



EMBASSY OF INDIA,
ABIDJAN



GOVERNMENT OF
CÔTE D'IVOIRE



RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

GDC
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

KEY POINTS

Strengthening Cooperation Initiatives between India and Côte d'Ivoire

Inaugural Session

Welcome Remarks

PROF. SACHIN CHATURVEDI

Director General, RIS, New Delhi



- The world is facing several challenges in the post COVID19 pandemic development.
- The World Bank is predicting a blow in GDP growth from 13% to 28% and smaller economies are more vulnerable to the resultant shrinkage in the global export market and resource flows which may result into unemployment.
- There is a shrinkage in the development cooperation quantum, both south-south and North south.
- As the world grapples with low growth rates, sharing development experiences from India's flagship programs is essential.
- It is the time to focus on institutions and make efforts to bring in resilience in economic development trajectory, strong institutions, cooperation avenues, and new vistas for India-Côte d'Ivoire bilateral partnership.
- The dialogue focusing on Agriculture, Health, and the role of civil society, sets a good precedence for the India-Africa forum summit expected later in the year.

AMB. SAILAS THANGAL

Ambassador of India to Cote d'Ivoire



- The relations between India and Africa has immense potential.
- India and Ivory coast have great complementarity, capability, and hence need to come together to leverage strengths and best practices to enhance win-win cooperation.
- The areas of Health, Agricultural development, ICT and the role of civil society, are of critical importance.
- GDC dialogue involving policy makers and development planners from India and Côte d'Ivoire is significant towards the attainment and cooperation in the knowledge-based economy and information society.

Keynote Address

- South -South Cooperation is very important for Côte d'Ivoire.
- India's development experience in ICT, health, agriculture, among others is of particular interest to Côte d'Ivoire.
- Côte d'Ivoire is currently developing a strategic plan for 2030; knowledge exchange with India is timely.
- Government of Côte d'Ivoire appreciates India willingness to shares development experiences with Côte d'Ivoire.
- India should not be like other donors who provide money. India is a country much like Côte d'Ivoire and hence they should share their experiences and help Côte d'Ivoire learn how to adopt the positive development experiences in their own context.

MR PATRICK ACHI

Hon'ble Minister in President's Office, Cote d'Ivoire



Remarks by Chair

DR. MOHAN KUMAR

Chairman, RIS



- In the post COVID19 pandemic, South-South cooperation is existential interest.
- Development challenges in India and Côte d'Ivoire are very similar, inducing cooperation.
- India's bottom up approach to development cooperation generates development outcomes which trickle down to all.
- Development progress in India and Africa is important for the attainment of SDGs and hence the need to share experience and best practices.

Session I: Opportunities for India-Côte d'Ivoire Cooperation in implementing Universal Health Insurance Systems

Remarks by Chair

AMB. SAILAS THANGAL

Ambassador of India to Cote d'Ivoire

- Health care sector is an important segment in India-Africa cooperation
- India has been an important in aiding Africa's efforts to reach Medicare to all its citizens as well as fighting diseases like Malaria, HIV, TB etc.
- Enhanced cooperation in health sector assumed added importance in view of the current COVID19 pandemic.
- Indian pharmaceutical companies play an important role in Côte d'Ivoire, and there more scope for expansion.
- As Côte d'Ivoires works towards providing universal Health coverage, India's experience implementing the flagship program Ayushman Bharat Yojana and strength in medicine and vaccine production is a strong basis for cooperation.

Panelists

DR INDU BHUSHAN

CEO of Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB – PMJAY) and the National Health Authority (NHA)



- India has had many achievements in the health sector like eradicating polio, reduced maternal mortality, and all health sector MDGs, were achieved and on track to achieve all SDGs before the deadline.
- However, challenges such as; shifting burden of disease from communicable to non-communicable diseases; aging population with health implication. Relatively low Public healthcare spending; inequities in healthcare spending leading to unequal healthcare outcomes i.e. access and availability of health services in urban areas compared to rural areas; Uneven quality of services in public and private health care facilities-need for strengthening regulations, affordability of healthcare services. India's flagship program Ayushman Bharat aims to address the above challenges.
- Now Ayushman Bharat provides insurance cover of upto Rs 500,000 (USD 7500) and covers 500 million people, offered treat to 13 million Indians at both private and public hospitals.

- If developing countries are to provide quality standards of life to their citizens then public health systems need to become more robust, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the population.
- India has managed to implement public health systems that go from the central level down to the level of the local government providing for the needs of the whole population.
- Another area where India has done well is development of vaccines, where we have indigenously developed vaccines for a number of critical diseases, which we now send to other countries as well.
- Hence there is large scope for cooperation between India and partner countries in the areas of generic medicines, vaccines development and implementation of public health.

DR K. SRINATH REDDY

President, PHFI



Session II: Opportunities for India-Côte d'Ivoire Cooperation in Improving Agricultural Productivity

Remarks by Chair

DR. BHASKAR BALAKRISHNAN

Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS



- Agriculture is an area where India has done well historically.
- From our independence when we were dependent upon import of food grains to implementing the Green revolution and eventually becoming a net exporter of food grains, we have come a long way.
- Areas where India has gained experience and can share with our partner countries include biotechnology, improvement in inputs, financing, market access, etc.

