



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FAO'S WORK ON SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Exchanging rice-farming knowledge
and technology for food security



Required citation:

FAO. 2022. *FAO's work on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in sub-Saharan Africa – Exchanging rice-farming knowledge and technology for food security*. Rome.

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cc1960en>

COVER: Musa Suleiman, a commercial rice farmer, engages with workers on his farm in Bukan Sidi, Nasarawa.

©FAO/Ozavogu Abdul





REFLECTING ON EXPERIENCES, MOVING FORWARD

FAO's history of South-South and
Triangular Cooperation in the
agriculture sector

More than 40 years ago, the first UN Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in Buenos Aires, laid important groundwork for South-South Cooperation, setting in motion a movement of reciprocal self-reliance that emphasizes developing countries collectively assisting one another.

More recently, the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (known as BAPA+40, held in March 2019) highlighted the evolution of South-South Cooperation and its great potential for achieving development ambitions such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

In the years between those landmark meetings, FAO has worked with a range of partners on

successful South-South and Triangular Cooperation agreements to benefit Africa, including Brazil, China, the Republic of Korea, Morocco, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Viet Nam.

In the decade up to 2020, FAO also established and sustained two important trust funds for South-South Cooperation: the FAO-China Trust Fund (Phases II and III) and the FAO-Morocco Trust Fund.

These Global South partners bring considerable knowledge and experience borne from decades of national development progress and international development assistance. Their cooperation embodies solidarity among peoples and countries of the Global South.



©FAO/Jeanette Van Acker



TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR AFRICA

FAO's Four Betters and South–South
and Triangular Cooperation

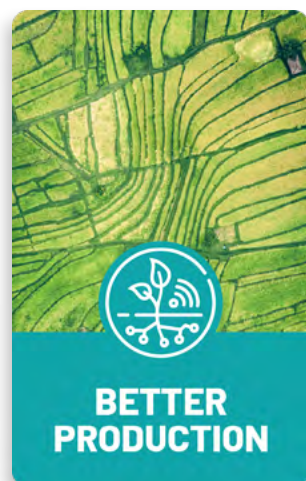
South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) offers an effective delivery mechanism towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa, particularly SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG2 (Zero Hunger), SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Through SSTC, sustainable agricultural production and profitability can be increased, and new technologies and innovations can be introduced to drive progress.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation features prominently within the **FAO Strategic Framework 2022–2031**, which seeks to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to more efficient,

inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production; better nutrition; a better environment; and a better life, leaving no one behind.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation plays a central role as an integral part of transformative partnerships.

Through better production, FAO will leverage SSTC to promote sustainable agriculture and agrifood systems, and stimulate industrial and semi-industrial agro-industries, with an eye on driving big gains in food security and nutrition in African countries.



FAO'S ROLE IN SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

FAO carries out its SSTC work in five main areas:

- ▶ knowledge generation and standard setting;
- ▶ encouraging networks and partnerships for knowledge exchange;
- ▶ resource mobilization to facilitate transactions beyond the exchange of ideas;
- ▶ matchmaking between solution providers and solution seekers; and
- ▶ advocacy on the mutual benefits of South-South collaboration.

Exchanges between countries occur through several modalities: short- and long-term deployment of experts, study tours, policy dialogues and technology exchanges. FAO brokers South-South partnerships, brings in Triangular partners from the Global North when suitable, and provides practical guidance and technical support along the way.

Through this support, countries are enabled to share best practices, technologies and innovations on mutually agreed terms.



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



Relevant indicators:

17.6.1

Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programmes between countries, by type of cooperation

17.9.1

Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and Triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries



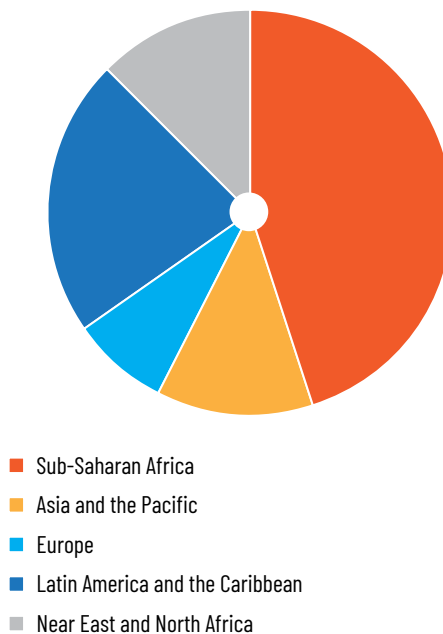
“

Over the years, FAO has expanded the partnerships under the South–South and Triangular portfolio, allowing more diversified work across a range of areas and ultimately benefiting a large number of African countries.

”

Abebe Haile-Gabriel
FAO Assistant Director-General and
Regional Representative for Africa

FAO's South–South and Triangular Cooperation projects by region



SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN ACTION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

For more than 25 years, FAO has been successfully facilitating South-South exchanges of cost-effective experiences and technical know-how, relevant to local conditions. The aim is to strengthen food security and nutrition.

