

**ACADEMY ON SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY :  
INNOVATIVE ECOSYSTEMS FOR SOLIDARITY  
ECONOMY POLICIES AND SOUTH-SOUTH  
COOPERATION**



**Based on the Work of the  
South-South Scholars**

**Seoul, June 2017**



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## PREFACE by Anita Amorim and Roberto di Meglio

From an ILO perspective, SSE is both an opportunity to build up cooperation in a South-South triangular context and a means to disseminate the Decent Work Agenda. The concept of Decent Work has four pillars, which are the promotion of jobs, the enforcement of rights at work, the increase in social protection and the establishment of social dialogue. Such concept guides the functioning of the ILO as a direct reflection of the common interests of workers, employers and governments. The ILO sees the application of SSE practices as a step forward towards the implementation of the Decent Work Agenda, which, in its turn, is a means to achieving SDG8: *“the promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and Decent Work for all”*.

The Sustainable Development Objectives (SDGs), adopted in 2015, shifted the developmental paradigm towards social inclusion, environment preservation, and economic sustainable growth to provide decent and green jobs. The promotion of social and economic justice and solidarity ground SSE operations, thus addressing sustainability challenges. In this framework of international development, the ILO’s Development Cooperation Strategy 2015-2017 emphasizes the importance of SSC to comply with Decent Work Agenda, and further advance towards the Future of Work under SDGs commitments. SSE Organizations appear to be an innovative and relevant mean to apply SSE values and implement ILO’s principles. The variety of forms this can happen through (cooperatives, fair trade, civil society organizations, *etc.*) is still under exploration. Given these experiences are steering for community wellbeing and self-reliance, their manifestations in the Global South are complementary to South-South Cooperation knowledge-sharing practices, and illustrate how present activities of SSEOs from the South are embedding and shaping the future of South-South Cooperation, Decent Work, and Sustainable Development.

To incentive these dynamics, the South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) ILO’s initiative called for an Academy on SSE targeting “innovative ecosystems for SSE public policies” in June 2017, in Seoul, South-Korea. The exposition of existing SSE practices, actors and conceptualizations across the Global South, in the SSC’s framework, aims at strengthening the convergence of public policies and of the future of work within the promotion of a sustainable development, endogenous, social and solidar, propelled by SSC, ILO’s principles and SDGs.

Thus, the presentations of several scholars on SSTC from the Global South countries are compiled hereafter, as proceeding of the ILO-SSTC’s 2017 Academy on SSE to advance this way.

## 1. *U. Laila Azhar*,<sup>1</sup> Learning from South for South –South Triangular Cooperation

The Decent Work Agenda is advanced through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) with the engagement of an increasing number of governments, social partners, UN agencies and non-state actors. The identified possibility of partnerships with partners from the Global South would support and prepare individual strategies for concluding SSTC arrangements. Countries like Brazil and China, for example, are currently the largest funding source for South–South Cooperation in the UN System. Partnerships with social partners and non-state actors, including academia, universities and parliamentarians, will also be enhanced and supported. Building on existing agreements and Memoranda of Understanding on Decent Work concluded between the ILO and partner countries, special efforts for the promotion on SSTC need to be prioritized especially in developing countries like Pakistan. It's been observed that several countries from the Global North have already started supporting South–South–North- or triangular - cooperation in the ILO, such as France, Germany, Spain and the United States, and such efforts and participation should be amplified keeping in the view the support required for the south Asian countries focusing on the development of social contract between women and informality. Engagement with the relevant regional and country offices regarding this outcome is an integral part of the process. SSTC also has the potential to attract the resources needed to achieve the Organization's objectives, which is particularly important in the face of rising unpredictability over future voluntary contributions and the changing geopolitical landscape of the global economy.

The ILO has for several decades attached importance to regional economic cooperation initiatives, which were already a form of SSTC. Countries from the South were supporting the ILO's Technical Cooperation Programme through a South–South cooperation arrangement. Since then the ILO has more formally strengthened its role as a bridge between countries of the South, helping them to share decent work experiences and to move towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It becomes imperative at this point where world has entered into a new social contract through Sustainable development goals by extending support to men and women in informality, tracing the empirical evidence of informality prevalence in the global supply chains.

New partners from the South have established partnerships and indicated an interest in promoting the Decent Work Agenda through SSTC, including Argentina, Chile, China, India, Kenya, Panama, Singapore and South Africa. This indicates a positive enhancement of multilateralism in a changing geopolitical environment. The key entry points for ILO SSTC activities have been integrated packages targeting areas such as the promotion of employment generation and of social protection floors, sectoral activities, migration, child labour, green jobs, forced labour, social dialogue, skills development and capacity building. These all have to have a clear mandate for the inclusion of informal workers specifically women in the main themes and agendas.

SSTC is a natural fit for the ILO mandate and approach to development cooperation frameworks. The ILO's tripartite constituency provides a useful platform for consensus building and cooperation between the actors of developing countries. Governments, employers and workers in member States make up the largest network of expertise on the world of work. Representatives of that tripartite constituency can, through social dialogue, share views on issues of common interest concerning economic and social policy. Moreover, it permits the inclusion of the organizations working for the informal economy/sector and to the representatives of informal workers to be part of tripartite dialogues and processes. The decent work agenda of ILO country programme already focuses significantly on the informality in the urban and rural context. Therefore, it becomes imperative that the orientations of SSTC need to include respect for

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<sup>1</sup> Ume Laila Azhar, HomeNet Pakistan; Pakistan

national autonomy and priorities, the diversity of circumstances and solutions, and solidarity among nations that should converge with the approach of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda.

With regard to the women in the informal economy (home based): South–South Cooperation is also seen as an important mean to address the challenges the least developed countries are facing. South–South is manifested as a mean of cooperation and an important modality of aid. It calls on developing countries to develop such cooperation with the least developed countries to foster relationship in strengthening the workers movement with a new sense of diversity, ensuring the inclusion of youth and women from the grass root level and an integral component. At this point, the south Asian labour dialogue could fuel in the discussions on the basis of agenda like: living wage, occupational safety and health, organizing for collective benefits, building voices for visibility and making labour inspection mechanism effective and compliant.

In Pakistan, home based women workers (HBW), the major part of economy belongs to low-income urban localities, are amongst most exploited group of workers. They constitute major segment of labour in informal economy. As a workforce, HBWs have remained largely invisible. The home-based women workers living in almost every low-income urban locality in the country, as well as in remote rural areas, are amongst the most exploited group of workers today. They constitute a major segment of labour deployment in the informal economy. As a workforce, home-based workers have remained largely invisible. Social protection consists in policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labour markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to protect themselves against hazards and interruption/loss of income.

The interventions over the years have included: enhancement of women workers capacities primarily, HBW to engage at community level development, monitoring, engagement through provision of information for enhancement of their social and economic status. This led to the development of self-sustainable micro level social entrepreneurships among groups. The approach has been adopted focusing on strengthening the membership based organizations of home based workers, and on the development of women leadership for collective voicing and visibility. The adopted approach has led to the empowerment of the women in the home based sector in a holistic way. The empowerment encompasses social wellbeing leading to economic and political empowerment. The experience of empowerment through flow of information and capacity development looked for carrying forward information for collective action in order to address issues of social & economic exploitation through the development of micro level social entrepreneurship.

These initiatives aimed to: develop the capacities of HBWs leaders, enable them to address their local level needs, to establish effective institutional response for promotion and protection of the labour rights and local governance issues of women workers. This needs further strengthening and support under the South – South initiative of social solidarity economy. The practical interventions for workers primarily, as for women and youth in particular, need further dialogue and debate in order to build on the movement starting at the grass root level, later on to be uprooted for collective bargaining, strengthening voices of the marginalized communities and their social and economic status. This could have a ripple effect if frameworks of future labour rights are developed ensuring the inclusion of informality at all levels and addressing their imminent needs.

Over the years, there has been an expansion of slum communities due to constant influx of rural population creating a large pool of displaced workers that largely comprise the informal economy, affecting women in particular. There are no efficient social protection schemes or social safety nets, and HBWWs need work to survive and support their families. This action responds to the economic situation in Pakistan, with rising levels of poverty and unemployment in general, and to the current issues faced by HBWWs. Research and lessons learnt across the region show that networking, linkages and advocacy

drives the movement of HBWs and has brought their plight to public discourse. Therefore, it should count with extending the SSTC support from within to foster strong linkages among the countries like India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, etc., and could at the same time influence the policies steps and commitments at forum like ASEAN and SAARC. This would directly resolve their local level issues, thus addressing their livelihood needs and fulfilling their quest for economic empowerment. To do so, it might focus specifically on actions related to:

- Raising women workers' awareness of their entitled labour rights, local government structure, existing pro women legislations, laws and policies concerning the protection of labour rights;
- Strengthening HBWs groups leadership roles with regard to local level governance ;
- Establish effective institutional response for addressing governance issues of the HBWs communities.

The process adopted by HomeNet Pakistan (HNP) in capacity development of HBWs aims to address their economic issues by developing their capacities to overcome social barriers and organize for collective benefits, in order to achieve a decent and equal status as a worker/human and citizen. The approach could be replicated in other parts of the country, and at south Asian level, to garner support in building dialogue around labour rights and inclusion. HNP has made tremendous achievements in areas of organizing, mobilizing, capacity building, advocacy, lobbying and linkage development with the belief that providing the opportunity to the deprived segment of HBWs in the form of capacity development and policy making is the best solution to help them to lift HBWs out of social and economic barriers, as to reap the protection of labour rights and solution of local governance, leading them to social entrepreneurship within their community. HNP has been able to support the process of strengthening Membership-Based Organizations (MBO) of home based workers and to influence the policy makers. This operated focusing firstly on development of the capacity of HBWs leaders, enabling them to address their local level needs, and establishing effective institutional response for promotion and protection of the labour rights and local governance issues of women home based workers in order to avail the existing services on local governance and civic issues, for improved living and livelihood.

Significant inventiveness has been engaged by HNP to involve HBWs leaders and their communities in the process of strengthening and development through mobilization, capacity building, and information dissemination on governance and labour issues. Overall efforts have been focused on strengthening the effectiveness of MBOs seeking to make them a model for social and economic uplift of home base communities. Likewise, it focused on leadership development among MBOs to create women empowerment across MBO. This has been the crux of the whole work within communities and MBOs. Making one woman empowered would lead to empower the MBO of HBWs, and if the main leadership of the MBO is empowered, not only the MBO members but indirectly the household is empowered. Therefore, the strengthening of the leadership with information and practical experience would not only inculcate the spirit of taking, lead but would eventually bring the MBOs to a position to collective bargain for their rights and wages at all levels.

The whole approach of SSTC recognizes that “*interrelated global crises, in particular the financial and economic crisis, volatile energy prices, the food crisis, poverty, and the challenges posed by climate change, as well as other challenges, including communicable and non-communicable diseases, are already reversing the gains achieved in developing countries and hence require action at all levels*”<sup>2</sup>. The ILO can play a distinctive role and make a unique contribution to addressing and helping to resolve and mitigate these crises, as well as emerging challenges linked with social injustice. This can also help to build and foster relations for continuous aid related to strengthening initiatives for regional cooperation

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<sup>2</sup> Retrieved from UNOSSC webpage “About us”, accessed 14/05/2017: [http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/un\\_entities\\_space/ILO/aboutus.html](http://ssc.undp.org/content/ssc/un_entities_space/ILO/aboutus.html)



and collaboration by removing the barriers at the lower end, and developing synergies to promote social justice, equality, promotion of fair trade practices and decent work.

## **2. M. Carrillo,<sup>3</sup> National Institute of Social Economy's Contribution towards Gender Equality in Mexico's Economy Social Sector: a South-South Cooperation Perspective**

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is the exchange of experiences, procedures, knowledge and qualified personnel between two or more developing countries, including regional and international initiatives. Mexico has been committed to this type of exchanges with southern countries, mainly with Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly through the National Institute of Social Economy's (INAES) Gender department. It has contributed and supported various national institutions or organizations and international organizations to incorporate the gender perspective as an inclusion mechanism within the Social Economy.

The INAES is a decentralized Organization of the Secretariat of Social Development. It is committed to generating productive labour and financial inclusion opportunities for women through the support of productive projects, training with a gender perspective, research, regional and inter-sectorial cooperation from the Economy's Organizations of Social Sector (OSSE) integrated by women, to mitigate the different forms of economic, political and social exclusion.

Currently, the laws and Public Policies that govern us seek to ensure that women have the same opportunities as men. INAES has been working to generate equality and non-discrimination mechanisms to access the Social Economy's Promotion Program and the various instruments of support.

In line with the Millennium Development Goals (objective 5, Gender Equality), INAES held various meetings with UN Women, the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES) and other government agencies. For the first time in the Rules of Operation, for the Program for Promotion of Social Economy, the gender perspective was finally incorporated. The main themes of this incorporations were based on the integration of inclusive language and the integration of a National and International Normative Framework aligned to the ones established in several conventions: Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women The Women "Convention Belém do Pará" and the Consensus and Operational Guide of Montevideo, as well as the Sustainable Development Objectives. In addition, for the first time, a general diagnosis of the current situation between women and men in Mexico was made, emphasizing social, political and economic gaps.

Similarly, INAES' Operating Rules 2017 considers criteria to prioritize the allocation of resources in program supports, among which are: i) OSSE<sup>4</sup> integrated exclusively or majority (fifty percent plus one) by members of beneficiary households from PROSPERA Social Inclusion Program and ii) OSSE integrated exclusively or majority (fifty percent plus one) by women, as well as those that among its members are young, indigenous and/or disabled people, creates the necessary conditions for access to support and services without discrimination or distinction.<sup>5</sup>

Among the objectives of the General Coordination for the Productive Impulsion for Women and Vulnerable Groups (CGIPMGV) from INAES, is to promote the participation of women in the social sector of the economy, through support for productive proposals and specific components that allow their

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<sup>3</sup> Marycarmen Carrillo - National Institute of Social Economy

<sup>4</sup> Economy's Organizations of Social Sector: social groups or legally constituted groups  
[http://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/179559/ROP\\_2017\\_2\\_.pdf](http://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/179559/ROP_2017_2_.pdf), page 58.

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/179559/ROP\\_2017\\_2\\_.pdf](http://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/179559/ROP_2017_2_.pdf)



development, consolidation and articulation in networks or value chains to achieve strategic and commercial links. This was a milestone for INAES and it has allowed since 2014, to publish several calls for projects focused on the OSSE integrated exclusively or mainly by women and population in vulnerability situation. Only from 2014 - 2016, more than 6,000 supports have been granted for the implementation, consolidation and linkage of productive projects integrated exclusively and mainly by women.

However, economic support is not sufficient for the consolidation of women's social enterprises. As of 2015, a new strategy was created to carry out training events with a gender perspective in order to provide support that would allow these projects greater profitability, so as not to fail in time. As a result, an interdisciplinary group of experts in social and solidarity economy of public and academic institutions provided effective training through conferences, business simulators, in non-traditional subjects in order to promote not only social, but also economic, political, cultural and environmental empowerment. More than 1,500 women have benefited today, with a multiplier effect of at least 7,500 women (considering that at least five female members integrate social enterprises).

This portal shares women's success and outstanding experience stories from those who have succeeded in positioning their product in local, regional and international markets, having a significant impact on their families and environment. Within the portal, the section "The importance of women in the social sector of the economy" was developed. A campaign was designed for this section to promote women in the social sector of the economy, including an interactive map highlighting the importance of women in the economic activity of the country. It included participation forum and equality, which considered from public budget publications for equality, to indicators of gender inequality and social economy.

The design of materials for the development of entrepreneurial capacities with a gender focus, seeks to fight poverty through actions that meet the practical and strategic needs from female members of a social enterprise by strengthening their administrative, technical and financial skills to become more productive in all areas, in order to visualize their actions and interaction in the social economy.

It should be noted that the Gender Equality Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, as well as the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, have been labeled and increased in the last 2 years through Annex 13 "Enactments for equality between women and men" Budget for these items. This means that at the end of the fiscal years, INAES grants about 70% of the budget to groups or social enterprises of women.

In view of the good results in México, different institutions, ministries and secretaries of state, from Central American countries, are trying to take actions in order to make women aware of their public policies to promote the Social Economy. In this sense, Mexico has made progress in South-South Cooperation, and contribution in the implementation of laws in favor of gender equality in countries such as El Salvador, who published on 2011, the *Law on Equality, Equity and Eradication of Discrimination against Women*<sup>6</sup>, five years after it was published the *General Law for Equality between Women and Men*<sup>7</sup> in Mexico.

Therefore, the South-South Cooperation has an active role and progress in strengthening the social economy good practices and through knowledge transfer. Moreover, knowledge sharing through approaches based on the creation of regional networks of practitioners, researchers and training institutions can be an excellent way of experience sharing among countries.

A specific example is the cooperation between the Guatemalan and Mexican governments, which objective is to consolidate Social Economy productive projects integrated by women. This project addresses basic needs through knowledge transfer, incorporating the gender perspective and supported by

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<sup>6</sup>[http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-de-igualdad-equidad-y-erradicacion-de-la-discriminacion-contra-las-mujeres/archivo\\_documento\\_legislativo](http://www.asamblea.gob.sv/eparlamento/indice-legislativo/buscador-de-documentos-legislativos/ley-de-igualdad-equidad-y-erradicacion-de-la-discriminacion-contra-las-mujeres/archivo_documento_legislativo).

<sup>7</sup>[http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/LGIMH\\_240316.pdf](http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/LGIMH_240316.pdf)

research institutes, universities and higher education centers. As a programme, it consolidates the vision expressed by the two governments of enhancing projects with an impact on their development policies, particularly for women's labor inclusion.

In relation with the above statement, having a normative framework where the incorporation of the gender perspective as an axis of economic, political and social development, the programs, policies and other strategies implemented by the governments forces the institutions to develop mechanisms for equality. For the case of the social economy in Mexico from 2013, INAES implements and develops instruments that have benefited thousands of women who are part of the social economy.

During 2017, INAES through the gender area, will hold meetings with the representatives from the respective countries in order to align their policies' frameworks with gender mainstreaming and continue to promote peer-to-peer learning in the framework of South - South Cooperation.

### **3. A. Das,<sup>8</sup> NGOs: Experiences of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Context of Social and Solidarity Economy**

The 21st century development thoughts are centered on social equity, inclusion and justice. Multiple global crises as well as the consequences of globalization have prompted the world leaders and the researchers to search for alternative production and consumption patterns and ways of organizing enterprise activities. Social and solidarity economy (SSE) which is supposed to satisfy human needs and help in the expansion of human capabilities by enhancing social relations through cooperation, association and solidarity, has been considered by the researchers as a potential alternative

South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) refers to partnership between equals which is guided by the principles of solidarity and non-conditionality. South-South Cooperation is meant by cooperation between developing countries, whereas triangular cooperation implies the participation of one (or more) Northern partner (i.e. developed country) supporting alliances between countries of the South (Benjamin, 2015). SSTC strengthens horizontal cooperation between countries in SSE with no conditionality. It strengthens cooperation in developing SSE between two or more countries in the South with Northern assistance in the form of financial contributions or technical knowledge. It also supports SSE innovations and enhances the adaptability/ replicability of SSE local good practice etc. (Benjamin, 2015). In the context of Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia, SSTC supports the existing Asian networks of field actors who have carried out South-South and triangular cooperation projects to promote the Decent Work Agenda in Asia. It organizes a training course for around 15 Social and Solidarity Economy practitioners, researchers and policymakers in the region. SSTC gathers practical research papers of SSTC activities in the field of Social and Solidarity Economy in Asia and identify successful SSTC activities (Benjamin, 2015). The actors of social and solidarity economies in Asia constitute a variety of organized groups. These comprise of village associations (Community Forest User Groups, indigenous peoples' groups in China and Cambodia, Badan Usaha Milik Desa, Panmai, ROSCAs of Kenya, and home-based workers of Pakistan), cooperatives (Seikatsu Club, Credit Union Promotion Centre of Malaysia, chilli farmer producer cooperative in Sabah), private shareholding social enterprises (Irodori, Meiho Ladies, San Jose Kitchen Cabinets Manufacturing), and non-governmental organizations (Work Together Foundation, Social Venture Capital Asia). (Benjamin, 2015).As self-help group-bank linkage programme in India four partners namely, Vasundhara Cooperative (India), NABARD (India), APRACA (Thailand), BMZ and GTZ (Germany) are involved in South-South and triangular cooperation in developing Social and Solidarity Economy.

