



South-South Cooperation:  
**India-Africa  
Partnerships**  
in Food Security and Capacity-Building

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# FOREWORD



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The reflection and discussion on the growing importance of the India-Africa partnership, and the use of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) as an instrument to promote food security and capacity building were the core of the ‘India-Africa Partnerships for Food Security and Capacity Building’ conference.

The India-Africa partnership is fundamental for global prosperity. The historical ties between the two regions are well-known, but these have expanded over time also to include Western and Central Africa. There is a large Indian diaspora all across the African continent. India has become the largest trading partner of Africa, having allocated significant amounts of resources in the past decades. India is also seeking to enter into new agreements to import commodities and pulses from Africa, which makes the two countries as natural and reinforcing partners in their development pathways.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted to take a further step towards ending poverty; fighting inequalities; tackle climate change and ensuring hunger and malnutrition are not a problem any longer. The thematic focus of the conference – food security and capacity building – of great importance for the global community, was chosen in an effort

to contribute to this important agenda. Around three billion people, i.e. around 40 percent of the total world population, live in rural areas in developing countries and a vast majority of those people derive their income and livelihoods from agriculture. Agriculture, thus, is fundamental to the world and so are the rural areas. This is why it is necessary for the global community to invest in agriculture development for food security and capacity building.

While agriculture has an important role in the achievement of the SDGs, smallholder agriculture holds a special place in the 2030 Agenda. In a majority of developing countries – for example in Africa and Brazil – often more than 70 percent of the food consumed in the entire country is produced by smallholder farmers, which makes their role essential for eliminating hunger, poverty and malnutrition.

SSTC is being increasingly recognised by the development community as a fundamental instrument for promoting sustainable economic development throughout the world and for reaching the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. However, it is to be recognised that SSTC is not an end in itself, but a means to achieving better livelihoods, food security and to promoting capacity building throughout the world.

As a specialised agency of the United Nations and an International Financial Institution, IFAD's mandate is to promote sustainable and inclusive rural transformation, by investing in programmes and projects that support smallholder agricultural and rural development. Since 1978 – when IFAD started its operations – the Fund has invested more than US \$15 billion in projects and programmes in developing countries in all developing regions, and currently has more than 200 ongoing projects globally in around 100 countries.

IFAD's Strategic Framework 2016-2025 recognises SSTC as a central instrument for achieving sustainable rural transformation.

Moreover, in the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (2019-2021 period), SSTC is going to gain even more importance as it has been identified as a privileged implementation modality to, among others, drive youth-led inclusive rural transformation and rural finance and as a tool to boost private sector investment.

Such trends are also reinforced by the adoption of the 'Brasilia Declaration and Action Agenda' during IFAD's International SSTC Conference, held in Brasilia in November 2017. The Brasilia Declaration underlines the increasing importance of SSTC as a key development instrument to achieve the SDGs and includes specific action items that IFAD and others will undertake in the coming years to further leverage on SSTC for promoting sustainable and inclusive rural transformation. SSTC is, therefore, seen as the preferred method to support the Fund to compile, share and adapt financial and commercial solutions and possibly broker new investment deals.

Against this backdrop, IFAD can reaffirm its commitment to strengthen its partnership with India and Africa, leveraging also the potential offered by SSTC. Furthermore, the international community should continue to engage to better address the challenges that rural smallholder farmers across the globe are facing, and give special attention to food security and capacity building, as two areas of great importance for the achievement of the SDGs.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the Observer Research Foundation, the University of Mumbai and the Ministry of External Affairs of India for this excellent report, which highlights the success of an impactful conference, hoping that it will contribute to further stimulate the progress towards the SDGs. ■

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A two-day conference entitled, ‘South-South Cooperation: India-Africa Partnerships in Food Security and Capacity Building’ was organised by ORF in collaboration with the Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai. This conference was generously supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome, and the Economic Diplomacy Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, Rwanda and Tata Chemicals and Rallis India. It was attended by over 50 experts and stakeholders from India, Africa, Europe and North America.

The meeting aimed to further explore and access the potential of India’s ongoing partnerships in capacity building through private and public sector bilateral and trilateral initiatives. The third India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in October 2015 – the largest of its kind – and the subsequent 52<sup>nd</sup> annual conference of the African Development Bank (AfDB) held in Gandhinagar in May 2017, underscore India’s commitment to strengthening people-to-people contacts and government-to-government engagement. India’s development compact with Africa in the field of agriculture is envisioned through four mechanisms:

- i. **Bilateral Cooperation:** Government of India-sponsored activities, such as grant disbursement, and the extension of



concessional Lines of Credits (LoCs) and foreign direct investments channel finances and technologies for the development of agriculture and allied sectors in Africa. India and several African nations have long been cooperating on this front through the sharing of experiences, training programmes, building institutional capacity, providing concessional credit in the agriculture and allied sectors for enhancing inter alia; farming techniques, irrigation, soil quality assessment and improvement and the provision of farm equipment.

- ii. **Trilateral Partnerships:** India is partnering for augmenting food security in Africa through well-targeted trilateral cooperation initiatives. Some of the notable ones include interventions through the ongoing India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Fund, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID)-funded Supporting India's Trade Preference for Africa (SITA) programme.
- iii. **Private Sector Participation:** The Government of India (GoI) encourages the private sector's role and participation in collaborative initiatives across the continent. The GoI does so by formulating export-friendly policies, reciprocated by several countries on the continent. African regimes have created favourable domestic policies to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through the establishment of financial and regulatory frameworks and facilitating ease of doing business. Africa's leaders are cognisant of the fact that foreign investment, if well-harnessed and regulated, can potentially be an important tool for financing poverty reduction and economic development as exemplified by select case studies from Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- iv. **Partnering with Civil Society:** Indian NGOs like the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), are committed to sharing their learnings and transfer models on female empowerment and self-reliance based on proven experiments in rural India to their counterparts across Africa.

We hope that policy recommendations suggested through the document to further strengthen India's development compact in Africa's agriculture and allied industries, will provide insights useful for a range of Indian and African stakeholders. ■

# INTRODUCTION

India has shared healthy ties with continental Africa for centuries. Given their common colonial past and the inspiration provided by India's own struggle for independence to similar historic movements across Africa, many African countries lent independent India a platform for its evolving bilateral relationships in the initial years of global outreach.

At present, this partnership has become all the more significant. Both India and Africa continue to share similar challenges in terms of socio-economic indicators and sustainable and inclusive development. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has displayed its renewed commitment to deepen its proactive engagement and cooperation with Africa. The third India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in October 2015 – the largest of its kind – and the subsequent 52nd annual meeting of the African Development Bank (AfDB) held in Gandhinagar in May 2017, suggest that the India is keen to consolidate the age-old people-to-people contacts with substantial government-to-government engagement.

In line with this approach, ORF launched its Africa-India Growth and Development Forum in 2015. The Forum was woven around three strands:

- i. Sharing development experiences in sectors known to be equally critical for both regions, such as agriculture and food security, energy, and digital inclusion;
- ii. Accelerating growth through rejuvenated and special Afro-Asian models of international development cooperation through Lines of Credit (LoCs), grants, and support for institution building; and
- iii. Discovering ways of integrating and engaging with the new emerging commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), environmental concerns and the new development finance architecture.

Through this broad framework, ORF has been engaging with African themes and delegates in a series of events to shape the agenda and conversations between the two regions. The South-South Cooperation agenda provides fertile ground for the India-Africa partnership to unlock the potential for tremendous growth in both regions as they converge their efforts for change and learn from each other's experiences in tackling shared challenges.