The FAO-China Trust Fund, in particular, has facilitated the deployment of more than 290 Chinese experts and technicians to introduce some 200 low-cost scalable technologies to partner countries. Chinese drip-irrigation technology, for example, has enabled Nigerian farmers to grow crops during the dry season and significantly increase their incomes.

Through Triangular Cooperation, expertise from Viet Nam and funding from Spain provided a significant boost to productivity in Namibia's aquaculture sector.

FAO has also supported African governments to set up their own unilateral trust funds to finance South-South Cooperation initiatives in their countries, such as Nigeria and Angola.

“

***South-South and Triangular
Cooperation will
increase Africa's agricultural
production and productivity and
reduce poverty and food
insecurity...***

”

Anping Ye
Director of the South-South and
Triangular Cooperation Division, FAO



RICE – A SECTOR OF OPPORTUNITY

Boosting rural livelihoods and
strengthening institutional capacities

RICE VALUE CHAIN SUPPORT

Rice consumption in sub-Saharan Africa is growing by an estimated 6 percent a year. Yet most African countries are not self-sufficient producers. With regional output covering only about 60 percent of demand, African governments recognize the importance of developing local rice value chains for food security, boosting incomes and employment.

Through South-South and Triangular Cooperation mechanisms, FAO has supported major rice-producing African countries to address the challenges facing their rice value chains, including lack of adequate tools and

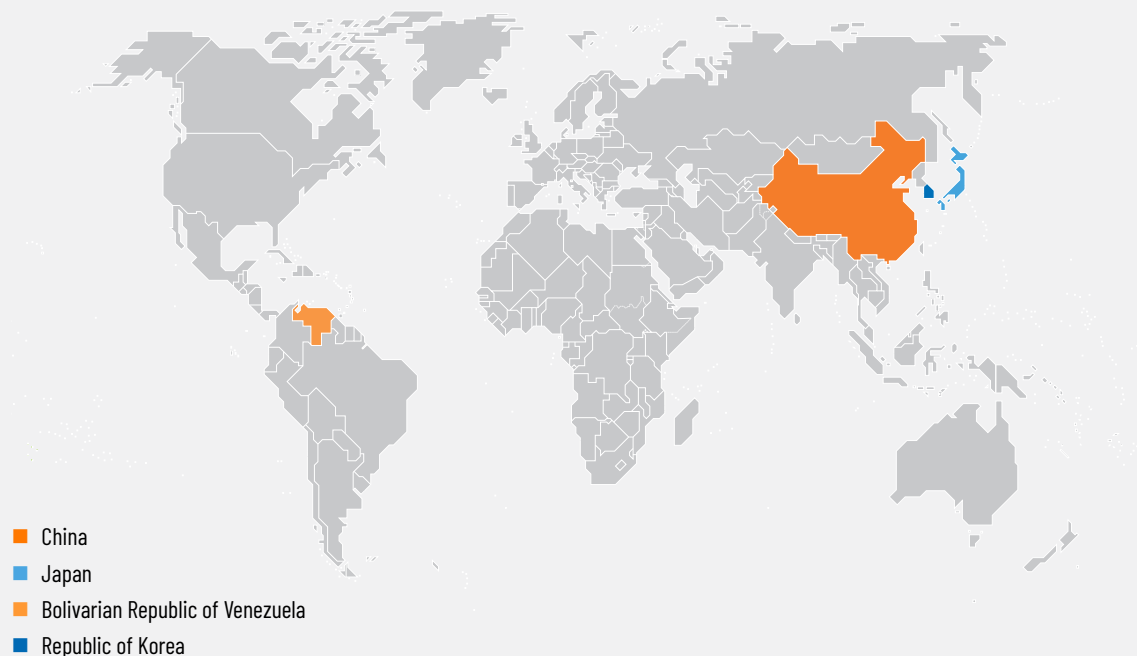
machinery for land preparation and harvesting, and post-harvest losses of 15–25 percent. Countries such as Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda have benefited from technology transfer and knowledge exchange to improve the productivity of their rice sectors.

Small- and medium-scale farmers, farmer organizations and extension agents received training to improve production, the quality of rice seed varieties, and paddy harvest handling and processing. They were trained to adopt sustainable rice intensification, access agricultural equipment, and rehabilitate and manage small-scale irrigation projects. Regional knowledge exchange events and study tours encouraged the sharing of good practices and lessons learned.



©FAO/Ozavogu Abdul

KEY DONORS



KEY TECHNICAL PARTNERS

- Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice)
- International Rice Research Institute
- Rural Development Administration of the Republic of Korea
- Japan International Cooperation Agency
- Viet Nam

The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on these map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

SOURCE: UN Geospatial. 2019. *The World Today*. New York, US, United Nations. Cited 9 September 2022. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/world-today>, modified by authors.



POLICY EXCHANGE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

BRICS countries such as Brazil, India and China, with their successes in accelerated economic and rural development in recent decades, are well placed to take a leadership role in helping eradicate global hunger and poverty by 2030.

A 2014–2020 partnership between Mozambique and Brazil is a good example of BRICS solutions being adapted and applied in Africa.