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<sup>8</sup> Arindam Das, Ph.D (Commerce), Department of Commerce, The University of Burdwan, West Bengal, India

The old forms of SSEOs (co-operatives, charitable organizations, clubs, NGOs etc.), however, are known for considerably long period of time but their desired roles and the issues relevant for their sustainability are the new areas of concern of the contemporary research.

SSE is a concept which includes organizations that produce and provide services with an objective of creating social value. But SSE should not be confused as the 'economy of the poor and other vulnerable people like handicapped, women, migrants, low skilled workers etc.' According to ILO (2013), "The social economy is not, by definition, an economy of the poorest or most vulnerable. It is, in fact, a choice that is made. People can choose to combine (economic, social, environmental or other) objectives, not maximize the financial return on investment and establish participatory governance"

Besides these, the principle of solidarity is followed in managing the operating method which necessarily aims at including rather than excluding people. Its 'goal' is not limited to enhancing its capital base or generating and distributing profits among the owners. Unlike commercial organizations, it tries to accumulate resources with a view to achieve its objective of ensuring benefits for those who become associated with this organization in various capacities. This basic nature of solidarity necessarily requires 'innovation' to cope with the competitive market environment. Collectivism, rather than individualism is another important feature of this type of organization. In an environment of new economic order in the late twentieth century, a transformation from government-controlled economies in favor of free market economic systems is noticeable. In the backdrop of such transformation, non-government organizations, or NGOs, are expected to cater to the needs of those excluded segments of population, and hitherto served by the government institutions. In fact, their recent growth occurred because of a belief that neither government nor the traditional private sector could solve all economic and social problems (Bornstein, 2004). Traditionally, the term NGOs are used to refer to organizations which are not a part of the government and are not conventional for-profit business. Even if an NGO is funded totally or partially by the government, the NGO maintains its non-governmental status by excluding government representatives from membership in the organization. NGOs perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, ranging from protecting human rights, environmental awareness to developmental work. However, the nonprofit sector like NGO has traditionally been driven by a "dependency" model, relying primarily on philanthropy, voluntarism and government subsidy.

In the nonprofit world, "self-sufficiency" can be achieved only by relying completely on earned income, and thus, it is the ultimate goal of the most ambitious social entrepreneurs (Boschee and McClurg, 2003). This new class of social entrepreneurs primarily "searches for change, responds to it, and exploits it as an opportunity" (Drucker, 2002). In practice, some NGOs are effectively pursuing social entrepreneurship model in their operations. Even though their mission may be similar to a traditional charity model, that is, a not-for-profit organization established for a specific purpose and usually relies on funding from outside sources, but the way they achieve some of the social objectives differs greatly (Boschee, 2001). In this context, a cautionary approach is followed by Mazer (2009) in scaling down NGOs pursuing social entrepreneurship. In fact, Mazer outlined a few key concepts that would provide a unique identity for an NGO considering social entrepreneurship: (i) It must be mission-related, or at least mission relevant, (ii) It should come about naturally from a perceived need of clients or a gap in the market, (iii) Profit can occur, but it can't be the primary motivation.

The developmental impacts of NGOs include creation of new permanent and contract jobs, changing public opinion and social consciousness about healthy lifestyle choices, raising awareness of social programs, conducting women's education programs, placing disabled people in mainstream jobs etc. (Alter, S.K. 2002). However, it can be emphasized that while the social entrepreneurship model can be an effective NGO model for improving the well-being of individuals, the mere creation of such an organization does not guarantee success. There are certain constraints which actually inhibit the successful implementation of social entrepreneurship model in NGOs. Some of the plausible constraints in the path of developing successful enterprises can be mentioned as: legal environment, tax issues, lack

of access to capital and well defined property rights, inappropriate government regulations and low business acumen (Mazer 2009, Ostasiewski).

In the Indian context, the NGOs became a well-known institution after independence, particularly after 1970s. NGOs are more successful in reaching the weaker section of the society. The NGOs in India have contributed substantially towards social mobilization and social activism through their intensive campaigns, people's mobilization programmes and effective networks. This consideration has resulted in the rapid expansion of NGOs in the 1980s and the early 1990s. With the SHG linkages programme introduced in 1989, the NGO sector has been recognized as a crucial partner to facilitate the formation of the solidarity group, known as self-help group (Laxmi et al, 2002). A greater importance has been given in the seventh plan (1992-97), on the role of voluntary organizations in promoting rural development. The plan document states: "A nation-wide network of NGOs will be created. In order to facilitate the working of this network, three schemes relating to the replication and consultancy development have been worked out by the planning commission."

As far as the government funding is concerned, there are over 200 government schemes initiated by the central and state governments through which NGOs can have direct access to resources for rural development. According to the estimates of the working groups of NGOs, there are about 30,000 NGOs operating in India. However, in the perspective of SSE, 165 NGOs have been operating as SSEOs in India. Among them most notable ones are Society for Environmental Awareness, Rehabilitation of Child and Handicraft, Athencottasan Muthamizh Kazhagam Society Service Organization, TCI Foundation, Victims Information Sensitization Welfare and Assistance Society, International Human Rights Association, Mukhtangan Mitra, Freedom Foundation-India, and others.

One specific case of NGO in India in the context of SSTC may be considered here.

Navdanya is a movement for Earth Democracy based on the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam' (The Earth as one Family). It focuses on the protection of biological and cultural diversity. It involves a network of organic seed producers in India's 16 provinces, especially in rural regions affected by poverty. The Navdanya's mission consists of giving power to distant and marginalised farmers, as well as access to food security, whilst protecting the biodiversity of seeds. It is active throughout India, and makes no discrimination in terms of the participants' gender, religion or caste. Navdanya gives women the power and responsibility for conserving and passing on know-how about healthy eating, as well as about biological and cultural diversity.

The Navadnya movement was shaped in 1987, only a few years after the Bhopal disaster, during which thousands of people were killed following an explosion at a pesticide factory. It was officially registered as a trust in 1991. The non-governmental organization has set up around fifty communal seed banks and has trained more than 500,000 farmers in nutritional sovereignty and sustainable farming. Furthermore, Navdanya's network of local and fair trade is the biggest one in the country.

During the last two decades it has got various forms of cooperation from national and international organizations and governments. Some of the important names of organizations and governments include (i) Seed Savers and Organic Farmers Groups (Prakruti Paramparik Bihana Sangharakshana Abhijan, Jharkhand Alternative Development Forum, Women's Alliance, Ladakh, Sirmaur Farmers Association, and Others.); (ii) Grassroots Farmer Organisations (Chattisgarh Mukti Morcha, Paschim Orissa Krishi Jeevi Sangh, Orissa Krishak Mahasabha, AIKS, etc); (iii) Women Groups (All India Women's Conference, Azadi Bachao Andolan, National Commission for Women, Kali for Women/ women Unlimited, Vimochana, All India Democratic Women's Association, and Others.); (iv) Schools and Children's Groups (Wood Stock School Mussoorie; The Doon School, Hilton's School, Ann Merry School, Convent of Jesus and Marry, Wehlem's Boys and Girls School of Dehradun Rishi Valley School, etc); (v) Voluntary Organisations (Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, Gandhi

Peace Foundation, Council for Social Development, Greenpeace, Development Alternatives, Toxics Link, and Others.)

In addition to these, Navadnya has also been receiving assistance in the form of South-South and triangular cooperation format, e.g., Third World Network, Gaia Foundation, Schumacher College, Institute for Sustainable Development, Ethiopia, International Forum on Globalisation (IFG), OWINFS, Slow Food International, Center for Food Safety, IFOAM, Diverse Women for Diversity, Waterkeepers Alliance, Women's Environment and Development Organization, World Social Forum, Via Campesina, People's World Water Movement, International Commission on the Future of Food, FAO, Peasant Movement of the Philippines, Terre des homes, IBON Foundation Inc., UBINIG (Bangladesh), Focus on the Global South, CAP (Malaysia), Project of Ecological Recovery, PAN Indonesia, ETC Group, and many Others.

As a part of organic revolution, Navadnya trained more than four lakh men and women, farmers, students, government officials, representatives of national and different international NGO's voluntary organizations on biodiversity conservation and organic farming. Besides as a part of South-South cooperation it also trained secretaries and extension officers of the Tibetan government and different initiatives have been taken to convert its farming. Navadnya also ensures the linkage of the seed-to-the-table and of farmers to co-producers through fair trade initiatives. As a part of South-South and triangular cooperation format Navadnya is rendering to the propagation of sustainable food producing practices at the level of small farmers and artisan food communities. Slow Food, the international movement for the protection of traditional foods invited thirteen Navadnya food communities to be part of Terra Madre which is an assembly of more than five thousand artisan food producers all over the world. Navadnya has also took the initiative to lead the national and international movement for biosafety and against the dangers of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in agriculture. Through the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology (RFSTE) Navadnya filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court in 1999 against US seed giant, MONSANTO and Indian authorities for the illegal and unauthorized introduction of GMOs in India. Navadnya is also involved in the campaigns against GMOs in the international level. During the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial, Navadnya joined with seven hundred forty other organizations across globe in presenting their opposition to WTO's attempt to undermine the right of individual countries to take appropriate steps to protect their farmland, environment and consumers from the risks posed by GM foods and crops. It can also be considered as an evidence of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Navadnya along with the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology (RFSTE), Greenpeace and Bharat Krishak Samaj (BKS) filed a petition at the European Patent Office (EPO), challenging the patent rights given to Monsanto on Indian Landrace of wheat, Nap Hal. The patent was revoked in October 2004 and it may be considered as a cooperation among NGOs. Navadnya launched the Jal Swaraj Movement to protect water from privatization and commodification and to promote traditional water harvesting systems and equitable access to water. RFSTE and Citizens Front for Water Democracy (a coalition of more than 100 groups) have successfully stopped the World Bank scheme of privatizing Delhi's water supply to Suez, effectively stealing Ganga water from farmers. Navadnya also stopped Coca Cola's thievery of Kerala's ground water and it is also collaborating with farmer groups from Bundelkhand and Uttarankhand to fight against the River Linking Projects like Ken-Betwa and Sharda-Yamuna.

#### **4. R. Kamran,<sup>9</sup> SSTC, SSE & Rural Development, an Experience from Pakistan**

South-South and Triangular Cooperation activities in the field of Social and Solidarity Economy enhance the economic productivity, income generation, social harmony, gender equality and employment opportunities in Pakistan.

South-South Cooperation refers to a mutual collaboration between two or more countries or regions of the South to promote productive work both for men and women, aimed at fostering self-sustaining development, create opportunities for employment, sustainable livelihood and income generation by sharing technical or economic knowledge and skills to facilitate development and find solutions for common challenges.

South-South Cooperation is managed by the developing countries themselves with active participation in the process from government, public and private sector actors, academia, institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). South-South Cooperation involves different methods such as sharing of knowledge and experience, training, technology transfer, financial and monetary cooperation and in-kind contributions. South-South Cooperation can include different sectors and be bilateral, multilateral, sub regional, regional or interregional in nature.

At government level, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a good example of South-South Cooperation. It is a framework of regional connectivity. CPEC<sup>10</sup> will not only benefit China and Pakistan but it has positive impact on Iran, Afghanistan, India, Central Asian Republic, and the region. The enhancement of geographical linkages having improved road, rail and air transportation system with frequent and free exchanges of growth and people to people contact, enhancing understanding through academic, cultural and regional knowledge and culture, activity of higher volume of flow of trade and businesses, producing and moving energy to have more optimal businesses and enhancement of co-operation by win-win model will result in well connected, integrated region of shared destiny, harmony and development.

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is a good option to promote and develop the economic situation of Least Developed countries (LDCs) and other developing countries. It guarantees effective ways to ensure development and alleviate poverty in the South. It decreases the dependency on traditional development partners and severely supports self-reliance through innovation and technology while strengthening local and regional partners in development. South-South Cooperation opens economic opportunities for all people without any kind of discrimination, and creates social harmony and gender equality at grass root level. SSC helps in generating policies targeting rural youth, rejuvenate the agricultural and rural work force and harness youth's energy and capacity to innovate. SSC opens better job prospects for the youth in rural areas and contribute in reducing distressed migration to urban areas, where labor markets are often already saturated.

At an organizational level, the cooperation between Pakistan and Bangladesh is a good example of South-South Cooperation. In 2011, Society for Peace and Sustainable Development (SPSD)-Pakistan and Integrated Rural Development Council (IRDC)-Bangladesh signed an agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to help and support each other on solidarity basis. Both organizations agreed to share knowledge, monetary resources, good practices, technical expertise and training opportunities with each other in the field of sustainable agriculture, food security, and women empowerment. In 2012, SSPD- Pakistan organized a Training of Trainers (TOT) of 25 young women on the topic of Formation of Women Self Help Groups in district Muzaffargarh in Punjab, Pakistan with the financial help and

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<sup>9</sup> Rufus Kamran, Pakistan.

<sup>10</sup> [www.cpec.gov.pk](http://www.cpec.gov.pk)



technical expertise of IRDC-Bangladesh. The training was successful and the results of the replication of this training were wonderful.

These 25 women of SPSD-Pakistan trained more 250 women to form Women Self Help Groups in 25 target villages of district Muzaffargarh. Village Chak No. 5/4-L, Umeed Pur, hamlet Rangpur, tehsil and district Muzaffargarh, Punjab, Pakistan has become a model village to demonstrate the desired results of solidarity economy. The outcomes of this training led the whole village towards promoting autonomous and community-controlled food production systems; autonomous healthcare systems; autonomous markets; and an autonomous media. Now the whole village has been adopted bio-diverse farming systems and people of the village are able to produce all the cereals with the help of each other.

The local perception of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in rural areas of Pakistan is that “*a mechanism in which people help each other financially and economically on voluntarily basis without taking any interest or profit on rotating basis to each member of the group is called social and solidarity economy*” (Kamran 2002). Self Help Groups (SHGs) fulfill the same criteria of the above mentioned perception of the local people of Pakistani rural society. To help each other financially and economically on rotating basis has become the popular phenomenon in most of the rural areas of Pakistan.

In Pakistan, Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) aims to build a model of market exchange and sustainable development among people-centered organizations. The first step is to have an institutional development at grass root level such as to form farmer’s organizations and Self Help Groups. Enabling poor people to overcome poverty means strengthening their capacity to access resources, services and markets. Society for Peace and Sustainable Development (SPSD)-Pakistan is now in the forefront of mobilizing vulnerable rural communities in five districts of South Punjab to help them come out of poverty by organizing themselves and regenerating the ecosystems they live in. These Self Help Groups (SHGs) having an aim to enable people to contribute towards their own social and economic development.

In Pakistan, South-South and triangular cooperation activities in the field of Social and Solidarity Economy are increasingly being recognized as a tool to develop, at a local and community level, well-being and quality of life, to fight against poverty, and to promote employment creation and access to education, training, health and social justice. The model of economic and social development of rural people of Pakistan under the principles of Solidarity Economy through SHGs enable people to get involved in a more active and democratic way in decision-making and changes, thus becoming a pole of participation and responsible citizenship.

Social and Solidarity Economy strives to overcome inequalities in all classes of society. SSE has the ability to take the best practices that exist. SSE is of fundamental importance, since it advocates for the improvement of Sustainable livelihood and income as well as for supportive economic enterprises.

## **5. S. Maji<sup>11</sup>, Assessing the Role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Evidence from IBSA Countries**

*“Things are going wrong not because of market failures. The problem is much deeper than that. Mainstream free-market theory suffers from a conceptualization failure, a failure to capture the essence of what it is to be human.” (Yunus, 2007)*

Unequal distribution of wealth and failure of institutions, state and market as a whole have forced the scholars and thinkers all over the globe to search for an alternative form of economy (Zahra *et al.*, 2008) which will be free from distortion, exploitation and restrictions (Elson, 2000). Instead of globalization,

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<sup>11</sup> Sumit Kumar Maji, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, The University of Burdwan, West Bengal, India.

which has failed, the world is in the quest for ‘fair globalization’ to address the real grass root level needs of the society. In achieving the ideal form of social economy there is the necessity to stand together with the spirit of cooperation and solidarity in order to ensure the inclusive sustainable growth and creation of decent world of work for all (Levaggi, 2016).

The very concept of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) rests on the idea of amalgam of ‘Solidarity Economy’ and ‘Social Economy’. Lewis (2007) defines ‘Social Economy’ as the third system of the economy (which exists in the form of organizations such as NGOs, SHGs, Cooperative Societies, *etc.*) which is supporting the first system of the economy, *i.e.* the private profit making organizations and the second system of the economy that is the Government or State or public organizations. The organizations under the third system are different from that of the first and second system of the economy in prioritizing the social objectives or goals for sustainable inclusive development on top over the traditional and outmoded objective of either profit maximization or value maximization.

On the other hand ‘Solidarity Economy’ is a pluralistic concept unlike other past social movements which aims at changing the focus from the narrow objective of profit or wealth maximization under the neoliberal capitalist economic system to the ‘people’ and ‘planet’ only (Lewis and Swinney, 2007). Thus the underlying objective of ‘Solidarity Economy’ is to question the Triple Bottom Line Model and seeks to establish Double Bottom-line Model by only considering ‘people’ and ‘planet’ and eliminating ‘profit’ from the structure. Naturally SSE is a dependable, credible and alternative form of economic systems which puts ‘people’ and ‘planet’ at the first place unlike in a neo liberal capitalist economic systems. As a result the organizations may belong to any economic system (first, second or third), but if the organizations are ready to accept the social welfare and wellbeing as their prime objectives then these sort of organizations are collectively recognized as Social and Solidarity Economic Organizations (SSEOs). Due to the failure of the existing market economic system in addressing pressing problem of the society and economy, the ideology of SSE gained momentum as there are numerous successful examples of cooperation and solidarity amongst the various actors in the context of the SSE. Considering the dynamic nature of the global socio-economy-political environment and the ever increasing unresolved problems in the society, it is not possible for countries to have sustainable growth in isolation thus it is the responsibility of the empowered ones to empower the powerless.

In this direction the cooperation in the spirit of solidarity amongst the Governments of different countries can have a huge positive impact in eradicating the broad social problems. Such cooperation and solidarity is needed in varied fields specifically to attain the Sustainable Development Goals widely known as SDGs as pronounced in UNDP (UN General Assembly, 2015).

Since 1950’s development cooperation around the globe was dominated by the power blocks in the West popularly referred to as ‘North-South Cooperation’. However with the ‘Rise of the Emerging Economies’ brought about by the changed Political, Economic, Social and Technological environment and coupled with the power erosion of the multilateral and bilateral agencies of Western Countries, the emerging economies such as India, China, Brazil, South Africa, Russia are altering and redefining the very equation of development cooperation between countries in the spirit of solidarity around the world (Quadir, 2013). The countries which once used to be assisted under the ‘North-South Cooperation’ (NSC) model are now more than ready to contribute for promoting inclusive sustainable development in other less developed and developing countries. This very idea has given birth to a new model of cooperation recognized as ‘South-South Cooperation’ (SSC) which is based upon the sharing and exchange of ideas, skill, knowledge, technology, *etc.*, in collaboration with the different actors in SSE for the mutual benefits of developing countries. In addition to that, if such SSC initiative receives support from the developed countries or multilateral organizations (such as WHO, IBRD, IMF, UN, *etc.*), then such form of cooperation model is defined as South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). The role of the parties involved in SSC or SSTC in addressing the pressing problems of the society can never be undermined (Vidal, 2005).

Recognising the very needs of the society different countries of the world stood together in the spirit of solidarity in the year 2000 and adopted eight points, the Millennium Development Goals, to be achieved by 2015. In order to reinforce the progress made by the countries in achieving MDGs, 170 countries of the world adopted the 17 point Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of UNDP to be achieved by 2030. The SDGs are comprehensive in nature and will target the burning problems of the society across world. Thus attainment of SDGs will require partnership and cooperation amongst the nations in the form of NSC or SSC or SSTC or any other viable SSE model.

Regional cooperation is of utmost importance in actualizing the SDGs. The India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA) was established in June 2003, vide Brasilia Declaration in an effort to promote the SSC. IBSA's domains of activities are mainly four.

**Firstly**, being a forum of three emerging economies, the IBSA countries, providing a platform for discussion, cooperation and coordination on various socio-economic and political issues of global and regional significance such as: the dialogue for bringing reforms in the global institutions of political and economic governance, WTO/Doha Development Agenda, climate change and global warming (addressing Goal 13 of SDG relating to Climate Action), combating terrorism (addressing Goal 16 of SDG for ensuring peace, justice and strong institutions).

