

China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility



Approved proposals: 2018 - 2022





This initiative is funded by the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China

China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility

Approved proposals: first call



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Inclusive Agriculture and Agro-industrial Value Chain Development as an Enabler of Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh

The main objective of the project is to respond to opportunities created through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China's support for South-South Cooperation, with a specific focus on Bangladesh, where BRI investments include the construction of the Padma Bridge and the Dhaka-Jessore railway. Such investments will link southwestern parts of the country to Dhaka and beyond, creating new opportunities for farmers in these districts to engage in markets, reduce poverty and achieve prosperity.

The project responds to the request from the Government of Bangladesh to promote the development of the livestock sector, and is aligned with its national priorities and development strategies. Bangladesh is a low-income economy, and most poor rural households raise livestock. The livestock sector is not only a source of income and nutritious food for rural households, but also generates employment for a growing population in the country, particularly for young men and women. It is therefore the aim of the project to strengthen the dairy and beef value chains and introduce innovative business models to improve the productivity of the dairy and meat subsectors, especially for the benefit of smallholder farmers and agroentrepreneurs in the targeted areas, as well as improve food security and nutrition at the national level.

The project envisions collaboration and partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as well as with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) for the implementation.

Total value: US\$500,000

Recipient:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Focus country:

Bangladesh

Contact person:

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South-South Cooperation for Scaling up Climate Resilient Value Chain Initiatives (SSCVC)

Total value: US\$500,000

Recipient:

Centre of Agrarian System
Research and Development,
Vietnam

Focus country:

Vietnam, China, Laos and
Cambodia

Contact:

sstc@ifad.org

The main objective of this project is to generate structured learning across countries based on a consistent approach to climate-resilient value chain (CRVC) analysis, with the engagement of smallholder farmers groups, processing units and enterprises.

In particular, the project will: facilitate the identification and development of CRVC initiatives among farmers groups, processing units and enterprises in the context of IFAD-supported projects in four selected countries (Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam); and build capacity and develop knowledge on successful climate-smart value chain best practices for future use, replication and scaling up by all stakeholders involved.

The project will: (i) identify and select CRVC best practices through a participatory action research process with IFAD project staff, related institutions and consultants; (ii) strengthen awareness and capacities of institutions, project staff, smallholder farmers and agribusinesses about CRVC techniques and technologies; and (iii) develop targeted knowledge products on technologies and practices, including books, brochures, posters and videos, as well as knowledge exchange events, such as learning routes, training workshops and study tours, to facilitate the effective replication and application of techniques.



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Promoting Water Conservation and Irrigation Water Use Efficiency in Ethiopia

This project builds on the experiences from an existing project funded by IFAD that already includes lessons on key innovations to improve prosperity, food security and nutrition in Ethiopia, but specifically addresses the challenges that the country is facing due to climate change effects: temperatures rising, drought incidences becoming more severe, and water sources diminishing.

This project aims at deepening the form and scope of the Ethiopia-Kenya knowledge, skills and experience sharing in the following areas: (i) efficient irrigation water use technologies; (ii) effective capacity-building approaches of irrigation and water users associations and other community-based organizations; (iii) interaction and learning from poor rural farmers who have developed their capacity to profitably and sustainably grow crops using irrigation water and who successfully market their produce; (iv) interaction and learning from poor rural farmers who have been trained in sustainable rainwater harvesting using farm-level ponds and are profitably growing and marketing food crops; and (v) awareness of policy and legislative regimes that enables the creation of community-based institutions that have a legal basis and the capacity to manage and oversee the use of river waters.

Total value: US\$499,905

Recipient:

Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia

Focus country:

Ethiopia and Kenya

Contact person:

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Rural Youth Innovation Award

Total value: US\$450,000

Recipient:

IFAD's SSTC and Knowledge
Centre in Brazil

Focus country:

Latin American and Caribbean
Region

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and Head of the SSTC and
Knowledge Centre, Brazil,
Chile, LAC

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The project proposal focuses on creating a platform for conceptualizing, presenting and sharing information and knowledge around youth-led innovative and market disruptive enterprises and highly effective solutions to smallholder farmer challenges in order to encourage replication and creativity across the region for addressing rural development challenges.

