Global South Matters

DAKSHIN
Global South Centre of Excellence

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IN FOCUS

Digitizing Land Rights for Inclusive Rural Development: Lessons from India's SVAMITVA Scheme

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During the recent visit of a 16-member Nepal Parliamentary Delegation to India, the SVAMITVA Scheme emerged as a compelling model of technological innovation in rural governance that holds relevance for neighbouring countries like Nepal. As the delegation explored India's initiatives in precision farming, digital agriculture, and farmer-centric development, the use of drone-based mapping under SVAMITVA was highlighted as a transformative tool for rural land rights formalization. Across the Global South, land tenure insecurity remains a persistent barrier to rural transformation, financial inclusion, and sustainable development. In response to these challenges, India's **SVAMITVA Scheme (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas)** offers a compelling example of how digital technologies can revolutionize rural land governance. Launched in April 2020, SVAMITVA aims to provide **legal ownership of residential properties in rural areas** through the use of **high-resolution drone surveys and digital mapping,** enabling millions of people to secure land rights, access formal credit, and reduce land-related conflicts.

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Key Developments in the Global South

India Upholds Global South's Priorities at Ramsar COP15 Summit

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav made a strong pitch for community-based conservation and the Global South's priorities at the Ramsar COP15 summit in Zimbabwe while showcasing India's sharp rise in wetland and biodiversity protection. Yadav held detailed meetings with Musonda Mumba, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), and Ivonne Higuero, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), on the sidelines of the global summit in Victoria Falls.

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India Open to Sharing AI models with Global South: MeitY Secretary

India is open to sharing its artificial intelligence models with the Global South, S Krishnan, Secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, said at FICCI's conference Bhashantara 2025. Speaking at the conference, the secretary emphasised that India's language technology ecosystem is so diverse that it has the potential to lead global AI development, stating, "If you can do it in India, you can do it practically anywhere else in the world." India's intent to share AI models with the Global South stems from discussions with UN officials, who expressed interest in the country's collaborative approach to artificial intelligence development.

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India and Nepal Strengthen Agricultural Ties

A 16-member delegation comprising Members of Parliament from Nepal, led by Shri Sanjay Kumar Gautam, Former Minister and Member of Parliament (Nepali Congress) visited Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. The delegation, representing the Free Youth Democratic Organization (FYDON), Nepal, held detailed discussions with Shri Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), and Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE). The visit provided the Nepali Parliamentarians an opportunity to understand India's progress in various facets of agriculture.

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Southern Africa Leaders Unite to Advance Bold Health Agenda

The Ministers of Health and senior representatives from ten African Union (AU) Member States in Southern Africa issued a renewed call for collective action on health financing, climate resilience, and outbreak preparedness as they gathered in Lilongwe for the 4th Southern Africa Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (ReSCO) Meeting. The Government of Malawi hosted the meeting, which was officially opened by Hon. Khumbize Chiponda, Malawi's Minister of Health, representing the Right Honourable Vice President, Dr. Michael Biswick Usi. The meeting was convened under the theme "One Region, One Health, One Future," reaffirming the region's collective commitment to protecting health.

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Lebanon and the World Health Organization Launch the 2026–2029 Country Cooperation Strategy

The Ministry of Public Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Lebanon Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) 2026–2029. The 4-year framework aims to guide recovery and advance towards a resilient, inclusive health system. Developed through an extensive consultation process, the CCS aligns with Lebanon's National Health Strategy (Vision 2030), WHO's 14th General Programme of Work and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Lebanon's health system is under enormous pressure. Years of economic collapse and political uncertainty, combined with the latest wave of hostilities, have damaged hospitals and worsened the brain drain.

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Food and Agricultural Organisation Launches New Projects in Zimbabwe

Two transformative initiatives were officially launched in Zimbabwe, aimed at empowering the country to sustainably manage its soil and water resources. The two projects are entitled: "Capacity Development on Sustainable Soil Management in the Global South" and "National Water Roadmap towards 2030 Sustainable Development Goals." These two projects focusing on sustainable soil management and water governance are designed to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through enhanced technical capacity, inclusive governance, and South-South cooperation.