**Secondly**, important activities includes the sector cooperation between IBSA countries with the help of 14 Working Groups (in realization of Goal 17 of SDGs ,i.e. partnership for achieving the SDGs) in the domain of Transport (in addressing Goal 9), Health (in addressing Goal 3), Education (in addressing Goal 4), Defense (in addressing Goal 16), Science & Technology (in addressing Goal 9), Trade & Investment (in addressing Goal 2), Culture, Agriculture (in addressing Goal 2), Energy(in addressing Goal 7), Public Administration and Governance (in addressing Goal 16), Revenue Administration, Human Settlement (in addressing Goal 11), Environment (in addressing Goal 13,14 & 15) and Social Development (in addressing Goal 8 & 10).

**Thirdly**, apart from the Working Groups, six 'People to People Forums' are playing catalytic role in achieving the second objective of IBSA which are Parliamentary Forum (in addressing Goal 17), Women's Forum (in addressing Goal 5), Academic Forum (in addressing Goal 4), Local Governance Forum (in addressing Goal 16), Business Forum (in addressing Goal 2& 9), Tri-Nation Summit on Small Business and Editors' Forum.

**Finally**, in its commitments towards mutual cooperation in the spirit of solidarity, IBSA Fund was established in 2004 whereby the IBSA countries decided contribute one million US Dollars each year for financing different projects of the IBSA countries which are primarily focused on fighting poverty and hunger (an initiative to achieve Goal 2 of SDGs). The idea received international recognition when the IBSA Fund was awarded the UN South-South Partnership Award (2006), an MDG Award from UN (2010) and the South-South Champions Award from UN under UNDP (2012) for its excellent contribution towards promoting SSC between IBSA countries in realizing the SDGs. The IBSA fund is managed by the special unit SSC of UNDP and the projects are undertaken and implemented jointly with the UN Agencies (an instance of SSTC), SSEOs and Governments of different countries *etc.*, in the spirit of solidarity. The IBSA Fund sponsored project portfolio till 2015 was consisting of financing in different fields such as Agriculture (30%), Health Care (27%), Livelihood promotion (21.70%), Water (6.5%), Waste Management (4.2%), Youth and Sports (4%), Governance and Security (3.8%), Renewable Energy (2.2%) and other projects of social importance (0.60%). The analysis of the funding by geographic regions would suggest that funding was provided to African countries (28.90%), Latin American and Caribbean Countries (25.70%), Arab States (23.70%), Asian Countries (21%) and to other countries (0.60%). This is a promising SSC and SSTC model which can be replicated in other parts of the globe.

A MoU was signed by the IBSA in 2007 countries in their commitment towards achieving SDGs, for amplifying the trilateral cooperation in imparting knowledge and bridging skill deficit (an agenda to attain Goal 4 of SDGs) amongst the youth in the domain of Engineering, Computer Sciences and Mathematical Sciences (in addressing Goal 4 & 9); Biotechnology (in addressing Goal 4 & 9), Agriculture and Livestock (in addressing Goal 4 & 2) ; Sustainable Development (in addressing Goal 4 & 8); Social Transformation and Empowerment; and Higher Education Studies (in addressing Goal 4); Climate change (in addressing Goal 4, 13,14 & 15) and its effect on rural livelihoods, health (in addressing Goal 4 & 3) and food security (in addressing Goal 2); Global Governance and International Trade and Investments (in addressing Goal 16). Such kind of innovative initiatives are prominent cases of SSC with adequate successful chances of replicability in other parts of the world.

During 2010, IBSA Intent of Declaration was signed between IBSA countries regarding the promotion Decent Work at ILO in Geneva (another instance of SSTC) with the basic objective to attain Goal 8 of SDGs. In March, 2012, for the very first time IBSA Conference on SSC was organized in New Delhi, India, in collaboration with ILO, where the Labour Ministers of the IBSA Countries participated to discuss the issues associated with the condition for decent work and the issues relating to public employment policies existing in the IBSA countries. The recommendations of such conference were to augment the dialogue in the sphere of world of work within and between the IBSA countries and ILO.

Other major recommendation of the conference was to provide adequate support to ILO's initiative of SSTC in installing the equality and solidarity among the IBSA countries. Another example of such kind of initiative of SSTC is the ILO Decent Work Technical Support Team (DWT) for South Asia headquartered in New Delhi which is engaged in realizing the decent work environment. IBSA has undertaken a number of projects in response to their commitment towards SDGs (White, 2010). Some of the projects undertaken in this regard are a waste management project in Haiti, small-scale agricultural development and animal herding and rural community development in Guinea Bissau, a healthcare infrastructure project in Cabo Verde, human development, capacity building, leadership building and poverty reduction programme in Sierra Leone. Recently the IBSA has also extended the developmental cooperation to Sudan and South Sudan under the agenda of Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD). In this respect the SSEOs play a pivotal role in implementing the projects successfully. IBSA joined hands with Ministry of Health (Burundi), Society of Woman Against AIDS (an SSEO), UNDP and UNFPA under the project "Strengthening Infrastructure and Capacity to Combat HIV/AIDS". IBSA has funded Palestine through Palestinian National Authority, Ministry of Youth (Palestine), Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Sharek (SSEO), and UNDP under two different projects named "Rehabilitation of the Cultural and Hospital Center" and "Supporting Programme Opportunities in Recreational and Team Sports". Another ongoing project of IBSA is "Reconstruction of Atta Habib Hospital Medical Centre in Gaza City" in cooperation with Palestinian National Authority and UNDP/PAPP. The project "Creation of Job Opportunities for Youth through Labour-intensive Work" is in operation in Sudan funded by IBSA and executed in association with Government of Sudan and UNDP.

Another project which aims at "developing the entrepreneurial skills of vulnerable youth and on facilitating their access to decent job" is undertaken in Haiti by IBSA with ILO and Viva Rio (SSEO). "Poverty Reduction through Livestock Development" project in Saint Lucia is being funded by IBSA and carried on in association with Government and FAO of UN. Innovative e-Learning approach for Health care education project is floated in Vietnam by IBSA in collaboration with Government, Haiphong Medical University and WHO. In Lao People's Democratic Republic IBSA in partnership with Lao Government and UNDP through "Support to Integrated Irrigated Agriculture in Two Districts in Bolikhamxay" project tried to address the livelihood problems and food security for the local community. There are a number of other projects in the form of SSC or SSTC which are going on in the dream of achieving SDGs by 2030. IBSA as a forum has been successfully working towards in the spirit of

solidarity. Such a platform for dialogue for promoting sustainable inclusive development is highly required and the IBSA model because of its success can be replicated in different parts of the world.

## **6. Dr. A. Mondal<sup>12</sup>, South –South/Triangular Cooperation and Social Innovations for Solidarity Economy**

Social and Solidarity Economy is an alternative to capitalism where common people play major role in promoting all dimensions of human life like economic, social, cultural, political and environmental. This economy exists in all sectors of the economy via production, distribution finance, exchange, consumption and governance. The main objectives of this economy are to transform the social and economic system and to overcome inequalities covering all classes of society. Examples of social and solidarity economy include social organizations like cooperatives, mutual associations, non-governmental organizations, self-help groups ran by women, forestry groups, association of informal workers, fair trade organizations, social entrepreneurs,*etc.* This economic system favors decentralization and local development for attaining social, economic and environmental objectives. This economic system provides a voice and strength through self-organization, participatory governance, and collective actions at multiple levels.

The innovative component of social and solidarity economy develops the concept of South-South and triangular cooperation. The idea behind south - south cooperation is that it allows countries to interact at a horizontal level and spread solutions which are the results of an exchange of skills, resources and technical expertise which promotes solidarity. From the experience of the last decade, it is proven that South - South Cooperation is an efficient and effective operational tool to achieve positive results in areas like child labor, vocational training, migration issues, green jobs, *etc.* In the recent past this cooperation system gained popularity and added values in the field of developmental cooperation. This system covers different areas like agriculture, youth employment, trade, investment and technology transfer and also direct financial assistance between developing countries. It also has significant contribution to food security, social protection, renewable energy etc.

### **Major Goals of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (source OECD 2013)**

Enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of development through:

- Ensuring sustainability;
- Developing partnership among donor, pivotal and recipient countries;
- Improving development capacity of pivotal countries;
- Strengthening regional cooperation;
- Enlarging financing for development.

In nutshell, South-South/Triangular Cooperation covers all important objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and South–South/Triangular Cooperation can be used as a vehicle to achieve SDGs worldwide in 2030

### **INDIA and South-South/Triangular Cooperation**

India is suffering from social illness like food security, health, poverty, sanitation, child labour *etc.*, to overcome such social illness, United States and India are working together to promote global progress and shared developmental goals. According to the agreement in the U.S.-India Joint Statement, U.S and India share a common interest in working with partners across Africa and Asia to mitigate the impact of climate change, promote global health and food security, and ensure continued regional integration and stability. U.S. assistance in India also helps to end extreme poverty and increase citizens' access to quality health care, education, water and sanitation, and clean energy.

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<sup>12</sup> Dr. Amitava Mondal, Assistant Professor in Commerce, SKB University, West Bengal, India.

Few instances are presented below;

**Feed the Future India Triangular Training Program:** USAID and Indian Ministry of Agriculture’s premier institute — the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) — to train 1,500 agricultural practitioners from 17 countries across Africa and Asia on specialized farming practices to improve productivity and income. Phase I of the program trained 219 participants from Kenya, Liberia, and Malawi in agricultural marketing, dairy management, food processing and other best practices to prevent post-harvest losses. These farmers, food processors, extension workers, and policymakers are now implementing new farming practices that improve food and nutritional security in their countries and regions. Following the successes of these three countries, Phase II expanded to include training for hundreds of additional farmers, helping increase the agricultural stability of 17 target countries.

**Cereal System Initiative for South Asia (CSISA):** USAID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation jointly established CSISA in 2009 to help India’s smallholder farmers adapt to climate change and rainfall variability. By this initiative, CSISA works to improve crop production by integrating cutting-edge technologies such as two-wheeled tractors, rice planters, and irrigation methods with resource conservation and sound farm management practices. These innovative solutions increased incomes and crop yields for 620,000 farmers in India. Tested technologies are currently being transferred and applied in Bangladesh and Nepal to improve agricultural productivity and increase farmers’ incomes regionally.

**Bullet Santi and Seed Dibbler:** USAID supports the Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions (SRISTI) to transfer two- and three-wheel tractor “Bullet Santi”, Seed Dibblers, and food processors to Kenyan farmers. In India, these technologies have helped increase agricultural productivity and improved the resilience of more than one million households. With USAID’s support, SRISTI is forging new partnerships with the Kenyan private sector to transfer and deploy these same innovations in 10 counties of Kenya.

**Clean Energy Access Network (CLEAN):** USAID, in partnership with GIZ, ICCO Cooperation, and the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation setup CLEAN as a coalition of 10 Indian and international non-profits to enable increased uptake of off-grid energy solutions by reducing financial and operational barriers.

South-South/Triangular Cooperation is one of the best ways for development of social and solidarity economy. It promotes social innovations and helps to share knowledge, technology and resources for sustainable development. Social illness like poverty, gender equality, child labor *etc.*, can be removed by proper implementation of such triangular cooperation.

## ***7. Dr. S. Gopal Maji<sup>13</sup>, Towards SSE: The Role of Women’s Participation***

The South-South triangular cooperation (SSTC) is a strategic initiative of International Labour Organization (ILO) towards horizontal and solidarity-driven means of promoting social justice, decent work, and fair globalization. The recent updating memorandum of association in September 2016 between ILO and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of the People’s Republic of China has broaden the perimeter of SSTC towards social and solidarity economy (SSE) by leveraging China’s experience in global engagement. The Turin-based SSTC academy set up in 2016 is also a remarkable initiative to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Decent Work Agenda. Likewise, the initiatives of the ILO and the Government of Algeria in January 2016 is another notable steps of SSTC for creating more equitable distribution of income, democracy, and economic and social development of Algeria. The major objective of this initiative was sharing the experience of Algeria in terms of Social Protection with African countries through South-South and triangular cooperation.

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<sup>13</sup> Dr. Santi Gopal Maji, Assistant Professor in Commerce, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India.



Although since 1970s, cooperation between developing countries has been an integral part of global development cooperation, in recent times it has gain greater visibility. In this respect the role of SSTC is indispensable, which has been confirmed by several main United Nations (UN) conferences. The High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi (2009), is a historic event that has enhanced the perimeter of SSTC in the framework of UN system for achieving the social justice, decent work, and fair globalization. The notable statement of Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO, in the Global South-South Development Expo, 2010 that “*the best aid aims to eliminate the very need for aid. Countries want capacity, not charity*” is perhaps the best explanation of the initiatives of the SSTC towards reducing inequality among the counties and upholding fair globalization. In its broad ambit SSTC, as a complementary to the North-South Cooperation, is a manifestation of solidarity between the countries and people of south for achieving the objectives of global development including the Millennium Development Goals. The initiatives of SSTC is closely associated with Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) as it identifies the successful enterprise with social motives from one country and promotes for the application of the same in another country in order to provide the sustainable solutions of the challenges faced by the less developed countries. It is interesting to mention here the important role of ILO towards this endeavor by optimum utilization of financial, logistic and technical resources apart from the role of merely a supply channel (Amorim, 2013).

SSE refers to the production of goods and services with explicit social and environmental objectives by enterprises encompassing cooperatives and other form of social enterprise, self-help groups, community-based organizations, association of informal economy workforce and NGOs providing services. An important vision of SSE is to provide opportunities for local development through employment generation, mobilizing local resources, community risk management and retaining and reinvesting surplus. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on SSE holds notable promise for addressing the economic, social, and environmental objectives for sustainable development. It is an indispensable means of bridging the transition from the informal to the formal economy under condition of decent work.

### **Women’s Participation in SSE: a South-South Approach**

The UN Report, 1970 indicates that despite women’s significant contribution in regional and national development, their participation in social development was very limited. However, today women are taking active role for the social and economic development. Women’s participation in the development process is merely not an issue of human rights and social justice; it is vital for the inclusive development of the society. In an workshop on “*Women’s Participation in the Promotion of Social Development: Lessons from Asia, Latin America and Caribbean*” held in Saitama, Japan during October 27-30, 2003 the participants indicated the diverse role of women and women’s organization in designing and implementing initiatives for promoting equitable and inclusive social development in East and Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. United Nations Human Development indicators (2003) indicate that on an average female participation in the labour force is higher in East and Southeast Asia as in comparison to Latin America. However, women’s share in non-agricultural wage employment is greater in Latin America and the Caribbean as compared to that of in East and Southeast Asia.

Various forms of SSE take care of women’s well-being and empowerment. Throughout the globe women are at the crux of social and solidarity economy and achieving the fundamental objectives of SSTC. Women play active role in agricultural, cooperatives, self-help groups, credit and saving groups, as well as of community forestry initiatives, which are the major components of solidarity economy. The initiatives of SSTC in the social, economic, environmental and technical fields of developing countries of south by engaging social partners to promote decent work agenda can be fulfilled more efficiently though the participation of women as workers, members, participants and users due to their valuable contribution, whether remunerated or non-remunerated, since the dawn of this society. One of the fundamental principles of South-South networking is to address the challenges of poor, marginalized, and discriminated groups at different parts and it is not surprising that women are in the majority. Hence, the

efforts of SSTC towards decent work and fair globalization aiming at solidarity economy can empower women by women.

Women, now a days, are becoming more active in forming their own cooperatives and social enterprises for the societal development and enthusiastically participates in the leadership roles of national, regional and international associations such as the Brazilian Forum of Solidarity Economy, the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal and the Coordinator of Fair Trade Small Producers of Latin America and the Caribbean (CLAC). Women have contributed significantly for the development of SEE throughout the globe by providing essential services to the community, creating business and trade, and conducting economic activities to satisfy the need of the society.

As per the report of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (TFSSE) (2014), the number of women in the leadership position in cooperative and mutual insurance sector is very high (13.6%). It is also mentioned in the report that there are 100 million home-based workers, mainly women, in the world and interestingly the half is located in South Asia. It is also evident from the report that more than 30 million people, mainly women, are actively involved in over 2.2 million self-help groups in India. The Kudumbashree poverty eradication scheme of Kerala (India) aims at enhancing local economic development where about 4 million women are involved in the project. Unfortunately, the report indicates that more than 94% of the female labour forces in India are unprotected informal workers inspite of their significant contribution towards social and solidarity economy. Likewise, in East Africa, women's participation in cooperatives appears to be rising in line with the overall increase in cooperative membership. According to the Spanish Confederation of Worker Cooperatives (COCETA), 49% of people in worker cooperatives are women. Likewise, in Morocco many female-run cooperatives have been developed, mainly in the craft and agricultural industries.

## **Conclusion**

Social and solidarity economy plays vital role in reorienting economies and societies toward greater social and ecological sustainability. This is possible through the normative and operational principles of South-South cooperation that respect for mutual benefit, mutual accountability and transparency, co-ordination of result-based initiatives etc. local economic and social development and city-to-city cooperation in countries of south may provide platform for solidarity economy at micro level and combination of several micro level developments ultimately lead to the development of countries as a whole. Women have greatly contributed to solidarity economy through their active involvement and participation in various forms of social organization like cooperatives, self-help groups, community-based organizations, association of informal economy workforce and NGOs providing services, which are essential for the fulfillment of the fundamental principles of SSTC and SSE. However, it is still a key challenge for the SSTC to utilize the unutilized capacity and efficiency of women working at different social organization. Network of the women-based social organizations is indispensable for women's emancipation and political empowerment so that they can gain voice as well as networking skills. SSTC can play vital role in this respect through the linkage of several organizations mainly run by women at different resins of the developing countries. Training programs, cooperative learning, expansion of market from local to national and international through a sustainable policy may be very helpful for enhancing the capacity and efficiency of the women engaged in several social organization.

## 8. A. Namala<sup>14</sup>, South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Address Caste Based Discrimination<sup>15</sup>

The process of highlighting caste based discrimination and seeking mechanisms for addressing it has truly been a process of ‘South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)’. The National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) was initiated in India in 1998 by several Human Rights activists, with support and solidarity from movements and organizations, academics, individuals, people’s organizations and institutions across India who are committed to work to protect and promote human rights of Dalits. NCDHR highlighted caste and similar forms of exclusion and discrimination in South Asia and globally. Caste based exclusion is an evident cause of the poverty, poor development indicators, low access to productive resources and market interface, discrimination and violence faced by these communities. Moving beyond India, NCDHR was able to make common grounds with other South Asian countries. Civil society organizations across South Asia has come together to address it collectively as the *Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF)*; Parliamentarians in South Asia have come together as the *SA Parliamentarians Forum*; Parliamentarians from European Union and other countries have extended support. Further, *International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)* was initiated as global solidarity body.

NCDHR raised caste-based discrimination at the UN World Conference against Racism (UNWCAR, 2001) and followed up consistently with the UN bodies. The process brought forth information on caste-like exclusion and discrimination systems and practices prevalent across many countries. The appointment of Special Rapporteurs by the Human Rights Commission helped articulate the global nature of these exclusionary systems. This led to the evolution of ‘*Principles and Guidelines for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent, 2009*’. More recently the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) has developed a ‘*Guidance tool on Descent based discrimination-key challenges and strategic approaches to combat caste-based and analogous forms of discrimination to all UN agencies (2017)*’. Currently the various UN Committees (UNCEDAW, UNCRC) while reviewing the country reports raise queries on special measures taken to address the concerns of the communities affected by caste discrimination.

Dalit rights activists and communities are disappointed that ‘work and descent based discrimination’ is not recognized as a source of discrimination in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). This leaves large proportions of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged population sections across many countries invisible and without a voice and mechanism to collectively address their discrimination. It also loses out in understanding and addressing the intersectional discrimination and exclusion faced by diverse women groups, children groups, youth groups to name some.

Dalit rights activists and civil society organizations are further engaging in new frontiers in Dalit rights work. The right of Dalit women is emerging as an important area. The concern of Dalit children and youth is another dimension. Economic empowerment is gaining particular focus. It must be mentioned that the engagement so far has focused primarily on violence, discrimination and social issues. Economic dimension is gaining currency in very recent times. This paper reviews what has been achieved through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in addressing caste based exclusion and discrimination. It further points towards emerging concerns that also need SSTC support and strategies.

