
Progress report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation 2021–2022

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Useful references: IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy 2022–2027 ([EB 2021/134/R.8](#))

Action: The Executive Board is invited to review the progress of IFAD's SSTC in 2021–2022.

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For more information on the IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy 2022–2027, visit <https://webapps.ifad.org/members/eb/134/docs/EB-2021-134-R-8.pdf>.

Progress report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation 2021–2022

I. Background

1. The global community is at a critical juncture in its pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The world is facing a hunger crisis on an unprecedented scale in which food and energy prices have never been higher – all this coming at a time when countries from the Global South were already struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis, geopolitical conflict and inadequate resources amid persistent and growing inequalities.
2. In response, the global community is increasing its partnership and coordination efforts to address gaps in policy, knowledge, technology and resources to tackle these new and existing threats. Of particular relevance is South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), a partnership approach that has been playing a key role in helping developing countries share and adopt policies, solutions and resources that best suit their needs and contexts. SSTC has been gaining momentum worldwide, complementing North-South cooperation to achieve all 17 SDGs, since the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40). In recent years, the international community has increasingly called for scaling up and investing in SSTC to shape the global development agenda through its ability to forge new partnerships, build trust, share knowledge, leverage resources and drive and scale up innovative and proven solutions.
3. SSTC has been anchored in IFAD's Strategic Framework 2016–2025 as an integral part of the Fund's business model and country programmes since the Tenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD10). The biennium 2021–2022 may be considered a gradual transition from the IFAD corporate approach for SSTC (IFAD10 and IFAD11) to the SSTC Strategy 2022–2027¹ (IFAD12 and IFAD13), approved at the 134th session of the Executive Board in December 2021. This new strategy is a response to the call from IFAD Member States to strengthen SSTC and position SSTC as a key instrument for promoting sustainable, inclusive food systems transformation and the recovery, rebuilding and resilience of rural people's livelihoods in the face of a series of global development challenges.
4. This report provides an update on IFAD SSTC progress in the following sections: (i) adoption of the IFAD SSTC Strategy; (ii) an overview of results achieved in the activities carried out around the three pillars of the SSTC Strategy, namely policy engagement, partnership and knowledge; and (iii) lessons learned and the way forward for IFAD12.

II. Adoption of the IFAD SSTC Strategy

5. A milestone in IFAD SSTC engagement over the past two years has been the launch of the new corporate SSTC Strategy 2022–2027. As agreed under the IFAD12 consultation, this new strategy will guide the Fund toward better-integrated, more effective use of SSTC, building on the lessons learned since 2016, to pursue two objectives with the aim of doubling and heightening IFAD's impact:
 - (i) Systematically identify and disseminate knowledge and innovations at the country programme and project level; and
 - (ii) Support increased policy engagement to boost rural poor people's productive capacities, market access and resilience.

¹ EB 2021/134/R.8. <https://www.ifad.org/en/-/documents/sstc-strategy-2022-2027>.

6. In line with the IFAD12 business model and theory of change, the SSTC Strategy envisions that a sharper focus on leveraging SSTC as a country programme instrument will help IFAD build partnerships, pursue policy engagement and generate innovation and knowledge, underpinning the four mainstreaming themes of climate, gender, nutrition and youth in support of rural development and the SDGs. To support implementation of the SSTC Strategy, IFAD is committed to putting special efforts onto: (i) securing appropriate and diversified financing to broaden the SSTC financial base; (ii) revisiting SSTC roles and responsibilities and strengthening internal coordination mechanisms to improve IFAD's institutional architecture for SSTC; and (iii) measuring and reporting the contribution of SSTC to development results through a Results Measurement Framework (RMF) and a robust tracking and learning system.