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Libya and India Discuss Health Cooperation

Libya and India discussed the prospects of cooperation in the health sector. The discussions came during the meeting between Libya's Tripoli based Undersecretary General of the Ministry of Health / Acting Health Minister, Mohamed Al-Ghouj, at the Ministry's Tripoli office, and the Ambassador of India to Libya, Mohamed Aleem, his accompanying embassy delegation, in the presence of several directors of departments at the Ministry of Health and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Specifically, the meeting, discussed the rehabilitation and training of medical and medical auxiliary personnel, in addition to discussing the mechanism of activating and revising the previous health agreements.
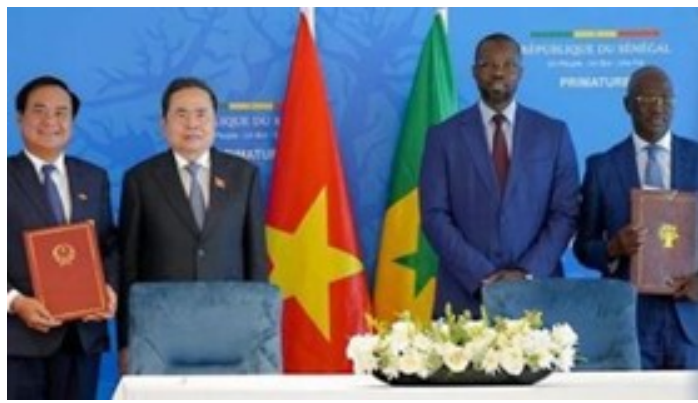
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Commonwealth of Nations Discusses Cooperation with the South-South Cooperation Council

The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations, Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, has held discussions with the Founding Chairman of South-South Cooperation Council (SSCC), Dr Viktor Sebek, at her office, Marlborough House, in London. The meeting, among other things, discussed issues on climate change, the possibility of organising a meeting of Commonwealth ambassadors from Africa on SSCC's programme of culture as a tool for peace in Africa and other areas of common interest between the organisations.

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Senegal and Vietnam Expand Cooperation with MoUs

Senegal and Vietnam signed several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The signing took place during an official visit by Trân Thanh Mân, President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The agreements focus on enhancing diplomatic ties, rice trade, and developing agricultural partnerships. A closer relationship was also initiated between the municipalities of Ziguinchor, Senegal, and Can Tho, a Vietnamese city in the Mekong Delta. Letters of intent were exchanged to establish decentralized cooperation based on friendship, cultural exchanges, and shared development.

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Somalia and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Strengthen Agricultural Cooperation

The Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Government of Somalia, H.E. Mohamed A. Hayir Maareeye, met with H.E. Dr. Workneh Gebeyehu, Executive Secretary of IGAD in Addis Ababa to explore ways to deepen cooperation between Somalia and the regional organization. Their discussions focused on improving food systems, promoting sustainable livestock trade, and advancing youth skills development through the IGAD Sheikh Technical Veterinary School. IGAD reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with Member States to deliver practical, people-centered solutions and to strengthen resilience across the Horn of Africa.

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Ethiopia Deepens Agricultural Cooperation with UAE, Zambia, and Canada

Ethiopia is strengthening its global agricultural partnerships through a series of high-level bilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktaking Moment in Addis Ababa. Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture Girma Amante held discussions with Amna Aldahak, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment; Mtolo Phiri, Zambia's Minister of Agriculture; and Greg Hallen, Team Lead for Climate-Resilient Food Systems at Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), focusing on advancing food systems transformation, investment, and value addition.

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Myanmar-Thailand to Enhance Cross-Border Healthcare Cooperation

The Department of Public Health under the Ministry of Health announced that Myanmar and Thailand will strengthen their cooperation on cross-border healthcare. The promotion of cross-border healthcare cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand includes the exchange of health information, joint infectious disease surveillance, prevention and control activities along the border, maternal and child healthcare initiatives, hospital medical services, collaboration on Twin Hospital Projects in border areas, and the appointment of designated representatives to coordinate efforts between hospitals in both countries.

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Morocco Expands its Health Facilities

