IFAD was the first international financial institution to lend to China. Since 1981, IFAD has worked with China to eliminate extreme poverty, increase food security and nutrition, and promote agricultural and rural development. In recent years, IFAD’s support for China has shifted from agricultural production to more inclusive and innovative development in rural areas and agrifood systems. IFAD’s portfolio in China will continue to be fully aligned with government strategies and priorities, including rural revitalization.

China is also a significant contributor to IFAD. China has greatly increased its contribution to IFAD’s core resources since IFAD10, becoming the largest contributor among developing countries in IFAD11 and IFAD12, with an overall ranking of twelfth among all Member States and second among the developing countries. In 2018, China made a US$10 million supplementary contribution to establish the first dedicated Facility in IFAD to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). China’s wealth of knowledge and good practices in poverty elimination and sustainable and inclusive development can be of invaluable benefit when shared with other developing countries.

Over the past 40 years, China and IFAD have become all-around partners. IFAD will continue its lending operations in China that focus on innovative rural transformation, while strengthening collaboration around SSTC that has spillover benefits in terms of global public goods. China will be playing an increasingly prominent role in IFAD’s governance to guide IFAD towards a bigger, smarter and stronger organization dedicated to zero hunger and zero poverty across the world. The long-standing China–IFAD partnership is a good example of win-win cooperation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
TACKLING POVERTY AND HUNGER TOGETHER

During more than 40 years of partnership, IFAD has supported China in a total of 33 rural development projects implemented in 24 provinces and regions, with a total investment of US$3 billion and IFAD financing of US$1.14 billion, benefiting more than 20 million poor and vulnerable people from more than 4.6 million rural households in China.

SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Both China and IFAD recognize SSTC as an important development instrument for achieving sustainable and inclusive rural transformation through its ability to build trust, forge new partnerships, share knowledge, leverage resources, and drive and scale up innovation and proven solutions. The US$10 million China-IFAD SSTC Facility is the first Facility in IFAD dedicated to SSTC. Since its establishment in 2018, the Facility has supported 16 grant projects covering more than 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and has awarded a total of US$7.24 million.

A mid-term review of the Facility showed that SSTC projects 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. The projects funded by the Facility summarized nearly 200 solutions and good practices, developed more than 100 knowledge products, engaged over 200 experts and facilitated around 120 business-to-business linkages, benefiting over 4,500 smallholder farmers in developing countries.

SSTC is anchored in IFAD’s Strategic Framework 2016-2025 as an integral part of the Fund’s business model and country programmes. IFAD is establishing synergies between SSTC interventions and IFAD’s investment projects to ensure post-project sustainability and increased impact from the field to the national level. More than 30 ongoing IFAD country projects have benefited from SSTC activities in facilitating knowledge exchanges, promoting innovations and strengthening policy coordination.

COLLABORATION ON HUMAN RESOURCES

China and IFAD are strengthening collaboration on human resources and talent exchange. There are currently 17 staff members of Chinese nationality at IFAD, including five Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) funded by the Chinese Government. Since the Internship Programme was established in China in 2020, 30 interns have been selected to work at IFAD. By the end of 2022, 47 Chinese experts had been engaged in IFAD’s projects and operations through the support of the China-IFAD SSTC Facility.