



CHINA-IFAD SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FACILITY



SSTC GRANT

Grant value

US\$412,283

Focus countries

Countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

Duration

Feb 2019–Jul 2021

Implementation partner

IFAD's SSTC and Knowledge Centre in Brasilia

Cooperation partners

Private sector

Universities

Non-governmental organizations

Government institutions

International organizations

Beneficiaries

Rural entrepreneurs and change agents

Poor rural smallholders, especially women, youth and indigenous people

Rural Youth Innovation Award in Latin America and the Caribbean

BACKGROUND

Over one quarter of the inhabitants of the Latin America and the Caribbean region are under the age of 25. Because rural youth face limited access to resources such as land, financing, technology, knowledge, information and education, they have difficulties contributing to their local economies and frequently see migration as their only option. To address these challenges, IFAD launched the Rural Youth Innovation Award, an initiative aimed at strengthening the capacities of young rural entrepreneurs to implement and disseminate innovative, sustainable solutions to challenges faced by smallholder farmers.

IFAD's SSTC and Knowledge Centre in Brasilia mapped and promoted youth-led, locally generated initiatives for rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean. This regional SSTC initiative also recognized innovative youth-led initiatives that helped rural communities to overcome the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognizing innovative youth-led initiatives in support of rural communities in Latin America and the Caribbean

19 youth-led initiatives awarded

20 capacity development events organized

44 SSTC partnerships and linkages established

91 experts from the Global South engaged

ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite significant challenges caused by the pandemic, the project managed to quickly adapt and achieve its key objectives and results.

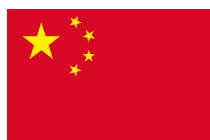
Launched two award cycles in 2020 and 2021, resulting in 19 awarded initiatives on a wide range of topics, including market access, recycling and alternative energy solutions, connectivity, financial inclusion and gender equity.

Provided complementary mentoring support to the awarded initiatives. Partners offered guidance on business strategy, marketing and sales, helping young rural entrepreneurs to further develop their solutions and strengthen their capacities.

This initiative was among the first regional initiatives launched by IFAD's SSTC and Knowledge Centre in Brasilia, successfully recognizing and supporting young rural entrepreneurs, as well as exploring SSTC partnerships with civil society and private sectors in the region.

A GLIMPSE INTO SOME AWARDED INNOVATIONS

For more information please visit www.ifad.org/sstcf



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The Comunidades Iluminadas initiative provides solar panels to remote communities in Peru's Amazon region, giving them access to electricity for their devices and lighting. The project helps families save money and gain extra hours for work and study.



The CHAO COVID-19 group, composed of young rural people in Colombia, established rural-urban supply chains during the pandemic. The group brings food and hygiene supplies to vulnerable rural families and returns their agricultural products to sell in cities. Their efforts have created a sustainable source of income for rural communities.



The Cerrado Youth Seed Collectors Group works on reforestation in Brazil's Nascentes Geraizeiras Sustainable Development Reserve, with seed collecting and sowing activities. The work of the group generates income and improves the quality of life for 33 traditional communities while restoring the local ecosystems.