



Youth Leadership Program in South-South Agricultural Cooperation

--Nurturing Youth Leadership in Agriculture in Africa

Concept and Guidelines

Date: 27 August - 2 September 2018
Duration: 1 week
Venue: Beijing, China
Organizer: China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (CISSCA),
China Agricultural University
Co-organizer: United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

➤ Training Background

Agriculture is a proven path to prosperity particularly in the African continent where more than 25 percent of the world's arable land lies in. Agriculture, as the largest economic sector of Africa, represents 15 percent of the continent's total GDP. Africa's agroecological potential is massively larger than its current output, however—and so are its food requirements. With a fast-growing population and close to 70 percent involved in agriculture, the enhancement of sustainable agricultural and rural development, is therefore fundamental to the attainment of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) in Africa, particularly the eradication of hunger and poverty, the promotion of sustained and inclusive economic growth, and decent jobs for all, and most critically, the youth.

In the case of China, with less than 10 percent of the world's arable land feeding around 20 percent of its population, agriculture, rural development and food security are unquestionably top priorities for policy making and development planning. China's agricultural development approach is of outstanding significance for the development of African agriculture. China's expertise and good practices, as well as its lessons learned, in promoting agricultural growth, providing remarkable surplus for economic and social transformation, and ultimately contributing to poverty reduction, can benefit African countries through South-South cooperation and peer learning. More specifically, the measures China drew in providing an enabling and pro-poor policy environment, ensuring basic education and agricultural training,

deploying scientific talents, and building a solid value chain and e-commerce platforms, can be shared with Africa countries.

In this regard, [China Agricultural University \(CAU\)](#), and the [United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation \(UNOSSC\)](#) signed an MOU in May 2018, to leverage both sides' strengths, resources and networks in China, Africa and globally, in promoting youth leadership and capacity development in South-South cooperation in agriculture and rural development, including through joint support to the [“Youth4South” Advanced Youth Leadership Programme](#).

A 3-day pilot orientation took place in Istanbul Turkey in June 2018. The pilot orientation benefitted from the participation of young professionals and young government officials from 22 developing countries. As part of the programme, CISSCA developed and delivered the thematic educational module in Agriculture and Rural development. Participants provided positive feedbacks and expressed strong interests in more in-depth continued learning.

In response to the request, the **“Youth Leadership Program in South-South Agricultural Cooperation”** initiated by CISSCA, co-organized by UNOSSC, has been scheduled to take place from 27 August to 2 September in Beijing China.

Organized by CISSCA, this program is mainly focusing on building and enhancing the understanding of young officials and professionals on new trends and models of SSC in agriculture and rural development, sharing good practices of China in enabling agricultural development policy, promoting South-South cooperation in agriculture and rural development, developing capacities of participants to conduct policy pilots and experiments that could be adapted to local context. This program is designed to be more practical and technical, featuring study visits to relevant government ministries and technical agencies, as well as field visits to agriculture fields in villages. In line with the aim of “Youth4South Programme” to increase youth engagement and participation in global dialogues and discussions, a China-Africa youth dialogue will also be organized on the side lines of the China Africa Cooperation Forum (FOCAC) 2018.

➤ Training Focus

The training course will be mainly focusing on

- 1) Sharing good practices of China's agricultural development approach; and deepening participants' understanding of the process of policy making in agricultural transformation;
- 2) Building participants' understanding of China's “government + farmers + market” development pattern and theory;
- 3) Building and deepening participants' understanding of new trends and models of agriculture and rural development in the context of SSC;

- 4) Sharing good practices and case studies of China in promoting sustainable agriculture globally through South-South cooperation;
- 5) Building participants understanding on how to establish national farmers initiative, agribusiness and market value chain;
- 6) Developing participants' capacity to conduct policy pilots and experiments that could be adapted into their national and local context;
- 7) Developing participants' policy making capability to translate concepts and theories into policy practices;
- 8) Developing participants' capacities to effectively apply tools and methods in building South-South agricultural cooperation projects to advance national development priorities, and scale up good practices in their local contexts;
- 9) Deepening participants understanding on foundations and modalities of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTrC); and tools and methods of SSTrC in the context of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development; and
- 10) Introducing available knowledge platforms, resources and networks in the promoting SSC in agriculture and rural development, offered by the China Agricultural University, the Chinese government, and the United Nations.

➤ Course Overview

The training course will be conducted in an interactive and participatory way, comprising **3 major components**:

1. Classroom lectures, interactive workshops and group exercises

Lectures on China's approach in agricultural development:

- The formulation of agricultural development strategies in the new development experience model;
- The processes of agricultural policy pilots/trials and translating pilots/trials into policy practices;
- Processes of agricultural policy implementation; and
- The model of dynamic interaction among government, farmers, and market.

Workshops on building technical capacities:

- South-South agriculture cooperation project design, management, monitoring and evaluation;
- Share national priorities and opportunities and adapt policy pilot/trails into local context;
- Case study based-exchanges on building practical SSAC projects (steps/processes/Q&As, skills building, role play exercise); and
- Group exercises to design, negotiate, implement and scale up SSTrC projects.






2. Field trip

- Study visit to government ministries and agencies.
- Field trip to agriculture fields in villages.

3. China-Africa Youth Dialogue on Poverty Eradication

- Exchange ideas on China-Africa cooperation in agriculture
- Young leadership in international development

➤ Tentative Schedule

25-26 AUG	27 – 30 AUG	31 AUG -1 SEP	2 SEP	3 SEP
Sat/Sun	Mon-Thurs	Fri-Sat	Sun	Mon
Arrival	Training Workshop	Field Trip	Youth Dialogue	Departure
				

* Detailed concept and course program will be uploaded on the Youth4South Website soon.

<https://www.unsouthsouth.org/youth4south/>

➤ Applications

This is a fully funded program supported by the Government of China. A total of 30 young officials and professionals, as well as established business and sector leaders, **from Africa**, will be accepted, based on application, subject to availability. Priorities are given to candidates from government respective ministries and technical cooperation agencies.

Criteria

- African young professionals under the age of 40 at the time of application.
- Nationals from LDCs LLDCs SIDs will be prioritized.
- Proficiency in English required.
- Minimum 5 years of experience and expertise in managing and implementing development cooperation (SSTrC) projects in agriculture from respective Ministries/Sector/technical cooperation agencies required.
- For young agribusiness and sector leaders, please indicate business portfolio and corporate website.

Application Package

- Completed [Application Form](#)

- CVs articulating years of experience and expertise in managing and implementing development cooperation (SSTrC) projects in agriculture area
- 2 recommendations from nominating agency and applicant's affiliated organization required.
- Cover letter from the applicant needs to be submitted indicating
 - 1) Why he/she is interested in the Y4S training.
 - 2) What specific solutions/projects he/she would like to implement/scale up.
 - 3) What capacity gaps/needs/questions they would like to address.

***Important Notice**

- As a fully funded program, accepted participants' training cost, local accommodation and international travel expenses will be fully funded by the program which is supported by the contribution from the Government of China.
- Please send the complete application package to kanykei.ergesheva@unossc.org
- **Deadline for application: July 15, 2018**