### **Caste based discrimination: A brief**

The erstwhile ‘untouchable’ communities – administratively called ‘Scheduled Castes’ and popularly known as ‘Dalits’ constitute about 16.6% of the Indian population (about 200 million people). Being born at the lowest rung of the Indian caste system they have been kept outside the mainstream society as –

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<sup>14</sup> Annie Namala

<sup>15</sup> This paper is done in consultation with the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR).

outcastes, untouchables. Being so recognized they were excluded for generations from freely interfacing with other communities, pushed to live outside common habitable places, prohibited from education, participation and decision-making in society. An important dimension is that they are obliged to do caste based occupations of cleaning and scavenging, disposing and skinning of dead animals, farm related works and other casual labour. All these occupations were considered mean, stigmatizing and low paid. They did not have the freedom to choose their occupations, being pushed to compulsory and bonded labour. Certain forced occupations like manual scavenging and temple prostitution of women further humiliates the communities. The Dalits are not a homogenous community in themselves and have many subgroups, some of who are worse than the others, building an internal hierarchy. Dalit women, youth and children, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI and other subsections are disadvantaged multiple times including physical and sexual violence. Caste based discrimination is prevalent across South Asia. Further NCDHR along with International Solidarity Network facilitated to bring to light similar forms of exclusion, prohibitions, humiliation and violence on communities in many other countries. This was the case for Burakumin in Japan, Al-Akhdam in Yemen, Wolof-Neeno in Senegal, Quilombo in Brazil and several other castes and descent based communities in other parts of the world.

### **Mechanisms against caste based discrimination:**

The ‘untouchable communities’ in India have contested the caste based social structure since generations. Early voices against caste system came from within the Hindu religion and later by the untouchable communities converting to other religions like Buddhism, Sikhism, Christianity and Islam. The work of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Ayyankali, Savitribai Phule and many Dalit leaders of their times fought against the caste system. The Constitution of independent India made caste based discrimination punishable crime in 1950. The Constitution also provided positive and affirmative action in education, employment, legislative representation and economic resources. However, the social and cultural ethos embedded in religious framework and society continues to undermine these positive and progressive steps.

Civil society actions have been part of the resistance and struggle against the caste system for long. When NCDHR made it an agenda at the WCAR in 2001 comparing it with racism, the government of India strongly refuted that caste is not akin to race. Hence the government counters any effort to address it globally, maintaining that it is long-standing, cultural and religious and solutions will be found internally at the country level.

### **The South-South Cooperation can be seen in the following processes related to combatting cast discrimination:**

- Building a national network within the country – a platform where the caste based discrimination could be articulated, monitored, articulated and advocated. There are many number of civil society organisations within the country, almost always led by members from the Dalit communities who track, monitor and highlight issues of caste discrimination and violence. They have formed state and national level coalitions, engaging with the state administration and parliamentarians to build strategies.
- At the South Asian level – NCDHR also facilitated the process of civil society organisations in Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka who belonged to the Dalit community/raised the caste based discriminate on issue to come together across national boundaries to analyse the system and its negative impact.
- Undertaking studies and advocacy – has undertaken a number of studies and reports to highlight the caste based system prevalent across national borders. A recent one was on ‘challenges faced by Dalit women in accessing economic resources in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka)’.

- Global level - Going beyond South Asia, NCDHR also identified similarly discriminated communities across Africa, Middle East, Europe, Africa and South America and are in the process of forming a larger global forum and to move towards a unifying global identity.

### **Supporting the Parliamentarians' Forum**

Going beyond civil society organizations, NCDHR also encouraged concerned parliamentarians from Dalit and other communities to come together as the '*Asia Parliamentarian's Forum on Dalit Concerns*' to raise the issue at the national, regional and global level. The Parliamentarians have visited each other's countries, held regional consultations and also interfaced with UN and EU bodies to highlight the concerns on the caste system. It is important to recognize that the Parliamentarians forum has been able to also engage with parliamentarians beyond South Asia too, and recently held a global parliamentarian's conference to address the issue of caste based discrimination and also included parliamentarians from Asia and Europe.

### **South-South and Triangular Cooperation at large**

The efforts of NCDHR has been strengthened and supported by individuals and institutions at the global level. Important in this process are:

- The World Council of Churches and INGOs like Bread for the World had identified caste system and the Dalit communities as an important source of exclusion and discrimination.
- The study and publication of 'Broken People' by Human Rights Watch.
- The support from UN and international INGOs for Dalit rights activists to participate and represent the issues of caste based discrimination in the WCAR both at the civil society and official forums.
- The support of international NGOs to support and promote the work of Dalit rights activists and civil society organisations
- Setting up Dalit solidarity networks in other developed countries – Germany, UK, Norway, Finland & Netherlands.
- Setting up the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) based in Denmark.

### **South-South and Triangular Cooperation with the UN**

South-South and more specifically Triangular Cooperation from the UN agencies has been an important support for pitching caste and similar forms of discrimination at the global level. Various UN bodies have contributed to it starting with the UNWCAR process itself through:

- The chairperson of OHCHR, Mary Robinson, who had a consultation with the Dalit rights activists.
- The CERD Committee that passed the General Recommendation Number 29 including caste and analogous forms into Article 1 of the Convention.
- The erstwhile sub-commission for promotion and protection of Human Rights appointed Special Rapporteurs to do a study on caste based discrimination.
- The Sub commission also formulated the 'Principles and Guidelines for the effective elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent', in 2009.
- The different UN Monitoring Bodies of the conventions like CEDAW, CRC, UPR that are citing and asking for information on the caste based discrimination.
- The OHCHR has recently evolved the 'guidelines' for UN offices to recognise and address caste based discrimination in all countries.

### **Emerging Concerns and Strategies**

While the caste discrimination has come to the focus at large, with some attention on Dalit women, there are other intersectional issues that have not been taken up adequately. Children and youth continue to be

neglected. Given that about 60% of the Dalit population are children and youth, it is important to focus attention on them. As the growing population, their protection, needs and opportunities are very important. Hence efforts are also to identify the concerns and issues of children and youth. Work in this process is still new and will have to be taken forward at the South Asia and global levels too.

Another dimension that needs strengthening is the economic dimension. Much of the focus so far has been on social issues – physical violence, economic demands have been on access to land, and reservation in employment, social welfare measures, *etc.* Hence the whole dimension of social and solidarity economy still is under-developed and needs attention. It is in this direction that the consultation will be of benefit.

Taking part in the Academy workshop on SSE public policies will provide insights into promoting policies and practices for SSE interventions and investments among Dalit youth. Interventions will need to follow the twin-track of ‘youth development and youth for development’. Here various social enterprises along the social economy can be explored – be it in the higher education, skills training, employment of the youth themselves and also how youth can contribute to the development of their communities. Some models that are emerging and can be explored are:

### **Models of Social and Solidarity Economy and their potential for South-South Cooperation**

- Peer support and learning opportunities for youth: Given the exclusion experienced by these communities for generations, their education and skill levels are not equal to others. From the same count of exclusion, it is difficult to get other dominant sections to consistently engage with these communities. It becomes important to develop community level frameworks. The Community Leadership and Youth (CLAY) fellowships<sup>16</sup>, Youth Tech Hubs<sup>17</sup>, Education Resource Centers in the communities are strategies in this direction. These are facilitated by youth who have accessed ‘higher’ levels of education within the community. The youth facilitator also encourages child labour and drop-out children to get back to schooling, engage with the community, take action when there is violence or discrimination on children in schools, support women who face domestic harassment, *etc.* Much of the work is on voluntary basis in the community.
- Youth Platforms for advocacy: The process has also promoted youth platforms – Bihar Ambedkar Students forum (BASF) in Bihar state, Delhi Youth Platform in Delhi state and the National Youth Equity Forum (NYEF) at the national level. These platforms use various processes like: i) gathering information under the Right to Information Act, ii) reporting grievances under the Right to education Act, iii) campaign on ‘zero discrimination in education’, iv) tracking post-matric scholarship for Dalit and Tribal students, *etc.* With the facts and figures, they advocate with the government for better implementation of legislations and development schemes. They also make spaces for themselves at the larger polity through this process.
- Learning Journeys through National Internship programme: The youth from these communities have very limited exposure outside their own environment. Even when they engage with the larger society- either they get excluded or conditions make them self-excluded. The Learning Journeys provide planned exposure programmes for both socially excluded youth and non-excluded youth through well-structured designed exposure programme of one month. This builds their understanding and also gives a fill-up to leadership skills.
- Community Business Centre: Often their habitations do not have access to modern forms of communication and services. They spend more time, energy and money to access information and communication. The large majority also does not understand technology and depend upon the service providers to guide them, who often misguide or do not implement the task fully. Youth have started Community Business Centres where they have basic equipment of computer, printer,

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<sup>16</sup> CLAY fellowships provide small fellowships to educated youth in Dalit communities which they can use for continuing their own studies. In addition, they have to contribute to the education of younger children in their communities.

<sup>17</sup> Youth Tech Hubs are facilitated by youth leaders in the community. It provides physical space, workshops, trainings and exposure to the members. It holds guided learning certified process for the youth again with the twin objectives of their own growth and community development.



scanner, camera and others and provide these services to the community at a lower rate than the market rate, still ensuring the business model.

### **Expectations from the South-South and Triangular cooperation workshop**

- It has been a long journey starting with physical violence and other social issues. The move towards economic issues is more recent. So also the engagement with youth. These elements need further ideas and strengthening.
- The workshop will help to develop the framework and design of social and solidarity enterprises that can be useful for designing such enterprises and processes.
- It will connect with other practitioners and academics in the field who can be called upon to journey with us.
- Being socially excluded communities, the strategy also needs to include triangular solidarity and engage the support of global actors – human rights and socio-economic rights.
- Opportunity to further sharing the knowledge with other civil society organisations in India and across South Asia.

## **9. E. Ntoyi<sup>18</sup>, South-South and Triangular Cooperation: The South African Context**

South-South Cooperation is a conscious initiative by countries of the South, including from Africa, to address the challenges of underdevelopment, economic and political marginalization through partnerships<sup>19</sup>. South Africa's foreign policy views South-South Cooperation as vital to ensure the creation of political, economic and social conditions necessary for the fight against poverty, underdevelopment and marginalization of the South. South Africa views its partnership with countries of the South as critical for advancing the African agenda and central in addressing the challenges facing Africa and the developing world.

South-South cooperation is also playing a meaningful role in reforming the global system of governance. Formations and alliances of developing countries with similar interests sharing a common cause of reforming the United Nations System are emerging as significant blocs influencing the international environmental governance agenda.

In advancing the African Agenda and the south, South Africa actively engages and cooperates with like-minded countries in regional and sub-regional groups such as the Non-Aligned Movement, G77+China, Brazil, South Africa, India and China (BASIC), especially on Climate Change related issues, and the India-Brazil-South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA), as well as the BRICS Forum to adopt common positions on major global issues. Essentially, South-South Cooperation is of strategic importance in advancing the global agenda of the South.

South Africa has been instrumental in ensuring that these formations of the South are working with countries of the North to establish an equitable political and economic global system through triangular cooperation. Formations and Inter-Regional groups of the South, such as IBSA and BRICS, have become strategic for South Africa in this regard. International agreements concluded within these groups of countries will create opportunities for South Africa's business and environmental sector to grow.

South Africa recognizes that South-South Cooperation is also a significant contributor to advancing the African agenda. South Africa's commitment to the renaissance of Africa also extends to the renaissance of Africans in the Diaspora, including those in the Caribbean and Latin America. The two regions, in

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<sup>19</sup> Refer to ILO's definition for further discussions: [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_172577.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_172577.pdf)

similar ways as the African continent, are grappling with issues of poverty eradication, sustainable development and gradual integration of their countries into the world economy.

South Africa presents an interesting perspective on South-South Cooperation (SSC). It is an actor with significant influence in both African and multilateral groupings, and is both a recipient of development assistance and one that provides development cooperation support.

### **South-South cooperation examples**

- The Cuba-South Africa cooperation have held a long-standing relationship, and have been working together on the liberation struggle long before their official ties, and Cuba has been assisting the South African liberation movements have been receiving political, financial and military support from before the Rivonia trial. Amongst other cooperation, Cuban-South African relationship is well-known for their medical and health cooperation, such as Cuba offering tertiary medical education opportunities to South African students.
- Due to the relatively recent transition to democracy, and the political engagements on the continent, South Africa's development cooperation activities have often focused on conflict mediation, peacekeeping and peace building. For example, South Africa played an active role in mediation and peace operations in Burundi and Lesotho, and has provided election support to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Sudan. It has also supported capacity development through, for example, the training of government officials in South Sudan and the DRC and through various information sharing exchanges. Other activities have included infrastructure development, assistance with governance-related mechanisms, and economic trade<sup>20</sup>. The Cuban-South African relationship has grown into a collective ideological basis of resistance and social development that increasingly incorporates aspects of economics and health. Furthermore, the ideological basis of this relationship has been encouraged through the multilateral platform that is the Group of 77 plus China (G77+ China). As part of the G77+China, a commitment to "living well" that has been entrenched as part of the Declaration of Santa Cruz, the Cuban-South African relationship will be symbolic in representation and progressive in action for both the Caribbean dominated by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Africa as a whole, and in general the global South. This relationship has enhanced South Africa's soft power and has provided South Africa with the opportunity to establish itself as the African power within Latin America and the Caribbean, in respect of trade, research and political attractiveness.

Triangular Cooperation is South-South cooperation involving a third country or international organization from the North. The most common type of triangular cooperation is one that involves partnership between Development Assistance Committee member countries (known as DAC members) of the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) and a pivotal developing country to implement programmes for beneficiary developing countries. Thus, triangular cooperation is South-South Cooperation with the added dimension of northern support to the southern partner assisting other developing countries.

The 22 countries that were first identified by UNOSSC as pivotal countries as explained in the abovementioned configuration of SSTC are Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Malta, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Turkey. This list is not fixed. Two countries in the Southern African Region were designated pivotal countries and added to the original list of pivotal countries are Mauritius and South Africa. Thus, apart from the countries which have officially been designated pivotal countries, several other countries can and do serve as pivotal countries for particular projects and programmes.

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<sup>20</sup> To this respect SSTC's Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation work-stream is a relevant reference and support: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0B9BX0GCP9Kv2RzI0U3ctUFhxZWM>

### Triangular cooperation examples

- African countries are actively engaged in the transition to an Inclusive Green Economy, and in promoting a shift to sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns, that together contribute to poverty eradication and sustainable development in the region. To support these efforts, the European Union (EU) has designed and developed ‘SWITCH Africa Green’, a pilot initiative to foster green economy transformation in six African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, South Africa and Uganda). SWITCH Africa Green builds on the experience of similar regional projects and programmes in Asia (SWITCH Asia) and Mediterranean region (SWITCH Med) that are being funded by the EU. This project is also building on past and ongoing capacity building activities by UNEP, its partners and others promoting sustainable business ventures and green economy policies to address Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) challenges. These include domestic and international activities which increase access to sustainable energy sources and services, conserving ecosystems and the services they deliver and advancing green economy transition through macroeconomic analysis in the African region. The project supports governments and the private sector in 6 African countries to follow-up the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference, and also on the decision on SCP of the 14th session of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN). The project supports green business development as well as the implementation of the African Ten Year Framework Programme (the African 10YFP) on SCP. The project also supports and develops synergies with on-going and upcoming Green Economy and SCP initiatives in the region, including the global 10YFP and the EU-supported African Green Economy Initiative being implemented by UNEP. One major component of the SWITCH Africa Green Programme is the Network Facility set up to maximize impact of the programme by effective knowledge sharing and dissemination, and networking<sup>21</sup>.
- Within the framework of the National Greening Programme the South African government through the Department of Environmental Affairs partnered with the German Development Bank, KfW, and initiated the NMT programme as a legacy to the Greening of the FIFA World Cup 2010. This programme aimed at developing bicycle routes and associated services to support non-motorised transport, reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality. Initially, five municipalities were shortlisted for potential participation, namely City of Cape Town (Cape Town), City of Tshwane (Tshwane), Polokwane Local Municipality (Polokwane), City of Johannesburg (Johannesburg) and eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. The shortlist was finalised to include City of Johannesburg, Polokwane Local Municipality and eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. The construction and concomitant works commenced from July 2011. The project involved two components, namely the construction of Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) infrastructure at municipal level (the Municipal Component), and the establishment of a Project Management Unit (PMU) at the DEA to oversee the implementation of the project as a whole (the National Component). The programme was divided into two phases with phase one involving infrastructure development and improvement of existing infrastructure (developing bicycle and pedestrian routes, bicycle parking facilities and rental stations), and phase 2 which will involve the expansion of the infrastructure from phase 1.

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<sup>21</sup> This initiative could be observed with an analogical one, “Bolsas Verdes” in Brazil, see: <http://www.conservation.org/projects/Pages/Bolsa-Verde-brazil-Improving-Livelihoods-and-Conserving-Forests.aspx>

## **10. C. Torres<sup>22</sup>, A Bet for the Transfer of Methodologies, Knowledge and Good Practices Among Countries and Institutions in Social and Solidarity Economy, to Boost the Sector: A South-South and Triangular Cooperation Perspective.**

"An economy for the 99%" as it was said and concluded by the international confederation Oxfam in its article of 2016.

Global inequality has reached unsuspected proportions. In the world, the richest 1% of the world has more wealth than the rest 99%. While in Latin America the numbers of poverty and inequality speak for themselves. In 2014, in a population of almost 625 million people, the richest 10% of Latin America had accumulated 71% of the wealth of the region.

Without going any further, Mexico, the place from where I write, being the 14th economy of the world, has more than 50% of its population living in poverty, while the fortune of a small number of Mexicans has gradually increased to incredible rates.

These data on extreme inequality are relevant because of the destructive impact on Social Cohesion in the different countries of Latin America.

But the most worrying thing about this is that the trend line suggests that these gaps of inequality will gradually increase, causing less and less people to accumulate more wealth, while the vast majority are in unfavourable situations.

The current economic system is not well, and the search for economic alternatives that generate equality in wealth opens the opportunity to opt for Social and Solidarity Economy, as a mechanism of social cohesion and that shortens inequality gaps.

### **Experiences that bet on other economies**

The *Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla*, supported by the Society of Jesus, is an institution that has sought to be consistent with its mission of: "*training professional and competent men and women, free and committed to and with others. Generate knowledge based on its academic and human excellence, in dialogue with the different realities in which it is immersed, to contribute to face the different forms of inequality and social exclusion in order to promote sustainable development, having as horizon the construction of a united Society and humanely solidarity-driven.*"

In line with the above, since 2015, the Laboratory of Economic and Social Innovation (LAINES) has been formed, whose proposal is to promote experiences of social transformation based on economic innovation from Jesuit university work, in order to contribute to the construction of a more united and fraternal humanity.

### **Sharing from South-South cooperation through a virtual platform**

The region of Latin America, heterogeneous and rich in its sociocultural complexity, has a component that identifies it: the socioeconomic inequality of the peoples that form part of it.

From this framework, LAINES has managed to systematize achievements and difficulties of its projects, to create methodologies at municipal, state and national level, and has generated a wide range of possibilities for companies and territories in SSE, which can share and enrich with other actors.

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From February to July 2017, will be held the first edition of the "Diploma in Social and Solidarity Economy", which was designed by LAINES and will be taught by teachers in Argentina, Mexico and Peru. 30 members from 11 different countries will participate: Colombia, El Salvador, Basque Country, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil and Bolivia; and 16 Social Centres, which are distributed in those countries. The Diploma Program seeks to give continuity to the work of COMPARTE, emphasizing the potential that the SSE offers for a fairer and more sustainable development.

The purpose of the COMPARTE network is to create relationships and accompany shared learning and cooperation, with a hope of transforming the situation for the underprivileged. COMPARTE is a teaching community for alternative development; a group of organizations linked by a common dream and shared ways of doing. Its principal objective is the construction of alternative opportunities in the sphere of productive economic, through the generation of knowledge and reflection from its experience and the improvement of the economic processes in which they work.

In this certified course, we focus on the operation of each organization, as well as how they are linked to the territory. It will be sought that each Social Centre starts to work on a plan from the perspective of the SSE, adapting the methodologies that have been achieved from the LAINES.

The Diploma in Social and Solidarity Economy is divided into five modules: Seeing, Thinking, Doing and a transversal one dedicated to the question of Identity from the perspective of the Society of Jesus, in addition to the introduction to the platform. These modules are based on the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (PPI), which proposes an integral work that addresses: "Context - Experience - Reflection - Action - Evaluation".

The certified course seeks to be enriched from different spheres and environments, so that together we can qualify the theoretical, methodological and technical components which accompany the processes of construction of productive economic alternatives of regional impact.

With the sharing of practices, challenges and alternatives that are found in eleven countries, they can be shaped towards an integrated methodology, where the various factors in each Social Centre give more clarity and generate links between the countries, and also between the different practices that each one of them are doing and adapting.

