

FAO-China South-South Cooperation Programme to build resilient agrifood systems

19 April 2023 | News

Boosting Small Island Developing States' ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals



Boosting Small Island Developing States' ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) announced the launch of a new \$5 million project supported by the FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Programme to assist Small Island Developing States (SIDS) strengthen their capacities and tackle common development challenges.

The project, announced at the Fourth SIDS Solutions Dialogue held in Geneva, covers an initial period of three years, from 2022 to 2025 and will focus on areas such as increased innovation, digitalisation and knowledge exchange to assist SIDS in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the SAMOA Pathway.

“The message that resonated most loudly during dialogue is the urgent need for investment in capacity building, adaptation strategies and enhanced support to transform SIDS agrifood systems to become more resilient, efficient, sustainable and inclusive. This funding is timely and reiterates the high priority that FAO places on SIDS and the transformation of their agrifood systems to achieve better production, better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life for all.”

• Maria Helena Semedo, FAO’s Deputy Director-General said in her address at the Dialogue.

Fragile ecosystems, high vulnerability to climate change, natural disasters, external economic shocks, distance from global markets, and high rates of all forms of malnutrition and food-related diseases are just some of the challenges hindering the development process for SIDS. Exacerbating this condition has been the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a substantial negative impact on rural livelihoods.

All these factors contribute to the need for expertise and technical support, as well as financial investment in sustainable food production, distribution, and consumption models.

The project will be coordinated by FAO's Office of Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries (OSL), together with the FAO's South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division (PST).