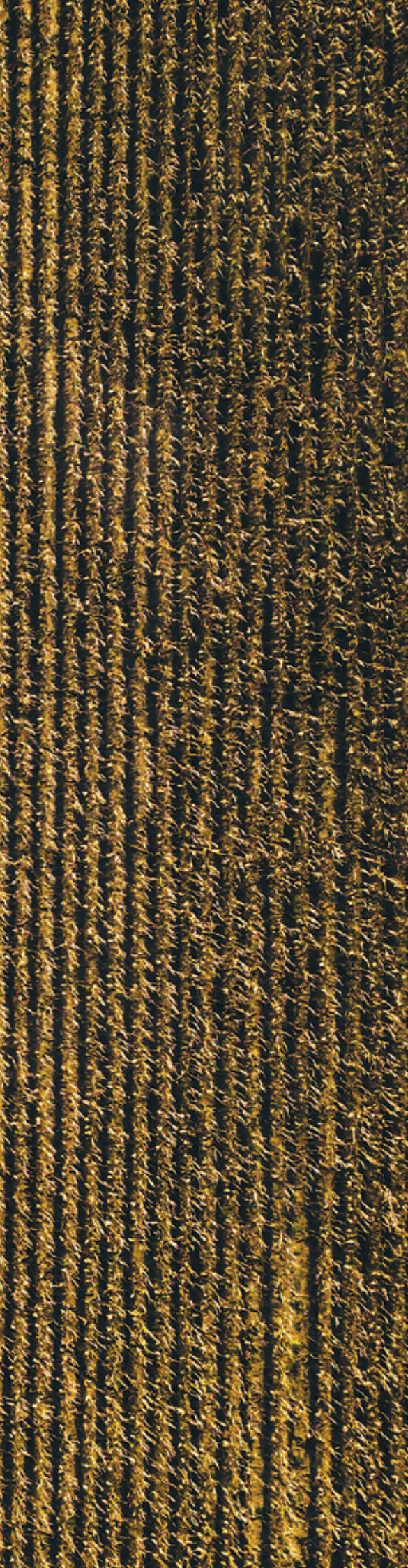
The purpose of the conference was to compile evidence-based case studies from Africa on the contribution of Indian investments in agriculture/allied sectors through the extension of India's development compact (aid, trade, FDI and capacity building initiatives). It also aimed to study the role of Indian FDI for capacity-building and value addition to the agricultural sector on the continent through both government-led as well as private sector-driven initiatives. It explored the potential for export of key agricultural commodities from countries in Africa to India through the Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) programme launched and promoted at the India-Africa Forum Summit.

We believe that some of the findings/outcomes of this conference will provide valuable policy inputs on India-Africa trade and capacity building initiatives in the critical agriculture and allied sectors for building food security, further strengthening India's ongoing initiatives in this area in Africa. It makes broad recommendations to policymakers in both India and Africa to further strengthen their mutual cooperation through Government to Government (G2G), Business to Business (B2B), Business to Consumer (B2C) and People to People (P2P) ties. Focusing on the immense potential of the contribution of women in both regions, this report also makes a strong case for an innovative approach towards capacity-building through unique and high-impact Women to Women (W2W) cooperation in the area of agriculture and a multitude of other allied sectors.

ORF and the Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai, are grateful to the Economic Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), GoI, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome, for partnering with us. Last but not the least, we are thankful to our sponsors Tata Chemicals, Rallis India Ltd. and RwandAir. Their support lent a multi-stakeholder dimension to this conference, making it a truly collaborative and multi-stakeholder effort.

We hope that this report, which provides a broad summary of the ideas and opinions exchanged by academics, practitioners and policymakers from both India and Africa, will inform the long-term agenda for mutual cooperation in the agriculture and allied sectors. Together, India and Africa can not only learn from each other, but also contribute to Africa's and global food security. ■





# SOUTH- SOUTH COOPERATION: INDIA-AFRICA PARTNERSHIPS IN AGRICULTURE

## India's civilisational wisdom about food and food security

Indian culture has elevated food the status of Brahma, the creator of the universe. We say “*Anna Brahma*” – the whole universe originates from and merges into Brahma. Similarly, all living beings originate from and merge into food. India's ancient spiritual scriptures – the Vedas, Upanishads and other ancient texts have extolled “*annabāhulya*” – which means abundance of food and availability of food to every living being. Our culture teaches us that “*anna dāna*” is “*mahādāna*” – i.e. feeding others, especially the poor and hungry, is an act of a very high religious order. In our ancient spiritual texts, there is a wise saying: “*Annaṃ bahu kurvīta. Annam nanindyāttad vratam,*” which means let us create and share

food. Let all hungry stomachs be filled with food. Let us not waste food. Doing so is being truthful and just to food. Food is security for life. Food is justice. Food is fundamental to everything the world aims to achieve under the banner of inclusive and sustainable development.<sup>1</sup>

### India-Africa development cooperation for food security

For India and Africa, food security is high on the list of their development priorities. Together they are home to the largest number of the world's poor and undernourished. Despite posting high rates of economic growth in recent years, both India and Africa continue to suffer hunger and undernutrition on a massive scale. Significant proportions of their populations continue to live in a state of abject poverty – bereft of even some of the most basic amenities such as water and sanitation. This scourge also manifests in many other problems created by food insecurity – morbidity, mortality, migrations and conflicts and so on – in both regions. If India and Africa can together overcome these challenges, they will collectively create a sustainable future for the world. Food security, according to the eminent economist M. S. Swaminathan, should address the 3As: availability, accessibility and affordability.<sup>2</sup>

The last decade, especially, has seen a marked increase in cooperation between India and Africa in the area of food security, which has become a predominant theme in all the three India-Africa Forum Summits that have taken place in succession in 2008, 2011, and 2015. In the second India-Africa Forum Summit in 2011, both regions committed to joint efforts for increasing agricultural output and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of reducing poverty by 50 percent – by 2015, and thereby halve the number of people of India and Africa who suffer from hunger and undernutrition.

The two geographies reaffirmed their commitment in the third India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi in October 2015. They made a pledge to improve farming

techniques through affordable technology, use of improved crop varieties and irrigation facilities, and promoting investments in agri-business and food processing industries.

### Background: Agriculture in Africa

The agricultural sector employs about 65 percent of Africa's population and accounts for about 30 percent of the continental GDP. There are country-specific variations; Burundi has about 90 percent of its population engaged in agriculture, while the sector contributes over 60 percent to the GDP in Sierra Leone and much less to countries with more diversified economies. The more diversified the economy, the less is the contribution of agriculture, which is largely true in the case of India too.

The continent imports food worth US \$35 billion, which is estimated to double over the years. The continent's population is rising at three percent per annum and, therefore, the increase in food production by 60 percent is an urgent imperative. However, given the right impetus, Africa has the potential to be the 'food basket' of the world. Africa can develop food security not only for its own population, but for the entire world.

It is estimated that Africa has about 60 to 80 percent of the globally-available unexploited arable land. Yet, the continent is food-deficient because the potential of African agriculture has been underutilised or is in a state of "accelerated degradation".<sup>3</sup> Even when arable land is cultivated, hurdles such as limited irrigation, small-size farms, lack of fertilisers and modern agro-technology, climate stress etc. have kept productivity low. Rising populations (estimated to double from 1.2 billion to 2.5 billion by 2050<sup>4</sup>) and declining food production are a cause of concern.

Africa has 54 countries, each having its unique needs and distinct approaches to development. Table 1 ranks some of them in terms of the largest value addition of agriculture to national GDP.

**TABLE 1 – AGRICULTURE AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP**

| Country                  | Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) 2016 | Industry, value added (% of GDP) 2016 <sup>5</sup> | Services etc., value added (% of GDP) 2016 | Agricultural land (% of land area) <sup>6</sup> 2014 | Government agriculture expenditure (% of total expenditure) <sup>7</sup> |      |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|------|
| Sierra Leone             | 61.4                                     | 6  | 33   | 54.7   | 6.0  | 2012 |
| Chad                     | 50.1                                     | 15   | 35   | 39.7   | 5.0  | 2007 |
| Guinea-Bissau            | 44*                                      | 14*  | 43*  | 58   | 1.0  | 2005 |
| Central African Republic | 42.9                                     | 16   | 41   | 8.2  | 4.0  | 2013 |
| Togo                     | 41.3                                     | 17   | 42   | 70.2   | 5.0  | 2015 |
| Burundi                  | 39.8                                     | 17   | 44   | 79.2   | 3.0  | 2014 |
| Sudan                    | 39.5                                     | 3  | 58   | 28.7   | 4.0  | 2010 |
| Ethiopia                 | 37.2                                     | 21   | 41   | 36.3   | 8.0  | 2014 |
| Kenya                    | 35.6                                     | 19   | 45   | 48.5   | 3.0  | 2015 |
| Liberia                  | 34.2                                     | 13   | 53   | 28   | 9.0  | 2013 |
| Burkina Faso             | 33                                       | 22   | 45   | 44.2   | 9.0  | 2015 |
| Rwanda                   | 32                                       | 18   | 51   | 73.3   | 8.0  | 2013 |
| Tanzania                 | 31.1                                     | 27   | 42   | 44.8   | 4.0  | 2014 |
| Malawi                   | 28.3                                     | 16   | 56   | 61.4   | 19.0   | 2015 |

Source: World Bank 2016; Resakss, 2018

At the 2nd Ordinary Assembly of the African Union in July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique, African Heads of State endorsed the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security. They pledged to set aside 10 percent of their national budget allocation to agricultural development; though only a few countries have met the Maputo Declaration targets. Countries like Guinea-Bissau and Central African Republic spend just one to four percent of their national budgets on agriculture, while Malawi is the highest spender at 19 percent (For details please see Table 1). The agriculture segment provides employment to the bulk of the population. But

the underutilisation of land and underfunding of agriculture are the some of the major causes of laggard performance of agriculture in Africa.