During the past year, the Laboratory of Economic and Social Innovation, promoted other five significant projects, which are described in a systematic way:

**Training program for trainers in social economy enterprises (LANKI):** With the Institute of Cooperative Studies Lanki, the Mondragon Unibertsitatea develops the Training of Trainers in Social Economy. Cooperatives from Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche and Puebla participate. The training consists in the detection of needs to strengthen Social Economy Enterprises. The project seeks the development of capacities in economic and social management of Mexican social and solidarity economy organizations. To this end, training, technical assistance and support activities have been carried out.

**Program for the promotion of social cohesion in areas of violence:** Training of Counsellors in Incubation of Social Economy Enterprises. They accompany community enterprises to generate employment in Michoacán, Guerrero, Oaxaca and Puebla, and avoid approach to organized crime. This way of combating violence through SSE can be a valuable experience to share and adapt in South-South cooperation, because many countries in Latin America have the same problem, and may have a similar solution.

Based on the Methodology of Accompaniment and Incubation of Social Economy Enterprises, developed at the University, we have been able to implement training processes for Social Economy Business Advisors. This transfer of the methodology, initiated in February of this year, has been an experience of

many learning but led us to favourable results. Territorial agents are trained, so that they are the ones in charge of incubating the companies.

**Youth EcoSol 2016:** Public policy promoted by the Mexican Institute of Youth (IMJUVE) and the National Institute of Social Economy (INAES), that supports the creation, incubation and accompaniment of approximately 450 Youth Collective Enterprises in Mexico, especially in 13 States. This project consisted in the training of different incubators throughout the country, based on the Methodology of Accompaniment and Incubation of Social Economy Enterprises developed by the University. The project will resume this 2017 to reach more young and more States in the country.

**Municipal social economy program Puebla:** Together with the City of Puebla, Social Economy circuits will be created in marginalized areas of the municipality. The objective is to create decent jobs, improve socio-economic conditions and face the context of multiple forms of violence.

The University and LAINES have trained 25 business advisors of Social Economy Enterprise and 10 Dynamizers of Social Economy circuits, together with the government of Puebla, can create at least 250 companies of social economy. At the same time, the generation of social economy circuits includes savings and credits, collaborative consumption, value chains, entrepreneurship cooperative and the appropriation of public spaces.

With this project, the government of Puebla city has created the Secretariat of Social Economy, in charge of the Municipal Law of Social and Solidarity Economy, and the possible incorporation of the Municipality to the project of the International Centre for the Transfer of Innovations and knowledge in Social and Solidarity Economy (CITIES), created in the Global Social Economy Forum of 2016 with the collaboration of the ILO and the cities of Montreal, Bilbao, Barcelona and Seoul. Puebla and its Social Economy project, implemented by the LAINES, could be the first city in Latin America to be part of it. CITIES helps social and solidarity economy initiatives to spread around the world by promoting the sharing of knowledge and the adaptation of good practices at the international level. Work with a focus on cooperation between local governments and civil society actors, transferring methodologies between countries, especially in factors like: social innovation, finance, public procurement, education, poverty reduction and much more

**Transfer of methodologies and knowledge in social economy between Quebec and Mexico:** Since 2016, the *Universidad Iberoamericana Puebla* is in a joint project with the *Chantier de l'Économie Sociale* and the TIIES of Québec, supported by the federal governments of each country.

The purpose of the project is to systematize, share and implement good practices and methodologies that have worked in each country, to reinforce the social and solidarity economy processes that are carried out by both of them. Among these actions, we share methodologies of Incubation of Companies of Social and Solidarity Economy, trust fund to finance companies, methodologies of circuits of social economy, ways of impelling from the municipalities integral programs of social economy, among others.

The collaboration with *Chantier de l'Économie Sociale* and the TIIES of Québec has allowed U. Iberoamericana to participate in international forum and sharing experiences with the participation from other countries from the Global South.

## **Conclusion**

LAINES, since its beginning, has been creating models and methodologies that, from the self-management of the recipients, are capable of reducing inequality and poverty, always betting on social justice.

Distance education platforms are a valuable resource for extending formal education spaces to the web. It assumes classes without walls, without hours, with teachers and students in their homes. It permits to each



country to contribute from its territory, its context and its applicable practices. It is a meeting place through the Internet.

Linkage, accompaniment and cooperation must be essential for the promotion of SSE in Latin America. Good practices in each place should be compared and feedback among stakeholders, if they want to generate an alternative to poverty, inequality and the economic system.

The ESS should share experiences to enhance the effort and practices. Both virtual courses and face-to-face meetings such as the Academy of Social and Solidarity Economy are the spaces that serve to generate synergies and mechanisms for cooperation among all actors.

## **11. G. Padong<sup>23</sup>, South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Philippine Social Enterprise Network Experience**

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is a partnership between two developing countries. The significance of which is such that comparable levels of development translate to more appropriate forms of assistance and greater awareness of partner-country needs and situations. Principles governing SSC are that of equality, mutual interest, sovereignty and non-interference, thus no conditionality. Triangular Cooperation includes a developed third partner providing assistance to scale up the cooperation.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation has been instrumental of the global development cooperation since the 1970s. It has been captured in major United Nations conferences to underline its significance as a potent modality to promote collaboration in national, regional and international spheres of development work. The High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi in 2009, gave a major political boost to SSTC, requesting UN system organizations to make additional efforts to ensure that they meet Member-States' expectations for such cooperation.<sup>24</sup>

Complementarily, civil society organizations as legitimate development actors have equally been at the forefront in promoting and participating in their own South-South Triangular Cooperation partnerships. Civil society participation in SSTC and related partnerships work within the framework of solidarity, justice and mutuality. Civil society organizations focus mostly in areas and issues that are considered peripheral by official SSTC partnerships. Currently, CSOs have multiple avenues and fora for sharing experiences and knowledge on poverty reduction, promotion of decent work, gender mainstreaming, among others.

### **What are social enterprises?<sup>25</sup>**

In developing country contexts, social enterprises are responses to the systemic and widespread poverty, inequality and the continuing failure of state and market institutions to serve the needs of the poor and marginalized.

Being social mission driven, social enterprises engage the poor and marginalized not only as workers, clients, suppliers or nominal owners of these enterprises. More importantly, social and community enterprises engage the poor and marginalized as partners in enterprise and value chain management; as full-fledged owners and decision makers in the governance of these social and enterprises; and as change agents for themselves, the value chains and economic subsectors where they are located and their respective communities, sectors or society as a whole.

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<sup>23</sup> Gomer Padong is Development Cooperation and Advocacy Director of the Philippine Social Enterprise Network. He represents the network in various platforms, including the United Nations Civil Society Advisory Committee (Philippines), Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (Regional), Beyond 2015 (Global), Together 2030 (Global).

<sup>24</sup> Based on the meeting document: "South-South and triangular cooperation: The way forward", 313th Session, Geneva, 15–30 March 2012. Available at: [www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed\\_norm/@relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms\\_172577.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_172577.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> Development Justice Factsheet. Social and Community Enterprises Constituency. Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism. March 2017.



Just like business or private enterprises, and unlike the traditional non-profit organizations that are dependent on grants or public subsidies - or wealth created somewhere else – social enterprises are engaged in the production and sale of goods and services. However, unlike business or private enterprises that principally produce and sell goods and services to create profit for shareholders, social and community enterprises create surplus or profit to pursue their social mission in a sustainable way. Their financial bottom line plays a supportive role to their social bottom line.

The distributive enterprise philosophy of social enterprises is in contrast to the accumulative philosophy of private enterprises. While private enterprises create and accumulate wealth for the owners of capital, social enterprises create social and economic value that primarily accrue to the poor as primary stakeholders. Unlike in a business or private enterprise where payments or wages made to the poor are considered as financial costs to be minimized, these are considered as social benefits for primary stakeholders that need to be optimized. Social enterprises build the assets and capability of the poor to move them out of poverty as productive citizens in ethical markets and social economies.

### **PhilSEN's experience in SSTC**

The definition of social enterprises above puts forward the Philippine Social Enterprise Network's engagement and narrative in South-South Triangular Cooperation with other partners in the international, regional and national cooperation efforts. Since 2012, PhilSEN has been part of civil society initiatives to contribute to the deliberations of the Post-2015 Development Agenda until its adoption as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its ongoing implementation and accountability mechanisms. Currently, it is part of global research on social enterprises to beef up its proposition that social enterprises are viable vehicles to contribute to sustainable development.

### **Beyond 2015**

Beyond 2015 was a global civil society campaign, pushing for a strong and legitimate successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2012, PhilSEN was selected as lead agency of Beyond 2015 in the Philippines. The Network consulted with different civil society organizations, social movements and constituencies in the country to gain broad participation and support in crafting the Post-2015 Development Agenda for the Philippines. These voices, views and perspectives gathered from the consultations were put forward to a regional Beyond 2015 network consisting in civil society hubs from Indonesia, Cambodia, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Korea and Japan. This became a learning platform of advocacy challenges and gains across these said countries. From the country narratives, a regional paper was produced and became the advocacy tool for engagements in the Asia region particularly with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission in Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) during the Post-2015 deliberations and negotiations. It was also used in advocacies to influence the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meeting in Nepal. Further, the same national narratives were part of a global advocacy campaign of Beyond 2015 in the United Nations in New York during the extensive negotiations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Beyond 2015 was particular in South-South Triangular Cooperation that it was headquartered in Pretoria, South Africa and was heavily supported by the European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs (CONCORD) based in Brussels. PhilSEN has served in the Beyond 2015 global executive committee from 2014-2015.

Together 2030<sup>26</sup> is a global, action-oriented initiative aiming to generate and share knowledge on the implementation and accountability of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.together2030.org/about-us/>

Development Goals, and project the voices of different civil society and stakeholders around the world on the challenges and opportunities of implementing this Agenda.

Together 2030 was set up in December 2015 as a self-organized civil society initiative to promote national implementation and track progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Together 2030 is about creating and strengthening capacities. It aims at contributing to overcome the huge disparities within the capacities of civil society organizations all over the world, and to support civil society to play a full and meaningful role in the implementation and follow up of Agenda 2030 at all levels.

Together 2030 is about action. As an action-oriented initiative, it focuses on ensuring that civil society organizations and stakeholders are able to share knowledge and experiences of implementation and accountability; work together on global, regional and national advocacy and track whether commitments made on Agenda 2030 are effectively turned into action.

PhilSEN is part of Together 2030's global Core Group and the initiative is supported by global organizations—World Vision International and SightSavers (UK).

### **Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism<sup>27</sup>**

The Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (APRCM) is a civil society platform aimed to enable stronger cross constituency coordination and ensure that voices of all sub-regions of Asia-Pacific are heard in intergovernmental processes at regional and global levels. The platform is initiated, owned and driven by the CSOs, and seeks to engage with UN agencies and Member-States on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as other development related issues/processes. As an open, inclusive, and flexible mechanism, APRCM is designed to reach the broadest number of CSOs in the Asia Pacific region, harness the voice of grassroots and peoples' movements to advance development justice that address the inequalities of wealth, power, resources between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women.

PhilSEN leads the Social and Community Enterprises Constituency of the APRCM since 2014. As a constituency, we have developed position papers to influence the discussions of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) around poverty eradication, decent work, gender, and partnerships.

In 2016, we have proposed to the APFSD<sup>28</sup> to use social entrepreneurship as a platform for innovation and multi-stakeholder collaboration to achieve poverty eradication and to leave no one behind. In this way, social entrepreneurship could serve as a framework for innovative public-private partnerships. There are some governments in the Asia-Pacific region that have already started to recognize and support social enterprises as partners. Among corporations, those who are serious about meaningfully engaging small producers in their value chains have started to recognize social enterprises as critical partners.

To aid the process of building social entrepreneurship platforms, we have proposed that national governments put in place dedicated policies and programs to support social enterprises as partners in achieving the SDGs. It was further proposed that a substantive part of ODA support these national efforts as well as regional and sub-regional social entrepreneurship platforms to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

In 2017, we highlighted the importance of social and community enterprises in the achieving Sustainable Development Goal 9 on industrialization, infrastructure and innovation. On Targets 9.2 and 9.3, social

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<sup>27</sup> <http://asiapacificrcem.org/about-rcem/what-is-the-rcem/>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Social%20and%20Community%20Enterprise%20constituency%20statement.pdf>

and community enterprises are engaged in community-based innovations that promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization. There are many of these in various countries that need to be recognized, supported, scaled up and mainstreamed so the sector may become a significant partner in achieving the ambitious targets of zero poverty, reduced inequality, sustainable consumption and production, and resilient and sustainable communities.

APRCEM is currently being supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

### **Social Enterprise Survey**

The Philippine Social Enterprise Network is currently doing a study-research to better understand the profile of social enterprises in the Philippines. It seeks to gather a baseline data on: the number of social enterprises in the country, social enterprises' economic contribution (jobs, turnover), social enterprises' leadership (by age and gender), social enterprises' impact assessed through beneficiaries reached, detail of national policies and agencies that exist that explicitly support social enterprises.

This study is part of a global comparative research of the British Council in 5 Southern countries namely India, Pakistan, Ghana, Bangladesh and Philippines. The comparative research briefly assesses whether there are existing policies to support social enterprise in these countries, creating a baseline of potentially relevant policies. Similarly, the study explores the extent to which higher education institutions in the country currently provide social enterprise specific educational options, as a baseline to observe how this changes over time (with interventions from the British Council). The research study in the Philippines is partly supported by the European Union.

### **Conclusion**

South-South and Triangular Cooperation has been very evident in the experience of the Philippine Social Enterprise Network in the field of public policy advocacy. Managing our way through various platforms and engagements with other like-minded organizations in the Philippines, in the Asia-Pacific region as well as the global level could have been more difficult without the technical support as well as financial resources from our Northern partners.

PhilSEN sees SSTC as very instrumental as we continue to develop these civil society platforms, that we are part of, to become communities of practice not just in our work on influencing public policy but also in influencing other civil society organizations to forage into the world of social entrepreneurship.

In this context, the Network encourages SSTC actors to look at social entrepreneurship as a major platform for innovation and multi-stakeholders collaboration that are anchored on scaling up the outreach and impact of social enterprises as well as replicating successful models that have effectively provided sustainable livelihoods, quality social services and transformed the lives of people in the Philippines and other developing countries.

## **12. J. Rahasa<sup>29</sup>, Social and Solidarity Economy and SSTC**

Social and Solidarity Economy is to enhance that enterprises' benefit beyond the capital. This idea was already in the core mind of traditional life in Madagascar, mainly in the rural zones, before. They used to work together without receiving salary, but every person is working for all, and vice-versa. Many idioms are still illustrating this mentality, as:

- Building a house is never finished by only one person;
- A crocodile cannot catch many people crossing together a river.

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<sup>29</sup> Joseph RAHASA, Madagascar.

Constructing house, labouring field, harvesting crops are neither the business of one person nor of one family. It's the whole society's affairs. So, no one is really poor. Indeed, the benefit is also for all and for everyone, a kind of surplus redistribution in inclusive ways. Cooperatives, associative and solidarity relations are far from a neology for these people.

When the trend of competitiveness came, the mutual help between inhabitants began to disappear. And then, insecurity took shape.

As a member of the personnel representatives for many years, I think this collective thinking is what's lacking more, in every party: employers, employees and stakeholders. But the concept of profit is not the antonym of social and solidarity economy. Governments, employers and employees have the same worry: to have a flourishing enterprise. They need to find a common ground in the world of work and to have a social dialogue.

If we take as an example why insecurity is on the rise, we can conclude that it's because everyone tries to keep firmly what one possesses. And those who are trickier try to steal from their neighbour's. In other form, it is the law of the strongest. The concept of common goods is lost. It is forgotten that when your neighbour is rich, you can profit, in some extent, from it. Richness is never individual, it is social.

Environmental problems are also the result of undermining SSE mind. The problems correlated with illicit mineral extraction in Madagascar are not a particular case. It is the same for other plagues like rampant deforestations, bush fires, illicit export of precious woods or minerals, turtles.

An extent can be done to the steal of cattle, which is the main richness of the peasants, in many cases in a very violent manner. And the worst case is the mob justice which, unfortunately, always issues to a loss of human life.

As it has been proven by many studies, recent problems as financial and food crisis, persistent poverty and rising inequality, led to questioning about conventional and development strategy. Business-as-usual is not the right solution for the major contemporary development challenges. Then, it is an opportune moment to consider forms of economic activity that balance economic, social and environmental objectives.

SSE must now go far from any frontiers. Actions must be more than local. We have to interact at the national, regional, international levels to attain SDG.

Many experiences have proven that the social and solidarity economy is among the ways of generation of work and income for many people in the world.

### **South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

South-South Cooperation was before thought as impossible or at first sight as mythical. How a poor country can help another poor one? They have nothing to exchange more than their shortage and their poverty.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation is a very important experience. It can identify and apply at a low-cost scale the successful solution in one country, to be transferred to other countries which have almost the same problems, and the same context.

South-South cooperation must be reinforced. Given that there is more mutual understanding, more similarity between the countries, there is a greater effectiveness for the adapted solutions. This exchange of experience and knowledge can be used as an instrument to strengthen the concept of solidarity and social economy. As outlined in *Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation and Decent Work*: *“These countries experience similar situations and face similar challenges and as they develop solutions to cope with current difficulties, the potential for South-South Cooperation increases taking into account the sharing*

*and adaptation of these solutions into analogous contexts. Through peer sharing and lessons learned, their successes and failures inform a new and better understanding of their own conditions and necessary steps for transition*<sup>30</sup>.

And South-South Cooperation is a valuable support to Decent Work, as stated in Global South-South Cooperation Expos: Decent work solutions: *“South-South exchanges play a key role in the implementation phase to facilitate transfer of know-how and technology”*<sup>31</sup>.

Exchanges between mayors or other political leaders will be more than necessary.

It has already been proven, for instance, that South-South and Triangular Cooperation has brought good results in the initiatives to combat child labour in Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay. We have to mention also the support actions to meet the 2015 goals to eliminate the worst forms of child labour in Lusophone countries of Africa<sup>32</sup>.

Madagascar is an island, but cannot anymore live in an isolated manner. Globalization blows from everywhere. And this type of cooperation is the best way to share experience, for example to diminish the digital gap.

- Micro-insurance is now very developed in many African countries and in India. But it is not the case in Madagascar. By SSTC, we can implement these tools here, as it produces a very important improvement in the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all<sup>33</sup>. And South-South Cooperation is reckoned by its aspects: its horizontal dimensions, its triangular dimensions, to be innovative, its adaptability/replicability and its sustainability.
- Rice is still the main dish for Malagasy people. Once the rice price increases, it is real worry for every family, and also for political leaders. That’s why Madagascar is affiliated to CARD<sup>34</sup>. Increasing rice production and having an auto-sufficiency in it will be a big step in development of the country.

There are various examples in many fields which prove that SSTC does enhance SSE initiatives, and their impacts on decent work and to attain the SDG. *“Promoting sustainable and decent work for all is paramount to the ILO mandate and South-South and Triangular Cooperation has a key role to play in this regard.”*<sup>35</sup>

The participation of Madagascar in this batch of workshop will be then very beneficial not only for Madagascar, but also for other south-countries in the region, the Indian Ocean, in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (UA), even farther beyond.

### **13. A. Roy<sup>36</sup>, SSE in India: The Case of Milk Cooperatives with Experience and Potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

‘The Global Risk Report 2012’ of World Economic Forum expressed concern that the rising economic inequality world over is a major threat to the social stability. It has been quite a few years since World Bank started advocating for shared prosperity. South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the context of Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) enterprises can be a definite step forward to the shared prosperity and localization of development. A prominent example in this perspective can be the organization called Cooperative without Borders - a joint 34 cooperatives from Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Costa Rica,

<sup>30</sup> Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation and Decent Work: an ILO perspective (ILO, 2015)

<sup>31</sup> South-South cooperation: Decent work solutions 2010-2013 (United Nations and ILO)

<sup>32</sup> Social Solidarity and South-South Cooperation, ILO, (Johannesburg, 2015)

<sup>33</sup> ILO’s Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008)

<sup>34</sup> Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development (UN fort South-South Cooperation, 2016)

<sup>35</sup> Triangular cooperation and decent work : Good practices (ILO, 2013-2015)

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Nicaragua, Guatemala and Italy for trade promotion and strategic cooperation of solidarity economy enterprises. Presently the products like sugar, cocoa, food pulp, honey and cereals are organically certified and marketed in Canada, Spain and Italy. This exemplifies the potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in promoting shared prosperity, inclusive growth and decent work through the escalation of capacity of SSE enterprises by integrating them.

