The strong partnership between IFAD and Brazil is based on a shared commitment to reducing poverty and pursuing innovative ways to assist rural communities. Although Brazil’s fight against poverty has been successful in the last decade, residual poverty remains in rural areas. Small-scale agriculture, or family farming, accounts for 70 per cent of production of some of the country’s staple foods and employs three quarters of farm labourers. Poor farmers, agrarian reform settlers and rural workers are the target groups of IFAD-supported interventions in Brazil, and within those groups, particular attention is paid to women, youth and indigenous peoples.

IFAD’s operations in Brazil are concentrated in the northeast, with a country office in Salvador, Bahia, and in the regional South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Knowledge Centre (SSTC and KC) recently established in Brasilia. As of January 2020, Brazil had benefited from 12 IFAD-supported projects for a total value of US$859.5 million, including US$313 million in IFAD financing. IFAD and Brazil also cooperate through grant-financed activities, such as policy dialogue, knowledge management and SSTC.
TACKLING POVERTY TOGETHER – IN BRAZIL AND BEYOND

In Brazil, IFAD is working to scale up its impact by mainstreaming its projects and approaches into government programmes and policies at federal and state levels, strengthening institutions so that innovative approaches can be replicated, and advocating for a policy environment that leads to results at scale.

Accordingly, the Fund has set up training workshops on commercialization strategies, business plan formulation, land access, fiduciary issues, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E), together with a dedicated M&E country system (DATA.FIDA). IFAD is also expanding its outreach through knowledge management, policy engagement, advocacy and strategic partnerships. Significant results include the sharing of knowledge on successful production and productivity practices in the semi-arid regions, and the development of policy dialogue platforms, such as the Forum of Secretaries of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Northeast.

IFAD has introduced interventions to improve access to water, such as the building of cisterns. In addition, the Fund is leading the design of a new project on climate resilience with the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Two more projects on water access and resilient productive investment are planned for Piauí and Paraiba states in cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank.

Brazil has been a source of successful policies and lessons learned that have benefited poor rural people far beyond the Brazilian border. This has been recognized by IFAD with the establishment of its SSTC and KC in Brasilia. The Centre will collaborate with other international organizations and agencies to share development experience, disseminate best practices, introduce innovations and promote SSTC. IFAD has also established partnerships with youth organizations to empower young rural leaders. In particular, a mobile application (NESTANTE) has been developed to enable young people to exchange information and best practices among themselves. There is also a strong focus on capacity-building for climate-resilient agricultural practices in drylands in the region.