In nearly all African countries, more women than men are employed in agriculture, especially in smallholder farming (Table 2). Thus, development in agriculture in Africa will also empower African women and contribute directly towards alleviating poverty on the continent. Conversely, women empowerment will lead to the development of the agriculture sector and, therefore, lead to poverty alleviation.

TABLE 2 – SECTOR-WISE EMPLOYMENT CONTRIBUTION

| Country                        | Agriculture<br>(% employment) 2016 <sup>s</sup> |        |       | Industry<br>(%<br>employment)<br>2016 | Services<br>(%<br>employment)<br>2016 <sup>o</sup> | Agriculture,<br>value added<br>(% of GDP)<br>2016 |
|--------------------------------|---|--------|-------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
|                                | Male  | Female | Total |                                       |  |   |
| Burundi                        | 86.2  | 95.8   | 91.1  | 2.6                                   | 6.3  | 39.8  |
| Burkina Faso                   | 77.5  | 82.8   | 80    | 4.9                                   | 15.1   | 33  |
| Chad                           | 61.2  | 82.1   | 76.6  | 2                                     | 21.4   | 50.1  |
| Rwanda                         | 61.2  | 86.7   | 75    | 7.2                                   | 17.8   | 32  |
| Mozambique                     | 63.3  | 85.3   | 75    | 4.1                                   | 21   | 24.8  |
| Madagascar                     | 72.1  | 76.4   | 74.2  | 9.4                                   | 16.5   | 24.4  |
| Central<br>African<br>Republic | 63.3  | 82.4   | 72.2  | 4.3                                   | 23.4   | 42.9  |
| Uganda                         | 68.3  | 76     | 72.1  | 7.4                                   | 20.5   | 24.4  |
| Ethiopia                       | 77.9  | 61.7   | 70.5  | 8.4                                   | 21.1   | 37.2  |
| Malawi                         | 59  | 80.6   | 69.9  | 4.8                                   | 25.4   | 28.3  |
| Sierra Leone                   | 65  | 71     | 68    | 6.5                                   | 25.5   | 61.4  |
| Tanzania                       | 64.3  | 69.8   | 66.9  | 6.4                                   | 26.7   | 31.1  |
| Togo                           | 54.2  | 70.5   | 62.5  | 8.7                                   | 28.7   | 41.3  |
| Kenya                          | 50.9  | 75     | 62.5  | 8.7                                   | 28.7   | 41.3  |
| Guinea-<br>Bissau              | 49.4  | 72.3   | 60.1  | 5.8                                   | 34.1   | 44*   |

\*Data from 2013; Source: (ILOSTAT, November 2016)

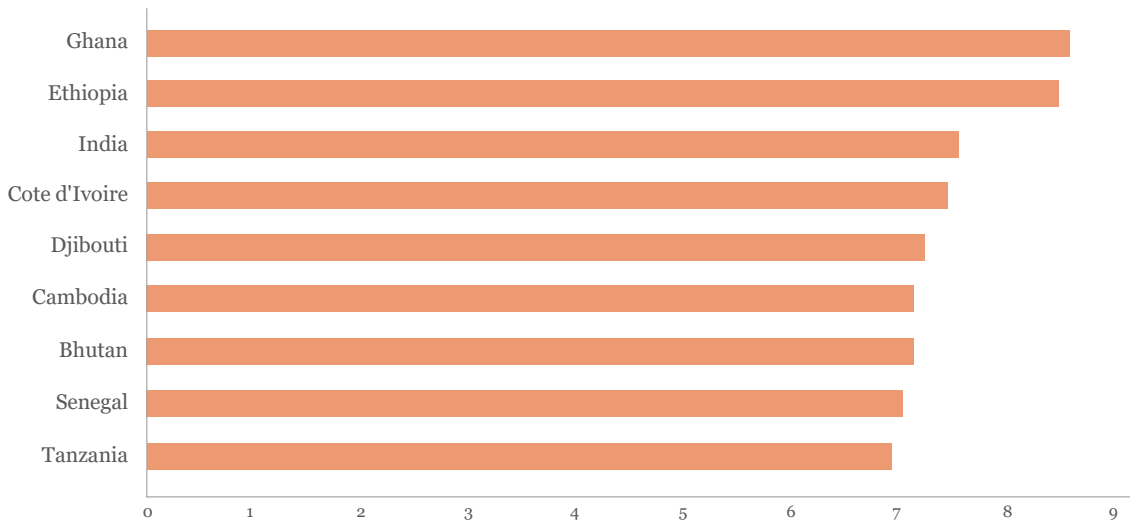
In terms of percentage of the population employed in agriculture, Burundi tops the list with 91 percent, followed by Burkina Faso (80 percent), Chad (76.6 percent), Rwanda and Mozambique (both 75 percent). This correlates with the value that agriculture adds to the national GDP. Agriculture contributes to 50 percent of the GDP of Chad, while 61 percent of Sierra Leone's national GDP is from agriculture. The contribution of agriculture to GDP is disaggregated and is divided between the service sector and industry.

The level of poverty is high in several countries on the continent. Therefore, there is an urgent need to infuse massive funding to develop agriculture and alleviate poverty, especially for the improvement of the smallholder cultivation done mainly by women. Most African countries need investments to alleviate poverty and reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and especially the MGDs 1 and 2.

Further, the global population is projected to rise from the current 7.5 billion to about ten billion in 2050<sup>10</sup>. This is like adding an extra India, rather



**TOP-10 FASTEST GROWING AFRICAN ECONOMIES IN 2018  
REAL GDP GROWTH AT MARKET PRICES**



Source: World Bank 2018, compiled by Quartz Africa, 2018<sup>12</sup>

much more than an extra India, to the world's population in the next three decades. Including the one billion people who are suffering starvation today, the additional population over the next 30 years can make up two more Indias. If the agricultural productivity in Africa is augmented through science-based international collaborations, such as with India and other partners, the continent can unleash its untapped potential. The present phase of increased India-Africa engagement can potentially consolidate on the gains achieved and work ahead towards mutually beneficial results.

Africa's political and economic resurgence has been remarkable. The continent has witnessed a notable transformation both in political and economic spheres. More and more countries have seen the end of civil wars and dictatorships and witnessed a peaceful transition to liberal democracy and multiparty polity. Peaceful democratic elections, too, have become a regular feature in many African countries in the past 15-odd years, lending a semblance of stability to the continent as a whole. On the economic front, the continent's resurgence has been even more noteworthy. The average growth of Sub-Saharan Africa in the first decade of the new millennium was more than five percent<sup>11</sup>. Several

countries continue to register spectacular growth rates. Most top performers in 2018 are non-commodity intensive economies. Ghana (8.3 percent), Ethiopia (8.2 percent), Côte d'Ivoire (7.2 percent), Djibouti (7 percent), Senegal (6.9 percent) and Tanzania (6.8 percent). Africa has six of the world's ten fastest-growing economies this year, according to the World Bank.

The rise of Africa in the past couple of decades has attracted many global players to the continent. There is a great interest among the developed countries as well as emerging powers to engage with Africa. Against this backdrop, India's combination of democracy and development in agriculture – especially its ability to achieve food security – has spurred several African countries to collaborate with India. In fact, India's engagement with Africa in the agriculture sector has historical antecedents from the late 19th century through the trajectories of migration in the colonial period.<sup>13</sup> ■





## CHAPTER 1

# INDIAN DIASPORA AND AGRICULTURE IN EAST AFRICA: A HISTORICAL CONTEXT<sup>14</sup>

10

There are vignettes from history about India's engagement in the agriculture sector, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. From the earliest times, the east coast of Africa has been involved in the network of Indian Ocean trade. Indian merchants have a long history of commercial intercourse, including in agriculture, with the East African coast.