It also aims at putting in place a contest mechanism, in collaboration with the private sector, academia and like-minded partners, for financing the most innovative, implementable and scalable rural solutions. Last, it is targeted at ensuring adequate follow-up and dissemination in the implementation of the winning solutions across the region in collaboration with development project staff (including IFAD-supported projects), private partners and development institutions.

The recipient and administrator of the Facility grant is IFAD's SSTC and Knowledge Centre in Brazil, a newly established centre whose objective is the promotion of SSTC initiatives throughout the Latin America and Caribbean region.



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Strengthening the Rural Solutions Portal and IFAD's IT Tracking Systems to Increase the Uptake of Rural Development Solutions

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the Rural Solutions Portal – the web portal that collects and makes available innovative rural development solutions – as well as IFAD's South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) tracking systems, with a view to increasing the uptake of rural development solutions and improving the living conditions of the population in target countries.

The project will promote the sharing of innovative rural development solutions, including through exchanging information and knowledge with similar web-based information platforms developed in developing countries, such as the Global Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth Portal (GPIG) maintained by the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC).

It will also improve IFAD's capacity to undertake analysis of SSTC activities at the corporate, regional and country levels, and facilitate timely reporting through the development of an SSTC database and dashboard. The Portal will be strengthened with a view to increasing matchmaking opportunities among solution seekers and solution providers, allowing the sharing of lessons and good practices, and making information available on SSTC-related institutions and organizations from across the world.

The project will be managed by IFAD's Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division (GEM), in cooperation with the SSTC and Knowledge Centres in Addis Ababa, Beijing and Brasilia. It envisages cooperation with national institutions, including the IPRCC, among others.

Total value: US\$400,000

Recipient:
IFAD

Focus country:
Global South Countries

Contact person:
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Strengthening Business-to-Business Linkages and Investment Opportunities through IFAD's SSTC and Knowledge Centres

Total value: US\$250,000

Recipient:
IFAD

Focus country:
Global South Countries

Contact person:
Ama Brandford-Arthur,
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The aim of the proposal is to support the activities of the newly established SSTC and Knowledge Centres in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Beijing (China) and Brasilia (Brazil). The centres will support the implementation of IFAD's corporate SSTC Strategy and the Brasilia Declaration and Action Agenda, further strengthening the linkages between IFAD's country, regional and global activities.

With this proposal, IFAD aims to identify and promote opportunities for middle-income countries (MICs) to finance development interventions in other MICs and low-income countries (LICs). In addition, this proposal aims to identify and link private-sector companies across countries and to facilitate knowledge exchanges and matchmaking opportunities to strengthen the capacity of private-sector organizations in developing countries in their support to smallholder farmers.

By facilitating SSTC links and partnerships, including government-to-government, community-to-community and business-to-business, IFAD will work to promote a greater role for the private sector in supporting sustainable agriculture and the agrifood sector, with a particular focus on creating employment opportunities for rural youth and women. Projects under this Facility will be managed by IFAD's Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division (GEM) in cooperation with the SSTC and Knowledge Centres in Addis Ababa, Beijing and Brasilia.



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South–South Triangular Cooperation for the Inter–Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme

The main objective of this project proposal is to enhance the impact of the Inter-Africa Bamboo Smallholder Farmers Livelihood Development Programme by transferring solutions, knowledge, skills and technologies both within Africa and from China to target African countries. The goal is to create an enabled bamboo value chain environment by increasing awareness, facilitating knowledge and technology transfer, and improving policy frameworks as well as investment promotion in the beneficiary countries, with the ultimate aim of alleviating poverty and creating jobs.

Direct beneficiaries will be at least 30,000 poor smallholder farmers and community members, primarily women and youth engaged in degrading forests for agricultural land. The project also aims to enhance connectivity between bamboo technical experts from beneficiary countries for knowledge transfer and the development of high-quality standards. This will be pursued through the establishment and strengthening of two task forces, one on sustainable bamboo management and the other on bamboo for renewable energy.