An interesting report by Oxfam, “An Economy for the 99%”, summarizes certain quick facts which raise serious questions against the present model of economic prosperity. The report points out that “*since 2015, the richest 1% has owned more wealth than the rest of the planet*”. This model has divided people in two distinct sets, one with skillsets required by the market economy and the other without that. The nature of large production size automatically leads to bigger capital and specific skill sets. On the other hand, the majority, who are excluded from this capital-based economy, give birth to a precarious informal economy with acute deficits of decent work. This is the gap that is addressed by the social and solidarity economy enterprises.

Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) includes a broad range of organizations with specific social and environmental objectives, and is guided by the multi-stakeholders approach, solidarity and non-conditionality which is central to the ILO’s Decent Work Agenda (DWA). SSE includes the forms of organizations like cooperatives, self-help groups, community based organizations, association of informal workers, solidarity finance schemes that runs commercially but realizing the goal of decent work following an integrated approach for fulfilling economic, social and environmental objectives. South-South Cooperation is the partnership among the southern countries and the triangular cooperation refers to the alliance of a developed country in this cooperation. There are ample examples of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Social and Solidarity Economy in Asian context. Self-help group-bank linkage program in India is partnered with NABARD (India), APRACA (Thailand), BMZ and GTZ (Germany). Mahaguthi Craft in Nepal is partnered with World Fair Trade Organization – Asia, Oxfam and SERRV Intl; organic farming by Parakum Farmers Association in Sri Lanka is partnered with People’s Organization for Development of Imports and Exports (Sri Lanka), World Fair Trade Organization -Asia and fair trade buyers from New Zealand; Sustainable Livelihoods for Poor Producers (SLIPP) in Bangladesh is partnered with Development Wheel (Bangladesh), European Commission, Traidcraft Exchange, WFTO-Asia (Thailand) and People Tree (Japan).

Thus SSE enterprises have a great potential to carry forward the SDGs of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and localization of development through SSTC. In this paper we focus on cooperatives as a prominent form of SSE enterprises. Looking into the success of different milk cooperatives across India we further focus on the milk cooperatives and show how the exchange of ideas and best practices through informal South-South cooperation with Bangladesh has been immensely helpful to fight against acute poverty of smallholders in Bangladesh.

### **Cooperatives in India**

India’s cooperative movement finds its root in Gandhian socialistic philosophy, an experiment which he started during his stay in South Africa. His first experiment was Phoenix Settlement which was a membership based organization where each member was given three acres of land for cultivation. Later, Gandhi started another cooperative settlement in a place near Johannesburg known as Tolstoy Farm with 77 members from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. The members were assigned different functions in the group like cultivation, carpentry, production of sandals, etc. On his return from South Africa he found that Indian peasantry is under complete distress and excluded from the mainstream economic activities of the country. He insisted on that industries based and agricultural products should run in cooperative form. Post-independence there has been a huge growth in the cooperative societies mostly in the farming sector. Various sugar mills in Maharashtra, India, runs on cooperative basis where

farmers are the members. At present inter-country cooperation is an essential component of mutual benefits. In a South-South cooperation summit in March, 2016, Mr. S. Jayshankar, the foreign secretary of India, has pitched high for deeper South-South Cooperation and said “*ours is a demand-driven solidarity based approach and we do not attach any conditionality and we are always respectful of the sovereignty of our partner countries.*” IBSA has been a great example of South-South Cooperation between India, Brazil and South Africa to fight hunger and poverty. IBSA provides a network to share best practices and expertise among its participants. For example IBFA Facility for Hunger and Poverty Alleviation has helped 25 villages in Guinea-Bissau to get access to energy through solar energy equipment developed in India, and could increase as high as 12% rice yield with the support of agricultural technology and expertise from Brazil.

### **The case of milk cooperatives in India**

Among cooperatives in different sectors or subsectors, milk cooperatives have been the most successful in India and a perfect example of Social and Solidarity Economy enterprises that serve the commercial objectives of a business offering economic prosperity, inclusive growth, women empowerment and nutrition. Global Agricultural Information Report(2012) states that India is the world’s largest producer of milk and milk products accounting for 17% of the production world over. India is also the largest consumer of the milk and milk products consuming almost all of its own production which profoundly indicates the success of milk cooperatives as a social and solidarity economy enterprise.

### **Milk Cooperatives and inclusive growth**

Penetration to the bottom of the pyramid is the key towards inclusive growth. The AMUL model cooperative societies have been doing that successfully over a long period of time. It is a three tier structure with Dairy Cooperative Societies at the village level affiliated to the milk unions at the district level which in turn is affiliated to the Milk Federations at the state levels. The impact of AMUL model is huge and replicated successfully in different states in India. Using this time tested model AMUL has implemented a special project among the below poverty line families in Kheda district under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, that promotes poverty alleviation through self-employment. This perfectly fits into the AMUL’s agenda as an SSE enterprise. The project covers more than 8755 beneficiaries in that district and brought them into mainstream economy by giving them training on cattle rearing, developing fodder plots, cattle sheds and offering memberships in village cooperative societies. AMUL has transformed dairying into an active income generation enterprises.

### **Milk Cooperatives and women empowerment**

Labor market discrimination and work-family conflict is prevalent in the context of India. We have found that SSE enterprises have a strong representation of woman members. Self-help groups are primarily built around women memberships. Women contribute 60% of the labor force in farm production in India, but in informal sector the main issue has been the deficit in decent work. Cooperatives along with a few other forms of SSE enterprise have done a lot to address this issue of decent work. Women empowerment carries multiple dimensions like social, economic and political empowerment. Social empowerment deals with the concept of inclusion and exclusion. Sociologists argue that Operation Flood program of government of India for boosting milk production helped a lot in overcoming the barriers of casts, class and power. Sometimes cooperatives which are exclusively managed by milk producers can bypass the rural power structure. Women empowerment mainly took place through women dairy cooperative societies (WDCS). Women were taking their own decisions in meetings held outside their home. In addition to that the income generated through the cooperative activities made them less dependent on their husbands in meeting family expenditures and moreover helped them to take expenditure decisions more independently. This leads to economic empowerment. Political empowerment reflects how people connect to the government. SSE enterprise in the form of milk cooperatives in India has given different



avenues for women to assume leadership positions. Operation Flood was able to connect rural women at the grassroots level with the state as well as central levels.

### **Milk Cooperatives and Nutrition**

The food and financial crises in recent past (2008-09) has reiterated the governments' attention towards food and nutrition security as a prerequisite of economic development and fundamental to the political stability. As a rich source of macro and micronutrients milk and milk products play an important role in improving nutrition among the people of developing countries where the poor people have limited consumption from animal source and lack diversity in food habits. The inclusion of poor through grassroots level milk cooperatives have helped them to generate more income that leads to a shift from a primarily search based diet to a steady diet containing more dairy products and meat. The data from 1991-92 onwards reveals that with the increase in the total milk production over the years, the per-capita availability also has increased. We can translate this into nutrition as India is the largest producer as well as the consumer of the milk products.

### **South-South Cooperation between India and Bangladesh – an exchange of experience of AMUL model dairy cooperatives**

The Bangladesh Milk Producers Cooperative Union Ltd known as Milk Vita emerged as a very successful dairy cooperative organization in the country. Bangladesh is a country with highest population density in the world and a very low per-capita land resource which is the main reason for persistent poverty in the country. More than half of the population is smallholders and the bottom 40% possesses only 3% of the land area. So, animal husbandry seems to be a definite alternative. Following acute milk shortage in post-independence from Pakistan in 1971, the government, along with FAO and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), conducted a study and recommended dairy cooperatives for enhancing nutrition through milk production and including poor into the income generation process. For scaling up of the project, the government conducted further studies with UNDP and FAO which recommended following AMUL model cooperatives in India. With exchange of experiences with AMUL, Milk Vita, once a dying organization, has now grown into a successful cooperative enterprise with membership of more than 150,000 smallholder milk suppliers contributing to the average collection of 200,000 liters per day. Today Milk Vita is so successful that in the year 2000 an amount to the tune of US\$ 1.5 million flew back to the smallholder milk producers in the form of dividend. In the country context of Bangladesh the customization is done at the bottom tier of the cooperatives. Based on their expertise in microfinance and forming self-help groups, they have organized extremely poor landless people in a group of five, known as Village Group Members (VGMs). These village group members have access to loans in micro finance channel. The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, in which AMUL took an active role in the area of dairy cooperatives, followed such model of SHG formation and microfinance. These models of SSE enterprises through South-South and Triangular Cooperation have a great potential for shared prosperity and inclusive growth among southern countries.

### **Conclusion**

SSTC has a great potential for sharing expertise for mutual benefits. A prominent milk cooperative in Pakistan called Idara-i-Kissan follows a similar model of AMUL with certain variations according to the country perspectives, but not as successful as Milk Vita in Bangladesh because of the absence of South-South Cooperation among countries. But in view of the potential role of cooperatives as a prominent SSE enterprise in addressing certain pressing developmental challenges, policy makers should find out ways for effective South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Inclusivity, equality and sustainability are inherent in SSE enterprises. But it cannot run successfully as a standalone institution. To serve its very purpose it requires a strong government intervention, effective regulator and a positive environment. The primary challenge to the success of any cooperative or any other form of social and solidarity economy enterprises is the management efficiency and the complete awareness about the members involved in it. This

awareness is not easy as it deals with the section of the people who are excluded from the formal economy. That is why training and experience sharing across developing countries is a very important component of SSTC. Cooperatives being a model of market exchange form the main component of SSE and act as a locus in advancing Decent Work Agenda of ILO.

## 14. G. Sharma<sup>37</sup>, Social and Solidarity Enterprise Organizations (SSEOs) and South-South Cooperation (SSC): Want, Evolution and Foresight.

**The Social and Solidarity Economy:** The Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations and Enterprises (SSEOs) in the current world are taking importance with respect to the changing geo-political order, natural disasters, migration and refugee crisis and the huge demands for public goods in under-developed economies. The slogan of the World Council of Credit Unions sums up the objective of SSEOs concisely: “not-for-profit, not for charity, but for service”<sup>38</sup>. The SSEOs represent a dynamic group of actors, promoting and running organizations that do not have profit motive as their number 1 goal and are people-centered<sup>39</sup>. The SSE economic structure is becoming more and more relevant as a realistic prospect for generating sufficient income from earnings and being accountable to its stakeholders, with an appropriate mechanism ensuring liability to beneficiaries and a measure demonstrating its social impact.

**SSEOs and South-South Cooperation coupling:** The shift of power from the North to the South and with an ideological solidarity that has imparted traction to the South-South Cooperation (SSC) is increasing the intra-economic linkages, development cooperation and investment and leading into economic growth opportunities. The solidarity aspect brings in the innovation feature to the SSEOs set-ups with the fundamental aim to find and provide solutions. This coupled with the core sentiments of South-South Cooperation and the SSCs key fundamentals that are embedded in the people-centered development in sectors like health and education through technology and innovation have made the rise of SSEOs relevant in today’s world. The key areas of SSEOs engagement through voluntary involvement and autonomy and the essence of SSEOs of social cohesion in the collective dimension are bringing about a systemic collective change of identity and becoming the partnership engagement between countries from the Global South.

The shrinking of global resources, effects of climate change and an ever-increasing need for public goods is propelling the emerging economies of the southern countries by way of SSC and increasing the cooperative and collaborative developmental framework. Three-fourth of humanity living in the southern hemisphere<sup>40</sup> counts with relatively poor settings and limited access to public goods. The SSEOs can emerge through an engaged private enterprises framework via the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework and other international philanthropic organizational set-ups like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to serve this vast untouched poor population. The SSEOs could also emerge and take the center stage in putting the evidence and complementarities between public-private partnerships and South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

As the SSEOs seek to generate social benefits by the type of products and services they generate and redistribute and by involving workers from low skilled or under vocational training, the need for SSC becomes more vital. Peer-to-peer learning between SSEOs from different countries with similar challenges is very relevant, where the State capacity has eroded and areas where the state resources have been unable to integrate and channelize its resources. The redistribution and allocation of the financial profits are the basis on which SSEOs flourish.

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<sup>37</sup> Gaurav Sharma, Program Manager, Observer Research Foundation, ORF, New Delhi, India.

<sup>38</sup> What is a credit union?, accessed on 28/04/17, <http://www.en.polishcu.co.uk/strona-glowna/what-is-credit-union.html>

<sup>39</sup> The Reader 2010, “Social and Solidarity Economy: Building a Common Understanding”, In support of the First edition of the Social and Solidarity Economy Academy, 25 -29th October 2010, ITC ILO, Turin, Italy, accessed on 29/04/17.

<sup>40</sup> Global Population Growth, accessed on 30/04/17: [http://web.ccsu.edu/faculty/kyem/GEOG433/Population/Population\\_Growth.htm](http://web.ccsu.edu/faculty/kyem/GEOG433/Population/Population_Growth.htm)

**Need for SSEOs in the Global South:** The current inadequacy of legal frameworks for the SSE makes it hard for the SSEOs to link with any market structure. The closest being the non-governmental organizations and the cooperative enterprises, as the rules for redistributing profits or surpluses do not have an underlying reference. As the governance is rooted in form of participatory and solidarity principles, the instruments often credit the case of SSEOs<sup>41</sup> as the only forms of enterprises to people who cannot afford to travel and who do not have resources to create economic activities. SSEOs have often been the subject of necessity and have prompted the social-economy initiatives.

The example of the education sector as a necessary public good has been the core sentiment for development. The underlying rusted public infrastructure and poor compensation to teachers has made the intellectual brain drain to the North. With an improved economic structure and opportunity creation in the South, the thrust for education has become imminent in the South-South Cooperation agenda, as there is much younger demography in the South. The SSEOs play a critical role in supporting the critical human development indices like education and health in areas where access, availability and economic opportunity is not well established. In addition, as the South reels with poor humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and environmental catastrophes, the SSEOs are taking up a constructive role as primary responders, mentors and providers. Therefore, evidence-based solutions from SSEOs from one country become very relevant and adaptable to other countries from the South.

The biggest resource of human capital is easily accessible to SSEOs as voluntary workers subscribe to the principles of a social economy organization, consider its actions legitimate and subscribe to its participation, and control mechanisms. The large pool of young and energetic youth from the South would work wonders in shaping the fundamentals for SSEOs in the region. The young demography would bring them together on objectives of closure interaction and people to people connect. The consensus based decision making architecture working together within SSC towards a common good would provide a balance of sufficient availability to the SSEOs.

**India's core ethos promoting SSC and engaging SSEOs organizations:** The potential of the global development architecture is deeply rooted and driven by the role of SSC in global developmental architecture. In line with this ethos, the SSEOs can be encapsulated in the ancient Indian sentiment of “daanam” (giving) and “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (the whole world is one family) and form the naturalized sentiment of volunteerism within India<sup>42</sup>. India's approach to SSC is concrete. India shares SSC vision beyond solidarity and it is voluntary to help shoulder to shoulder is reflective of camaraderie and a spirit of solidarity of sharing, and this links together the SSEOs based initiatives and its root architecture. The best example is India's aid for trade in various sectors to the African nation states. India considers itself as a peer while providing aid for mutually beneficial relationships with its partner countries. SSC for India underlines social development, expertise/knowledge sharing and economic development as the principles of providing support to beneficiary global south countries<sup>43</sup>. India's assistance aid is in projects on education, health, and agriculture and capacity development. In this format, Africa dominates as the largest recipient accounting for 53% of total operative lines of credit<sup>44</sup>.

India has utilized its supra-regional cooperation in various formats. Forums like the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation with Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) with South Asian countries Thailand and Myanmar) to promote the South-South dialogue and India's bilateral, regional and sub-

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<sup>41</sup> Public Policy for Social and Solidarity Economy, A Case Study from Nepal; accessed on 29/04/17: <http://www.reliess.org/centredoc/upload/SSEreport-Final.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> Volunteering in India, Contexts, Perspectives and Discourses, accessed on 30/04/07: <http://www.in.undp.org/content/dam/india/docs/UNV/volunteering-in-india-contexts-perspectives-and-discourses.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> Policy Dialogue on Aid for Trade, Trade-Related South-South Co-operation: India, accessed on 06/05/17, [https://www.oecd.org/dac/aft/South-South\\_India.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dac/aft/South-South_India.pdf)

<sup>44</sup> ibid

regional South-South cooperation<sup>45</sup>. This displays India's regional dimension and commitment to the SSC. India thus promotes and is committed to the socio-economic development cause etched in harmony through access to Indian technology and shared history and culture of the Global South.

**The Road Ahead for SSC and the richness of SSEOs:** Examples such as *Sociétés à finalité sociale*<sup>46</sup> in Belgium and the *Consorzio Gino Mattarelli (CGM)*<sup>47</sup> in Italy could further support exchanges between SSOEs from the South under a Triangular Cooperation scheme. These could become the guiding principles for the SSOEs that operate in a complex structure in large economies of the SSC like Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa. In addition, the exchange of best practices and movement of people as a mean of the SSC should be encouraged more as part of the SSEOs institutional set-ups. SSOEs advantage in microeconomics elements like combined objectives and innovation and in macroeconomics and societal terms clubbed with volunteerism, professionalization, and sufficient availability of resource pool, would constitute a comparative advantage over private-profit making or public organizations and benefit the SSC<sup>48</sup>. The SSEOs present an outlet to channelize the technical expertise into the various sectors. Another discussion point is that most of the SSC nation states will be becoming the middle-income countries in the next decade, and with the encouraged growth of SSEOs, the prospects of intra-trade relations would encounter an upward trend and a benefited societal structure.

The SSEOs are mostly referenced of often smaller initiatives and often created to respond to contemporary societal and social problems, such as child care, environmental issues and sustainable agriculture; but the impact of the SSEOs is often at a local level and paramount. The SSEOs embedment at the very local level and its heavy reliance on hybrid resources make them a futuristic people focused model in bringing about a surmountable change in the lives of the many in the Global South. The social economy based goods should be granted a special platform for selling their products and services, as it is more difficult for SSEOs to sell their goods/provide services competing with private operators.

The social economy benefits from political and economic recognition among ministries and administration and via support for public policies. This sentiment is required to be propagated within the framework functioning of the SSC charter, so that SSEOs organizations are empowered and encouraged and thus become contributory and relevant organizations in the notional context of state capacity and developmental agenda objectives. The creation of a SSEOs based eco-system in support of the common objective towards poverty reduction, promotion of sustainable and economic growth would respond to the SDG challenges and form the embodied expression of the South-South Cooperation.

## **15. Dr. S. K. Satpathy<sup>49</sup>, Social Solidarity Economy in Bhubaneswar Smart City: Need for Inclusion in the New Urban Agenda**

*Bhubaneswar city in Odisha State in the eastern part of India has found a place in the first list of 20 smart cities in India and is preparing its Smart City Proposal (SCP) by shaping its approach around 7 "Smart City Pillars" that include Governance, City planning and design, Urban utilities, Urban mobility, Shelter inclusive housing, Economic development and employment and Social Development to align with the citizen's aspiration and needs with city system. However, the new urban agenda should pay attention to urban slums and encourage Social enterprises and Social Entrepreneurs, promote employment and*

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<sup>45</sup> Katti, V., T. Chahoud and A. Kaushik (2009), "India's Development Co-operation – Opportunities and Challenges for International Development Co-operation," *DIE Briefing paper 3/2009*, Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, Bonn: DIE

<sup>46</sup> Companies with a Social purpose, accessed on 29/04/17,

[https://www.belgium.be/fr/economie/economie\\_sociale/statut\\_juridique/societes\\_a\\_finalite\\_sociale](https://www.belgium.be/fr/economie/economie_sociale/statut_juridique/societes_a_finalite_sociale)

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.consorziofa.it/user/Default.aspx?SEZ=1&PAG=34&NOT=42>

<sup>48</sup> Julio López Gallardo, Comparative advantage, economic growth and free trade, *Rev. econ. contemp.* vol.9 no.2 Rio de Janeiro May/Aug. 2005, accessed on 29/04/17, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S1415-98482005000200004>

<sup>49</sup> Sudhir Kumar Satpathy, School of Public Health, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar, India.

*social inclusion along with availability and accessibility of microfinance for vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises and to put health, women and youth at the core of all developmental activities<sup>50</sup>.*

The aim of this presentation is to share the current effort and the potential to make Bhubaneswar as a Smart and Healthy City in the backdrop of Smart City Mission policy and guidelines, Government of India and advocate certain inclusions to put health, women and youth at the center of development.