The construction of the Uganda Railway (1896-1901), also known as the Uganda-Kenya Railway, to link Mombasa and the shores of Lake Victoria and the colonial policies that promoted emigration is one of the earliest records of

India-Africa relationship. When the railway line reached its final destination in Kisumu in Kenya in 1901, 12 Indian settlers with families had leased 65 acres of land along the railway line at Kibos, a settlement in Kenya's Nyanza Province. These farmers mainly produced European vegetables, rice, cotton, sesame etc., apart from owning 12 ploughs and 20 heads of cattle. They also cultivated sisal and cotton in Kilosa, Morogoro and around river Kivu in Tanzania.

Indian investors in Bombay and Mombasa also purchased land sold by the Germans before they left Tanganyika in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Subsequent to the British conquest of German East Africa in 1916, some of the British administrators understood that simpler methods employed by Indian farmers and blacksmiths would be more readily understood by African agriculturists, as compared to the alien complexities of European practices – a fact that remains valid till date. (Kalaine 1998, p. 26)<sup>15</sup>.

*The principal crops cultivated were rubber, sisal and cotton. Rubber was a failure ... sisal and cotton are excellent ... and the natives grew sorghum ... The report states that the soil was rich and fertile in the Ruvu and Mkata valleys and that large areas were unoccupied and covered with dense bush and grass.* (Benjamin Robertson, Maharashtra State Archives 1921, Vol. no. 2477)<sup>16</sup>.

Cotton crops were particularly encouraged in the inter-war years under pressure from the British Cotton Growing Association, in order to provide a constant supply of raw material to the British textile industry. After the successes with the cotton crop, the Protectorate government threw all its weight behind cotton production and invited Vithaldas Madhvani and his nephew Muljibhai Prabhudas Madhvani and Nanji Kalidas Mehta from the Lohana community in Kutch to contribute to the cotton and sugar industry in Uganda along the shores of Lake Victoria. They developed the cotton and sugar sector.

In his autobiography, *Dreams Half Expressed*, (1966), Nanjibhai Mehta notes: *Cotton seeds and vegetable seeds were dispatched from India in 1908 and planted in the backyard of the shop in Kamuli ... as the land along the Nile was fertile and yielded good cotton crops. He set up a ginnery named Uganda Company Ltd in 1909 as well as the first sugar cane factory in Lugazi* (p. 99).<sup>17</sup>

Mehta clearly had an appetite for risk and had an astute businessman's foresight. He explains: *I had bought this land at twenty rupees per acre in those days in mid 1920s. When land in Africa was thus cheaply available, I wrote to several wealthy Princes and merchant magnates of India to invest Indian capital in East Africa and earn more... They were... far away from this land of investment that they could hardly keep an eye upon this business both in India and Africa...* (1966, pp. 169-170).

But land, in those times, was as emotive an issue as it is today. NgũgĩwaThiong'o, Kenya's great novelist and playwright, in his book *Weep Not Child* (1964), the first East African Novel written in English, wrote about the dispossession of indigenous people from their ancestral lands subsequent to the Mau Mau rebellion (1952-1960).

Colonial records show that Indian expertise was sought in the agriculture sector. The British administration used Indian farmers to carry out some of the agricultural experiments especially in vegetables and fruits, a trial which European settlers did not dare venture into. As a consequence, these experiments in agriculture flourished in East Africa. The British wanted good Indian farmers who would produce for export of food stuffs, cotton and other commercial products (Sheriff 1987, pp. 20-21)<sup>18</sup>.

As per records, D. H. Wilson, the Agent General of Emigrations at the office of the British Protectorates in Africa (administrated by the Foreign office at Apollo Street, Bombay) refers to the dispatch of an expert from the Indian

sub-continent to assist with rice cultivation in Uganda, and his alleged ill treatment, as well as to the agitation by Indians about the way they were treated. This account was originally published in the Indian newspaper Kesari. The extract reads in part: *...A rice cultivator named Ravjee Narayan from Karachi (in then undivided India) was engaged and sent up under special agreement of His Excellency the Governor of Uganda on 8 April 1909. The man was entertained ... he was an expert and capable of instructing the Natives of Uganda in the cultivation of both Swamp and Mountain Rice. His passage to Entebbe and an advance all paid by this office ...* (Maharashtra State Archives 1909, No. 95)<sup>19</sup>.

To overcome the shortage of labour, about 2,000 Mahers (people of Maher caste in Saurashtra, Gujarat) and others were hired from the Baroda region of Gujarat to work on the plantations. “With their hard labour and supervision, agriculture prospered in Uganda and elsewhere. (Mehta 1966, p. 319).

By 1907, cotton was the major export of Uganda. Some Indian capitalists established cotton mills in Kampala and Jinja where they produced cloth and sold them locally. The first power ginnery was erected by Alidina Visram at

Entebbe, Uganda, in 1910.

Cotton and sugarcane were the principal crops grown along the shores of Lake Victoria. During the war years (1914-18), the prices of cotton rose and profits were high. The sugarcane grown locally resulted in import substitution. The number of ginneries expanded from 19 in 1916 to 155 in 1925, of which, more than 100 were owned by Asians. Some of these belonged to large Indian firms with considerable assets in India itself, like Narandas Rajaram & Co. Several others belonged to small operators who probably made money as middlemen (Brett 1973, pp. 241-242).

These facts also highlight the role of South Asian capital in the economic development of East Africa. In the 1920s, industrial magnates like Sir Homi Mehta, Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, Sheth Ambalal Sarabhai, and Sheth Mafatlal Gangalbhai brought capital from India to East Africa and founded ginneries through local partnerships (Mehta 1966, p. 140).

India’s efforts at capacity building in Africa have deep-rooted historical antecedents. Capacity building initiatives between India and Africa have been traversed by the trajectories of migration, the Indian diaspora and historical trading relations. ■





## CHAPTER 2

# CAPACITY- BUILDING THROUGH TRILATERAL COOPERATION

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### Trilateral Cooperation

In modern times, India is partnering for augmenting food security in Africa through trilateral cooperation initiatives. Some of the notable ones include interventions through trilateral projects implemented through the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Fund, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID)-funded Supporting India's Trade Preference for Africa (SITA) programme.

**The IBSA Fund:** This fund is a cooperation partnership among three developing countries and constitutes a pioneering initiative to implement South-South cooperation agenda for the benefit of other southern countries in partnership with the UN system. It became operational in 2006. Its main objective is to identify replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to interested developing countries as examples of best practices in their fight against alleviating poverty and hunger. Projects undertaken in 15 partner states, mostly the least developed countries in Africa, managed to raise US \$33 million in contributions and have impacted the lives of millions of Africans.<sup>20</sup>

**USAID:** The USAID, an independent body of the US federal government, administers civilian foreign aid and development assistance. It has partnered with India to address critical development challenges through its three major programmes: i) Feed the Future, ii) Global Health and iii) Global Climate Change initiative. These initiatives champion innovation and entrepreneurship to benefit vulnerable populations by facilitating private sector partnerships to foster in-country sustainability and ownership. The focal sectors have been health, urban water and sanitation, food security, climate change, early grade reading, and women's empowerment. Innovations supported through USAID partnerships with Indian organisations include low-cost tractors, an organic growth stimulant made out of seaweed and a solar dehydrator.<sup>21</sup>

**DFID-SITA:** This initiative was designed (2014-2020) and is being implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC), Geneva, in five East African countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania, for promoting different value chains. Through the SITA-funded projects, trade and investment linkages and knowledge transfers have been promoted between India and Africa. Indian surplus capital has been invested through ITC's small and medium agricultural schemes. Technology from India is shared with the target countries

in East Africa. SITA addresses trade priorities of the beneficiary countries so that they can achieve sustainable development by increasing and diversifying exports to India and other destinations and thus creating jobs and income opportunities in the domestic contexts.

ITC has been facilitating B2B projects, thereby stimulating people-to-people (P2P) connections. These efforts have made a difference to the lives of African SME exporters and Indian investors. ITC has so far been able to facilitate approximately US \$71 million worth of investments from India into five East African countries, 43 percent of which, is invested in the agricultural sector. Investments worth US \$23 million has been realised in Rwanda in the chillies sector. Capacity building work is being carried out directly with the farmers in the select five countries. Training and capacity building schemes are focused on good agriculture practices.