III. Implementation progress

7. Anchored in the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016–2025, SSTC is used as an instrument for development cooperation at multiple levels: integrating SSTC into the design and implementation of both COSOPs and projects; integrating SSTC into intra- and interregional initiatives; facilitating knowledge exchanges and technology transfer at the regional and global level; mobilizing expertise and resources; building new partnerships and promoting business linkages, etc. During the period 2021–2022, progress has been made in integrating enhanced SSTC into IFAD operations. Annex I summarizes the status of SSTC engagement in each region. This section provides some highlights.
8. **Strengthening SSTC in country programmes and operations.** SSTC is systematically embedded in IFAD's work in different dimensions: country programmes, regional action plans, grants and loans and global/regional initiatives.
- (i) **Embedding SSTC in all country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs).** During the reporting period, all 13 new COSOPs, namely with Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Eswatini, Guatemala, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Nepal, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Togo and Uganda, included a comprehensive approach to SSTC, exceeding the IFAD12 RMF target of 66 per cent. The specific SSTC strategies in the COSOPs provided information on opportunities and key partners for knowledge exchange, capacity-building and investment in the priority areas for SSTC identified by the countries. These strategies also leveraged knowledge tools such as the Rural Solutions Portal (RSP) and the information and communications technologies for development (ICT4D) community of practice to inform the respective COSOPs, which will contribute greatly to the development of concrete SSTC initiatives during their implementation.
- (ii) **Updating regional SSTC and knowledge management strategies and action plans.** The Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Region and the East and Southern Africa (ESA) Region are updating their regional SSTC and knowledge management strategies and action plans for IFAD12. These regional documents define key implementation instruments, roles and responsibilities, set regional SSTC targets and monitor progress to ensure a more structured regional approach to SSTC and align SSTC engagement with IFAD corporate-level strategies and policies for achieving IFAD12 objectives.
- (iii) **Scaling up programme results through SSTC.** During the reporting period, SSTC initiatives and components were recognized and implemented in country programmes more than ever. Feedback from regional divisions for this report indicates that there are more than 30 ongoing IFAD country projects with SSTC components or activities to facilitate knowledge sharing, promote innovation and strengthen policy coordination. In LAC, for example, at least 11 loans benefited from SSTC during the reporting period,

and all grants included an SSTC component or activity. These SSTC and knowledge-management components generated a substantial number of knowledge products with the potential for regional policy exchange and development agenda-setting. In the West and Central Africa Region, the Joint Programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflicts and Climate Change (SD3C) is scaling up solutions and approaches already tested and capitalized on in the G5 Sahel members (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) and Senegal to improve the livelihoods of small producers, especially women and young people living in border areas in the region.

- (iv) **China-IFAD SSTC Facility.** As the first IFAD facility devoted to SSTC, the facility finances SSTC projects and programmes to complement IFAD's SSTC agenda by increasing the volume of South-South exchanges, spurring innovation and promoting investments in rural areas for rural people. In 2021, following its third call for proposals for projects to mitigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the facility is administering 16 projects covering more than 30 countries, for a total investment of US\$7.24 million. Insofar as possible, synergies were explored and developed between grants funded by the facility and IFAD's investment projects to ensure post-project sustainability and a higher impact. A midterm review showed that the facility had achieved preliminary results in building inclusive partnerships on the ground, mobilizing and facilitating access to Southern expertise and solutions and piloting good practices, business models and technical innovations to tackle emerging challenges faced by local vulnerable rural communities. Annexes II–IV contain overviews of the project list, initial results and examples of projects of the China-IFAD SSTC Facility.

9. **Facilitating South-South knowledge exchange and policy engagement.** IFAD has adopted three main approaches to promoting knowledge and policy exchange among developing member countries. The first is through global and regional knowledge-sharing events and platforms. The second is intercountry learning and exchange visits designed for national or local decision makers. The third targets capacity-building and training at the project level. According to the available data in 2021–2022, more than 100 SSTC knowledge-exchange activities were organized, reaching over 1,200 direct beneficiaries and nearly 25,000 households indirectly.

- (i) **Rural Solutions Portal (RSP).**² Since its creation in 2018, the RSP has become a key SSTC knowledge platform in IFAD for capturing and scaling up proven innovative solutions for improved rural transformation. With upgrading, the RSP went from 46 solutions in 2020 to 108 in 2022. These solutions address a variety of topics, coming from IFAD-funded activities and those of Fund partners. A number of additional solutions provided by partners are currently under review. With this stock of rural solutions, the RSP's focus is now gradually shifting from documenting the solutions on the platform to promoting the uptake of appropriate solutions in the programme of loans and grants (PoLG) and new COSOPs, while encouraging joint efforts from diversified SSTC partners, such as the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the Brazil Africa Institute, the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas.