During the project implementation phase, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mozambique was assisted to design an Agricultural Producers' Register System. Technical missions between Brazil and Mozambique built the necessary capacity to implement the new registration system and review the Agrarian Extension Master Plan. Around 2 000 people across Mozambique received training on different aspects of family farming.

China is another standout BRICS member that is a proud partner in FAO's South–South Cooperation programme. Given the country's experience in poverty alleviation and agricultural development, China is uniquely positioned to engage in development exchanges with other developing countries.

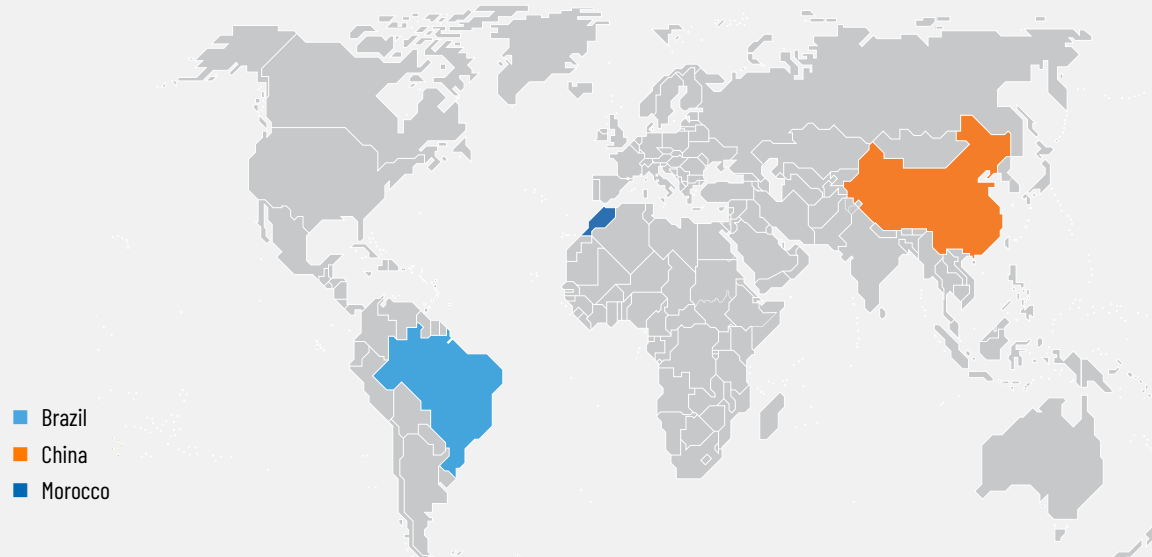
**CHINA USES
ONE-TENTH OF THE
WORLD'S ARABLE
LAND TO PRODUCE
A QUARTER OF
THE WORLD'S
GRAINS, AND
FEEDS ONE-FIFTH
OF THE GLOBAL
POPULATION**

Cornerstones of the Chinese success – such as food self-reliance, strong policy commitment, an enabling environment, enhanced infrastructure, increased investment, technical innovations and agriculture extension – have created a vault of experience and knowledge. This is being shared with countries in Africa that are ready to drive their own progress.

Since 2009, China has committed USD 130 million through the FAO–China Trust Fund. Phases I and II supported 25 national, regional and global projects, reaching more than 70 000 direct beneficiaries and an exponential number in the hundreds of thousands of indirect beneficiaries.

Morocco has been another key provider of expertise in creating an enabling environment for agricultural development. During exchanges between 2017 and 2020, Eswatini's Ministry of Agriculture learned about Morocco's Agricultural Development Fund (ADF), governmental and bank financing, and more. Eswatini developed a framework for its own ADF, and a national horticulture strategy and irrigation plan. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Guinea also undertook study trips to Morocco in 2018 to improve its monitoring and evaluation system. This resulted in the development of reliable statistics and other rigorous methods to assess agricultural production. Ongoing exchanges with Morocco on digital transformation are meanwhile enabling the Niger to integrate the use of geographic information systems within its Directorate of Statistics at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

KEY DONORS



The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on these map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city, or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

SOURCE: UN Geospatial. 2019. *The World Today*. New York, US, United Nations. Cited 9 September 2022. <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/world-today>, modified by authors.



TOWARDS RICE SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN NIGERIA

Under the Venezuelan-funded project Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in sub-Saharan Africa, FAO supported ten African countries to improve the productivity of their rice sectors. Taking Nigeria as a case study, the project partnered with AfricaRice to train 300 rice farmers and community-based seed producers in the six participating states (50 per state). This enabled them to produce quality rice seed

varieties and paddy to improve the competitiveness of domestic rice production. Eighteen demonstration plots were established across the six project states to enhance farmers' skills in new and proven rice production technologies such as sustainable rice intensification. Farmers were supported with machinery such as power tillers and weeders to sustain adoption of the new practices.



©FAO/Ozavogu Abdul

KOLAWOLE ROTIMI VINCENT: "BEST RICE FARMER" IN EKITI STATE

I have a family of six, and many dependent relatives including my mother. As a participant of the [Venezuelan-funded] SSTC project, I have acquired such skills that I am now known as the best rice farmer in Ekiti State.