Both task forces will produce voluntary guideline standards that will boost sustainable bamboo trade in and beyond the beneficiary countries. Furthermore, three study tours in China and two regional symposiums in Africa will be carried out, and they will have a strong emphasis on fostering linkages with China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Total value: US\$500,000

Recipient:

International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR)

Focus country:

Cameroon, Ghana, Ethiopia and Madagascar

Contact person:

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This initiative is funded by the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China

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Approved proposals: second call



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Local Production of Fortified Cassava Flour in Bouenza Department in Congo

Total value: US\$492,437

Recipient:

World Food Programme

Focus country:

Republic of the Congo

Targeted beneficiaries:

Cassava producers and cooperative groups in Congo; at least 50 per cent of the beneficiary producers are women producers

Contact person:

Valantine Achancho, Country Director (Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo), West and Central Africa Division; v.achancho@ifad.org

Congo faces a serious food security and nutrition situation. Cassava is consumed by 90 per cent of the country's population and accounts for one third of average daily food consumption, making Congo the world's fourth-largest consumer of cassava. Congo is the eighth-largest producer of cassava per capita, with 98 per cent of the country's farmers engaged in its cultivation. However, national production of cassava does not cover demand, and the country therefore imports a significant amount of cereals to make up the shortfall.

The project plans to establish a framework and evidence-based business plan for the production of fortified cassava flour and sales of the products in the national and regional market. The project will also reinforce the capacities of small-scale cassava producers and their organizations to allow them to supply fresh cassava to cassava mills. This will enable targeted small-scale farming cooperatives to benefit from increased production capacity and access to industrial value chains, thus improving their income and food security.

In the domain of cassava production, this will be the first time that the Rome-based agencies (RBAs) work together. The RBAs are collaborating to support a public-private partnership to build a cassava mill that will make affordable fortified cassava products available to the public, and to support small-scale cassava growers who supply the mill. Bringing in each agency's experience and competencies, the RBA collaboration will be leveraged to achieve global objectives, and thus ensure food and nutrition security.

The project envisages partnerships with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the Agricultural Company of Congo and the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences.



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Promoting Sustainable Cage Aquaculture in West Africa (ProSCAWA)

Ghana and Nigeria are two prominent West African countries that depend on fisheries as major sources of animal protein. Both countries have numerous waterbodies, which have the potential for increasing aquaculture production through cage aquaculture, thereby reducing dependence on capture fisheries and the need to supplement the domestic fish catch with imported fish. Cage aquaculture will make it possible for rural farmers to grow fish without owning land, and enable them to do so in waterbodies where draining and seining would be impossible.

The main objective of this project is to empower and transform the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in West Africa through enhanced Sino-African application of knowledge, sustainable technologies and expertise in cage aquaculture. To this end, the project will leverage the proven expertise of and collaboration with Chinese and similar companies dealing with cage aquaculture implementation.

By fostering knowledge-sharing between Ghana and Nigeria facilitated by IFAD and WorldFish, the project will promote South-South cooperation in two ways: (i) by enabling technology transfer from China to West Africa; and (ii) by enhancing cooperation between Ghana and Nigeria in promoting cage aquaculture. It will also support private sector capacity-building, in addition to the sharing of cage aquaculture solutions and investment opportunities.

The project will: (i) promote capacity-building of farmers, policymakers and businesses for sustainable cage aquaculture systems in Ghana and Nigeria; (ii) enhance employment, incomes and the nutritional status of rural households through productive and sustainable cage farming in waterbodies; and (iii) establish linkages between Chinese and West African aquaculture entrepreneurs for knowledge transfer and the development of viable business partnerships.

The project envisages partnerships with WorldFish; Qingdao Evergrowing Import and Export Co. Ltd, China; Sugarland Farms Ltd, Ghana, and Orisha Farms NG, Nigeria.

Total value: US\$500,000

Recipient:
WorldFish

Focus countries:
Ghana and Nigeria

Targeted beneficiaries:
Smallholder farmers, cage manufacturers, feed producers, hatcheries, youth and women

Contact person:
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Small-scale Dryers for Post-harvest Management Enterprises in Africa

Total value: US\$500,000

Recipient:

Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)

Focus countries:

Ghana, Kenya,
United Republic of Tanzania

Targeted beneficiaries:

Small-scale producers
and processors at
the production end of
highly perishable foods
such as cassava roots
and seasonal fruits;
direct 3,720, indirect 33,500

Contact person:

Hani Abdelkader Elsadani Salem,
Country Director (Ghana),
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In Africa, rapid post-harvest physiological deterioration (PPD) is a major constraint on the production and marketing of fresh produce. For cassava tubers, PPD occurs within 2-3 days of harvest, thus substantially reducing the crop's quality and financial value, with a consequent reduction in income for value chain actors. Drying is an important technology for reducing the risk facing farmers and traders that is caused by the rapid deterioration of fresh cassava tubers. However, the traditional technologies for cassava drying need improvement as they have not addressed constraints and challenges.