² www.ruralsolutionsportal.org.

- (ii) **LAC knowledge portal.**³ At its launch in early 2021, 64 case studies, solutions and innovations with SSTC potential were documented and uploaded to the portal. More than 20 webinars, seminars and technical workshops were held with key partners, boosting knowledge exchange among LAC countries, despite the COVID-19 restrictions.
- (iii) **SSTC around mainstreaming themes at the project level.** IFAD SSTC projects focused on enabling project staff and beneficiaries to gain first-hand experience and practical knowledge about mainstreaming themes and other emerging issues.
- **Gender:** In Afghanistan and Tajikistan, the China-IFAD SSTC Facility is working with the Aga Khan Foundation to upgrade the cashgora value chain and provide training to local women to start their own cashgora yarn spinning businesses.
 - **Youth:** The Promoting Sustainable Cage Aquaculture in West Africa (ProSCAWA) project supported the adoption of a greener, cheaper method of aquaculture by small-scale fishers in Ghana and Nigeria for rural coastline community development. The project addressed high youth unemployment in the region by engaging local youth in the construction of the cages, as well as project site maintenance.
 - **Climate change:** The Dryland Adaptation Knowledge Initiative grant promotes climate-resilient agriculture in the three main dryland areas of Latin America: Argentina, Brazil and El Salvador. It provides training programmes and cross-country experience-sharing activities that benefit more than 17,000 participants in the countries.
 - **Nutrition:** In Sao Tome and Principe, through partnerships with research institutions from Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cameroon and Nigeria, complementary knowledge and technical support were provided to the Commercialization, Agricultural Productivity and Nutrition (COMPRAN) project to improve the nutritional status of local communities.
10. **Influencing policy and development agendas.** Over 35 policy dialogues were supported through SSTC in 2021–2022. This has raised awareness of the Fund’s SSTC approach and highlighted its role as a broker of strategic partnerships.
- (i) **Support to the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021.** To contribute to the dialogues for the Food Systems Summit and its outcomes, IFAD co-organized the high-level United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation 2021 with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) and shared several game-changing solutions from India and the LAC region. Themed “Agri-food Systems Transformation and Voices from the Global South”, the event also provided an opportunity to develop a joint Rome-based agency (RBA)-SSTC agenda on food systems transformation.
- (ii) **Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo 2022.** IFAD actively participated in the 11th GSSD Expo in Bangkok to advocate for SSTC and engage SSTC stakeholders around the role of this cooperation in rural transformation. IFAD was presented as a strategic partner, highlighting its comparative advantages in support of the most vulnerable communities. IFAD supported the GSSD Expo by organizing two events: (i) a thematic solution forum in collaboration with FAO and WFP, during which the RBAs presented their joint programme on Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF); and (ii) an IFAD side event, promoting SSTC as a crisis response mechanism. These events yielded recommendations for the key pillars of an

³ <https://lac-conocimientos-sstc.ifad.org>

enabling environment for SSTC: (i) political will; (ii) a national SSTC Strategy; (iii) a national SSTC agency/focal point; (iv) national information database for SSTC; (v) connected actors; (vi) SSTC financing mechanisms; and (vii) performance management systems.

