



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation

Inputs from the UNOSSC for the preparation of a background note for the 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

Lisbon, Portugal, 2-6 June 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Office for South-South Cooperation believes that in **section II. Challenges and Opportunities**, South-South Cooperation can be mentioned as a complementary modality to North-South cooperation, promoting collaboration, cooperation, and coordination, while highlighting value-added solutions from the global south to ensure further support of implementing SDG14. Furthermore, BAPA+40 outcome document emphasize the need to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on mutually agreed terms;

For **section IV. Development of partnerships**: Inclusive South-South partnerships as recognized in the BAPA+40 outcome document can help improve the impact and actions in the field towards sustainable use of ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. South-South partnerships undertaken on a demand-driven basis can help to advance the implementation of Goal 14.

Regarding the possible **theme** for interactive dialog, we propose the following: **Leveraging South-South and Triangular partnerships towards more sustainable use of marine resources.**

Some of examples where South-South and Triangular Cooperation has contributed to the achievement of SDG 14:

I. Fish Culture Development for Africa

Challenges

Fish and other fishery products are preferred food items in Africa because they are rich in protein and micronutrients. Fish is reasonably priced (less expensive than substitute food items such as meat) and constitutes an integral part of traditional diets. However, due to the combined effects of rapid population growth and a dwindling capture fish production, per capita supply of fish has decreased in Africa. Many countries import a significant amount of fish annually. This contributes further to the food deficit and raises the market price of fish. Since it is not possible to increase fish catch from the natural environment, African governments have increased their focus on aquaculture to fill the gap between demand and supply of fish for national food security.

Toward a Solution

Aquaculture can mitigate the shortage of fish supply in the African region, which is directly related to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). It can also prevent overfishing by providing an alternative option in the fishing sector, which contributes to the achievement of SDG 14 (Life Below Water,) making the use of marine resources more sustainable.

Egypt's aquaculture sector has experienced rapid development in the past 20 years. It now ranks 9th in fish farming production globally and first among African countries. Thanks to Egyptian expertise, knowledge exchange from Egypt to neighboring countries has helped to enhance the latter's capacities, allowing them to be applied to achieve adequate development and management of the aquaculture sector in their own countries.

The training programme, Third Country Training Program (TCTP) on Fish Culture Development, was organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in collaboration with the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture (EICA). It facilitated capacity-building among extension workers through practical training and knowledge on climate conditions, farmed fish species and farming technologies in practice. This programme provides a platform for African trainees to benefit from the training course and to exchange opinions and practices for applying the course contents in their home countries.

It was supported by JICA and the Government of Egypt through the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), based on the Japan-Egypt Triangular Technical Cooperation Programme agreement for the promotion of South-South cooperation in Africa.

In Egypt, three months of training have been conducted annually since 2004. The group training course was delivered in Egypt with practical exercises in the field for 191 participants from 21 African countries: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoro, the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

Almost one-third of the course (i.e. one month) is spent in the classroom on theoretical lectures, group discussions, and workshops in modules. Each module starts with conceptual lectures addressing specific topics in the field. The remaining portion of the course provides two months of practical training in which participants visit laboratories for demonstrations and participate in field visits and study tours. Participants obtain hands-on experience by managing their assigned ponds to conduct experiments on male/female ratio, population intensity and the concentration of different nutrients.

As a result of the training, graduates of this programme are prepared to help to increase fish yields and income from aquaculture farming in their home countries. For example, Malawian farmers who received instruction from a graduate of the programme (an extension worker) increased tilapia and catfish productivity from 1-2 ton/ha to 5.5 ton/ha and 8.0 tons/ha, respectively. In 2016, the Ugandan participant increased the number of ponds from 50 to 110 (60 new ponds) under his responsibility. In Malawi, the former participant became the head of a task force to establish an aquaculture facility. Former participants and lecturers are linked through a WhatsApp group so that they can discuss difficulties and share necessary information as they implement the techniques. This group is transboundary, with participants contributing to the dissemination of knowledge in their country.

To ensure the sustainability of this initiative, selected participants in the country should hold a position that allows them to disseminate knowledge, such as an extension officer or instructor at a relevant institution. In some cases, graduates participate in the selection of new candidates because this can help to strengthen the relationship between former and new participants, allowing them to become leaders in their countries.