We were introduced to various aspects of rice farming, including the production of standard seed, farm mechanization, the use of a reaper during harvest, standard herbicide application, harvesting rice agronomically, and the introduction of new products like rice cakes and rice flours to increase the value of our products.

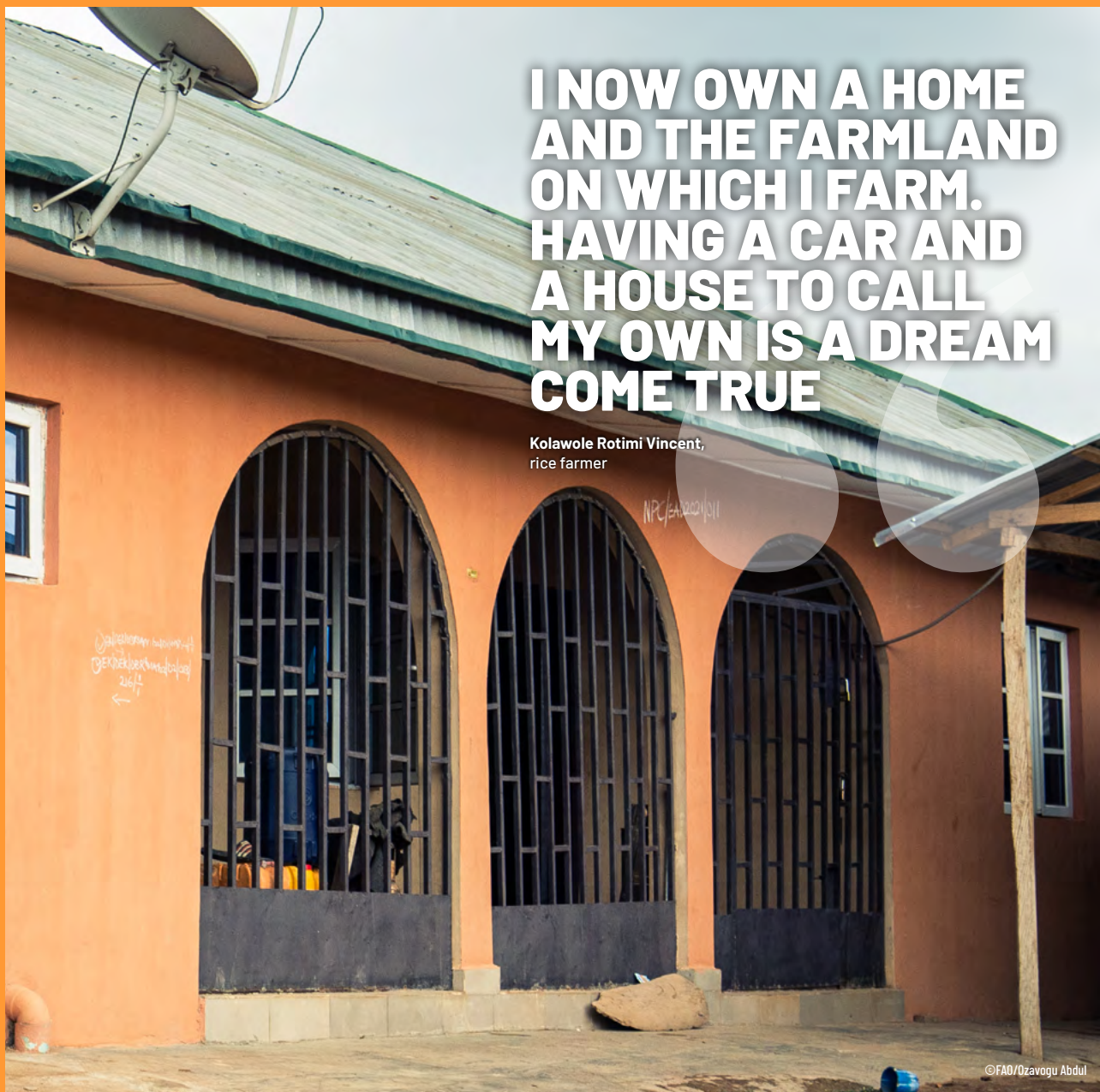
Before, I had struggled with low yields on my farm. I learned that this was due to sowing multiple rice seeds per hole. I was taught that this method was overcrowding the soil. We now produce six tonnes of rice per hectare. Most importantly, I have learned managerial skills and record-keeping, as well as how to incorporate a proper farm planning schedule for the planting season.

I now own a home and the farmland on which I farm. Having a car and a house to call my own is a dream come true.



**I NOW OWN A HOME
AND THE FARMLAND
ON WHICH I FARM.
HAVING A CAR AND
A HOUSE TO CALL
MY OWN IS A DREAM
COME TRUE**

Kolawole Rotimi Vincent,
rice farmer



©FAO/Ozavogu Abdul



JUSTINA BALA ANJUGU, NASARAWA STATE: SIXFOLD INCREASE IN SALES

Initially, I used our traditional methods for milling and parboiling rice and only managed to sell 20 or so kilograms of rice and the price was not encouraging at all.