11. **Broadening SSTC partnerships for results.** IFAD has continued its close collaboration with a subset of SSTC champion Member States, including Brazil, China, Germany, India, Indonesia and Thailand. It has also pursued partnerships with United Nations agencies, including the other Rome-based agencies and international organizations, to strengthen the SSTC partnership and funding base.
- (i) **Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC).** A Letter of Intent on SSTC was renewed for an additional four years, from 2022 to 2025. Both sides developed an action plan, listing country- and global-level activities and modalities to better leverage Brazil’s concrete and proven pro-poor experience in capacity-building in public policies and the development of frameworks for other developing countries in support of family farming, gender, youth, food security and climate-resilience.
 - (ii) **International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC).** IFAD has engaged with IPRCC in several global poverty reduction and rural development initiatives. In conjunction with IPRCC, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Rome-based agencies, the third Global Solicitation on Best Poverty Reduction Practices was launched in December 2021 to promote knowledge sharing and innovative partnerships in poverty alleviation. IPRCC also supported the creation of an online SSTC partnership platform by partnering with 30 institutions actively engaged in SSTC in the Asia and the Pacific (APR) Region.
 - (iii) **Islamic Development Bank (IsDB).** To respond to the need for matching the supply and demand for agricultural solutions in the Global South, the IsDB and IFAD are collaborating on a project entitled “Mapping of Resource Centres in Agriculture and Rural Development in the Global South” to identify centres of excellence and institutions in selected Southern countries. This initiative will support the accumulation of a wealth of knowledge, expertise and experience for the implementation of SSTC activities in the Global South.
 - (iv) **Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).** In 2022, IFAD completed its “Leveraging SSTC to share rural development solutions for private sector engagement” partnership initiative with AGRA. This initiative promoted the uptake of innovative private sector rural development solutions in Africa and APR regions to help smallholder farmers boost their agricultural productivity for food security, nutrition and income-generation activities. As a result, over 40 rural development solutions were sourced to the RSP, and subsequent uptake activities such as farmers' field days were organized for dissemination.
 - (v) **Collaboration with the United Nations system-wide SSTC agenda.** IFAD has continued its close collaboration with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and contributed to the United Nations system-wide strategy on SSTC and its action plan, emphasizing the need to build synergies among knowledge platforms, as reflected in outcome 3 of the document. IFAD also supported the preparation of the Secretary-General’s report on the state of South-South Cooperation (SSC) and provided input for the evaluation of the previous UNOSSC Strategic Framework (2018–2021). As with previous editions, the Fund contributed to the publication, “Good Practices in SSTC for Sustainable Development” highlighting achievements from the LAC portfolio and the China-IFAD SSTC Facility in the fourth volume of the series.

- (vi) **Rome-based agencies.** In 2021–2022, IFAD strengthened its partnership and collaboration with FAO and WFP: a director-level coordination mechanism was created that led to the identification of priority areas and potential joint field collaboration on SSTC. In 2022, in line with the global School Meals Coalition, one of the United Nations Food Systems Summit outcomes, the RBAs developed a joint SSTC proposal on “Strengthening National Home-Grown School Feeding Programmes through SSTC”⁴ as highlighted in box 1 below, aimed at building country capacity to design and implement national an HGSF programme in Kenya, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, and Senegal. The RBAs presented this proposal on United Nations Day for SSC 2022 at the United Nations GSSD Expo held in Thailand.

Box 1

Highlights of the RBA joint programme on SSCT in national HGSF

The world is facing a hunger crisis on an unprecedented scale, posing significant challenges to the national food systems of countries in the Global South. The RBAs can play a pivotal role in enabling developing countries to share their knowledge and experience to reach the most vulnerable individuals and groups. With their shared mandate of ensuring food security for all people, and by leveraging each agency’s comparative advantage, the RBAs have joined forces to support one of the most impactful evidence-based interventions: national HGSF programmes.

Five pilot countries are identified: Kenya, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, and Senegal, and more countries can be included, depending on the demand and resource availability. Each agency will be spearheading the design and implementation of the programme in a select country, coordinating national stakeholders and strengthening the country’s capacity to implement the national HGSF programme. This RBA joint programme will have the potential to:

- Improve sustainable and inclusive public food procurement mechanisms;
- Promote the production of nutrient-dense foods;
- Support small-scale farmers, food processors and other local producers in accessing markets and increasing their active participation in local and nutrition-sensitive food value chains; and
- Improve access to and consumption of healthy diets among targeted beneficiaries (such as school children and the local community).

The RBAs are engaging with identified stakeholders for their contribution to this initiative, including through technical, financial, and human resources, to support effective collaboration in the Global South and among development partners in support of the School Meals Coalition for food security and nutrition.

