
Midterm review of the IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Strategy 2022–2027

Management response to Member State comments

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Comment from the United States	Management response
<p>It is critical that IFAD prioritize work that directly supports delivering on its core mandate effectively and efficiently, particularly against the current backdrop of greater fiscal discipline and the need to allocate resources for greatest impact. The MTR provides a quantitative overview of IFAD's work related to SSTC, including the establishment of institutional structures, integration into COSOPs and specific country programmes, and specific exchanges or activities that have been facilitated.</p> <p>Although the MTR asserts a linkage to IFAD's core mandate, the lack of an adequate system for measuring results makes it impossible to determine if IFAD's SSTC work has contributed to its ability to more effectively and efficiently reduce rural poverty or strengthen food security.</p> <p>The MTR also highlights that many of the previously identified weaknesses related to SSTC have not been addressed. The proposed RMF changes, focused more on outputs rather than outcomes, will not likely improve IFAD's ability to make determinations about the value-add of specific SSTC activities.</p> <p>Noting that policy engagement and technical cooperation between developing economies could play a beneficial role in supporting</p>	<p>The detailed reflections on the midterm review (MTR) of the IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Strategy are much appreciated, notably as concerns the importance of full alignment to IFAD's mandate.</p> <p>As noted in the MTR, SSTC is increasingly being embedded into IFAD-funded operations, and thereby is aligned with and supportive of the objectives of country programmes and projects. Integration within IFAD operations also facilitates tracking of results, for instance during design and also through supervision activities.</p> <p>IFAD also notes the increase in the number of Member States requesting and engaging in partnerships and collaboration through SSTC, from a perspective of sharing relevant knowledge and fostering learning related to IFAD's mandate.</p> <p>At the end of the period covered by the current strategy, the Fund will explore commissioning an evaluation of the SSTC portfolio to further assess effectiveness, costs and lessons learned in this area of work. This will provide independent validation of results and further strengthen accountability.</p> <p>We remain committed to working closely with the United States and all Board members to ensure that every dollar invested through SSTC demonstrably improves the lives of rural women and men.</p>

Comment from the United States	Management response
<p>IFAD's work, particularly at the project level, it is important that prior to embarking on any activity the costs and benefits be rigorously assessed and the direct effects on project outcomes clearly established and measured.</p> <p>IFAD should refrain from supporting SSTC work for which such direct attribution cannot be made and should avoid advancing bilateral initiatives under the banner of SSTC.</p> <p>Given the lack of evidence on results and efficacy, supplementary funding should remain the sole source for SSTC and IFAD should refrain from scaling up support or shifting costs to its administrative budget that may subsidize such activities.</p>	