SITA is a market-driven project with an existing pool of buyers. The project has already realised about US \$26 million worth of trade, particularly in the areas of pulses, sunflower and spices. Work of the initiative is gender inclusive and has a platform for women entrepreneurs, called *Mitreeki* in Swahili, which means friendship in Sanskrit. Through this a platform, over 200 women entrepreneurs are being supported.

### Challenges to Trilateral Cooperation

Asymmetries between India and Africa are one of the biggest hindrances faced by ventures such as these. Efforts are being made to overcome the challenges by improved access to market information such as through translatability between African and Indian languages, to enable farmers of both the regions to communicate better as well as through the use of mobile phone applications. These apps give up-to-date information about agricultural products and their prices, among others. Second, there is an urgent need to facilitate partnerships between India and East Africa at institutional levels to make these engagements sustainable. ITC has



created an India-East Africa help desk that provides inter alia, information on customs duties and market access requirements. It ran a pilot project in Rwanda, and an Indian company, A. K. Flavours & Aromatics, was invited to do the trials in chillies in Rwanda. Training in processing chillies was successful and first orders for chilli oil have been placed for exports to Belgium and the USA.

Likewise, the sunflower industry is very important for Tanzania and Uganda. Here, SITA has linked the sunflower producers to Solvent Extractors Associations in India. There have been significant exchanges between these two countries and India, and the two are partnering for the extraction of sunflower oil.<sup>22</sup>

### Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research Organisations

India is also working with international organisations such as the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) to disseminate the knowledge of agricultural science to benefit developing countries, primarily aimed at creating and augmenting various capacity building initiatives in Africa. Both ICRISAT and ILRI are parts of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a strategic alliance of countries, international and regional organisations and private foundations established in 1971.

**International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT):** Retention of youth in agriculture is Africa's primary challenge. Agriculture is considered an economically unviable sector, due to factors such as water scarcity, soil degradation, desertification and climate change. ICRISAT, based in Hyderabad, India, works with its partner organisations in Africa. It specialises in crops which grow in very poor soil, high temperatures and require very less water – Sorghum, Pearl Millet, Finger Millet, and three legumes varieties viz. Groundnut, Chickpea, and Pigeon-pea.

It primarily works on two aspects in Africa: i) crop improvement and ii) developing agribusiness. The focus is on improving grain yield as well as high fodder yield. It also focuses on building tolerance to biotics (pests and diseases), which attack the crops and abiotic stresses, drought, heat, salinity and high temperatures.

Due to climate change, the growing season is becoming shorter and, therefore, hybrids that can grow in shorter time spans are being developed. Labour-saving is another crucial aspect mainly due to the youth moving away from agriculture. This has also led to the growing importance of mechanisation in both India and Africa, creating the requirement for developing crops that are amenable to harvesting by machines while preserving yield and fodder quality. When farmers grow such hybrid varieties, they find a thriving ready market driven by the high commercial demand. Similarly, bio-fortification techniques can be used to produce varieties with higher nutritional content and low cooking time. ICRISAT, so far, has released 469 hybrids and varieties across 36 African countries.

Africa has a precedent of weak, distant, uncoordinated seed industries. ICRISAT thus facilitated the creation of a robust seed industry in Malawi – which resulted in a ten-fold increase in groundnut seed production. It also promoted pigeon-pea production in southern and eastern Africa – to a point where Africa is an exporter of pulses back to India. ICRISAT also established 15 large-scale *dal* (pulse) processing units – helping farmers to capture more value rather than selling raw grains, which does not fetch a high value. Yet another agronomic intervention ICRISAT has made is through fertiliser micro-dosing. Since farmers in Africa suffer from a resource crunch that prevents them from purchasing large quantities of fertiliser, ICRISAT's micro-dosing technique, which needs minimal fertiliser input, results in cost saving. As agreed at the India-Africa Forum Summits II and III, participants from 19 African countries are undergoing training at the ICRISAT campus in Hyderabad.<sup>23</sup>

**International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI):** India is adding value to ruminant value chains under two successful projects:

- i. I-M Goats, and
- ii. Milk I-T.

The I-M (India-Mozambique) Goats project is jointly implemented by ILRI, India's BAIF Development Research Foundation and CARE International. It is funded by the European Commission through financial assistance from IFAD. The second programme, the Milk I-T (India-Tanzania), is meant for adding value chains to the business through the successful model of Amul and other milk cooperatives in

India. The project is coordinated by ILRI with the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) acting as a major partner. Activities in each of the two target countries are coordinated by a local country coordinator. In India, local coordination is the responsibility of ILRI, while in Tanzania, CIAT is providing local coordination. ILRI's key message is 'better lives through livestock'. ILRI strategy works on science-based practices with the focus on better lives with better care for livestock, environment and ecosystems.<sup>24</sup> ■









## CHAPTER 3

# THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN AGRICULTURE: CASE STUDIES

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**T**he conducive policy environment facilitated by the Government of India has encouraged the private sector's role and their participation in collaborative initiatives across Africa has grown. This has been reciprocated in equal measure by several countries on the continent. They have created domestic policies to attract FDI by setting up financial and regulatory frameworks and facilitating ease of doing business for foreign investors and companies. Africa's leadership has also realised that foreign investment, if regulated well, is an important tool for financing poverty reduction and economic development.

## Attracting FDI in Agriculture

**Rwanda:** Agriculture is the backbone of Rwanda's economy. The Rwandan leadership has focused on investment promotion because they see foreign investment as an important tool for poverty reduction and economic development of the country. Towards this end, Rwanda has made a number of efforts to ensure ease of doing business and facilitate new investors in the country by simplifying procedures and regulations. Some of these measures include:

- Introduction of the Investment Promotion Law in 2015 that provides incentives in manufacturing, agro-processing and raw products transformation.
- Establishment of an online gateway for making applications for investment certificates which is a key enabler for the business setup in the country.
- Guaranteed completion of company registration process within six hours of the filing of application.
- Abolition of corporate income tax for companies that want to relocate their headquarters in the country.
- Exemption of capital gains tax and a seven-year corporate income tax holiday for live projects including manufacturing and agro-processing.
- Facilitating repatriation of capital and assets through the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), a one-stop centre which provides a range of services related to permits, visas and other regulatory requirements.
- Simplification of visa process and facilitating visa-on-arrival. For India, specifically, Rwanda has an agreement that has come into force on 25 December 2017, which allows free access to the country to diplomatic and official passport holders.

Such determined efforts of the government have reflected in Rwanda's steady and impressive rise in the global ease of doing business indices. Rwanda has been ranked among the best countries for ease of doing business for the

past 15 years, attracting a significant number of foreign investors. The year 2017 saw 62.26 percent foreign direct investment in Rwanda against 28.15 percent of national investment in the country's economy.

The country's agricultural sector is regulated by the National Agriculture Policy. It also has several conducive policies embedded in conventions and protocols such as the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs) and the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), the government's medium-term strategy for economic growth, poverty reduction and human development. These measures, which have been enabled under the country's Vision 2020 plan (now expanded up to 2050), have boosted internal prospects to achieve economic development.<sup>25</sup>

Rwanda practices conventional agriculture for domestic consumption, exports and agro-processing as well as floriculture. Rwanda has several Indian firms in the country engaged in agro-processing. Of the US \$65 million worth of investment in the country, a large percentage is invested in agro-processing. The past two decades have seen an exponential rise in agriculture-based investments in Rwanda. Some of the Indian agricultural and agro-processing companies in Rwanda are, the Global Beverages, the Kabuye Sugar Works, and Sulphur Rwanda – all established in 2001. The latter has now diversified into jam processing, producing a special jam called confiture. The East African Food & Beverages Ltd., the Nyagatare Agro Venture (in rice production), the Alpha Choice Rwanda Ltd. were set up in 2012; the Voluntary Agricon Ltd. established in 2013, and the SBTC Trading and Construction was set up in 2014, which, too, has diversified into agro-processing. The Virunga Biotech Ltd. and the Rugawano Tea Company Pvt. Ltd. were set up in December 2017. Rwanda is strategically located and surrounded by countries which offer access to ample regional market opportunities.<sup>26</sup>

**The Democratic Republic of Congo:** The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is Africa's second-largest country in terms of size (2.3 million square kilometers) and fourth-largest in terms of population (80 million). The southernmost country in Central Africa is known for its rich resources; minerals such as diamonds, cobalt and gold ore. The country has 60 percent of the world's cobalt reserves and the cobalt used in all the mobile phones globally comes from Congo. In addition, the country has 80 million hectares of uncultivated arable land. The Congo River, the second biggest river in the world after the Amazon, flows through the country. Given its geographical position on the equator, the DRC temperatures range between 25-32 degrees Celsius round the year and receive moderate rainfall for eight months that enables up to four crop-yields per year.