Panelists:

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has a long history of research in improving agricultural productivity in the country.
- The ICAR has emphasised upon the provision of quality inputs such as high-yield variety seeds as fundamental to the raising of agricultural productivity.
- Other important interventions relate to the provision of technology and innovations in the agricultural operations, as well as provision of adequate access to the markets for the farmers so that they experience improvements in income generation opportunities.

DR. ANAND KUMAR SINGH

Deputy Director General
(Horticultural Science), ICAR



- One of the key elements of agricultural productivity is plant protection.
- The ICAR has played a significant role in bringing about major advancement in integrated pest management, regulatory system of agrochemicals and biological inputs such as biofertilisers, biopesticides including microbial pesticides.
- The systems of quality risk management of agri-inputs and farm gate commodity safety assurance through Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) are other areas where the ICAR has made significant contributions.

DR T. P. RAJENDRAN

Former Assistant Director General,
ICAR and Adjunct Fellow, RIS



Session III : Opportunities for India-Côte d'Ivoire Cooperation in Implementing Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs); and policies for Affordable Housing

Remarks by Chair

DR RAJESH TANDON

Chairman, Forum for Indian
Development Cooperation (FIDC)



- If the world is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) then Asia and Africa need to come together, interact, share best practices, and promote greater south-south cooperation.
- Policies for development need to be inclusive, well-designed and include citizen voices during the design process.
- Participatory governance is the order of the day. India has been trying to do this through its various flagship programmes, and using the civil society as a force multiplier in the development process will yield positive results.

Panelists:

- The developing world needs to focus on the role of gender, since critical areas such as agriculture are becoming feminised.
- Women need to be trained, skilled and economically empowered to ensure that their significant contribution to the economy is not overlooked.
- There needs to be greater focus on the informal economy, which constitutes a large part of the overall economy of most developing countries.
- There needs to be initiatives that address the skill gap in the population and provide opportunities to the marginalized sections to contribute positively to the community.

DR MIRAI CHATTERJEE

Director, Social Security, Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)



DR. DEBOLINA KUNDU

Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)



- India has been experiencing rapid migration from rural to urban areas leading to significant increases in the urban population and growth in the size of urban centers such as cities, and towns.
- There has been a need felt to provide this population with affordable housing and the government is working towards providing affordable housing solutions to all the sections of the low income groups.
- In this regard the objective of "Housing for All" scheme by the year 2022, has been raised by the government under which till date there have been close to 16 million units sanctioned and more than 11 million units completed with funding provided to the tune of around USD 21 billion.

Special Valedictory remarks:

KOFFI GEORGES BOLAMO

Cabinet Director of HE
Minister State SGPR,

- The inputs provided by the Indian experts have been extremely informative for the Ivorian side.
- The government of the Côte d'Ivoire is invested in the idea of South-South Cooperation.
- The spirit of inclusiveness among the Global South needs to be promoted and greater engagements need to happen between the Global South to ensure that interactions and knowledge exchanges occur.
- We are happy to start the interaction with Indian experts, and hope that over time our relations will get strengthened. We hope to continue this process and sharing of experiences between both our countries.

Summary and Way forward

The webinar on “Strengthening Cooperation Initiatives between India and Côte d’Ivoire” was attended by several high level government officials from Côte d’Ivoire. The panelists of the webinar were drawn from the various government organisations such as the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the National Health Mission (NHM), the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Ayushman Bharat, along with civil society organizations such as the Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA), National Institute of Urban affairs (NIUA) etc. which have played a major role in promoting development within the country in a systemic and institutional manner providing a significant platform to learn from their experiences.

The webinar had the objective of exploring and promoting the potential for mutual learning, long term cooperation, and ability to effectively translate the learnings into the respective national contexts. The overall aim was to provide the Côte d’Ivoire leadership with a comprehensive orientation of the development related policies, structures, organizations, reforms and ideas in the developing nation context showcasing the key flagship programmes of the Government of India as examples for understanding the challenges and the innovative approaches for successful implementation.

The webinar had an inaugural session followed by three technical sessions by eminent leaders and experts working in the various priority areas related to development challenges – growing population, need for affordable and accessible healthcare, need to increase agricultural productivity, skill development and economic empowerment of women and need for affordable housing. The webinar provided exposure to the work that India is undertaking in bringing about the development in the living standards of its population through its flagship programmes of Doubling Farmers’ Income (DFI), the National Horticultural mission (NHM), the Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and the “Housing for All” scheme by the year 2022.

The webinar concluded with special valedictory remarks from the Cabinet Director of HE Minister State SGPR, Koffi Georges Bolamo. His excellency provided excellent feedback on the content and the rich learning that the delegation from Côte d'Ivoire acquired during the webinar. He said they strongly supported the need for greater cooperation between India and Côte d'Ivoire as well as the need for greater interaction with Indian experts, and hoped that over time our relations will get strengthened. He also hoped to continue this process and sharing of experiences between both our countries as well as the initiation of collaborative projects in line with the principles of South-South Cooperation between our countries.

RIS A Think-Tank of Developing Countries

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

For more information about RIS and its work programme, please visit its website: www.ris.org.in



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