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Introduction

Overview of the rice value chain in Africa

- Rice plays a vital role as a staple food in African diets, and its consumption has been on the rise due to population growth, increasing incomes, and urbanization.
- Sub-Saharan Africa is facing an alarming increase in hunger, with the number of people experiencing hunger rising from 248 million in 2020 to 261 million in 2021. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the region's food insecurity issue.
- To address these challenges, African countries must prioritize sustainable mechanization, embrace innovative seed technologies, adopt efficient irrigation practices, and leverage technological advancements.
- To effectively tackle these issues, it is imperative to establish and strengthen coordination mechanisms within national rice strategies. This will enable leveraging resources from South-South Cooperation (SSC) providers.

- Rice consumption projected to reach 34.9 million tons by 2025
- 12.6 million to be imported to the tune of US\$ 5.5 billion
- Rice self-sufficiency is important for achieving Zero Hunger



FAO's Role in Rice Production

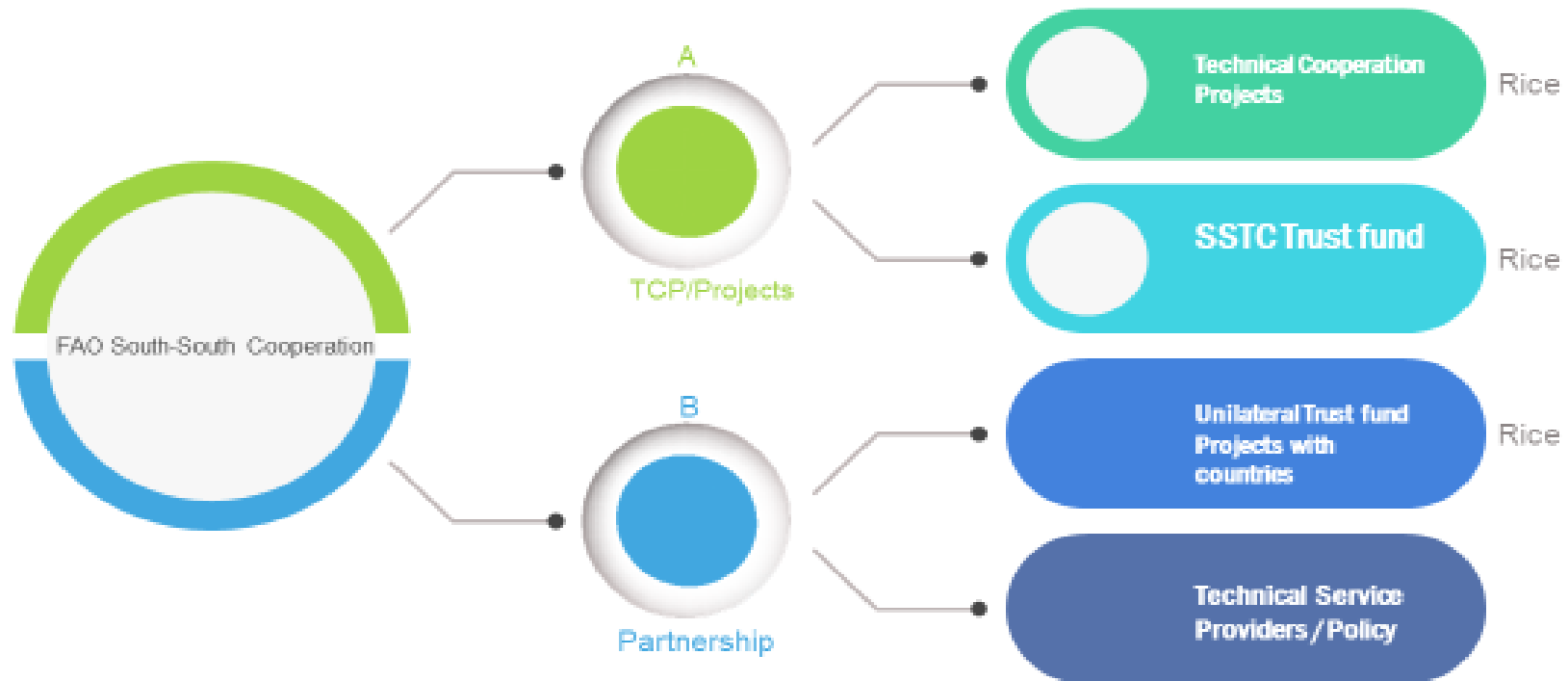
- The need for effective policy intervention & institutional support
- Policy support to increase productivity, access to markets, and income generation.
- Exchange of Experience on Successful Rice Sector Development Policies in Sub-Sahara.
- The role of mechanization in enhancing productivity and efficiency (FAO initiatives to promote mechanization in the rice sector)
- Partnership