The main objective of the project is to facilitate the adaptation and downstream availability of food dryer technology already available in China and to demonstrate its applicability in the African context. The project will: (i) identify the needs of small-scale dryers of cassava and other value chains in rural areas of Ghana, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania; (ii) facilitate interactions between African technology users and Chinese technology providers; (iii) re-scale and adapt Chinese technology to suit the needs of African smallholder producers; and (iv) document China-Africa agricultural technology transfer in the form of knowledge products.

Dryer technologies available in Africa are at either artisanal or industrial scale. This project will introduce a technology that fits between these extremes and enables small-scale producers to become more active value chain actors, allowing them to access larger markets and trade by increasing the level of product preservation.

The project envisages partnerships with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa; the Center for International Agricultural Research of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Kakindo Seed Farm, United Republic of Tanzania; the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture; the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization – Agricultural Mechanization Research Institute, Kenya; Adela Foods, Ghana; and the GRATIS Foundation, Ghana.



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Effective South-South Cooperation in Agriculture to Unleash the Transformative Power of the Agriculture Sector for Inclusive Development in Pakistan

The main objective of the project is to establish and operate an effective knowledge generation and sharing platform to provide customized assistance for Pakistan to unleash the transformative power of the agriculture sector for the country's inclusive development. The project includes assessment of the knowledge-sharing needs of Pakistan, capacity-building and technology transfer.

With the support of China's Foreign Economic Cooperation Center and based on a needs assessment, the project will increase the use of technologies, especially those from China, to improve: (i) agricultural productivity through modern irrigation technologies (specifically, for the small-scale operator); (ii) agriculture-related value chain development; and (iii) the application of digital technology in the agriculture sector in Pakistan. Pakistan's agriculture sector will grow through increasing productivity, improving on-farm water management and promoting value chain development.

Knowledge-sharing and outcome dissemination events will be held in China and Pakistan with the participation of government institutions, donors, United Nations agencies, CGIAR institutions, academic institutions, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Existing platforms will also be leveraged, including IFAD's Rural Solutions Portal, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation's SSTC conferences, and other international forums/conferences. The project will generate lessons learned and provide policy recommendations on how to foster effective SSTC on the ground.

Partnerships are envisaged with the Foreign Economic Cooperation Center of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, China, and the National Rural Support Programme, Pakistan.

Total value: US\$500,000

Recipient:

Foreign Economic Cooperation Center (FECC) of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, China

Focus country:

Pakistan

Targeted beneficiaries:

Small-scale farmers and farmer organizations, agribusiness and agriculture-related firms, and governmental agencies in Pakistan

Contact person:

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@IFAD/Chris McMorrow

Learning from SSTC in Project Design for Better Results and Greater Sustainability

Total value: US\$250,000

Recipient:
IFAD

Focus countries:

Cambodia, China, Ethiopia,
Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan
and Senegal

Targeted beneficiaries:

Key officials in governments
and in the project management
units involved in the design
and implementation of IFAD-
supported projects, as well
as IFAD country directors and
technical staff concerned

Contact person:

Edward Gallagher,
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Assurance Group;
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South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) has been identified as an important component of IFAD's renewed business model for improved outcomes in enhancing rural livelihoods. There is an urgent need to improve knowledge about how to better incorporate SSTC into IFAD project design across different countries and regions.

Leveraging SSTC as an instrument, the overall objective of the project is to improve the knowledge and quality of IFAD-supported project design for better development outcomes. This overall objective will be achieved through two specific and interrelated goals:

(i) capture and document knowledge about embedding SSTC in project design in different country contexts; and (ii) exchange lessons and good practices about how SSTC can be better leveraged in project design for improved development results.

The rationale for focusing on West and Central Africa is its important successful SSTC experiences despite the weak institutional and economic context. The reason for selecting the region of Asia and the Pacific is the ample number of SSTC success stories in project design registered here, while East and Southern Africa is included because of the presence of the SSTC and Knowledge Centre, and to ensure wider geographic coverage throughout Africa. Therefore, this project will allow for opportunities for cross-fertilization and learning across different regions on research and promotion of the successful experiences of SSTC components in projects, and the methods to embed SSTC factors in IFAD project design.