12. **Enhancing IFAD’s institutional architecture for SSTC.** To deliver on the strategic objectives, 2022 has been focused on laying the groundwork for effective implementation of the SSTC Strategy, obtaining the initial progress below.
- (i) **Partnership mapping.** The purpose of this exercise is to identify financial and in-kind contributions that can directly support specific SSTC interventions, based on the express demands of the Member States. As an initial step, an inventory of country needs has begun, to assess areas where SSTC can be of value, with LAC chosen as a pilot region.
- (ii) **Interdepartmental Working Group on SSTC (IWGS).** The IWGS was reconfigured and revived to provide robust, corporate-wide support infrastructure for SSTC and to facilitate a consistent approach to implementing the SSTC Strategy across IFAD. In particular, the IWGS will support the strengthening of linkages and synergy among SSTC, knowledge and programmes; support the identification of opportunities for coordination around SSTC; and increase the visibility and awareness of IFAD’s SSTC engagement and related achievements, both internally and externally.
- (iii) **Strengthening SSTC teams.** Following the Executive Board approval of the 2022 budget last December, the SSTC and Global Engagement Unit

⁴ For more information, see <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/publications/strengthening-national-home-grown-school-feeding-programmes-through-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation/>.

opened a Partnership Analyst (P-2) post. In addition, the regional SSTC manager in the SSTC and Knowledge Centre in APR was given a greater role and responsibilities in mobilizing resources and leveraging partnerships around SSTC in the region, in line with the IFAD Decentralization 2.0 process.

- (iv) **Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance Note.** Drawing on the study conducted by the Quality Assurance Group on SSTC embedding in project designs, diagnostic and preparatory work is under way to produce a Guidance Note on how to effectively integrate SSTC into IFAD's COSOPs and PoLG and update corporate information systems, such as the Operational Results Management System, to ensure that SSTC initiatives and progress are monitored, reported and reviewed in a timely manner.

IV. Lessons learned and the way forward

13. **Lessons learned.** Drawing from various internal and external assessments, some lessons can be learned:

- (i) Stronger partnerships with the Member States and other strategic partners are key to advancing the SSTC agenda. A new SSTC resource mobilization approach needs to be established with the Member States and partners, starting by engaging local entities in specific proposals and building on these for systematic long-term collaboration with financial and technical resources identified at the national government level.
- (ii) Strengthened institutional capacity in SSTC-specific skills, tools and resources, particularly at the country and regional levels, will enhance SSTC mainstreaming in IFAD. Increasing the capacity of national stakeholders to identify, design and implement SSTC at the country level is also critical and requires IFAD to invest in upgrading staff skills and boosting national SSTC capacity.
- (iii) Greater synergy between SSTC and knowledge management is required to bridge gaps between IFAD programmes and partnerships. While clear synergies can be found in the objectives of the knowledge management and the knowledge-sharing pillar of SSTC, a specific mechanism for effective coordination in the Knowledge Management Coordination Group, beyond information sharing, has yet to be operationalized.

14. **The way forward.** To ensure the achievement of SSTC strategy objectives during IFAD12, IFAD will:

- (i) Continue to broaden its partnership and financial base for SSTC by developing concrete SSTC proposals in response to national and regional development needs; potential donors and entities identified through partnership mapping and needs assessment will be approached for funding;
- (ii) Clarify the roles of SSTC and Knowledge Centres, improve coordination with the knowledge management teams, build bridges between projects and regions and establish networks with external partners, including the private sector, to increase synergies and the impact of SSTC on the ground; three SSTC and Knowledge Centres and regional and country offices are the main actors supporting IFAD's SSTC agenda; and
- (iii) Continue prioritizing SSTC policy engagement at the country, regional and global levels, and improve internal and external communication to raise the visibility and impact of IFAD's engagement in SSTC.