We were trained on how to use equipment to ensure grain health and hygiene. We first wash our rice to remove the dirt, stones and shaft. Following that, we winnow the rice by pouring boiling water into a drum, adding the rice and steaming it for 16 hours. Now we sell 300 kilograms of rice and above.

We were also taught how to identify good-quality paddy rice to ensure proper germination on the farm. We went in search of producers who could provide us with good-quality paddy rice, and now have good suppliers that we work with.

Since our rice is straight from the source and readily available, our customers prefer it to foreign rice that is perceived to have been stored for a long time.

I also train women and men at the Rice Parboiling Centre in Bukan Sidi, Nasarawa. I pass on this knowledge to others.





©FAO/Ozavogu Abdul

ADETUNJI ABAYOMI, EKITI STATE: A RISING TIDE LIFTS ALL BOATS

At Crystal Gold Rice Enterprise, we collect freshly harvested rice from farmers, which we then process and take to the market for sale.

Through this SSTC project, I received training on rice milling in Senegal. We learned how to properly use a milling machine – I didn't know that milling was done in different stages. We now mill our rice twice or three times to improve the quality.

We were taken on an excursion to see other factories and farms and observed their operational models and the involvement of surrounding communities.



I integrated this model into my business, and we are currently working with three surrounding communities who farm either one or all the varieties of rice that we produce. Our company model is to integrate farmers into our process so they can keep improving the quality and quantity of their yields, while we have the capacity in processing.

As far back as 2014, people relied heavily on imported rice for consumption. Now, I can personally tell of families who switched from imported rice to the rice from our factory. This trend has also extended to the community at large, as orders have increased over time.

Currently we produce 1.5 tonnes per day, but we hope to produce as much as 25 tonnes one day. We are in talks with companies in China for a fully integrated milling system that will aid us in achieving our new target.

All this has resulted in increased income for my family. I was in my twenties when the project took off, without a stable income. Now, I am in my thirties, married, with a child and a stable income. This growth is also evident in the company, and in my community.

OUR COMPANY MODEL IS TO INTEGRATE FARMERS INTO OUR PROCESS SO THEY CAN KEEP IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF THEIR YIELDS

Adetunji Abayomi,
rice processor



©FAO/Ozavogu Abdul

A close-up photograph of a person's hands pouring golden-brown rice grains from a wooden tray. The person is wearing a black dress with a white and red floral pattern. The background is blurred, showing other people and a red patterned object.

INSIGHT: Q&A WITH FAO'S PETER ANAADUMBA

FAO's South-South Cooperation Officer for Africa, Peter Anaadumba, has worked for more than a decade on South-South and Triangular Cooperation projects in Africa. Here, he gives his expert view on the progress made so far and the opportunities that lie ahead.

What were the early days of South–South Cooperation like, from your experience?

FAO used to design what were called national support programmes for food security in some African countries. These had long- and short-term deployments of experts from Global South countries such as China, Viet Nam, Egypt and so forth. Fifteen to 20 years ago, countries were able to send their technicians for long periods to share their knowledge. Now, countries often need their own expertise back home, so we see experts being released for three to four weeks to train national trainers who can pass on the lessons more widely.



How else have practices changed over time?

At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw a real uptake in digital tools to share knowledge.

We're also seeing more and more donors from the Global North taking part; we call this Triangular Cooperation. Countries such as Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Netherlands are triangular partners because they are interested in being part of the South-South Cooperation story.

A good example is Spain supporting Namibia financially to receive technical support in aquaculture from Viet Nam. So there's been a big shift: two decades ago it was just South-South Cooperation but now it is South-South and Triangular Cooperation. This complements the collaboration between Global South partners.

“

South-South is increasingly morphing into Triangular Cooperation...

”

What are some of the standout successes of South–South Cooperation?

The FAO–China Trust Fund programme has had a huge impact. One aspect of the programme enabled countries to set up their own trust fund, with FAO, to bring expertise into the agriculture sector. Nigeria, for instance, set up a trust fund of about USD 40 million, which enabled Chinese experts to be deployed to Nigeria. They

shared technologies and innovations for the benefit of Nigeria.

The second major success has been the Brazilian school meals programme, which was adapted to a number of African countries: Senegal, Ethiopia, Malawi and others. The Brazilian national model centred on procuring food from family farmers for the school meals programmes. It meant increased production and incomes for the farmers, and better nutrition for the schoolchildren. It clearly shows that you can adapt a methodology to another continent, where it can be very well received.



©FAO/Ozavogu Abdul

How are language and cultural barriers overcome during exchange sessions?

Language is one of the main challenges we face. In the past, it was a bigger problem, but now FAO is really taking the time to work with countries to integrate intensive language and cultural training before deployments. It is not just for the teams who work together, but sometimes technology and machinery arrive in languages that the recipient country does not understand. That has been recognized and is being addressed through greater attention to language, and selecting experts based on their language skills as well as their technical skills. Through our matchmaking, we also take language into account. For example, Portuguese-speaking Brazil, Mozambique and Angola have collaborated successfully, and French-speaking experts from Morocco have been deployed in Guinea.

