FOSTERING SOUTH-SOUTH & TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN THE ARAB REGION

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Introduction

• South-South Cooperation (SSC) is a dynamic new model of partnership, which is based on the premise that development solutions are already available elsewhere in the global south that need to be shared, exchanged and scaled up;

• SSC offers opportunities for developing countries to jump-start and benefit from innovations, lessons and good practices, and innovative policies that have already been proven and tested elsewhere;

• In the Arab region, there are challenges, but there are also solutions!
**Main Development Challenges Faced By Arab States**

<table>
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<th>Food security:</th>
<th>Nutrition:</th>
<th>Water Scarcity:</th>
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<td>- Low agricultural growth</td>
<td>- malnutrition</td>
<td>- water scarcity</td>
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<td>- food deficit</td>
<td>- food-related chronic diseases</td>
<td>- overexploitation of water resources</td>
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<td>- over-reliance on food imports</td>
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<td>- depletion of water table</td>
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<td>- food price inflation and volatility</td>
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<td>- food waste and losses</td>
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✓ Climate Change; inflation; high prices and volatility of food and inputs; increasing youth unemployment; disparities in level of challenges
Past SSC Experiences Involving Arab Countries

- 8 signed agreements and 151 fielded experts from or to Arab Countries.
- With support from different resource partners: Saudi Arabia, Oman, IsDB, Monaco, China, AfDB, etc.
A Scalable SSC Model
(China-Nigeria-FAO)

• Provider: nearly 700 Chinese experts
• Nationally funded and owned: 37 States of Nigeria
• Scaling up Approach: Six REMSEC Zones
• Integrated: Value chain approach; >200 innovations demonstrated
• Reach: 3.1 million in the past 10 years (2003-2013);
• Thousands of jobs were created for women and youth
• In Kogi State 5026 youth were trained in 10 technologies, and were provided with land, inputs in groups of ten (cooperatives);
• Linked to ATA (including the Electronic Wallet System)
• High Level Forum: Abuja Declaration, Sept, 2013
Four Key Areas of Engagement

Policy Makers: Providing Upstream Policy Support
- Policy Level

Experts: Promoting Knowledge Networks Platforms
- Institutional Level

Practitioners: Facilitating the Exchange of Development Solutions
- Grassroots Level

Fostering an Enabling Environment for Effective SSC

First Arab States Regional South-South Development EXPO
18-20 February 2014 - Doha, Qatar
How regionally-owned Arab Roadmap can support policy makers to position South-South Cooperation in its respective national planning;

Regionally-owned Arab Roadmap on SSC should aim at addressing major challenges facing the Arab region:

- Focus on national and regional development priorities in the Arab States;
- Focus on augmenting food supply from domestic production and efficient food systems through investment programmes with SSTC as key delivery mechanism;
- Knowledge sharing on key thematic areas, e.g. strategies for managing transboundary plant and animal diseases (e.g. tomato borer, *Tuta absoluta*, etc.);
- Sustainable crop intensification and development of small-scale agriculture (productivity increase, market access, etc.);
- Sustainable water management, including water saving, reuse of waste water, etc.
Arab Roadmap on Fostering SSC and Triangular Cooperation

What key roles the regionally-owned Arab roadmap should possess?

The Roadmap should capitalize on the potential in the region;

- Financial and human resources endowment in the region
- Home-grown development solutions available in the region

Mechanism

- Strengthen platforms for SSC policy dialogue on key strategic regional issues.
- Establish regional mechanisms for exchange of knowledge and experiences among Arab countries (Intra-regional SSC);
- Explore inter-regional SSC with other regions in the South, especially Asia and Latin America;
- Develop investment and resource mobilization mechanisms, including establishing Arab Multi-Donor Trust Fund on SSC based on needs.