



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 USD30 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
- 2014: A donation of USD50 million Trust Fund to FAO announced by the Government of China

Inauguration Ceremony of the Five FAO China Reference Centres successfully held in Changsha

The Inauguration Ceremony of the five FAO China Reference Centres was jointly held by FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture of China in Changsha, Hunan Province on 5 September 2014. Professor Yuan Longping, Father of Hybrid Rice and Director-General of Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Center, Dr. Wang Ren, the FAO Assistant Director-General of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Mr. Percy W. Misika, FAO Representative in China, DPR Korea and Mongolia, Mr. Qu Sixi, Counsel of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture of China and representatives of the five centres attended the ceremony.



Under the framework of the China/FAO South-South Cooperation (SSC), the five selected Chinese Research and Training Centres were officially designated as FAO Reference Centres, namely the Foreign Economic Cooperation Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Centre, the Freshwater Fisheries Research Centre of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, the Biogas Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences. This represents one of the important achievements in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Agriculture of China and FAO in 2012.

The five FAO Reference Centres have been working in partnership with FAO for more than a decade. Since 2010, a number of training courses, workshops and dialogues have been organized for SSC capacity development through the centres. As a follow-up step, FAO is working with the Government of China to develop an action plan for each of the five centres. The centres are also expected to be strengthened and networked with other agricultural research and training centres in China and Africa. This process will tangibly contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Zero Hunger Challenge, and the FAO Strategic Objectives.



On the occasion of the Inauguration Ceremony, the website of China-FAO Knowledge Network for SSC (<http://www.ssckn.cn/>) was officially launched. This website serves as a platform for promoting SSC information and knowledge sharing and engaging relevant Chinese institutions in SSC development through close collaboration with FAO and the SSC recipient countries. The members of the Network include the five newly designated FAO Reference Centres and other Chinese institutions involved in SSC.