As per 2011 Census, 31.2% of India's total population is living in 7935 towns. The urban population in India contributes to over 60% of the nation's GDP. It is projected that urban India will contribute nearly 75% of the national GDP in the next 15 years. Projections also indicate that, by 2031, about 600 million Indians will reside in urban areas - an increase of over 200 million in just 20 years (Planning Commission Report on Urban Development). It is estimated that by 2050 almost half of India's population will live in urban areas.

Rapid and unplanned urbanization has resulted in several problems and issues that need to be addressed such as massive growth of slums (17% of Urban population lives in slums) followed by misery, poverty, exploitation, crimes, inequalities, overcrowding, unhealthy lifestyles, environmental degradation, poor sanitation, reduced quality of urban life and largely affecting the women, youth and other deprived sections of urban population.

Government of India has come up with a Smart City Policy and guidelines. In June 2015 Prime Minister of India launched three flagship schemes aimed at changing the face of urban India -Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Housing for All Mission - with an expected expenditure of around Rs.4 trillion over the next few years.

Some important features of Smart City Mission are: to provide basic infrastructure to give a decent quality of life to its citizens, and a clean and sustainable environment and application of Smart Solutions keeping citizens at the center. The mission will cover 100 smart cities in a period of 5 years. Cities are being selected through a competitive process of "Smart City Selection Criteria Challenge". The Smart City Mission is operated as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with a financial support of Rs. 480,000 million over five years (*i.e.* on an average Rs. 1000 million per city per year). An equal amount, on a matching basis, will have to be contributed by the State/Urban Local Bodies. The scheme has been approved by the Parliament and reflected in the 2014-15 and subsequent annual budgets.

Going through the stringent process, Bhubaneswar city in Odisha State in the eastern part of India has found a place in the first list of 20 smart cities in India and is moving forward towards a "Smart and Healthy City" Known as the "Temple City". Bhubaneswar was founded during Kalinga Empire over 3000 years ago, and later designed by German architect Otto Konigsberger in 1946. Today, the city boasts of an emerging hub for education, health and information technology. This is the Only Tier-2 city in the country to host the top five Indian IT companies: Infosys, Wipro, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra and Mind tree. It has been ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> best place to "Do Business in India" by World Bank. It is also one of the planned four "Information Technology Investment Regions" in India. Its strategic geographic location along the east coast of India, has positioned Bhubaneswar to serve as the gateway to South-east Asia with easy access to existing and emerging ports, petrochemical and steel hubs at Paradeep, Kalinga nagar, Dharma and Gopalpur. Bhubaneswar today is a model of livability evident by the city's stable growth rate in the recent decades. The demographic profile indicates a total population of 0.89 million living in 135 km<sup>2</sup> area with a population density of 6228 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. Schedule caste and scheduled tribe population constitutes 8.3% and 5% respectively. The literacy rate is 92%. Youths (15 – 24 years) and women constitute 20.1% and 47% respectively. About 19.5% of the city's population lives in Slums.

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<sup>50</sup> This article presents an SSTC initiative in India, in discussion the specific ambit of City-to-City Cooperation. Further information on this ambit could be found there: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B9BX0GCP9Kv2VGdWSG5rUHpdVUU>



The economic profile indicates a *per capita* income (2004-05 constant prices) of Rupees 33,312 with a urban poverty ratio of 4.7 % of urban population. The unemployment rate and work participation rate is 4.27% and 35.6% respectively.

The infrastructure indicators shows that 63% of households have access to tap water within premises, 86.6% have electricity and 72.3% have toilets within premises, 31% have access to computer/Laptop (16% with internet and 15% without internet), 65% have access to mobile phones, 47% have their own house and 43% are in rented house. 33% of households live in congested houses.

The city is preparing its Smart City Proposal (SCP) and is shaping its approach around 7 “Smart City Pillars” that includes Governance, City planning and design, Urban utilities (water supply, waste management, sanitation, Energy and ICT), Urban mobility, Shelter inclusive housing, Economic development and employment and Social Development (Identity and culture, education, health, open spaces, safety, security, and air quality, *etc.*) to align with the citizen’s aspiration and needs with city system. These are based on the 24 Smart City Features identified by the Government of India’s Smart City Mission. Some of the pioneering accomplishments of the city in the social sector include a program to formalize street vendors in 2008 and continues to implement this legacy and the National Street Vendors Act of 2014. The city recently initiated a project to prepare a Street Vendors Redevelopment Plan including creation of a mobile application to create a dynamic database through a mobile based survey application of over 25,000 street vendors. Bhubaneswar mandates a minimum 10 per cent of all large scale housing projects including public and private housing schemes to be dedicated for EWS housing. A very good beginning indeed. The new urban agenda should recognize the importance inclusive development, attention to urban slums and other deprived sections such as street dwellers encourage Social enterprises and Social Entrepreneurs, make available and accessible microfinance for vulnerable groups and micro-enterprises, develop the right urban infrastructure, an enabling policy and work environment, putting health at the core of all developmental activities, wellness clinics, health literacy kiosks focusing on women and youths.

## **16. D. Wong Wai Yin<sup>51</sup>, South-South and Triangular Cooperation on Promoting Food Security and Resilient Food System in Asian Countries**

### **Emerging concerns on Food security and need for resilient food system in Asian places**

The promotion of food security aims to enhance the society’s capacity to ensure all people having enough food for an active healthy life at all times. In Hong Kong, there is no territory wide policy on protecting food security. The agenda, however, has been of increasing concern by the public. In a research on Expenditure Pattern of Grassroots Households in Hong Kong (1999-2010) conducted by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, it reveals that low income households spent a substantial amount of their household income on food. The situation was worsened by the rise in food price and income inequalities in recent years. One of the direct consequences of worsening food security is trade-off of their nutrition by low income groups. The higher health risks caused for the children and the elderly in poor households also bring higher cost to the society.

Also, the 311 Japan Earthquake Tsunami brought a chain of food safety concern of conventional food system to the Asia Pacific region societies. For example, ways to ensure food source, food safety and stability of food supply have been more widely discussed in the societies.

As response to these crises, a range of NGO-initiated food programs have been developing to advocate for more resilient food system in Hong Kong. It first starts at consumers’ concern but it later developed into discussion on food justice, *e.g.* is the food production safe and trade and retail distribution system fair

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<sup>51</sup> Wong Wai Yin Dorothy, The Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

to the workers/ producers? Food assistance programs (*e.g.* food banks & community kitchens, *etc.*) also advocate for fairer social protection system to provide stronger support to the low income families. Food consumer cooperatives developed in a form with closer connection with the food producer and the consumers. They also carried out public education programs to raise awareness of environment concerns and introduce alternative form of employment (*i.e.* works at the cooperative) in contribution of building a more resilient food system in the city. These similar emerging trends, in fact, not only happens in Hong Kong but has been observed in other places including Taiwan, Korea, Japan and China.

### **Building more resilient food system through South-South exchange of experiences - Training and Experience Sharing platform among food programs practitioners**

The ILO supports decent work for food security with orientation including promoting the interrelated sectors of the food system; “From farm to table” approach and the creation of decent and green jobs throughout the food system, *etc.*<sup>52</sup> In view of the present emerging trends, a platform targeted to **extended circle of food programs practitioners**(*e.g.* government officials, trade unions, NGOs and community food programs practitioners) can be formed to share the experience among places in Asian regions including Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Singapore and China. While China, Taiwan, Japan and Korea are growing from agricultural based society, Hong Kong and Singapore are places relying heavily on imported food products from these places. In the context of food system, these places, in fact, can participate more closely as they contribute to other places food system, or they face similar challenges. Interventions in specific sectors and ideas/knowledge exchange between places can be beneficial for ensuring a functional system as whole in the region.

<b><u>The Food System</u></b>					
Climate variability, income inequalities, market volatility					
<b><u>Food Security</u></b>					
Social protection policies, interface with community food banks , development of cooperatives/ fair trade/ community support agriculture					
<b>Food production</b>	<b>Food Manufacturing &amp; Packaging</b>	<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>Trade &amp; Retail Distribution</b>	<b>Food Services</b>	<b>Consumption</b>
<b><u>Decent Work</u></b>					
Green employment opportunities, democratic management and development of producer-consumer co-partnership, microfinance mechanisms, <i>etc.</i>					

Instead of starting from scratch, efforts of existing networks in particular sectors can be gathered. For example, a NGO alliance of community food banks in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan and Philippines, *etc.*, has been working closely on food security agenda in past years. These formal and informal networks of stakeholders on food programs can join efforts to create stronger mutual support. The collaboration can focus on the ideas and experience exchange in the following aspects:

- **Policies enhancing social protection and food security**

Food unsecured families experienced limited or uncertain access to adequate food, including reduced quality, variety or desirability of diet. Some households had members who went hungry or skipped meals, which is an indication of very low food security. Findings of researches on the current situation of the places can be exchanged through South-South Cooperation (SSC) and ways to improve the state food security policies (*e.g.* state food program and its interface to the community food bank initiatives) can be discussed. Goals can be set up to advise the society as

<sup>52</sup> Sectoral Activities Department, ILO (2011) Decent work I the Food Value Chain: A Sectoral Approach [http://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_dialogue/---sector/documents/publication/wcms\\_161946.pdf](http://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/publication/wcms_161946.pdf)



indicators for continuous effort from different sectors on food security, for example, no child is at risk of hunger; people can access to help during hard times; food banks are well stocked to help those in need, *etc.*

Peer-to-peer discussions can also cover how different stakeholders including the government, corporate and other NGOs can participate in effective platform to communicate and deliver the resources (*e.g.* community food production, food donation and food surplus, *etc.*) to the hands of people in need.

- **Encouraging conditions for food cooperatives and green employment to emerge towards a more resilient food system**

In 2013, the Seoul government reformed the regulations governing the set-up of cooperatives and the new legislation enables new form of cooperatives (*e.g.* social cooperative) to set up in response to specific community needs. In Hong Kong, the requirement existing legislation hinders the potential workers/social groups to voluntarily form cooperatives. In fact, experience of Seoul in the past years after the legislation reform demonstrates new form of cooperatives in food industry can perform distinguished roles in connecting the consumers and producers to ensure stable food supply, safe food source and price stability through the mode of operation based on not only trading itself, but in producer-consumer co-partnership.

In the building of a fairer and more inclusive economy in the food system, different form of “green employment” can emerge. For example, cooperative in packaging and transportation services or the collection of food waste *etc.*, can become expanding forms of employment with larger scale of the inclusive and community based food industry. Sharing experiences through SSC can be beneficial in enhancing the economic opportunities especially for the marginal workers or female workers who cannot enter into the mainstream employment easily. Instead, these community-based food initiatives can be more inclusive in providing green employment opportunities to the community.

- **Food Surplus & Food assistance programs Management**

Reducing food waste has been the prime concern in waste management in industrialised places. The growth of food surplus management in Hong Kong and Taiwan have been rapid in recent years and experience can be shared on how to mobilize social networks to transfer food surplus to the disadvantaged groups to the society. Without a good public food security system yet, these food assistance programs making use of food surplus can build a more cohesive social protection to the deprived groups within the communities. Some places in Asian countries (*e.g.* Taiwan and Philippines) suffer from disasters of extreme weather or earthquakes and typhoon. Better developed and stocked up food programs can also offer assistance in these urgent situations and seek timely assistance from across countries.

The experience on planning, design and operation of these food programs that can cover in the platform includes the below:

- Operation of food assistance program, such as the logistics, storage and delivery of food and criteria of receiving food donation, *etc.*;
- Integration of social services for recipients of food assistance, such as employment, education, volunteering, shelter, to help them move out of poverty;
- Integration of government’s welfare policy and other food assistance offered by non-governmental organizations, and the financing of it;
- Improvements of legislation and other mechanisms to ensure stable operation *e.g.* mandatory food surplus donation, tax rebate and liabilities for food donation, *etc.*

With the participation of both the developing and industrialized places in Asia, knowledge building and transfer through SSC on wide range of food system related initiatives can be mutually beneficial as the

different places are in the interrelated sectors of the system. South-South and Triangular Cooperation, in this particular context, is of important strategic position to mobilize cooperation and dialogue among places facing increasingly acute challenges in stable food price, food supply and social protection, as well as emerging economic opportunities in better employment in these new industries.

### **17. Dr. M. DasGupta<sup>53</sup>, Social Solidarity Economy and its Approach towards Women Empowerment: A South-South Cooperation**

Social and solidarity economy (SSE) is appreciated as the main focal point of sustainable development of socio-economic environment. Segregating from the conventional for-profit enterprise, SSE spreads its wings in different dimensions entitled as Social Enterprise (SE) like cooperatives, mutual associations, Non-Government Organisations engaged in income generating activities, women's self-help groups, community forestry and other organizations, associations of informal sector workers, social enterprise and fair trade organizations and networks with explicit economic and social (and often environmental) objectives (Uttin, 2013). SSE claims to be a platform to address of the contemporary challenges that the international development community has set itself like global financial crisis, global warming, gender inequality which have urged for attention from second round of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (ibid). In this very perspective, the gender equality in the form of empowerment of 'second citizen of society' – Women can demand a main focal point from the perspective of redressing of the multiple discrimination of the vulnerable groups like unemployed, migrants, disabled etc. where the majority are often women (World Development Report, 2012).

To ensure equality and justice in enterprises with economic freedom, women should be invited as equal partners with men in all fields of work with equal accessibility in all positions of employment, equal opportunities in developmental training process and security at work place. Now, to fulfil the gap in socio-economic upliftment of women section of our society and to widen the horizon for women empowerment in different dimensions – economic, political, socio-cultural, familial, psychological and legal (Malhotra, et al, 2002), an institutional framework is needed to be promoted (Vijayakumar and Jayachitra, 2013). In this very perspective, SSE with its varied forms of promotional attitudes, invites an ethical entrepreneurial activism – SE with a social change agenda and thus welcomes women participation in both of its operational levels – Employers and Employees. Now besides introducing self-respect, self-esteem with economic freedom, SE empowers women in terms of capacity building taking into consideration their state and condition. In SE, women enjoy full autonomy in implementing their activities which best answer their needs/factors (pull/choice factor or push/necessity factors), responsible for their participation in enterprises. Women participants in SE can perform their activities in an independent flexible working environment with non-discriminatory recruitment process and gender-wise fair selection in authority position with job security. The democracy in SE, an important principle of social enterprise, motivates all the participants (both men and women) to take part equally in profit sharing, decision making process and in policy making. All these promotional aspects of SE assures an introduction of gender indiscriminate/equality in work place with an aim at promoting inclusive growth or empowerment<sup>54</sup> of the socio-economically excluded gender section of our society – Women (Koppell and Grown, n.d.). Moreover, entrepreneurial inclusion of the vulnerable gender section of our society, women, welcomes socio-economic sustainable development as women leaders are assertive, persuasive

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<sup>54</sup> The United Nations population Fund defines women's empowerment through five major components as – women sense of self-worth, women's right to have and determine choices, women right to have access to opportunities and resources, women's right to have the power to control their own lives both within and outside the home and women's ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally (UNDP, 2008b).

and willing to work hard with social goals and objectives (Goyal and Parkash, 2011). The same view has also been echoed in the words of Huysentruyt (2014) who with the reference of Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM), argued in favour of the participation of women section in non-profit sector more than that of their men counterparts in consideration with social goal more and economic goal less. United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (TESSE) (2014), in this context, declared that women form their own cooperatives and other social enterprises which resultantly promote women empowerment, well beings with networking and advocacy skills (<http://www.unrisd.org/tfsse>).

Now to enrich the progression of vulnerable sections of society and to curb the possible failure of any policy due to the weaknesses inherent in the targeted sector (Morais, 2013), SSE considers the support of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, a way to exchange of knowledge, information, know-how and practice, and even the possibility of creating solidarity-based markets acting in a network (ibid). This process seems to be the plethora of socio-economic progression of all excluded sections of society which aims at driving new productive behavior within the territory, based on partnerships, cooperation, bottom-up actions, community development and generation of social capital (Morais & Bacic, 2014). Amongst the two wings of SSE, South-South Cooperation (SSC) has been steadily gaining momentum and has shown encouraging trends (Quiñones, 2015) for its ever accessibility in the developing countries in the Southern World.

SSC is supposed to be the methodology facilitating the exchange of knowledge, experience, technology, investment, information and capacity between and among Southern countries through governments, civil society organizations, academic institutions, national institutions and networks to accelerate political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical development. It contributes in its endeavor with a focus on mutual benefit between Southern countries of the World and with due respect for national sovereignty and ownership, establishment of partnership among equals, non-conditionality in cooperation and non-interference in domestic affairs. The solidarity movements in South-South cooperation hence inculcate sustainability in developing countries by resolving their problems efficiently with lower cost. This effort would identify the successful experiences in one country and their adaptation and application in another (Amorim, 2013a, p. 8). Therefore, the mechanism seems to be the complement of North-South Cooperation (ibid) which can be found in Triangular Cooperation where technical cooperation is being confirmed between two/more Southern countries (South-South) and Northern donors or by international organization.

SSC claims special importance to under-privileged gender section – women of the society without whose enrichment, the approach towards sustainable development of society will be in vain. SSC with its different promotional movements mainly capacity building with respect to self-employment and employment generation with entrepreneurial motives, is supposed to fulfil the two-factor requirements of women - push and pull specially push which is highly associated with poverty, the ever present phenomenon of poor developing countries (Koppell and Grown, n.d.). But in this context, it has to bear with tremendous challenge for not having gender equality, social inclusion in entrepreneurial movement due to lack of technical knowledge, awareness and institutional will among stakeholders (Kabir, 2016).

Now, among the women dominated cluster of SSEs found to be located all over the world, the countries of Southern Asia specially India is remembered importantly for its rigorous engagement with women-owned or participated institutions, operated in some specific states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra etc. Women-owned SEs here carry an aim at promoting proper recognition and well-being of the women through appropriate policies, social securities and resolution of social and economic goals. Among different formations of SSEs, in India, cooperative, the democratic institutions introducing one-member-one vote system of decision making, are especially mentionable for its basic motive to emphasise loyalty, trust, faith and fellowship with the ideas of association and use (Dash, 2011). Cooperative assists the women to meet their unforeseen contingencies, securities against misfortune and

empower the women in participating in decision-making process with leadership qualities and self-confidence among them.

### **Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad or Lijjat: A Cooperative Approach towards Women Empowerment:**

Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad, or Lijjat (1959) is an organization in the form of co-operative that has opted a leadership in empowering poor women across India mainly from urban area during the last four decades. It contains more than 43,000 member sisters throughout India from initially was only seven who are being served through its 81 Branches and 27 Divisions in different states all over India with Central Office at Mumbai. It got its registration under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 and also registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 with recognition as village industry from Khadi & Village Industries Commission. It reflected its name with an aim at introducing women oriented quality driven activities or entrepreneurial movement (Udyog) where women (Shri Mahila) would be employed and their produced crispy snack (Lijjat) would get core competency in the market which would ensure empowerment to all the concerned women with a sustainable livelihood development in their house (Griha). Maintaining the feature of Social Enterprise, Lijjat would welcome all women having the capacity to offer physical work at least at the age of 18 years with a 15 days training and offered them a life-long membership and co-ownership irrespective of their origin in colour and caste.

It offered assistance to women to exhibit their skilful attitude in home-made products mainly crispy, thin, round snack known as 'Papad'. Therefore, the usual cooking habit of women could be considered as the main stepping stone towards introducing commercialisation of the product of women clubbed in cooperatives. Women here would enjoy their Papad rolling activity where remuneration is the same for everyone [for six hours a day at an average Vanai (monthly wage) between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 3,000 (approximately US\$ 35 and US\$ 53) per month], and profits and losses are shared equally among the member sisters, removing the chance of concentration of assets and wealth. Apart from Papad, chapati, SASA Detergent Powder, SASA Detergent Powder, Masala etc. are produced by Shri Mahila Griha Udyog Lijjat Papad amongst which various products are also exported to countries like UK, USA, Middle East Countries, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Holland, Japan, Australia etc.

Lijjat started its activity with self-reliance with no monetary assistance. It refused to accept donations, but instead offered donations to the needy. It adopted family relationship aspect in its regular activities by accepting the member as its 'sister'. It accepts its devotion in qualitative activity with an aim at fulfilling the collective goal with efforts of all member sisters. So collectivism in ownership and goal congruence would be found as the focal themes of it not the individualism and conflict in goal setting.

Lijjat undertaken various promotional steps in empowering women in different areas of activities to promote literacy and computer education for member-sisters and their families and also typing, cooking, sewing, knitting and toy making as well as other courses like child welfare, first aid and hygiene were taught. In this connection, to make a journey towards promotion of vulnerable section of society mainly women, Lijjat organised different seminar time-to-time like on "Child Care and Mother Welfare", as part of the International Year of the Child celebrations with UNICEF (1979), "The role of women in the assimilation and spread of technological innovation" in UNESCO sponsored international workshop (1984) etc.

