Conference on South South Cooperation
10-11 March, 2016
Organised by RIS
Ministry of External Affairs

Role of South South Cooperation for Sustainable Agriculture Development and Food Security: South Asian Perspective

S B Yadav
Matsya University
INDIA
SSC refers to a broad framework for association among countries of the global south in their political, economic, socio-cultural, technical and environmental domain.

It involves two or more developing countries, it can take place on a bilateral, regional, sub regional or interregional basis.

It involves different kinds of cooperation, including the sharing of knowledge and experience, training, technology transfer, financial and monetary cooperation and in-kind contributions.
Agriculture in Nepal: At a Glance

- Biggest sector for employment—75 percent of the Nepal’s labor force (3.3 m households).
- Contributes one-third of the GDP.
- Almost 76 percent of agricultural land is rain fed.
- Only 16% of the country’s land is arable land.
- About 31% agricultural land is under irrigation.
- Use of improved seeds is quite low (Paddy 5.4%; Wheat 5.6%).
- One-half of the farmers use fertilizer on wheat and two-thirds of farmers use fertilizer on paddy.
Farm sizes (average 0.8 ha) are small, land is fragmented and no land management.

Basic modern technology inputs like seeds, fertilizer, breeds and feeds are in short supply.

Farmers incur higher cost of production than in India. As a result, products are not competitive in national and international markets. There is no easy access to the market.

Interest on agricultural credit is high and credit is not available on time.

Pasture lands are limited due to community forests.
Food Security exist when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. (FAO, 2002).

**Three dimensions of Food Security:**

- **Availability of Food:** Food production within the country, food imports and the previous years stock stored in government granaries.
- **Accessibility:** Food is within reach of every person, and
- **Affordability:** An individual has enough money to buy sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet one's dietary needs.
## Food Security Scenario in India and Nepal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Food Production</th>
<th>Food Exports</th>
<th>Food Imports</th>
<th>Food Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,74,655</td>
<td>9,490</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>23,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>5,839</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hunger in India and Nepal

Global Hunger Index
- ≥ 30.0, extremely alarming
- 20.0 – 29.9, alarming
- 10.0 – 19.9, serious
- 1.5 – 9.9, low to moderate hunger
- no data
- excluded from GHI
Access to Food Security in Nepal

- 31% of population below poverty line (USD 100.0 person/year).
- 41% consuming less than the minimum calorie requirement (2144 kilocalories/person/year).
- Malnutrition rate is highest in the world—one-half of all children under 5 years of age stunted, and 38% are underweight.
- Nepal’s HDI rank is 142 out of 177 countries (UNDP).
- 75% poor households do not have sufficient access to food, and more than 95% of very poor households did not have sufficient access to food (WFP, 2008).
- Nearly 45% of rural households use a public water source for drinking.
- About 24% of all women are undernourished and in Tarai, this figure is 33%.
Issues in Food Security in Nepal

Until 1990, Nepal was net food exporter. But since then it has become food deficit country (2008-09).

Production and imports have not kept pace with the increase in demand—production of cereals has been growing at a rate of 2% per annum which is below the population growth rate (2.25%).

More than half of all districts in Nepal are food deficit.

Prevalence of discrimination by gender, age and caste in the distribution of foods.

Uncertainty of food distribution due to high cost of transportation in remote areas.

Hills and Mountain Regions are food deficit and Terai was food surplus situation.
India is the largest trading partner of Nepal with whom Nepal conducts almost 2/3rd of its trade and 40 percent of its FDI comes from India.

India pledged USD one billion in assistance to quake-ravaged Nepal for its massive reconstruction programme, asserting that it will strongly stand behind the Nepalese government which is seeking to “wipe the tears” of every Nepali.

This was in addition to the $1 billion assistance during PM Modi’s visit.

Supply of 6800 metric tons of food material and 4000 tents for rehabilitation of internally displaced persons.

Subsequently, India funded the construction of the East–West Highway and other large-scale infrastructure projects. Recently, there has been a shift towards grassroots social sector projects in areas such as education, health and sanitation.
India currently provides around $15–16 million per year to Nepal, all in the form of grants, and is currently considering funding more than 80 projects worth around $180 million, through assistance.

India can share its knowledge, technology, and expertise with Nepal in areas as wide-ranging as poverty reduction, climate change, sustainable energy, and private sector development.

India has vast and rich experience in designing and implementing development solutions, engaging citizens, and strengthening local capacities which are valuable to Nepal.

India has an impressive track record in south-south cooperation and has partnered with UNDP on several such initiatives.
Currently, India feeds 17% of the world’s population on less than 3 percent of world’s arable land, therefore,

What India can offer to Nepal:

(i) Spreading India’s affordable innovations (Technologies, institutions, policies).

India can share its low cost tractors, an organic fertilizer, and solar dryer.

Digital model of Agriculture extension (community-based video productions techniques developed by India).

Legal framework for food security.

India’s New Market Information System on agricultural commodities, food security decisions etc.
Thank You