Sustainable Development Goal target(s): 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, **14.2, 14.7**

Countries/ territories involved: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Comoro, the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia

II. Promoting Seaweed Farming as a Sustainable Enterprise

Challenges

Rapid and uncontrolled coastal development has resulted in increased habitat loss in Belize's coastal zone. It is estimated that about 75-80 percent of all coastal land in Belize has been purchased for the development of tourism and residential areas, posing a serious threat to mangroves, coastal wetlands, and other coastal ecosystems.

The Placencia Producers Cooperative Society Limited (PPCSL) was formed in 1962, in an effort to consolidate local fishers' occupational activities and income. Since the 1950s, Placencia, Belize has been a thriving fishing community; however, due to poor regulation and overfishing, as well as anthropogenic pressures on the marine ecosystems, in the 1990s, fish stocks were in decline and PPCSL looked for ways to diversify their livelihoods.

Toward a Solution

To address the above challenge, PPCSL fishers looked at seaweed cultivation as a supplemental livelihood alternative, inspired by St. Lucian fishers. Seaweed provides a natural habitat for many marine species and also provides excess nutrient uptake as an ecosystem service. Cultivating seaweed helps to reduce fishing pressure by providing fishers with an alternative source of income and serves as a model for adapting to the effects of climate change.

To roll out this initiative, the Global Environment Facility-Small Grant Programme (GEF SGP) implemented by UNDP and United Nations Foundation provided a grant to PPCSL to pilot a project on commercial seaweed cultivation. The grants supported the development of a market study and subsequent business plan, and the project turned out to be a success, with a market and a prosperous industry following suit. PPCSL provided training sessions to improve the capacity of the community on information technology, accounting and the use of QuickBooks, as well as business administration. Furthermore, support was provided for the establishment of 20 seaweed farms with the necessary equipment for planting, monitoring, harvesting and processing the seaweed crop for sale locally and internationally. A boat and engine were purchased to carry out these activities.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Belize Fisheries Department, the Southern Environmental Association and PPCSL for a one-square-mile Special Development Zone within the Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve, which was intended for seaweed cultivation expansion. A seaweed cultivation manual and seaweed curriculum were also developed. This led to the establishment of a long-term partnership with a private investor, Coral Caye Limited, to replicate, upscale and mainstream the seaweed industry in Belize. Coral Caye Ltd. is currently constructing the 5,000-square foot processing facility near Independence Village, Stann Creek District to create value-added products for use and sale by the PPCSL.

Together, the partners continue to develop improved methodologies for seaweed cultivation and additional revenue streams, which they continue to share with interested parties.

Due to the success of this initiative, Belize shared this good practice with Colombian fishers who were introduced to the seaweed cultivating and harvesting methodologies of PPCSL. During the exchange visit to Belize, two women and four men from the Old Providence and Santa Catalina Fishing and Farming Cooperative in Providencia Island, Colombia learned how to design a seaweed farm, select an appropriate site, construct anchors, set up the farm, and select the best seeds for high crop yields.

After the initial exchange in Belize, a member of the PPCSL traveled to Colombia to provide additional hands-on training to the Old Providence and Santa Catalina Fishing and Farming Cooperative. The initiative has been replicated by both the Turneffe Seaweed Growers and the Sarteneja Fishermen Association in Belize.

As a result of the exchange between Colombia and Belize, the Colombian fishers have put their received training to use in their own country, where they are involved in a pilot project "Algae Cultivation Pilot Project and Development of Products Based on its Derivatives", with Coralina, Utadeo and Fish and Farm C-Enterprise. Through established seaweed farms, they have generated value-added products such as a recently launched, highly nutritious drink called Seaweed Punch. They are now involved in promoting seaweed cultivation as a viable economic livelihood. This practice was also shared with Cuba.

This South-South exchange experience demonstrates how replicable seaweed farming is across the region, through peer-to-peer knowledge transfer. This knowledge transfer gives participants a better grasp of, and hands-on experience with, seaweed cultivation, a sustainable, environmentally friendly and highly replicable practice. Direct exchanges provide participants with a better understanding of the seaweed practices and farming, and the opportunity to quickly obtain answers to questions, making them a very effective tool for imparting applicable knowledge.

Sustainable Development Goal target(s): **14.2, 14.7**