The DRC is surrounded by nine countries – Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Central African Republic, Angola, Republic of Congo, Zambia and Tanzania and South Sudan – and has immediate access to these neighbouring markets. Though almost entirely landlocked, it has a very small coastline of about 40 km.

Agriculture in the country is mainly in the hands of smallholder farmers and for subsistence-farmers who produce food for their own families. The country also grows a few cash crops. Cassava is the most widely-grown crop along with plantains and maize. In some regions, groundnuts and rice are also grown. Cash crops include tobacco, coffee, sugar cane, cocoa, rubber and palm. A wide range of fruits are grown across the country. These include mangoes, oranges, mangosteens (kokum), guavas, papaya, avocados and bananas. Agriculture contributes up to 40 percent to the national GDP. Access to irrigation facilities is one of the many hurdles that the agriculture sector faces. Of all the available land, only 10 percent is being cultivated. Since enough food is not grown locally to meet the domestic demand, the DRC depends heavily on imports.

With rising food prices on the global market, it is difficult for families to afford imported food.

Like its counterparts on the continent, the DRC has initiated several reforms to create an enabling environment for foreign investors over the past decades. The National Investment Promotion Institution (NIPI) is DRC's one-window clearance and one-stop shop for all foreign investors. The NIPI helps investors with completing the formalities, paperwork and required permissions within two days of the company making its initial application.

The country's legal framework is supported with an Agriculture Code which guides investors about the processes and regulations about how to invest in the DRC and what are the incentives that the country offers to the investors. Further, investments in agriculture are secured through the legal and policy frameworks such as the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) signed between DRC and India. This gives the opportunity for potential investors to be assured that their investments will be protected under the BIPPA and also outlines parameters of their social responsibilities.

DRC is partnering with countries like India to effectively utilise its abundant natural resources such as land and water. "We have resources and you have the technology and the know-how. India has great opportunity to help DRC to help tap its 90 percent of fertile and arable, but uncultivated land. Congo can benefit greatly from India's experience and its farm technology".<sup>27</sup>

The growth prospects for India's FDI into Africa have risen steadily over the years due to broad-based facilitation provided by various other African countries.

**Mozambique:** Frontier Growth Advisors, and Indian NGO, has been working to boost yields of small-scale farms in Mozambique, by encouraging multiple cropping (maize, cassava and cowpeas) and getting farmers to



move away from cash cropping and cultivation of cotton. The NGO has also helped in fortifying Mozambique's supply chains and facilitating market access for rural farmers who are relatively isolated from national and international markets. It works in collaboration with a number of stakeholders such as USAID and IFAD. Technology and digitalisation have also helped map inputs and enhance planning.<sup>28</sup>

#### **Value addition to agri-commodities**

The EXIM Bank of India has extended lines of credit to the Tendaho Sugar Factory in Ethiopia for value addition in sugarcane farming and sugar processing. Strategically located at a distance of 300 km from the Djibouti Port, the project was started in 2006 and spread over 50,000 hectares

of cultivable land. The associated factory, with a capacity of processing 13,000 tonnes of cane per day (TCD) has been constructed by India's Overseas Infrastructure Alliance (OIA), which has strong presence in other African countries such as Mozambique, Tanzania, Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso and Rwanda. The factory today produces over three million quintals of sugar and 31,000 cubic meters of ethanol annually.<sup>29</sup>

Currently, 435 Indian companies have investment licenses issued by the government of Ethiopia in agriculture including floriculture and textile, laser technology and products, garments, plastics, pharmaceuticals, hotels and restaurants. The total investment made



by India is more than US \$5 billion. In 2016, India-Ethiopia bilateral trade grew from US \$1.3 billion to US \$1.7 billion. “In our struggle to eradicate poverty and bring about sustainable and inclusive development ... India is one of Ethiopia’s key partners. Ethiopia highly values and cherishes India’s commitment and dedication in supporting Ethiopia and Africa at large in achieving their sustainable development objectives”.<sup>30</sup>

A similar success story is that of the Komenda Sugar Factory in Ghana, constructed with a loan from India’s EXIM Bank. The local men and women employed in these sugar factories have been trained by Indian managers. Tendaho and Finchaa Sugar in Ethiopia and Komenda Sugar Factory in Ghana are successful examples of India’s Africa policy. India’s ‘triple A’ cost-sensitive know-how is most suited for value addition to agricultural products in Africa.

India is the second largest exporter of cashew nuts in the world and about 80 percent of the imports of unshelled cashew from Ivory Coast come to India. This statistic brings to light the

urgent need for capacity building and transfer of technology to Ivory Coast where they can process their own cashew and reduce their exports in the unshelled form to India. India has extended LoCs in Cote d’Ivoire for cashew nut processing and vegetable oil processing plants, chip-making, liquid sugar, cassava starch making plants, building the Mahatma Gandhi IT and Biotechnology Park (US \$20 million), fisheries processing plant (US \$4 million), coconut fibre processing plant (US \$1.5 million) and a country-wide rice production programme.

India’s National Research Center on Meat in Hyderabad, a constituent of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), is providing assistance for cold storage for perishable products – mainly meats, sea foods, dairy and pharma products. There are opportunities for value addition in crops like cotton, tea, coffee. Coffee processed in factories in Mozambique and Angola with the help of Nestle India is sold across the world. All of these partnerships aim to assist Africa’s small and medium entrepreneurs in food processing technologies.<sup>31</sup> ■



A woman in a white long-sleeved top and a blue and orange patterned skirt is working in a field. She is looking down at a young tree sapling. The background is a lush green field with many other saplings.

## CHAPTER 4

# INDIA-AFRICA PARTNERSHIPS: EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH W2W INITIATIVES

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**T**he condition of being poor, of being self-employed and being a woman are all distinct, yet interrelated, states of vulnerability. Only work, a steady source of income and asset ownership can help alleviate poverty, growth and equality. Based on the idea that productive work is the thread that weaves a society together, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) members – most of them poor self-employed women – take ownership of their projects, organise and work together to empower themselves. Founded in 1972, SEWA has 1.72 million members across India. It also has a presence across the SAARC region in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan,



Zimbabwean Deputy Prime Minister Thokozani Khupe is watched by Managing Director of India's Shri Mahila SEWA Sahkari Bank Jayshree Vyas as she interacts with a bank customer in Ahmedabad. (\*Pic: BCCL, Source: The Economic Times, 28 February, 2013)

Sri Lanka and Myanmar. In the past decade, the organisation has also started to work on women-to-women (W2W) partnerships in African countries.

Working in Africa within the framework of South-South Cooperation, SEWA provides women with access to markets, develops social protection nets, and helps them with constructive sharing and shaping of global and regional policies. The association works on the twin goals of full employment and self-reliance. They work as a collective to achieve work security, income security, food security and social security by focusing on the key aspects of healthcare, child care, nutrition and shelter.

The objective is to make women become self-reliant at both the individual and community levels in terms of decision-making abilities. SEWA's experience teaches that the foundation of development for women is stronger if built on the four core pillars of: i) organising, ii) capacity building, iii) capital formation, and iv) building women's own enterprises.

In the context of India-Africa partnerships, SEWA focuses on W2W learnings, knowledge sharing and building solidarity by facilitating exposure visits of women from various countries to its headquarters in Ahmadabad in Gujarat for up to three months. During these visits, the African women meet SEWA members and learn

about its programmes, which are completely owned and managed by its members.

Economic empowerment and poverty alleviation require livelihood opportunities, improved access to markets, an enabling policy environment and resources to make proven models accessible to women and women-led smallholder enterprises in the developing and underdeveloped nations. Successful models from the global south provide valuable learning and effective partnership ideas for other nations.

SEWA's W2W knowledge sharing and learnings based on sisterhood and solidarity and participatory tools has now become a movement. The learnings are being replicated in various parts of Africa through the support of various agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), IFAD and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government

of India. The first international effort of SEWA started in 2010, when the organisation was approached by the World Bank and the Global Fairness Initiative that works with the Shea Nut Economic Empowerment Programme in Ghana to help women farmers build their own supply chain.