In terms of cultural barriers, there are myriad examples when different cultures come together. For instance, there are different times of day for eating depending on where you're from. But over the three or four weeks of deployments, we see people from different countries recognizing their respective similarities rather than their differences. Over time, relationships are built and they easily overcome barriers.

“

Portuguese speakers for Angola and Mozambique, French speakers for Guinea...

”

Why is hands-on learning so important for success?

Hands-on learning makes it easier to successfully transfer skills, innovations and technologies, especially on-farm. The person is able to see what you're doing so it is easier to replicate for themselves, compared to sending a manual or curriculum, for example. Even though there's virtual training, it is not the same as sending a technician to a farm demonstration plot in a particular country.



©FAO/Jean-Baptiste Joire



©FAO/Jean-Baptiste Joire

Why do people see South–South Cooperation as such a game changer for Africa’s development?

When you look at the countries from the Global South, they have a lot of similarities with their African counterparts. China, Viet Nam and Malaysia, for example, went through rapid development only relatively recently. So Africans believe that if they can learn from their Chinese counterparts, they may be able to leapfrog over some of the challenges that China has already faced and learned from, and therefore avoid a lot of mistakes.

Another point is that there is huge agricultural trade between Global South partners, which shows that there is political goodwill and solidarity between these countries. This stimulates mutual learning. So it’s easy for them to opt for South–South Cooperation as a modality for their development.

“

Africans are looking to leapfrog economic development stages...

”

What steps need to be taken to radically drive progress towards sustainable development in Africa?

Ownership is crucial because if South-South Cooperation activities are not integrated in national programmes that are being implemented by African

governments, it will not be sustainable. The only way it can be sustained is through best practices and innovations being mainstreamed in national programmes and upscaled across the country.

The second aspect is the private sector, because it can help spread innovation. There is only so much a government can do, but those who have the capital can help spread innovations and technology rapidly.



©FAO/Luis Tato

Will we see more countries taking part in South–South and Triangular exchanges in future?

Yes, we will be seeing more countries in the next few years, especially lower-middle-income countries in Africa financing their own South–South programmes. For example, Sierra Leone wishes to establish a unilateral trust fund with FAO to be able to have Vietnamese experience-sharing on irrigation and the rice value chain. So, we will be having more countries from sub-Saharan Africa financing their own agricultural development and choosing which countries they would like to learn from.

We will also see more countries from the Global North participating in Triangular Cooperation, because it is a win-win for everyone. More of these countries are trading with African countries; the same goes for emerging economies in Latin America, such as Mexico and Argentina. They are trading with Africa and they want to have an equal trading partner.

“

***Triangular Cooperation
is a win-win for everyone...***

”



GUINEA: A PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE RICE

Through the Partnership for Sustainable Rice Systems Development in sub-Saharan Africa, funded by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, FAO supported Guinea and nine other target countries to improve the productivity of their rice sectors. In Guinea, 400 households, including young people and women, accessed improved seed varieties and other inputs. This led to as much as a fourfold increase in rice yields. Participants also benefited from training workshops on parboiling to prepare rice for sale, and innovation platforms for building linkages among value chain actors, improving business relationships, and enhancing collaborative learning.

In the context of the project Technical Assistance for the Improvement of Food Security and the Fight Against Poverty, FAO, with the financial contribution of Morocco, supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Guinea to improve the monitoring and evaluation systems of its interventions. Selected government officials undertook short study trips to Morocco during 2018 to learn from the experience of Morocco's Ministry of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests. Related training for government agencies on planning, monitoring and evaluation was also held in 2019.



©FAO/Jean-Baptiste_Joire

ADAMA OURI DIALLO, BOFFA: GAINING FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE AND PEACE OF MIND

The first thing we do, in the women's rice workers' association that I lead, is purchase rice from local producers; then we process the rice, and finally make the sale.

The training, organized by FAO, has enabled us to make better quality rice: winnowing, precooking and washing. Before exposing the rice to the sun, we let it cool in the shade and then cook it. These are the details that make a difference! All these steps have considerably reduced our losses. We also have new customers who come from other towns.



KNOWLEDGE AND ADVICE SHOULD BE SHARED WITH EVERYONE



Adama Ouri Diallo,
rice processors' leader

Now, every time we process rice, we are certain that it will be easily sold in the market. This is a big relief. The project also offered us significant support in obtaining very useful equipment such as a big rice steamer, and a tricycle to travel between the city and our village.

Above all we are no longer obliged to borrow at very high interest rates. With the common fund which we established, we are able to finance our own purchases. We have gained financial independence and peace of mind. We also stopped eating imported rice, having switched completely to rice from our own production.

We pass on our knowledge to other women – already about 15 women who are not from our group have benefited. Knowledge and advice should be shared with everyone.



IBRAHIM CAMARA, PRESIDENT OF A YOUNG GRADUATES' AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE, KOBÁ: FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS TO BEST COMPANY OF THE YEAR

We carry out the production, processing and marketing of local rice. FAO was the cooperative's first partner, and their support has enabled us to increase productivity and yields. Acquiring new equipment, such as the rice mill and huller, allowed us to lower our production costs and operate independently. Through FAO's support, we learned how to select quality rice seeds, choose land, use an agricultural calendar and apply inputs correctly.