The project envisages partnerships with IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Division, East and Southern Africa Division, West and Central Africa Division, the Regional SSTC and Knowledge Centres in Beijing and Addis Ababa, and the SSTC Unit at IFAD headquarters.



This initiative is funded by the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China

China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility

Approved proposals: third call



Investing in rural people



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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

The COVID-19 pandemic has hurt the agricultural sector in Tanzania by disrupting global supply chains and international commodity trade. The project will address these challenges by strengthening value chains for three crops (beans, cassava and sunflower) that are in high demand from domestic and international markets. Supporting these value chains can help achieve gender- and youth-inclusive outcomes in Tanzania while enhancing resilience and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19. The project will also foster South-South cooperation through close linkages with partners from the Chinese private sector. Activities will include sharing knowledge about manufacturing and maintaining agroprocessing machinery as well as promoting the trade of beans, cassava and sunflower between the two countries.

Through this project, the productivity of farmers in five regions of Tanzania is expected to increase, together with processing and marketing opportunities for beans, cassava and sunflower. Initiatives will include: 1) scaling up state-of-the-art agronomy methods using a suite of digital tools in tandem with training programmes; 2) strengthening farmers' access to healthy seeds of the best varieties by reinforcing and extending networks of seed entrepreneurs; 3) introducing cost-effective processing machinery from China so that local public-private partnerships can provide new market opportunities for farmers; and 4) re-establishing the COVID-19 interrupted cassava dry chips trade with China.

The project will employ diversified and innovative channels for knowledge management. The use of digital platforms and tools will be prioritized to quickly disseminate knowledge and establish partnerships along value chains. High-quality Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials will be developed and distributed in aggregation centres for easy access by stakeholders. Workshops, meetings and learning events will be organized to share experiences from the project, thus ensuring a broader adoption of the innovations in Tanzania and within the region.

Total value: US\$489,417

Recipient:

International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

Focus country:

United Republic of Tanzania

Targeted beneficiaries:

20,000 smallholder farmers (50 per cent women and 30 per cent youth) in five regions (Dodoma, Geita, Manyara, Morogoro and Mwanza) of Tanzania and at least 10 trader/agroprocessor small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as direct beneficiaries; more than 100,000 smallholder farmers (40 per cent women and 20 per cent youth) as indirect beneficiaries

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and Southern Africa Division
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Strengthening Agricultural Resilience through Learning and Innovation (STARLIT)

Total value: US\$483,470

Recipient:

ICCO part of CORDAID

Focus countries:

Rwanda and Kenya

Targeted beneficiaries:

2,800 smallholder farmers (45 per cent women, 40 per cent youth) working in cereal value chains in Rwanda and Kenya as direct beneficiaries; 9,000 family members in Rwanda and 3,600 family members in Kenya as indirect beneficiaries

Contact person:

Francesco Rispoli,
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Southern Africa Division
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For most farmers in Rwanda's and Kenya's cereal value chains, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reduced production capacity and incomes while increasing food insecurity. STARLIT aims to support these farmers' recoveries and strengthen their resilience to the pandemic and other disasters by facilitating access to innovative financial and non-financial services. Access to these services will strengthen farmers' productivity and support them as they (re-)establish market access for their produce.

In cooperation with private-sector partner organizations, the project will build a market development system by developing and rolling out innovative agricultural solutions. These will include: 1) developing and implementing innovative leasing and asset financing models to enhance farmers' access to small-scale post-harvest and irrigation equipment; 2) facilitating access to relevant agricultural information (e.g. weather conditions, extension services, product traceability, mobile payments and digital market platforms) for agribusinesses and farmers; 3) de-risking agricultural finance for microfinance institutions by providing digital risk mitigating tools that facilitate smallholder farmers' access to financial services; and 4) promoting South-South knowledge exchange through digital information and communications technologies (ICTs) to support COVID-19 recovery initiatives for rural smallholder farmers in Rwanda and Kenya.

The COVID-19 crisis has re-emphasized the need for digital solutions for farmers. The project employs ICT solutions to connect rural smallholders to agriculture-related information. An innovative approach to facilitating South-South knowledge exchange, Program Embedded Reflection & Learning, will be used to capture learnings and adaptations. Targeted exchange activities between Rwanda and Kenya on innovative agricultural solutions, including digital access to agricultural information, finance and training, will be facilitated. These will increase smallholders' productivity and competitiveness in the value chain, therefore strengthening resilience in both countries.