SEWA shared its proven strategy of learning and sharing of experiences with the smallholder women farmers in Ghana. Today, women in Ghana have built a supply chain and export about 200 tonnes of Shea butter to Japan. For every container of Shea butter, they collectively earn a surplus of Euros 600 from the recent contracts with the Japanese importers. SEWA have been working on such exposure and dialogue programmes with women farmers of Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Kenya. ■



# POLICY INITIATIVES: INDIA-AFRICA ENGAGEMENTS FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN AGRICULTURE

### India's development compact: policy initiatives for sharing capabilities

India's development compact in the agriculture sector is through grants, bilateral trade, foreign direct investments as well as the extension of concessional Lines of Credit (LoCs) that channel finances and technology for the development of agriculture and allied sectors in Africa. India and Africa have long been cooperating on this front by sharing experiences, conducting trainings, building institutional capacity, providing concessional credit in farming techniques, irrigation, soil quality assessment, conservation

and improvement, and provision of farm equipment. Some of the ongoing initiatives of the government of India for capacity building in Africa include:

- Setting up of agricultural research institutes and training programmes
- Promoting technical exchanges in the agricultural, agro-processing and allied sectors
- Award of scholarships to African students to study in agricultural universities in India
- Sharing technology for climate smart agriculture between ICRISAT and arid regions in Africa
- FDIs led by the private sector and on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Trade finance via the extension of concessional loans by the EXIM Bank that acts at the behest of the Government of India has helped mitigate infrastructural constraints. As of 5 January 2018, 75 percent of Exim Bank of India's LoCs are channeled to African countries. The bank has played an important role in facilitating the development of infrastructure in irrigation, power supply and sale of agricultural equipment from India such as tractors and irrigation pumps providing value addition to sugar cultivation.<sup>32</sup> India is also collaborating on multiple fronts towards:

- Building value chains and partnerships for capacity building and sharing the 'triple A – appropriate, adaptable and affordable – technology' in the agricultural sector, inter-alia, in cotton. For example, India's Cotton Technical Assistance Programme (C-TAP) in Cotton-4 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali), Nigeria, Malawi and Uganda implemented by IL&FS Clusters<sup>33</sup>. India's support has helped these countries expand their capacity to grow cotton for foreign markets and provided livelihood for millions of farmers.
- The C-TAP is being implemented by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Directorate of Cotton Development

(DoCD), Central Institute of Cotton Research (CICR), Central Institute of Research for Cotton Technology (CIRCOT) and IL&FS Cluster Development Initiative Limited. As per the third India Africa Forum Summit declaration, financial assistance for C-TAP for 2015-2020 is being channeled through India's Department of Commerce (DoC) at an estimated cost of US \$25 million.<sup>34</sup>

- Increasing local food production through improvement of yield/acreage through the export of triple A technology in agricultural equipment, transfer of skills in water management (micro-irrigation), more crop per drop through drip irrigation and precision agriculture, seeds, fertiliser and the agro-processing sector.
- Promoting duty-free access to Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) for the exports of 98 percent of Indian tariff lines under India's Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme (DFTPS), launched post the first India-Africa Forum Summit in 2008, which has been subsequently revised since 2014.
- Supporting Africa's agenda in the agriculture sector through bilateral and multilateral diplomatic initiatives such as the three India Africa Forum Summits (2008, 2011 and 2015); and the Indian Prime Minister's four-nation visit to Africa in July 2016 (a head of state level meeting after a hiatus of 35 years).

At the first India-Africa Forum Summit of 2008, the President of Tanzania and former chairperson of the African Union, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, urged India to invest in capacity building in the agriculture sector. "India has the technology and the skills, which, if made available to Africa, will certainly help it implement the African Green Revolution," he remarked (For details see MEA Press Release 9 April 2018)<sup>35</sup>.

The second India-Africa Forum Summit, held in Ethiopia in May 2011, led to the formulation of the Addis Ababa Declaration that laid the framework for enhanced India-Africa



cooperation on a wide range of areas such as infrastructure development, human resources and institution building. It established a roadmap for collaborative initiatives on bilateral and various multilateral platforms.

At the third edition of the India-Africa Forum Summit, a framework for strategic cooperation document (IAFS III, 2015), '*Partners in Progress: Towards a Dynamic and Transformative Development Agenda*',<sup>36</sup> reiterated the importance of the agricultural sector in sustaining the livelihoods of large sections of the population in both India and Africa. To ensure food and nutritional security, it is important to improve productivity of agriculture, specifically in areas like crop farming, animal husbandry, water management and climate change. The framework document takes cognisance of the adverse impacts that climate change has on sectors such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and energy production.

#### **Cooperation to combat the adverse impacts of climate change**

During the IAFS (III) meeting, India and Africa agreed to:

- Further their cooperation in improving farming techniques by using appropriate and affordable technology, adopting organic techniques of farming, improving crop varieties and seeds through research and making efficient use of fertilisers.
- Make joint efforts to manage water resources more effectively and efficiently and improve irrigation techniques by sharing knowhow and technology.
- Continue the collaboration ensuring that public investment, services and agricultural policies support smallholders, especially women and young food producers.
- Encourage initiatives that allow the diversification of the economy to include and expand to climate sensitive sectors and promote measures of adaptation to the climate change, improving the resilience of each of the sectors in question.

- Cooperate and coordinate in finalising a comprehensive and ambitious climate change policy in preparation of the COP 21 negotiations held in Paris in 2015.

Sustainable agriculture methods must be backed by a strong agri-business networks and value-chains to prevent post-harvest losses and to make farming and smallholder farming, in particular, an economically viable occupation. At all IAFS' India has pledged its commitment to the agricultural sector and sharing of its own experiences and learnings with the African Union through various G2G, B2B, B2C and P2P platforms. Barring a few non-starter projects, India-Africa collaboration has been largely successful.

#### **India's Green Revolution: Lessons learnt**

India, which is set to overtake China and emerge as the world's most populous nation by 2022, has taken giant steps towards achieving food security for its population of over 1.2 billion. Until the late 1960s, the country met its food requirements through food imports and food aid via the Public Law 480 programme. But a spate of events, especially famines in eastern India, and the foreign policy imperatives of excessive dependence on food imports was not a viable long-term option. It led to rethinking among the policy makers and the 'Green Revolution' model was adopted in the 1970s. With the use of High-Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds and advanced agricultural technology, productivity has increased exponentially.

However, the Green Revolution in India had its own set of challenges. The Green Revolution was a success in irrigated areas, the HYV seeds needed high use of fertilisers, and yields were high only in select crops such as wheat and rice and that, too, in states where the governments stood steadfast in its support to the farmers. The government subsidised the cost of water, fertilisers, spends on Research and Development (R&D) and a range of other essentials of the agricultural supply chain. All these need to be factored in by Africa while adopting the Green

## Revolution model from India.

Africa, thus, has the advantage of hindsight and can factor in the advantages and pitfalls of the Green Revolution and adapt the Indian model to suit its local conditions. Today, India is self-reliant in food grains with a shortfall in only a few commodities namely; oilseeds, pulses<sup>37</sup>, fruits, nuts, cashew and spices, which are imported from various sources including countries in Africa. India's inclusive pro-poor policy for the distribution of food grains at subsidised prices to families below the poverty line through the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) is scalable and replicable to enhance food security in Africa.

At the final edition of the India-Africa Forum Summit of 2015, India agreed to extend collaboration in the agriculture sector through:

- Providing agricultural equipment like tillers, cultivators, harrowers and harvesters at concessional rates, in support of Africa's commitment to rid itself of the traditional hand-held hoes and agricultural backwardness. India also plans to transfer such technologies to encourage their production in the African countries themselves.



- Increasing food production and improving nutrition levels in order to increase resilience of local and traditional food systems and biodiversity, and
- Investing in agribusiness and food processing industries in Africa for employment generation<sup>38</sup>.

India has a comparative advantage over other countries when it comes to investments in Africa. A key advantage is in terms of seeds and breeds. The biodiversity in India, whether in animals or crops, has fuelled a lot of genetic improvements across the world. This is a very strong area of collaboration. It is not only about production technology, but about agriculture processing technology and being able to

improve yield and reduce crop losses. India is ahead in terms of market accessibility, whereas, India has developed a very transformative way to spread access to financial services<sup>39</sup>.