Regional overview of SSTC activities 2021–2022

	<i>Asia and the Pacific Division (APR)</i>	<i>East and Southern Africa Division (ESA)</i>	<i>Latin America and the Caribbean Division (LAC)</i>	<i>Near East, North Africa and Europe Division</i>	<i>West and Central Africa Division</i>
Regional South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) mainstreaming progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) integrate SSTC as a key element. SSTC components are included in either the IFAD programme of loans and grants (PoLG), specific projects or grants, such as the China-IFAD SSTC Facility-funded projects. Three dedicated SSTC and Knowledge Centres based in Brazil, China and Ethiopia created to manage and promote SSTC. LAC and ESA are updating regional SSTC and knowledge management strategies and action plans for the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12) to identify new opportunities for SSTC knowledge sharing with Member States. LAC and APR are launching SSTC partnership mapping exercises in their respective regions. 				
Thematic areas of focus of the SSTC activities implemented	Sustainable agricultural and rural development; inclusive rural finance and microenterprises; climate resilience; environmental conservation, value chain development; e-commerce; advisory services; public-private producer partnerships; climate-smart agriculture, information and communications technologies for development (ICT4D), capacity-building and knowledge sharing.	Natural resource management; water harvesting and pressurized irrigation; support for farmers' associations; private sector investments; youth; animal and plant quarantine; access to markets; access to technology; post-harvest and processing; agribusiness; aquaculture.	Water management; dryland agriculture; agroecology; agroforestry; livestock/small ruminants; rural youth; social and economic empowerment of rural women; innovation; climate-smart agriculture; entrepreneurship; capacity-building and knowledge sharing.	Sustainable green economy and green investments; partnership mobilization; irrigation management; livestock breeding; and capacity-building and knowledge sharing.	Sustainable green economy and green investments; irrigation management; rural youth; rural women; livestock breeding; nutrition; poverty reduction; climate change monitoring; capacity-building and knowledge sharing.
Number of projects with SSTC components or activities	15	5	11	6	6
Number of knowledge exchange and learning activities through SSTC	21	10	8	7	5
Number of direct beneficiaries reached/trained with the SSTC activities implemented	>113	224	To be provided	703	196
Number of SSTC policy dialogues held	13	1	6	16	To be provided
Number of SSTC technical cooperation initiatives facilitated	41	11	To be provided	>20	20
Amount (in United States dollars) of South-South investments promoted	1 677 538	1 050 035	610 568	682 493	To be provided
Number of partnerships established for advancing SSTC	12	5	To be provided	18	>10
Number of SSTC regional, subregional or interregional events/ initiatives supported	24	15	14	3	5
Number of SSTC good practices and solutions identified	36	4	64	3	3

Overview of China-IFAD SSTC Facility projects

No.	Project	Project implementation location	Approved Value (US\$)	Status As at 30 November 2022
1	Inclusive Agriculture and Agro-industrial Value Chain Development as an Enabler of Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh	Bangladesh	500 000	Completed
2	South-South Cooperation for Scaling up Climate-resilient Value Chain Initiatives (SSCVC)	Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam	500 000	Completed
3	Promoting Water Conservation and Irrigation Water Use Efficiency in Ethiopia	Ethiopia and Kenya	499 905	Completed
4	Rural Youth Innovation Award	LAC	450 000	Completed
5	South-South Triangular Cooperation for the Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme	Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Madagascar	500 000	Completed
6	Strengthening the Rural Solutions Portal and IFAD's IT tracking systems to increase the uptake of rural development solutions	IFAD	400 000	Completed
7	Strengthening business-to-business (B2B) linkages and investment opportunities through IFAD's SSTC and Knowledge Centres	IFAD	250 000	Completed
8	Effective South-South Cooperation in Agriculture to Unleash the Transformative Power of Agriculture Sector for Inclusive Development in Pakistan	Pakistan	500 000	Completed
9	Local production of fortified cassava flour in Bouenza department in the Congo	Congo	492 438	Completed
10	Small-scale dryers for post-harvest management enterprises in Africa	Ghana, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania	500 000	Completed
11	Promoting Sustainable Cage Aquaculture in West Africa (ProSCAWA)	Ghana and Nigeria	500 000	Ongoing
12	Learning from SSTC in Project Design for Better Results and Greater Sustainability	IFAD	250 000	Ongoing
13	Supporting the recovery of priority food crop value chains from the effects of COVID-19 to strengthen community resilience, markets and trade development in Tanzania	United Republic of Tanzania	489 417	Ongoing
14	STARLIT: Strengthening Agricultural Resilience through Learning and Innovation	Kenya and Rwanda	483 470	Ongoing
15	Supporting local solutions towards a more resilient food system in Cuba	China, Central America and Cuba	481 098	Ongoing
16	Promoting Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities in Rural Mountainous Areas through Upgrading Cashgora Value Chains	Afghanistan and Tajikistan	446 440	Ongoing

