

# Leveraging **South-South and Triangular Cooperation** to support agricultural value-chain development

22 March 2019

8.00-10.00 am

Centro Cultural Kirchner (CCK), Sarmiento 151, C1041 AAE, Auditorium 6-14

## Background

Strong links to markets for poor rural producers are essential to increasing agricultural incomes, generating economic growth in rural areas and reducing hunger and poverty. Every product that is sold locally, nationally or internationally is often part of an agricultural value chain (VC). From a development perspective, VCs are one of the instruments through which market forces can be harnessed to benefit poor rural women and men – not just producers, but wage earners, service providers and others.

Most development organizations, in particular those designing projects related to agriculture or rural development, use value-chain approaches, which are based on a comprehensive look at the entire commodity chain, from producers to end-market consumers. Inherent in the VC approach is acknowledging that there are other stakeholders in the chain (in addition to the project/programme target group) and that they are interrelated; for example, improved business opportunities for processors or other downstream actors can have a positive influence on the target group. Sometimes, intervening at stages other than just at the production level in the VC can have a greater impact on poverty reduction.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) is a powerful development cooperation modality that can be used to overcome some of the constraints faced by smallholder agricultural producers in improving value chains. In some cases, SSTrC initiatives can help governments, farmers, cooperatives and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) improve access to end markets by agricultural producers, for instance through the sharing of national policies and good practice implemented by other governments, or through sharing solutions implemented by private companies from other countries. Through SSTrC, farmers can get better connected to local and export markets, for instance through the harmonization of food safety standards, or the design of certification schemes, or the development of quality standards that facilitate the export of their produce, as well as trade exchanges in general. One of the means to achieve this type of B2B/ community-to-community (C2C) dialogue is by building regional/sub-regional platforms for knowledge and solutions exchange, with a view to enhancing the capacity of local producers, cooperatives and larger companies to export and link to new (and foreign) markets.

Over the last ten years, the International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD) portfolio has experienced a very prominent shift towards value chain development (VCD) projects. Seventy percent of IFAD-supported projects approved in 2014 included a VCD component. For instance, the public-private-producer partnerships (4P) approach, implemented by IFAD in several projects with a value chain component, can ensure smallholder producers are equal and respected partners in value-chain partnership arrangements.

As a multilateral development institution whose membership is drawn entirely from the developing “South”, The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has been promoting the principles of South-South cooperation (SSC) in its interventions since inception. In this endeavour, the Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) was established to support SSC among its Member Countries since 1983. In 2012, the Bank introduced a new modality for capacity development within the TCP, called Reverse Linkage. Reverse Linkage is defined as “a technical cooperation mechanism enabled by the IsDB whereby Member Countries and Muslim



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communities in non-Member Countries exchange their knowledge, expertise, technology and resources to develop their capacities and devise solutions for their autonomous development". Agriculture and food security is one priority areas of IsDB interventions.

Against this background the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) are co-organizing an event titled "Leveraging South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) to Support Agricultural Value-Chain development", on the side-lines of the BAPA+40 Conference.

## Objectives

The objectives of the side-event are to examine how SSTrC can create an enabling environment to improve value chains and better connect farmers to domestic and international markets, thus contributing to rural transformation as an element of structural transformation.

Both IFAD and IsDB have a proven track record in designing projects and programmes that promote affordable and locally-relevant innovations in the agricultural sector, aimed at empowering smallholder farmers through the improvement of value chains.

The side-event will provide an opportunity to:

- Share success stories and good practices in promoting value-chain development coming from the loan- and grant-funded project portfolios of the two agencies;
- Review experiences of sharing solutions to improve market access through SSTC; and
- Discuss the role that development agencies can play in facilitating exchanges and knowledge sharing and programmatic interventions, especially in the area of value-chain development and market access in agriculture.

## Speakers

- **Ashwani K. Muthoo**, Director, Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division, IFAD;
- **Abdelhakim Yessouf**, Senior Technical Cooperation Coordinator, Africa & Latin America - IsDB;
- **Fernando Ledo Casablancas**, Agribusiness Division, African Development Bank;
- **Anas Ahmad Nasarudin**, Managing Director, Max Agri commerce Sdn Bhd, Malaysian Agriculture Research and Development Institute (MARDI);
- **Representative of IFAD/IsDB-financed project on value-chain development (tbd).**

## Programme

08:00 – 08:30	Registration and welcome coffee
08:30 – 08:40	Opening by moderator
08:40 – 08:45	Film "Grain of Rice"
08:45 – 09:30	Panel discussion
09:30 – 09:50	Moderated discussions
09:50 – 10:00	Closing remarks

*Coffee will be served ahead of the side-event*