FAO Rice Coordination Programme Structure in Africa

Rice Support Programme in FAO



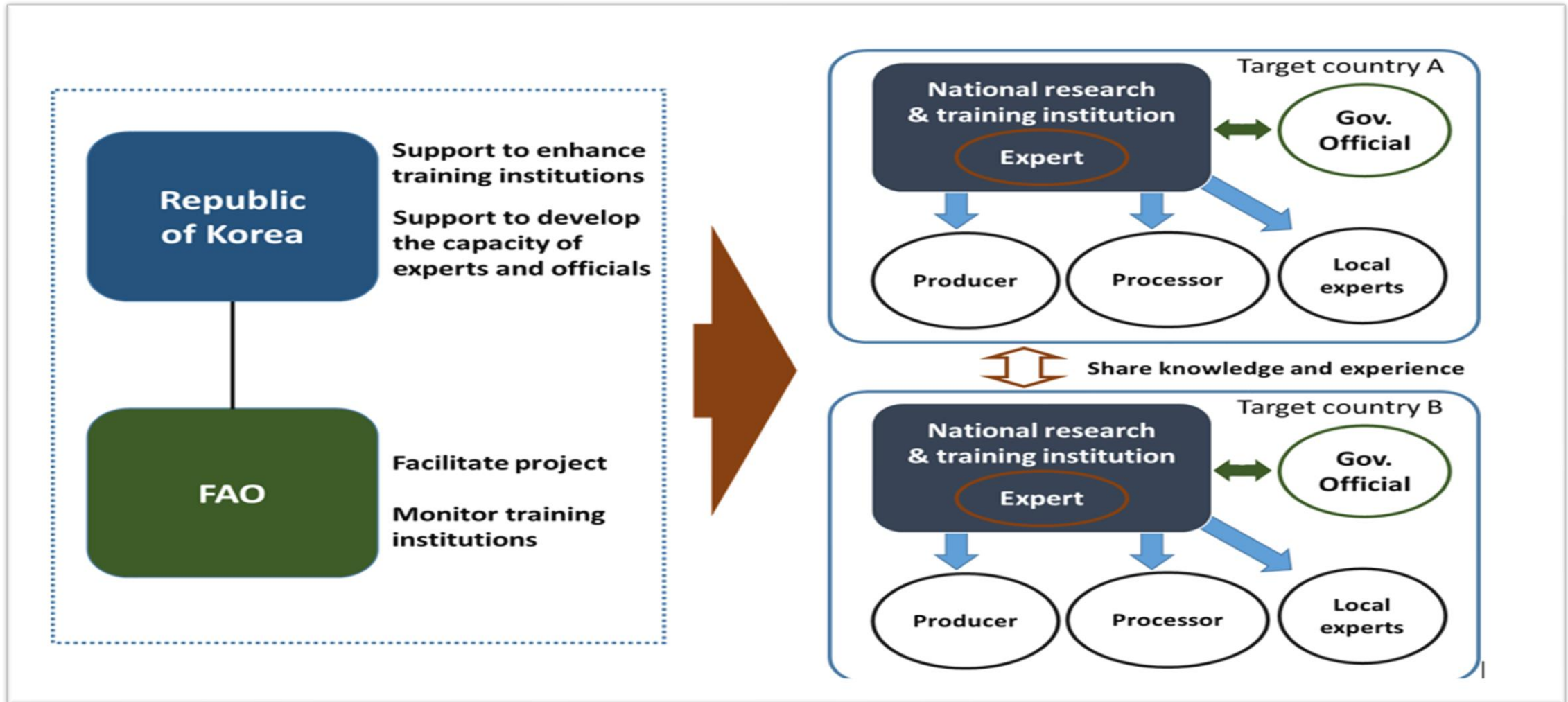


FAO through South-South Cooperation

- The FAO has been a pivotal collaborator in supporting nations towards rice self-reliance via South-South Cooperation, promoting technology transfer, water management, and superior agronomic practices through government investments.
- Over the past ten years, the South-South Cooperation Programme has facilitated numerous regional projects to enhance the rice production value chain.