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Supporting Local Solutions towards a More Resilient and Sustainable Food System in The Republic of Cuba

Disruptions in global supply chains due to the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly limited the purchase and sale of healthy and sustainable food in local markets, posing a severe threat to food security in Cuba. This project will increase the efficiency, resilience and nutrition-sensitivity of food systems in Cuba by scaling up local solutions implemented in the Gibara municipality and disseminating the results to other municipalities. The findings will inform national policies and programmes to benefit the wider population.

The project prioritizes the increase in yields, diversification, crop quality, risk-management capacities and resilience to climate change within the Municipal Food Self-Supply Programme, initially focusing on Gibara. Key activities will include: 1) improving the knowledge, skills and capacities of smallholder farmers and other value chain stakeholders to supply food to social protection programmes; 2) strengthening institutional capacity to implement select social protection programmes that promote a healthy diet of locally produced food, thus preventing malnutrition; and 3) strengthening climate risk management capacities, including early warning and data analysis, information management and monitoring of food and nutrition security.

The project will be supported by innovative tools generated and tested in Cuba, such as “Beans on the table”, “Cooperative Mirror” and “Comprehensive risk management set”. In addition, sustainable small-scale livestock production models will play a critical role in diversifying livelihoods and incomes for rural families, especially for women and youth. Cuba-China technical cooperation will be at the core of the initiative through the establishment of peer-to-peer learning, technical cooperation and South-South and triangular cooperation exchanges with selected institutions in China. In addition, exchanges will be fostered with countries in Central America to replicate decentralized school-feeding management models based on local food production.

Total value: US\$481,098

Recipient:

World Food Programme

Focus countries:

Cuba and other countries in Central America

Targeted beneficiaries:

4,000 rural people as direct beneficiaries, including smallholders, inputs and services providers and traders, national and local decision makers and experts, children in day-care centres and primary schools, elderly people assisted through community canteens (Family Support Systems); 71,500 rural people as indirect beneficiaries

Contact person:

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Promoting Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities in Rural Mountainous Areas through Upgrading Cashgora Value Chains

Total value: US\$446,440

Recipient:

Aga Khan Foundation

Focus countries:

Tajikistan, Afghanistan

Targeted beneficiaries:

4,000 (50 per cent women and girls) cashgora fibre producers, 200 (75 per cent women) farmers, spinners, knitters and weavers, 1,440 (50 per cent women and girls) youth, farmer and female-headed households as direct beneficiaries; 2,100 (50 per cent women and girls) individuals as indirect beneficiaries

Contact person:

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and Social Inclusion Division
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As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tajikistan is experiencing an unprecedented health and economic crisis that increasingly requires urgent international support and assistance. The objective of this project is to foster sustainable economic opportunities and livelihood development for vulnerable rural households by building strategic partnerships between Tajikistan and China. These households, mostly in the remote mountainous and border regions of Tajikistan and the Badakhshan province of Afghanistan, have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis.

The project aims to improve the livelihoods of rural people and returning migrant workers. Downstream facilities will be upgraded with the latest technologies to create value addition in the cashgora value chain. The project's interventions will include: 1) rehabilitating and scaling up the Gorno-Badakhshan fibre-dehairing facility; 2) improving the capacity-building of facility staff and cashgora value chain actors so that they can better manage fibre processing and waste recycling, improve safety and security and learn organizational, financial and marketing skills; 3) conducting an assessment, through rural community meetings, to identify villages and farming households eligible for subsidies; and 4) establishing a mobile team of trainers to provide capacity-building training and extension services to farmers and rural people in need of COVID-19 recovery support.

By creating an enabling environment, the project contributes to the attainment of gender equality, women's leadership development and the empowerment of young women and girls through the emergence of new businesses led by women. With the support of Chinese partners through business development assistance, tailor-made training programmes, extension services, strategic partnerships, the project will promote high-grade and advanced cashgora goat-breeding, and expand these solutions to other areas of the countries and beyond. Sustained knowledge application and replication will be ensured through a peer-learning approach and follow-up interaction with beneficiaries at all levels.



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