



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



STRENGTHENING THE COTTON SECTOR THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

In Mercosur and associated countries and Haiti

Cooperating to overcome hunger and rural poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean



CONTEXT

The production of cotton is one of the agricultural activities which contributes greatly to the generation of employment, income and food security for family farmers throughout the world; presenting itself as an alternative approach to overcoming rural poverty.

An estimated 350 million people around the world carry out economic activities related to cotton, as it is one of the 20 most important global commodities in terms of its value.

The government of Brazil, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and member countries of Mercosur and associates, as well as Haiti, have joined efforts to promote the cotton sector through the project **Strengthening the Cotton Sector through South-South Cooperation**, which forms part of the **Brazil-FAO Cooperation Program**.

South-South Trilateral Cooperation is within the framework of FAO's regional initiatives, which support efforts to reduce rural poverty and eradicate hunger; with a comprehensive view of family farming, rural territorial development and sustainable livelihoods.

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to contribute to the sustainable development of the cotton value chain in the partner countries, and increase their capacities and levels of inter-sectoral coordination in order to strengthen the cotton sector.

Furthermore, it presents the possibility to advance towards differentiated markets; niches which allow for added value and income generation for families.

IMPACT

Through the strengthening of South-South Cooperation, the project will contribute to the development of the cotton sector; in order to increase agricultural productivity as well as generate and establish policies which support family farming and combat poverty in the partner countries.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS** to improve incomes, living conditions and food security of family farmers.

- **STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES** to promote the development of the cotton sector.

- **SOUTH-SOUTH TRILATERAL COOPERATION** to share technical know-how and public policies.

- **NEW OPPORTUNITIES** aimed at technological and social innovation, markets, and increasing competitiveness in the cotton sector, as well as income generation for family farming.

- **GENDER** as a strategy to boost the productive, social and inclusive processes in a sustainable manner within the cotton value chain.

- **Valuing the cultural ancestry of cotton production of INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.**



PARTNERS

The **Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC/MRE)** collaborates with its experience in South-South Cooperation; facilitating the exchange of knowledge, skills and experiences developed by Brazilian institutions and organizations.

FAO offers over 70 years of experience in agricultural and rural development in 130 countries, working to improve access to food, nutrition and the sustainable livelihoods of rural populations.

The **Brazilian Cotton Institute (IBA)** provides the financial resources and, as a member observer, accompanies the actions carried out.

Concerning the technical aspects, those participating include: The **Brazilian Agency for Agricultural Research (Embrapa)**; the **Brazilian Association of Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (Asbraer)**; the **Brazilian Association of Cotton Producers (ABRAPA)**; the **Ministry of Labor and Employment of Brazil (MTE)** through the **National Secretariat for Solidary Economy (SENAES)**. Other Brazilian institutions could participate as well, depending on the different needs of the partner countries.

The partner countries in the project; **Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru** and **Haiti**, participate through the exchange of experiences in the cotton sector, adapted to the local contexts and realities, with the activities of the country-projects coordinated and implemented at the national level.



SOUTH-SOUTH TRILATERAL COOPERATION AND THE PROJECT

South-South Cooperation is based on solidarity between countries, decisive action in response to their demands, acknowledging local experience and the exchange of knowledge and successful Brazilian practices.

For the Brazilian government, this initiative allows for the strengthening of joint actions regarding regional issues of mutual interest; such as the fight against hunger and rural poverty, as well as boosting the agricultural sector; which are also strategic objectives for the FAO.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding/2011, between the Ministry

of Foreign Relations of Brazil (MRE) and the Brazilian Cotton Institute (IBA), the country-projects may include actions such as:

- Development of the cotton sector;
- Technical support, especially focused on: adopting varieties resistant to plagues and diseases, soil management integrated plague management, biosecurity programs and training;
- Technology and innovation to modernize cotton cultivation and agriculture;
- Sustainable management of natural resources;
- Strengthening institutional capacities and technical skills;
- Technical cooperation for rural extension services for family farmers;
- Exchange of experiences and best practices in technological matters;
- Competitiveness of the product within its respective productive chains;
- A territorial approach as a strategy to improve cotton production in developing communities;
- Support for food security associated with the inclusion of small rural communities.



More information:
[http://www.fao.org/in-action/
programa-brasil-fao/es/](http://www.fao.org/in-action/programa-brasil-fao/es/)