



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 price

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 t

## 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

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 involv