Policy frameworks crucially need to consider three issues for the promotion of trade in agricultural and agri-commodities between Africa and India:

- i. Port congestion, which is an impediment for expansion of trade.
- ii. Currency fluctuations that have severely impacted margins.
- iii. Capacity building, investing in skilled personnel in Africa.<sup>40</sup> ■

Pic Source: SAP.com, 18 May, 2018





Pic Source: [agra.org](http://agra.org), 2 August, 2018



## CHAPTER 6

# CONCLUSION: PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

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India's model of South-South cooperation in Africa is a partnership of equals. It also demands a reevaluation of the paradigmatic notion of South-South cooperation, particularly in a post-hegemonic or a post-western world, against the backdrop of low levels of multilateralism from the North and given the rise of power blocs such as the BRICS, and phenomenon such as new form of development finance, sovereign wealth funds, and new donors.<sup>41</sup>

India's model of South-South cooperation has been request-based and demand-driven. India's policy of non-interference in sovereign affairs

of host countries and respect for their domestic laws has been well-received by the African counterparts. Dr. Adesina Akinwumi, President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, expressed Africa's collective sentiment at the Bank's annual meeting in Gandhinagar. He said: "I am very bullish about India-Africa relations".<sup>42</sup>

With large swathes of arable land which are yet to be exploited, the significance of Africa's agriculture sector is colossal. "What Africa

does with agriculture is not only important for Africa – it will shape the future of food in the world"<sup>43</sup>. India and Africa will need to work in a time-bound manner to unleash the potential of the agriculture and related sectors for achieving food security on the continent. The two partners are working together towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's underlying philosophy of achieving "*Sab ka Saath, Sab ka Vikas*" (collective endeavours, development for all) in India and globally. ■

# ANNEXURE:

## South-South Cooperation: India-Africa Partnerships in Food Security and Capacity Building

A conference organised by the Observer Research Foundation and the Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai, January 2018.

### Participants

1. A.K. Krishna Kumar, Executive Director, IL&FS Clusters Development Initiative Ltd.
2. Advait Chaturvedi, Director, Overseas Infrastructure Alliance, Mumbai
3. Amit Bhardwaj, Founder and CEO, Level A Commodities, New Delhi
4. Amit Chakravarty, Chief of Staff, DG office, ICRISAT, Hyderabad
5. Ashish Shah, Director for Country Programmes, International Trade Centre, Geneva
7. Ashwani Muthoom, Director, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome
8. Bharat Kulkarni, Director, Stalwart Management Consultancy Services Pvt Ltd, Mumbai
9. Dhaval D. Desai, Sr. Fellow & Vice President, Observer Research Foundation, Mumbai
10. Emile Mwepesi, Consul, High Commission of Rwanda
11. Fatma Alloo, Founder Member, Tanzania Women's Media Association
12. Francisco Simplicio, Former Asst. Director, UNOSSOC, UNDP & Manager, IBSA Trust Fund, US
13. Francisco Simplicio, Former Asst. Director, UNOSSOC, UNDP & Manager, IBSA Trust Fund, US
14. G. K. Pillai, Chairman and Independent Director, Tata International
15. H. H. S. Viswanathan, Distinguished Fellow, ORF and former Ambassador of India to Nigeria
16. Ian Taylor, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews, Scotland
17. Iddo Dror, Head of Capacity Development, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya
18. John Patrick Omegere, Symbiosis International University & Gandhi-Mandela Centre for African Studies, ORF Mumbai
19. Kasongo Musenga, Consul, Embassy of Democratic Republic of Congo
20. Kojo Opoku Aidoo, Senior Research Fellow, University of Ghana
21. Manendra Sahu, Director, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai
22. Meera Venkatachalam, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, Mumbai
23. Mr. Amit Chakravarty, Chief of Staff, DG office, ICRISAT, Hyderabad
24. N. Swaminathan, Asst. Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture & Research Institute, Karaikal, Puducherry
25. Prakash Bakshi, Former Chairman, NABARD, India
26. Pranav Kumar, Head, International Policy, CII

27. Rasha Omar, IFAD Country Director, India
28. Reema Nanavaty, Director, SEWA, Ahmedabad
29. Renu Modi, Professor, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai
30. Sami Saran, Director (Africa), Frontier Growth Advisors
31. Sebastian Sambuo Mushi, Rural Urban Development Initiatives, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
32. Subhra Roy, Vice President, International Business Division, Rallis India Ltd.
33. Sudheendra Kulkarni, Former aide to Prime Minister, A. B. Vajpayee
34. Suresh Kumar, Director, Centre for African Studies, Delhi University
35. Tafadzwa Kaurayi, President, Association of African Students of India, Mumbai Chapter
36. Temesgen Hordofa Tolassa, Consul, Consulate General of FDR Ethiopia
37. Timothy Shaw, Emeritus Professor, University of Boston, Massachusetts and Mbrara University of Science & Technology, Uganda
38. Tom De Bruyn, Leuven International and European Studies (LINES), University of Ku Leuven, Belgium
39. U. B. Angadi, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi, India
40. Vanlalruata Fanai, Asst. General Manager, Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai
41. Venkat Bollapragada, Asst. Vice President & Head – Marketing, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd.



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- Mr. Dhaval D Desai, Vice President and Senior Fellow, ORF
- Dr. Renu Modi, Professor, Department of African Studies, University of Mumbai
- Dr. Meera Venkatachalam, Senior Fellow, ORF Mumbai

## Observers

- Ms. Ami Pandya, Associate Fellow and New Media Manager, ORF
- Mr. Kashish Parpiani, Fellow, ORF
- Mr. Paresh Rawal, Consultant, ORF
- Mr. Aditya Thorat, Research Intern, ORF
- Ms. Sayli Udas-Mankikar, Senior Fellow, ORF
- Mr. Sanchayan Bhattacharjee, Associate Fellow, ORF
- Ms. Antara Sengupta, Fellow, ORF
- Ms. Renita D'Souza, Fellow, ORF
- Ms. Shaheeda Kirtane, Associate Fellow, ORF
- Dr. Deepesh Reddy Vendoti, Consultant, ORF

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- Mr. Johann Salazar, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai & University of Coimbra, Portugal
- Ms. Sanju Prasad, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai
- Ms. Maria Shaikh, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai
- Ms. Danica Sequeira, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai
- Ms. Rhea D' Silva, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai

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In addition, Dr. Modi has also authored books and directed two documentary films.

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Documentaries films: 1. *Siddis of Gujarat: Maintaining Traditions and Building Community* (with B. Shroff), supported by SEPHIS, Netherlands, 2011; 2. *Made in India Fabrics for Africa* (Director), supported by Observer Research Foundation, Mumbai, 2017, forthcoming

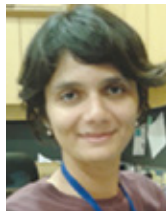
Dr. Modi also served as the social development consultant (STC) with the Inspection panel of the World Bank for the India: Mumbai Urban Transport Project. Report No. 34725 (IBRD).



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Dhaval D. Desai started his career in Mumbai as a journalist, spending 13 years with both print and electronic media. He worked with The Daily and The Indian Express before switching over to television news, working in senior editorial positions in Zee News and Sahara Samay. He quit active journalism in 2006 as the Chief of Bureau of Sahara Samay Mumbai for a two-year stint with Hanmer & Partners (now Hanmer MSL), a public relations consultancy, where he was part of a World Bank consortium handling communications for a global consultant appointed by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai to study and recommend ways to improve the city's water distribution. He joined ORF's Mumbai office in 2008 after nearly 15 years in the fields of media and communications. As Senior Fellow and Vice President, he heads ORF's Mumbai Chapter.



**MEERA VENKATACHALAM**

Senior Fellow and Head, Gandhi Mandela  
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Meera Venkatachalam was awarded a PhD in Social Anthropology from SOAS, University of London, in 2007. Her initial research was concerned with slavery, indentured labour, regional migration and religious change in Ghana, Togo and the Republic of Benin between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries, and had been published in several international academic journals and a book.

As Head of the Gandhi Mandela Centre at ORF Mumbai, she is now involved in three major study: 1) the nature of mobility – and particularly student mobility – between Africa and India; 2) an in-depth study of Indian investments in Rwanda; 3) a historical study of Abyssinians (Ethiopians) in the early modern Deccan region of India.