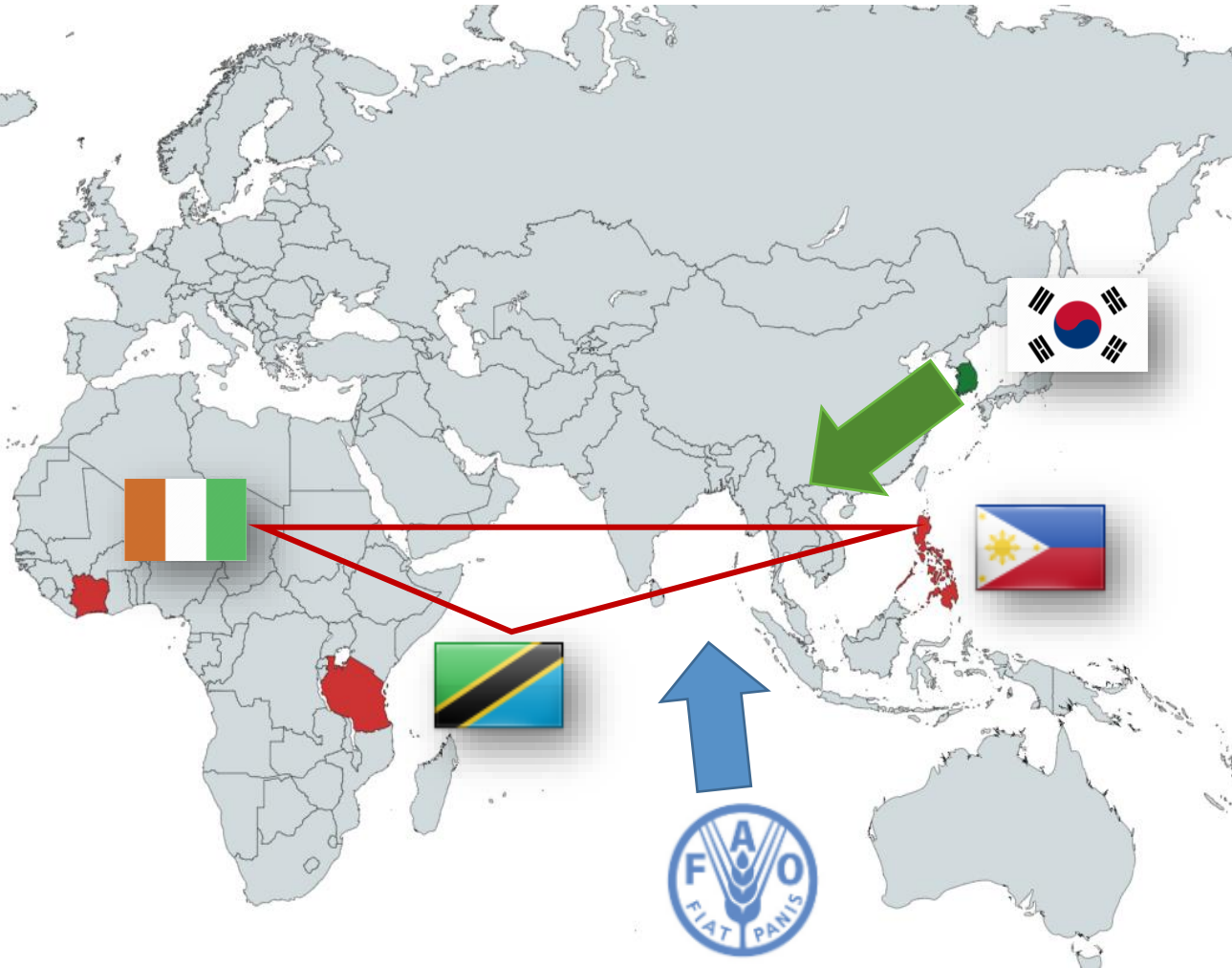


SSTC mechanism at a glance





Project overview



- ❑ **3 Beneficiary/Requesting Partners :**
Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, and Philippines
- ❑ **Resource/pivotal SSTC Partner: ROK - MAFRA**
provide financial contribution & share key policies,
successful experiences as development solutions
- ❑ **Facilitator/Implementation Agency: FAO** facilitate mutual
learning among the countries with capacity development
support from MAFRA and international research institutes
- ❑ **Amended budget: USD 1,631,642**
- ❑ **Amended project timeframe:**
June 2020 – December 2024 (total of 4.5 years)



Update FAO Rice Programme and its impact

- FAO supports member countries, through SSTC, to translate those opportunities into real tangible socio-economic benefits
- FAOSTAT data shows that there has been an increase in rice yields over the last 20 years in these countries
- FAO's rice projects have assisted countries to:
 - Strengthen their seed sector
 - Introduce adequate machinery for land preparation and harvesting
 - Reduce postharvest losses

Examples of Countries supported:

- Cameroon
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Guinea
- Kenya
- Mali
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Tanzania
- Uganda



FAO's Rice Intervention Projects in sub-Saharan Africa/Country level

- Strengthening fisheries and rice cultivation capacities for food security and nutrition improvement (Liberia).
- Capacity Development and Experience Sharing for Rice Value Chains through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)”
- Integrated Landscape Management for zero deforestation coffee and rice value chains (Madagascar)
- China's support for the development of the Rice Technology Park in Uganda
- Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa. FAO has implemented projects in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, and Sierra Leone. In addition, it continues to implement such projects in Tanzania and Zambia
- Validation and dissemination of integrated fish-rice systems through the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) approach.
- Vietnam's collaboration with Nigeria on rice cultivation techniques