Overview of initial results of the China-IFAD SSTC Facility

<i>Outputs</i>	<i>Standard key performance indicators</i>	<i>Initial results As at 30 November 2022</i>
South-South knowledge exchange enabled	Number of online portals or web platforms operationalized	5
	Number of rural solutions available on the portals or good practices summarized	167
	Number of institutional capacity-building and policy dialogue initiatives promoted	16
	Number of online training, workshops and exchange visits organized	66
	Number of knowledge products produced	131
	Number of people directly benefited by SSTC	4 370
South-South technical cooperation promoted	Number of SSTC experts engaged	201
	Number of Chinese experts engaged	47
	Number of matchmaking arrangements facilitated	4
	Number of innovations and technologies transferred	60
South-South rural investments established	Number of South-South investment or cooperation projects envisaged following the grant	6
	Number of B2B linkages established	19
	Number of public-private partnerships established	122
	United States dollar amount of cofinancing/investments mobilized, including in kind	5 560 725
SSTC mainstreamed within IFAD cooperation	Number of COSOPs with SSTC components facilitated	7
	Number of IFAD-funded projects/programmes with SSTC components promoted	24
Human resource cooperation strengthened	Number of staff seconded from China	1

Examples of projects funded by the China-IFAD SSTC Facility

1. Rural Youth Innovation Award

In the LAC region, challenges for youth in rural areas are complex. Restrictions on access to land, natural resources, financing, technology and information make it hard for rural youth to start agribusinesses. This project was part of IFAD's efforts to address the challenges faced by young smallholder farmers. Awards were conferred in 2020 and 2021, resulting in the recognition of 19 initiatives on a wide range of topics, including market access, recycling and alternative energy solutions, connectivity, financial inclusion and gender equity. For instance, one of the initiatives recognized is *Raiz Capixaba* (Capixaba Roots), which works for small organic producers in the state of Espírito Santo in Brazil. The start-up team has developed a system to track organic agricultural production and provide this information to over 70 private companies, helping to expand market access for rural youth in more than 130 producers' families. The SSTC project also provided complementary mentoring support to the initiatives awarded for training in business strategies, marketing and sales, helping young rural entrepreneurs implement innovative and sustainable solutions and strengthen their capacities.

2. SSTC for the Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme

The China-IFAD SSTC Facility provided an investment of US\$500,000 as a cross-cutting component of a larger IFAD grant entitled "Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme" with the International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR). Implemented in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Madagascar with support from China, this project established three voluntary guideline standards for the bamboo industry and upgraded bamboo value chains with climate-smart and smallholder-based solutions in Africa. Study tours and regional symposia were organized to promote investment in bamboo value chains in African countries with the aim of boosting sustainable bamboo trade in and beyond the four beneficiary countries, with impacts on intra-African and Sino-African trade flows.

3. Promoting Sustainable Cage Aquaculture in West Africa

Despite their vast water resources, Ghana and Nigeria import most of their fish, with demand outstripping supply. Local fish populations are declining due to overfishing and lack of regulation. The ProSCAWA project helps small-scale fishers in Ghana and Nigeria get started with a greener, cheaper method of fish farming: cage aquaculture. The project is supported by WorldFish, a research institute dedicated to transforming aquatic food systems. In the lakeside villages of Doffor, in Ghana, and Badagry, in Nigeria, 18 cages on both sites house a specially-bred variety of tilapia with a short maturation period. Through workshops, field visits and training, fishers learn the skills needed to set up cage aquaculture operations, and participants receive technical support and up-to-date information from WorldFish to share innovations and solve aquaculture challenges. This SSTC project set up a model for rural coastline community development, especially among vulnerable communities in West Africa.