

An Innovative Global Partnership through Knowledge Sharing:

The role of technological innovations to help accelerate poverty reduction and achieve Zero Hunger

Rome – May 15, 2019, 14:00-18:00hrs - EXCO

Background

The Rome-based Agencies of the United Nations (RBAs) – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP) – the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) and the China Internet Information Center (CIIC) continue to strengthen their partnership to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG1, SDG2, and SDG17.

Rationale

In most developing countries, access to technologies is still weak in rural areas. This can lead to further exclusion of marginalized communities and an exacerbation of existing socio-economic inequalities. Moreover, not all communities are benefiting from emerging innovations and novel technologies.

Technological innovations, including information and communication technologies (ICTs), are one of the main enablers that will accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, while leaving no one behind. New digital technologies and innovative uses of ICTs can potentially contribute to increasing productivity and wealth; generating new activities, products, and services; addressing information gaps; and improving livelihoods. In fact, SDG9 states that *“technological progress is key to finding lasting solutions to both economic and environmental challenges, such as providing new jobs. (...). Bridging this digital divide is crucial to ensure equal access to information and knowledge, as well as foster innovation and entrepreneurship.”*

Technological innovations are also one of the most powerful tools to solve the world's major challenges – including accelerating poverty reduction and achieving zero hunger. They make it feasible to transform all aspects of how resources are produced and used, fundamentally restructuring food systems and value chains, and redefining how we interact with each other and the world around us.

To allow the most vulnerable ones –especially in rural areas- to have access to technological innovations, the engagement and commitment from new partners (international organizations and banks, private sector, etc.) becomes a key. These partners, often called Triangular partners, are responsible for many technological innovations and have the know-how that can help accelerate poverty reduction and eradicate hunger, and therefore can help to build the bridge between such innovations and communities in need of them.

Objectives

The fourth annual seminar co-organized by the RBAs, the IPRCC and CIIC aims to engage countries and development partners in a discussion on *“The Role of technological*

innovations to Help Accelerate Poverty Reduction and Achieve Zero Hunger". This year's seminar will:

- (i) Discuss the role of technological innovations, including ICTs, to help accelerate poverty reduction efforts in rural areas, including through youth as a key actor for rural transformation and to achieve zero hunger;
- (ii) Promote digital innovations in ICT through related projects and relevant experiences;
- (iii) Share good practices and knowledge from successful cases;
- (iv) Enhance collaboration, through various modalities including multi-stakeholder partnerships and South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), and among actors including governments, international organizations, the private sector, academia, and civil society.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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| 14.00- 14.15 | <p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFP Senior Management on behalf of RBAs • Mr. Gengsheng XIA, Vice Minister, the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP), China | |
| 14.15 – 15.15 | <p>Session 1 – Triangular partners Roundtable – Content owner TBD – Facilitating the access of rural communities to technological innovations.</p> <p><i>"Internet + Poverty Reduction": An effective approach for targeted poverty alleviation through ICTs</i> By Mr. Lijun SUN, Alibaba Group Partner, Chairman of Alibaba Foundation, Executive Secretary-General of Alibaba Poverty Relief Fund, China</p> <p><i>"Empower the communities to play a leading role in poverty alleviation – taking the World Bank's 5th Phase Poverty Alleviation Project as an example"</i> By World Bank (speaker TBC)</p> <p>Speaker ADB case of Shanxi Integrated Agricultural Development Project Melanie Ullrich, ERO, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>1 private sector company proposed by the RBAs TBC</p> | <p>Moderator from IFAD? (TBC)</p> <p>Four speakers</p> <p>Each presentation should last about 12 minutes, to also give time to the moderator to make short comments between presentations and introduce the speakers</p> |
| 15.15 – | COFFEE BREAK | |

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| 15.30 | | |
| 15.30 – 17.00 | <p>Session 2 – Case studies – How technological innovations helped accelerating poverty reduction and eradicating hunger</p> <p><i>Ecosystem rehabilitation for poverty alleviation: Model of Ke'erqin Zuoyi Houqi (County), Inner Mongolia</i></p> <p>By Mr. Zhiwei HE, County Mayor, Kezuo Houqi (County), Tongliao City, Inner Mongolia, China</p> <p>Speech title and speaker (tbc)</p> <p>By BN Vocational School, China</p> <p>2 case studies proposed by the RBAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South-Sudan TBC (FAO and WFP collaboration) • Another one? | <p>Moderator from IPRCC (DG)</p> <p>Four speakers</p> <p>Each presentation should last about 15- maximum 20 minutes, to also give time to the moderator to make comments between presentations and introduce the speakers</p> |
| – 17.00 – 17.15 | <p>Result release of the Global Solicitation and Challenge Prize on Best Poverty Reduction Practices</p> <p>Moderated by Mr. Lisheng XUE, Vice Editor-in-chief of China Internet Information Center (CIIC)</p> <p>Note: CIIC is preparing a 3-minute video presenting the progress and result of selected case studies. We can invite all seven hosting organizations to the stage.</p> | |
| 17.15 – 17.30 | <p>Conclusions and closing remarks</p> <p>FAO Senior Manager</p> | |