Before, our processing capacity was between 22 and 23 tonnes per year. Today, we are able to process 150 to 200 tonnes per year. We have gone from employing 2 people to 16 during the peak period.



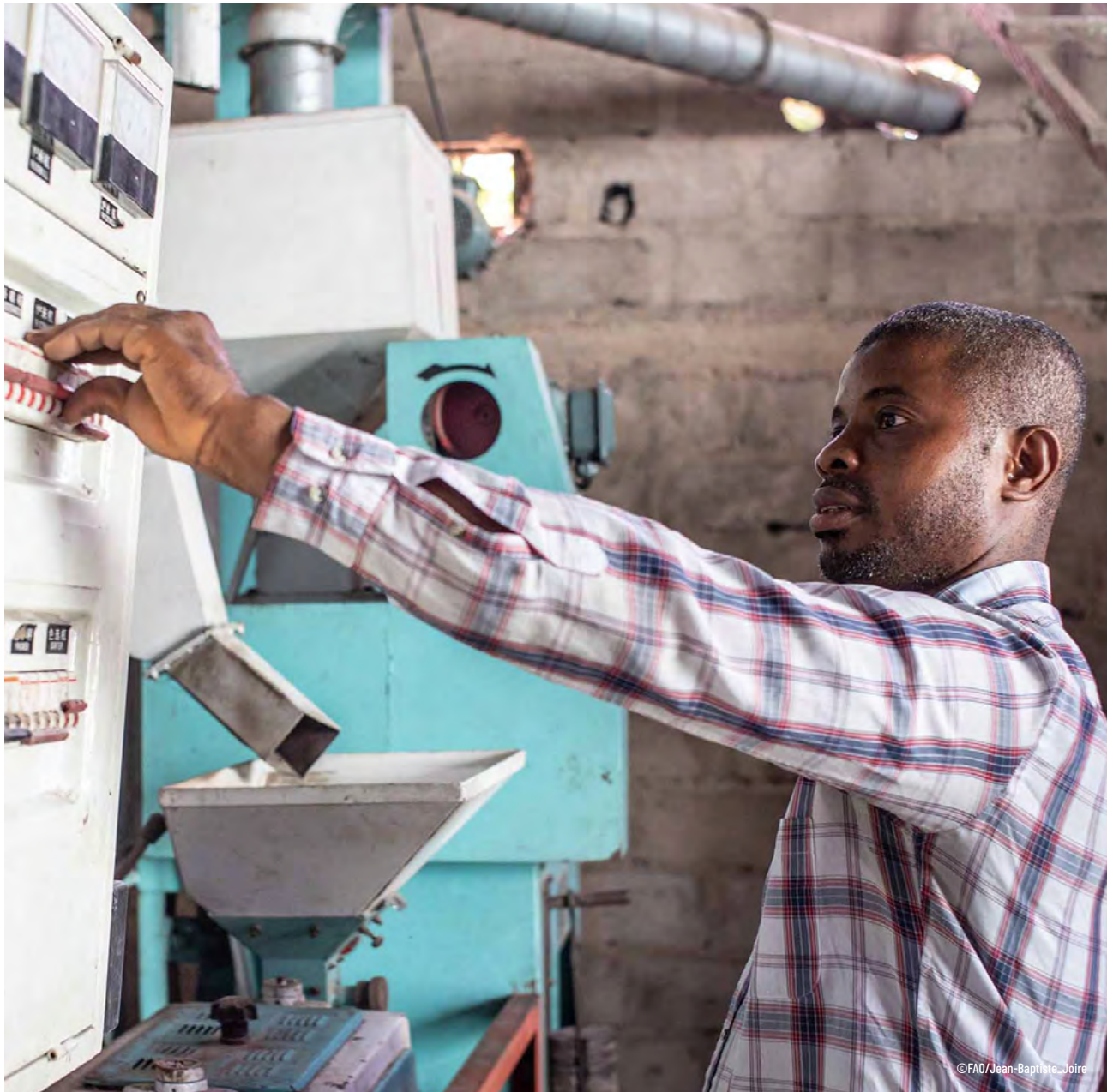
We now have clients from farther afield; people who were used to consuming only imported rice have started turning to us. This may be the first time in the history of Guinea that this has happened.

We have not reached the end of the road yet, but we are on the right path. We want to develop a label for our local rice and put it on the market more widely.

FAO has been a strategic partner from the beginning. Thanks to FAO support, our cooperative recently won best company of the year at a Guinean business fair.

**PEOPLE WHO WERE
USED TO CONSUMING
ONLY IMPORTED
RICE HAVE STARTED
TURNING TO US**

Ibrahim Camara,
cooperative leader



©FAO/Jean-Baptiste Joire

MOROCCO-GUINEA LEARNING EXCHANGE

My name is **Lansana Bayo**, and I was employed by the Guinean Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to coordinate the Morocco-funded FAO technical assistance project for the improvement of food security and the fight against poverty.