New Projects Ideas and Formulation

- Strengthening the Rice Value Chain in Sierra Leone through South-South Cooperation (SL & Vietnam)
- Vietnam's collaboration with Nigeria on rice cultivation techniques
- Technical Assistance on Rice Production Programme through South-South Cooperation with China Cote d' Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, and Senegal





FAO policy and Institutional support

- Through strategic partnership programmes, the FAO supports policy advancements, providing incentives like access to advanced mechanization and quality seeds.
- The FAO aids some CARD member countries in formulating or revise their National Rice Development Strategies (NRDS).
- Trade Policies: FAO's Project on Monitoring of African Agriculture Food policies supports the implementation of tariffs to enhance the competitiveness of locally produced rice in international markets.
- Government Support: Government agencies, like Ministries of Agriculture, often partner with the FAO, providing resources and collaboration for projects such as farmer training in new rice cultivation techniques.
- NGO Involvement: Non-governmental organizations play a key role in the on-the-ground implementation of these projects, offering training, technical aid, and resource distribution, often in partnership with the FAO.





Partnerships

Importance of multi-stakeholder engagement

- Collaborating with governments, NGOs, and private-sector organizations
- By engaging appropriate stakeholders, collaborative initiatives can harness diverse skills, knowledge, and networks, thus enhancing solutions and effectively addressing specific group pressures.
- Collaborating Sub-regional institutions as and when the need arise



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Lessons

Some of the lessons learned include:

- ✓ Prioritization of rice sector development by national governments key to success
- ✓ Inclusive approaches (both multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholders engagements) fundamental
- ✓ A systems approach – not just focusing on production but the entire value chain – will work.
- ✓ Partnerships and collaboration (e.g. SSTC) are instrumental.



