



SSC EVENTS

- 1996: *FAO's SSC initiative launched*
- 2006: *A Letter of Intent on forming Strategic Alliance signed between the Government of China and FAO*
- 2008: *A donation of USD 30 million Trust Fund to FAO announced by the Government of China*
- 2009: *General Agreement on the Trust Fund signed between the Government of China and FAO*

Opening Ceremony of the SSC Training Course on Hybrid Rice Technology Successfully Held in China

The opening ceremony of the SSC Training Course on Hybrid Rice Technology under the framework of China/FAO Trust Fund, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of China and FAO, and executed by the Foreign Economic Cooperation Center (FECC) of MOA and Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Center (HHRRC), was held in Changsha, Hunan Province on 31 August 2011. This one-month training course, pivoting on the hybrid rice technology, is the second course for capacity building under the Trust Fund. A total number of 17 participants was invited from 7 African countries where the SSC projects are ongoing or in the pipeline, namely Eritrea, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Zambia.



Prof. Yuan Longping, Father of Hybrid Rice, Director General of Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Center, Mr. Percy W. Misika, FAO Representative in China, DPR Korea and Mongolia, Mr. Luo Ming, Division Chief of the Department of International Cooperation (DIC) of MOA, Mr. Zhou Qijiang, Deputy Director General of FECC, Mr. Liu Xiaoyue, Deputy Director General of Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Hunan Province, Mr. Liu Shuguang, Director of Foreign Economic and Technical Cooperation Center of Agricultural Department of Hunan Province, as well as other officials and professors from MOA and local authorities attended the opening ceremony.

Mr. Liu Shuguang, on behalf of Agricultural Department of Hunan Province, briefly introduced the provincial development of hybrid rice technology and the SSC tasks undertaken by the Province.



Mr. Luo Ming, on behalf of DIC of MOA, shared with the trainees some information on the China/FAO joint efforts through SSC. It was hoped that China's experience and expertise would contribute to the agricultural development and food security in the recipient countries.

Mr. Percy Misika, on behalf of FAO, highly commended Prof. Yuan's noble endeavours to the agricultural development in China and world food security. It was emphasized that 7 key elements should be taken into account from China's successful experience, including strategic situation analysis, vision, ambition, innovation, prioritization, focus and partnerships.

Mr. Zhou Qijiang, on behalf of FECC of MOA, reviewed the achievements made by FECC on the SSC capacity building.



Prof. Yuan Long Ping gave a speech highlighting the significant achievements of hybrid rice in China, followed by a lecture on the Development of Hybrid Rice for Food Security in the World. By the end of the opening ceremony, Prof. Yuan presented his books on Technology of Hybrid Rice Production (*published by FAO Rome*) to the trainees.



This training course would be conducted in the main modalities of lectures, symposium, laboratory operation, field visit, etc. A series of key components would be addressed during the training period, including heterosis in rice, hybrid rice breeding, hybrid rice seed production and cultivation technologies, management of fertilizer, water, pest and weed, etc. The trainees are expected to make full use of this opportunity to contribute to the adequate transfer of know-how upon their return to their respective home countries.