have strong components of technology development and transfer, as well as capacity development in the field of climate change. FAO is one of the key implementing partners for the Action Plan of South-South Cooperation for the UN Secretary-General's Climate Change Engagement Strategy (2017-2021).

¹FAO Strategy on Climate Change (2017): <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7175e.pdf>

Climate change adaptation and mitigation are being mainstreamed in all IFAD-funded projects. To effectively channel climate and environmental finance to smallholder agriculture, in 2012 IFAD has established the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP), the largest global adaptation programme for smallholder farmers and a leading initiative in the United Nations system. Over the last five years, ASAP has provided grants totalling USD305 million in 41 countries, supporting 8 million people.

SSTC provides an additional vehicle for carrying forward IFAD's Climate Change Strategy²: a recent example of this was a one-day seminar on "Preparing Rural Communities to Cope With Climate Change through South-South and Triangular Cooperation", organized jointly by IFAD and the Government of Pakistan in March 2018. The seminar showed how SSTC can be used as a tool to share innovative solutions, experiences and knowledge on climate change adaptation and mitigation practices in the context of smallholder rural transformation.

Due to rising country demand, WFP has significantly stepped up its efforts to broker SSTC over the past few years in a broad range of thematic areas, including climate change adaptation and resilience-building. In fact, 74% of WFP's Country Offices are meanwhile engaged in supporting their governments to use their unique technologies, experiences and knowledge to address hunger challenges elsewhere in the developing world, or to tap into SSTC support from other countries. In the area of climate change adaptation, SSTC helps to promote country-led efforts in climate risk management, including climate risk insurance, forecast-based financing, climate analyses and information, as well as clean energy access. As an example, the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative (R4), launched by WFP and Oxfam America, provides an integrated approach to climate risk management, coupling weather insurance with asset creation activities and financial services. In this framework, R4 fosters South-South knowledge sharing and capacity particularly on index insurance design and development, including joint research, peer exchanges, and reviewing processes. WFP is also engaged with the African Risk Capacity (ARC), deploying innovative, objective and transparent parametric mechanisms that spearhead discussions around disaster risk management and climate change in Africa. Thirty-three African governments constitute as the ARC Agency and fortify their disaster risk management systems through intra-African collaboration. WFP's work on SSTC in this area complements WFP's assistance to governments in the areas of climate and food security analyses as well as forecast-based financing, which help governments to make informed decisions before and during seasonal crop and harvest periods for effective national policy planning and programming. More information about our approaches in this field is found in WFP's climate change policy³.

- **Expected output**

SSC Day 2018 provides a platform to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences of RBAs and partners in addressing issues related to climate change and showcase effective practices that have been carried out through the support of SSTC with relevant stakeholders. In addition, the event will also provide room for stimulating progress made in the implementation of the Joint RBA Roadmap and outlining the RBAs' contributions to BAPA+40.

²IFAD Strategy on Climate Change (2017) <https://www.ifad.org/documents/10180/4f102df6-2751-4a16-9443-bd132e1c519f>

³ WFP's Climate Change Policy (2017) <https://www.wfp.org/content/2017-wfps-policy-climate-change>

IV Agenda



Venue: Sheikh Zayed Centre - FAO headquarters, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome



Welcome coffee will be served at 9:30 outside the event room



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Time	Item	Speakers
10:00	Welcome and objectives	Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director, Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division, FAO
10:05	Opening remarks	Mr Laurent Thomas, Deputy Director-General (Operations), FAO (on behalf of the RBAs)
10:15	Video message	Mr Jorge Chediek, United Nations Special Envoy on South-South Cooperation and Director, UNOSSC
10:20	Key note address	Mr Joao Bosco Monte, President, Brazil-Africa Institute
10:40	Panel discussion on SSTC and Climate Change	<p>Moderator: Mr Lisandro Martin, Director, West and Central Africa Division, IFAD</p> <p>Panellists: Ms Teresa Tumwet, Alternate Permanent Representative, Agriculture Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Kenya to the Rome-based Agencies Mr Hagen Ettner, Director, Sino-German Center for Sustainable Development, GIZ, Germany Ms Hui Ju, Professor, Institute of Environment and Sustainable Development in Agriculture, CAAS, China Ms Arianna Giuliadori, Secretary General, World Farmers Organization Ms Rosangela Ferreira Moura, Secretary of Agricultural Policy and Environment, Federation of Smallholder Farmers and Agriculture Workers of the State Ceará, Brazil</p>
11:30	Q&A	
11:45	Panel discussion on RBAs expectations and contributions to BAPA+40	<p>Moderator: H.E. Mario Arvelo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to FAO, IFAD and WFP, Chair of the Committee on World Food Security</p> <p>Panellists: Ms Dongxin Feng, Deputy Director, Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division, FAO Ms Ama Brandford-Arthur, Senior Technical Specialist and SSTC Unit Coordinator, Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division, IFAD Mr Jean-Pierre de Margerie, Deputy Director, Policy and Programme Division, WFP</p>
12:15	Q&A	
12:30	Closing remarks	Mr Jean-Pierre de Margerie, Deputy Director, Policy and Programme Division, WFP