Rice is a major staple in Guinea, but demand exceeds production and the deficit is filled by imports. We took a path towards achieving rice self-sufficiency, and we recognized a need to better understand our import-export estimates.

To this end, I participated in training to develop a new national agriculture census. There was a real need for this, as the last census was in 2000, distorting our import-export estimates. It was necessary to update the census data in order to make more appropriate analyses. FAO has supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock with specialized computer equipment, making it possible to carry out monitoring and evaluation for compiling annual statistics.



©FAO/Jean-Baptiste Joire

FAO also supported the organization of a study tour to Morocco for nine people from different fields, for ten days. A Moroccan expert came and shared the training with a wider group in Kindia, Guinea.

Visiting Morocco allowed us to compare their agricultural policy with ours; in particular we noted that they were reducing their cereal production in favour of horticultural production,

which brings in more export earnings. The exchange had a big influence on my thinking, and allowed me to see that we can change our agricultural policy according to export capacities on the world market.

Following the study tour, we developed a new structure to evaluate all our agriculture programmes.



©FAO/Jean-Baptiste_Joire

LOOKING AHEAD

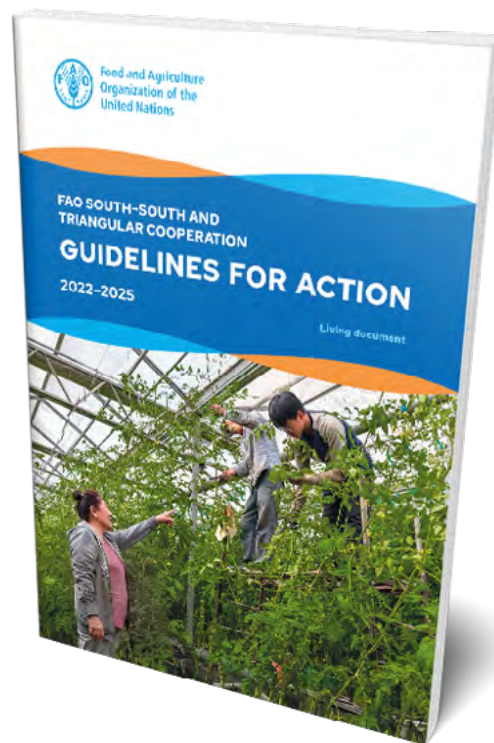


South-South and Triangular Cooperation is an established mechanism for the delivery of tried-and-tested solutions for Africa's development aspirations, and food security and nutrition challenges. As SSTC continues to expand, its effectiveness will also grow.

FAO's work to support South-South and Triangular Cooperation's contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is outlined in the **Guidelines for Action 2022-2025**. FAO's efforts will focus on four main areas: i) stepping up knowledge generation, including ensuring systems for monitoring, documenting and packaging results; ii) growing networks and partnerships for SSTC; iii) developing resource mobilization action plans and engaging with emerging middle-income countries from the South, emerging donors, triangular partners, the private sector and international financial institutions; and iv) consolidating FAO's expertise in matchmaking.

In Africa, FAO will be working with lower-middle-income countries in the region to support them in sharing their best practices and lessons learned, including through the flagship **Hand-in-Hand Initiative**.

Partnership with regional blocs and institutions will also help facilitate SSTC learning exchanges.



THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA WILL INCREASINGLY SHAPE SOUTH- SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Looking further ahead, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will play a greater role in shaping South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the future. This huge African free trade area aims to promote sustainable socioeconomic development across the continent, and SSTC can be a useful vehicle for promoting and deepening trade and investment in Africa.

Under the AfCFTA, emerging economies will be encouraged to develop new trade partnerships and investment opportunities in Africa. Through South-South and Triangular programmes, FAO can assist these countries in developing a road map with an eye on fast-tracking development in the agriculture sector.

Through partnerships, the private sector will also be encouraged to play a greater role in SSTC in Africa, particularly recognizing their role in adopting, adapting and spreading new innovations and technologies.

At the core, country ownership of SSTC is vital for enduring success. Integrating SSTC into national plans is vital. FAO will not only continue to support countries to broker new partnerships, but also inspire new participants to take part in debates, norm-setting and other activities that help to establish ownership.

FAO remains committed, in collaboration with our partners in the Global South as well as traditional development partners, to supporting the efforts of African countries towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Agenda 2063.

Africa faces enormous challenges to its development: the three-pronged impacts of COVID-19, the climate crisis and the Russia/Ukraine conflict. Progress on ending hunger has been reversed, with the global extreme poverty rate rising for the first time in 20 years. Innovations and different ways of working together are urgently needed.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) offers just such a solution.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has more than 40 years of experience in working with Global South partners on agricultural development.

Africa has benefited from much of this opportunity. Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, has been host to nearly 80 percent of FAO's work on South-South and Triangular Cooperation. With such depth of experience, the positive impacts can be demonstrated in communities across the continent.

This digital publication details FAO's approach to South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Africa, explores recent case studies, and sketches the road ahead.