## 18. D. King'Asia<sup>55</sup>, South-South and Triangular Cooperation

South – South Cooperation is a notion conceived to promote cooperation networks between developing countries from the south. This has helped in decreasing dependence on help and aid from developed countries. In addition to this, according to *Economic development in Africa Report 2010: South –South Cooperation: Africa and the New forms of Development Partnership*; It is defined as the processes, institutions and arrangements designed to promote political, economic, and technical cooperation among developing countries in pursuit of common development goals.

It is important to note that, South- South Cooperation, is not just associated with relations between governments but increasingly includes the private sector, civil society; it can also be cooperation between two or more African states, African States and Latin States, African and Asian States or a combination of all three. Thus, it may take the form of bilateral, intra-regional or inter- regional cooperation as well as multilateral issues designed to enhance their participation and integration in the world economy. This can sometimes encompass the definition of Triangular cooperation which is collaboration between southern provider and a Northern donor in benefit of a third recipient country. The common feature is the know-how, skills, experiences and resources from North and South are combined.

Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) is a concept that refers to enterprises and organizations, in particular cooperatives, mutual benefit societies, associations, foundations and social enterprises which specifically produce goods, services and knowledge while pursuing economic and social aims and fostering solidarity.

South- South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) enhances Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) and local development initiatives through imparting skills and the know- how on how to trade and run the different enterprises while building partnerships and local networks on various developmental projects /initiatives that require expertise while pursuing economic growth through concerted efforts of solidarity.

Through cooperation with governments, employers' organizations and trade unions at the National levels with the lead of International Labour Organizations(ILO), develops programmes to support and promote SSE, and sets interventions in different categories that promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth through awareness raising and advocacy, research and knowledge, policy and legal environment, capacity building and networking and partnership which helps in creating full and productive employment and decent work for all. A good example is from my country Kenya, where Trade unions advocate for decent working environment and a minimum wage which is acceptable and punishable by law if bridged.

In East Africa, where my country Kenya fall, has Regional Economic Communities (REC) which form the anchor of SSC in East Africa; East Africa Community (EAC) is a vehicle that provides and deepens integration for SSC. An example of SSTC is China and Kenya in the infrastructural project of Mombasa Road and Thika-Nairobi superhighway, which has vastly improved the economic and social development of Kenya and other developing countries.

However, civil society actors in Kenya have expressed concern that there is very little transparency around projects funded by China, specifically the specifications for big infrastructure projects to be able to hold them accountable for quality.

Part of my recommendations, would be to ensure that cooperation with developing countries complements existing partnerships with developed countries. Also encourage some of the new donors to engage more proactively and be more transparent about their regional development activities to ensure optimization of synergies and avoid duplication.

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<sup>55</sup> Delina King'Asia

In conclusion, SSTC and SSE is very essential in terms of integration and networking in regional and sub-regional to allowing more substantial collaborations among southern states for social solidarity to enhance economic growth.

### **19. C. Maldonado & H. Jaber<sup>56</sup>, Social Solidarity Economy and South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the Promotion of Decent Work**

The global economic downturn and increasing concerns about the social and environmental consequences of our market-oriented development oblige us to reconsider the way we do business and visualize alternative forms of consumption, production and finance. Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) is every often given as an alternative; it is regarded as a solution for developing and developed countries to reach necessary socio-economic and environmental goals. "SSE refers to the production of goods and services by a broad range of organization and enterprises that have explicit social and often environmental objectives. They are guided by principles and practices of cooperation, solidarity, ethics and democratic self-management. SSE includes cooperatives and other forms of social enterprises, self-help groups, community-based organizations, association of informal economy workers, service provisioning NGOs, solidarity finance schemes, among others. SSE contributes to the four dimensions of the overall objective of the ILO of decent work for all: job creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue" (ILO 2015).<sup>57</sup>

One of the approaches to SSE refers to it as a transforming, emancipatory practice that aims at the development of an alternative economy to the capitalist system. It complements the economy with the social quality, understanding that "it produces society and not only economic profits, because it generates values to satisfy the needs of the producers themselves or of their communities - generally of territorial, ethnic, social or cultural base - and it is not oriented by profits and the accumulation of capital without limits " (Coraggio, 2007)

Similarly, according to Singer (1999) solidarity economy is an "alternative mode of production and distribution to capitalism, created and recreated periodically by those who are (or fear to remain) marginalized from the labour market." Solidarity economy is committed to principles that are distanced from capitalist logic, although they are juxtaposed when it is considered necessary to guarantee the bases of support such as sources of financing, marketing networks, technical and scientific advice, institutional and legal support (Singe, 2000).

SSE has been growing in the past few years and some governments have prioritised the strengthening of the SSE in their national strategies especially in relation to employment generation. Countries in Latin America such as Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia, have given SSE an important role in the economy. There has been strong political will and leadership to change the economic paradigm and integrate SSE from the institutional to grass-root levels. Good practices from these countries have been shared in several international fora to exchange different aspects of public policies and practices for the promotion of more inclusive and solidary development models.

In September 2013, the ILO became a founding member of the UN inter-Agency Task Force on the Social and Solidarity Economy (TFSSE). The aim of the TFSSE is to raise awareness and give more visibility to SSE within the UN System and to mainstreaming it in international and national policy frameworks. Social economy institutions and organizations perform a major role in promoting livelihoods and job creation to help against poverty. SSE can simplify access to finance, inputs, support services and markets, technology, and improve the capacity of producers to negotiate better prices and income. SSE

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<sup>56</sup> Cristina Maldonado & Hassan Jaber

<sup>57</sup> ILO (2015), Social Solidarity and South-South Cooperation A compilation of short South-South Cooperation articles for the "Academy of Social Solidarity Economy: Social Innovation in the World of Work" (Johannesburg,) available at: [http://www.ilo.ch/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/publication/wcms\\_383794.pdf](http://www.ilo.ch/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/publication/wcms_383794.pdf)

organizations can empower different stakeholders and reduce information irregularities within labour and product markets while enhancing the level and regularity of incomes. Moreover, the low capital requirements needed for founding certain forms of cooperative can be advantageous for informal labours seeking to participate in enterprise activities.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) has been part of global development since 1970; however, it has gained greater visibility in the last decade. The UN system reaffirmed its major importance as indispensable to promote national, regional and international initiatives such as achieving Sustainable Development Goals, as highlighted in SDG 17 on partnerships for development.

SSTC promotes solidarity among developing nations and people of the South. SSTC can scale up the outcomes of SSE initiatives, particularly through sharing knowledge, technology, experience and good practices, in supporting capacity development and resource mobilization, as well as in the establishment of international chains and networks on social innovation. Both, SSTC and SSE share the principle of solidarity.

The establishment of networks for the sharing of knowledge and experience as well as for cultural and economic exchanges at the regional, continental and international levels can contribute to the implementation of a development model that helps organization and communities serve people and trace the path for more solidarity, self-assistance and democratic management of resources. SSE promotes values and principles that focus on people's needs and on their communities. In a spirit of voluntary participation, self-help and self-reliance, and through enterprises and organizations, it pursues to balance economic success with fairness and social justice, from the regional to the international level. SSE is moving beyond its place, project or community-level status, and becoming more important in terms of commercial, macroeconomic and social-economic indicators. SSE can be a key mechanism through which poor or disempowered people in society gain greater control over resources and decision-making processes that affect their lives. Promoting mutual learning through peer-to-peer approaches under SSTC framework can facilitate such transition. It can enlarge networks of sharing information, resources and technologies and facilitate finding solutions for similar problems that serve in achieving the global development goals.

## **20. A. Laha<sup>58</sup>, Participatory Forest Management in Sundarbans: Experiences of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Perspectives of Social and Solidarity Economy**

In a search of egalitarian forms of community, development thoughts in the 21<sup>st</sup> century devoted attention towards shaping of a social and solidarity economy (SSE). SSE which is supposed to satisfy human needs and help in the expansion of human capabilities by enhancing social relations through cooperation, association and solidarity, has been considered by the researchers as a potential alternative. However, the development of SSE is expected to address the economic, social and environmental objectives and thereby holds considerable promise in adopting integrated approaches inherent in the concept of sustainable development (TFSSE, 2014).

In the post-2015, development agenda centers on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the context of sustainable management of natural resources, 'protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss' is envisioned as one of the important goals (in particular Goal 15) needs to be realized in the next 15 years. To ensure that the purpose of this new Agenda on SDGs is realized, there is a need to establish linkages among other goals of sustainable development. Some other integrated goals of sustainable management are: 'Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic

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growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all' (Goal 8); 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and Sustainable' (Goal 11); 'Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development' (Goal 14); 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development' (Goal 17). One of the means to achieve our goals is to revitalize 'Global Partnership for Sustainable Development', based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity (with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people) and enhancing international support (in the form of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) for the purpose of capacity-building in developing countries (United Nations, 2015). Unlike the traditional North-South cooperation model, South-South cooperation enables developing countries to provide sustainable solutions to their own problems through a spirit of solidarity. This alternative model of cooperation among developing countries is often facilitated by traditional development partners (in the form of triangular cooperation) in the field of mutual exchanges of knowledge and resources, so as to contribute in the process of fair globalization.

In developing countries, more often than not, state property resources have become de facto private or open access resources due to the state's failure to enforce property rights because of high transaction costs, corruption of enforcement agencies and/or political reasons (Bardhan, 1993). Historically, a departure from the centralized control strategy in managing Common Property Resources (CPRs) is evident in various settings throughout the Global South, and the sharing of local management has proven quite effective in controlling access to the resource in the perspective of 'growing limitations of the traditional welfare state'. Participatory resource management is viewed as a solution to a number of problems linked to state management of natural resources such as information asymmetries, incentive incompatibility, lack of effective monitoring and maintenance etc. In fact, participatory forest management is observed to be an innovative solution in managing common property resources. This alternative decentralized approach in the management of forest resources is also reflected in the World Bank's 1991 Forest Strategy, which emphasized greater involvement of local people in the long-term management of natural forests (World Bank, 2000). The ad-hoc intergovernmental panel on forests in the Eleventh World Forestry Congress (1997) also promoted sustainable livelihood approach of forest fringe communities through decentralized planning and participatory forest management. The concept of decentralized planning community participation to sustain forest management was also acknowledged in the landmark environmental summit held at Rio De Janeiro (popularly known as Rio Summit of 1992).

In the present case study of forest management in Sundarbans (i.e. 'beautiful trees' in Bengali language), solidarity organizations such as forestry cooperatives and community forestry groups play an important role in reducing human-tiger conflict, and sustainable management of biodiversity resources. The Sundarbans<sup>59</sup> landscape is the world's largest delta covering 800,000 hectares of land (roughly 200,000 hectares in the 24 Parganas district of West Bengal and 600,000 in the Khuna district of Bangladesh) and home to 123 million people. The delta occupies a centre stage in South-South cooperation<sup>60</sup> as it lies in Bangladesh and India with rivers draining Bhutan, China, India and Nepal. In Sundarbans (known as the largest mangrove forests area in the world and presence of Sundari tree, a variant of mangrove species, in a large numbers), mangrove forests area is situated in the delta of Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers. Sundarbans harbour 315 species of fauna including Bengal tiger and dolphins, spotted deer, crocodiles, birds and snakes etc.

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<sup>59</sup> Sundarbans was declared as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Rich biodiversity elements in the area were also recognized by the declaration of biosphere reserve in 1989. Each and every biosphere reserve includes representative examples of natural ecosystems (core area) within a biogeographical province.

<sup>60</sup> South-South cooperation in the construction of Rampal Coal Power Project (a joint venture by the Indian state owned National Thermal Power Corporation and Orion, a corporation owned by Bangladesh state owned Power Development Board) raised a concern on the likely impact of the project on the coastal ecosystem of Sundarbans area. Interestingly, the organization, namely Phulbari Solidarity Group which led the movement of 'Save the Sundarban', is also a part of SSE.

In the context of management of coastal wetlands in Sundarbans, participatory forest management strategy rests in the formation of solidarity groups with shared responsibilities: Co-Management Committee (CMC) in Bangladesh, Forest Protection Committees (FPCs) and Eco-development Committees (EDCs) in the protected areas of Indian Sundarbans. In Bangladesh, multi-party, multi-tiered structure is followed to ensure local stakeholders' participation in the management of protected areas of Sundarbans: Wildlife Advisory Board, Conservation Council, Co-Management Committee and Forest Users Group<sup>61</sup>. Participation of local people is reflected in the formation of small solidarity groups, like Village Conservation Forum with 1/3 female members, Peoples Forum, Community Patrol groups, Forest Users Group, and Eco-Tour guides. In India, FPCs are intended to serve the needs of the people living in the fringe areas of the forest or reserved forest area (as they were dependent on forest resources for livelihood), while EDCs are meant for the people living within the wildlife or protected areas<sup>62</sup>. Members of the FPCs and EDCs are entrusted with an activity to protect the forests against exploitations. Keeping in mind to create 'alternate livelihood options' for these target groups and dilute the biotic pressure on the ecologically fragile mangrove ecosystem, the meager development funds meant for the forest fringe villages are utilized for creating resources through the process of Micro-level Planning and participatory implementation. Thus in order to compensate the sacrifice of the FPC members, they are given access to free collection of non-timber forest products i.e., collection of small wood, firewood, honey. The EDC members do receive 25 percent of the share of eco-tourism revenues. However, the major benefit of the members is the infrastructure development and alternate livelihood programmes undertaken by Forest Department in the FPC and EDC areas. Performance of such committees is quite satisfactory in redressing wildlife-human conflict and generating alternative employment opportunities (Vyas, 2012; Laha, 2013). One of the major success of JFM programme in Sundarbans is that large numbers of wild animals have been saved by the beneficiaries of such FPCs and EDCs every year. In fact, available data also suggest that no tiger and other wild animals have been killed during straying from forest to villages. The trust developed between Forest Department and the Sundarbans people is mainly attributable to the good governance practice adopted by FPCs and EDCs. It is evident that the committees involving in high investment in 'alternate livelihood activities' are performing satisfactorily in comparison to the committees with moderate or low investment in such activities.

However, a similar socio-economic demand of preserving natural resources can be a solid foundation upon which the shared interest of the countries is build. Inhabitants on both sides of the India-Bangladesh border in the Sundarbans region are similar in terms of: cultural heritage; literacy rates and language; livelihood opportunities and challenges; dependence on the mangrove forest mangrove forest in non-sustainable ways; e.g., tiger poaching and illegal logging, and levels of poverty (Ortolano, 2016). Thus shared interest motivates both the countries in engaging constant dialogue and to forge solidarity among them in order to undertake collective action meant to protect biodiversity of the region. Thus the basic elements of South-South and Triangular cooperation would ultimately rests on 'shard interest, social dialogue and manifestation of solidarity' among member countries (ILO, 2015). In an effort of South-South cooperation, Bangladesh and India signed two non-binding bilateral agreements in late 2011 to explore the opportunity for cooperation: the Memorandum of Understanding on Conservation of Sundarban ['the MOU', Governments of Bangladesh and India (2011)]; and the Protocol on the Conservation of the Royal Bengal Tiger of the Sundarban ['the Protocol', Governments of Bangladesh

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<sup>61</sup> CMC, composed of 15-19 members from Conservation Council, is empowered to collect revenue on behalf of forest department. In the institutional mechanism of the Co-management system, there is a provision of Grant Financing system in which 50% of revenue back to CMC to bear recurring expenditure of management. CMC also coordinates the Forest User Groups comprised of local grassroots organizations (Sen, 2010).

<sup>62</sup> Initially, 32 FPCs were formed involving 12084 families who are responsible for protecting 57162 hectares of forest. In addition, 14 EDCs have been formed involving 4283 families who protect 200070 hectares of forest (Vyas, 2001). Since then, a spectacular progress has been noticed in the formation of FPCs, while no progress has been done in the development of EDCs. At present, 51 FPCs covering 30584 families are operational in the Sundarban Tiger Reserve and South 24 Pargana Division. Thus over a period of 12 years, a notable progress is experienced in the formation of FPCs and participation of people in the management of forest resources.

and India (2011)]. Specific issues relating to management of the Sundarbans, tiger conservation, joint tiger census, human-tiger interactions, control of poaching, sharing of information on forest management, and training of forest management staffs are placed in the memoranda of understanding. It is felt that there is a necessity to identify and catalogue the diversity of flora and fauna that are found in the Sundarban along with their spatial distribution across both the countries. A Working Group is expected to be set up to define activities, responsibilities, time, and implementation, resources involved, according to the activities established as per Memorandum. Thus the agreement includes an integrated decision making framework for joint collaboration in resolving disputes of sharing international waters<sup>63</sup>, information sharing, disaster management and issues relating to climate change. For the first time, a roundtable conversation between Environment Ministers of both India and Bangladesh unequivocally emphasized the necessity for implementing joint action to protect the Sundarbans in an international event, United Nations Climate Change Conference at Paris, 2015. Joint management plan is expected to preserve tigers within the boundary of two countries as tigers know no regional boundary. It was felt that there is a need to raise the climate vulnerability of the Sundarbans on a global platform jointly and much more strongly. However, on the policy ground, these agreements have yet to be operationalized, and therefore, it is high time to support operationalization of these agreements by international funding activities<sup>64</sup>.

In the direction of triangular cooperation, a consensus of two countries is in process of implementing of a Preparatory Phase Project on "Conservation of Biodiversity in Indian Sundarbans through two country approach" with fund support from United Nations Foundation routed through UNDP-India and UNDP-Bangladesh. Under the same project, National Project Coordinator of the two countries had prepared a Joint Project Document on "Conservation of Biodiversity in Sundarban through two country approach" and the same was submitted to UNDP-India and UNDP-Bangladesh for seeking further fund support for implementation of the project. South Asia Water Initiative (SAWI, a multicounty partnership supported by the UK, Australia and Norway and the World Bank) provides another platform of triangular cooperation in joint management of water resource. It is expected that with SAWI support in the designing of Sundarbans Focus Area Strategy (2013-17), the joint management of the Sundarbans will become operational for ensuring sustainable development and to deliver mutual benefits for the two countries in a stipulated period of time. The support measures would enhance bilateral cooperation to support operationalization of the bilateral agreements as well as technical cooperation to support joint water resources management in the Sundarbans. Such initiatives of South-South and Triangular cooperation is expected to provide a sustainable answer to the quest for an alternative social and solidarity economy in addressing the socio-economic problem of managing Sundarbans in a holistic way.

Recognition of Sundarbans as a trans-boundary protected area (i.e. a single ecosystem) is now in the process of policy circles of both the countries and in the future, we can expect that overall management of the single largest entity of mangrove region of the world would become effective in a co-ordinate way through information sharing, intelligence input and technology sharing. Any improvement in this direction of cooperation would open up the possibility of having 'The Sundarbans World Heritage site of

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<sup>63</sup> In the context of International Water Management in Bengal delta, bi-lateral negotiations between India and Bangladesh usually centered on the Farakka Barrage controversy. Soon after the independence of Bangladesh in 1972, an effort was taken in constituting Joint River Commission to manage more than fifty rivers flowing from India to Bangladesh. Water management is important as research findings suggest that reduction of the flow of water from the Ganga river (caused by the Farakka Barrage) in the downstream of Bangladesh may be one of the important reason for deteriorating ecosystems in Sundarbans.

<sup>64</sup> Some of the external funding initiatives (i.e. traditional aid programmes) are World Wildlife Fund for Project Tiger (WWF & Govt. of India), Sustainable Land and Eco-system Management Project in India (Global Environment Facility and Indian Council of Agricultural Research) Forestry Sector Project in Bangladesh (ADB), The Nishorgo Program of the Forest Department (USAID and the International Resource Group), Integrated Resource Development of the Sundarbans (UNDP), Biodiversity Conservation in the Sundarbans Mangrove forests (ADB & Govt. of Bangladesh), Integrated Protected Area Co-management (USAID & Govt. of Bangladesh), Support to Essential Management Capacity in the Sundarbans WHS following the passage of Cyclone SIDR (UNESCO), Sundarbans Environmental And Livelihoods Security (EU & Govt. of Bangladesh), Climate Resilient Ecosystem and Livelihoods (EU & Govt. of Bangladesh), Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (IDA & Govt. of Bangladesh).

Bangladesh and the Sundarbans National Park World Heritage site of India combined into a single site inscription' in the World Heritage List (a vision of UNESCO World Heritage Centre).

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