As part of Morocco's ongoing efforts to improve healthcare accessibility and equity, Minister of Health and Social Protection Amine Tahraoui inaugurated 200 newly rehabilitated and equipped health facilities in both rural and urban areas across eight regions of the Kingdom. The launch ceremony was held at the "Al Qods" health center in Errachidia, in celebration of the 26th anniversary of Throne Day. The inauguration was attended by the Wali of the Drâa-Tafilalet region and Governor of Errachidia Province, Essaid Zniber, while regional health directors participated via videoconference, highlighting the national scope of the initiative.
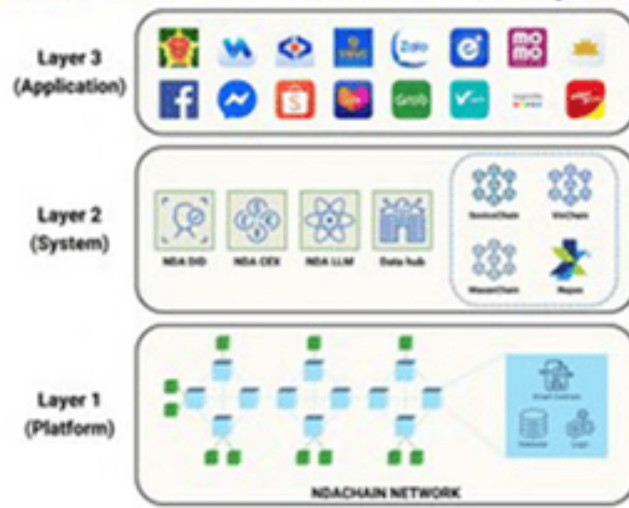
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Nigeria Becomes Africa's First to Regulate Stablecoins

Nigeria's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved a regulatory framework for stablecoins, positioning the nation as a pioneer in Africa's digital asset landscape. During the Nigeria Stablecoin Summit in Lagos, Dr. Emomotimi Agama, the SEC's Director-General, affirmed the government's commitment to fostering stablecoin innovation under a structured regulatory environment. This marks a significant shift for Nigeria, which previously imposed and later lifted bans on cryptocurrency transactions. Agama highlighted that the framework aims to harness stablecoins as tools for economic empowerment, job creation, and regional leadership in digital finance.

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NDAChain In The National Ecosystem

Vietnam Accelerates on Building its Digital Data Infrastructure

The Vietnamese government has made significant progress in enhancing data protection in the country through various legal updates this year, most notably the introduction of the Data Law, the Personal Data Protection Law, and the guiding directives for these two laws. However, enforcing this legal framework is becoming more and more challenging as Vietnam's population of over 100 million and its fast-paced digital transformation generate data at exponential rates. By the end of 2025, NDA Chain is expected to be fully embedded into the National Data Centre's infrastructure, with plans for expansion into local governments, universities, and public service units by 2026.

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Ethiopia Digitizes Over 900 Public Services

Digital transformation in Ethiopia is on steady progress as the government has announced that more than 900 public services can now be accessed digitally. This milestone is one of the fruits of the Digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy implementation. The outlet quotes a senior official in the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Seyoum Mengesha, as stating recently that Ethiopia's digital transformation progress is reflected in the building of the three core components of digital public infrastructure (DPI). The executive mentioned advancements recorded in the implementation of the Fayda digital ID, a digital payments system, and data interoperability infrastructure, all aimed at facilitating the delivery of services in multiple sectors.

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Indonesia to Link its Social Protection Programme with DPI

From August 17 onwards, Indonesia's social protection programme, Perlinsos, will utilise the country's digital public infrastructure (DPI) to onboard and verify its beneficiaries. Perlinsos will connect data for beneficiaries with the Ministry of Home Affairs' civil registration agency, Dukcapil's digital population identity (IKD) system. Dukcapil's Director-General, Teguh Setyabudi, said this integration aims to ensure that only eligible citizens receive these funds. Setyabudi addressed the country's plans to accelerate the socio-economic impact of DPI during his keynote at the Empowering Citizens and Protecting Identities with Smarter, Faster Governance roundtable event, organised by GovInsider and Entrust in Jakarta.

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DAKSHIN Network and Collaborations

DAKSHIN meeting with the International Fund for Agricultural Development

DAKSHIN had a successful virtual meeting with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on Tuesday, 29 July 2025. The meeting was attended by the DAKSHIN team led by Professor Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN. Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur, Global Technical Coordinator, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, IFAD; Ms Meera Mishra, Country Programme Coordinator, IFAD; Mr. Steve Codjo, Regional Partnership Analyst, IFAD and Ms. Sejal Assan, Intern, IFAD were present from IFAD. The meeting was initiated by Professor Gulshan Sachdeva by giving a brief description of the inception and mandate of the centre. He discussed the contemporary focus areas of the centre, such as health, agriculture and digital solutions. Following this, Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur acknowledged India's keen interest in sharing development solutions, particularly in agriculture and rural development. She identified key areas of interest for collaboration, including climate-sensitive agricultural production, digital solutions, capacity building, connectivity, digital inclusion, and value chain development, particularly in dairy and aquaculture. Ms. Meera Mishra expressed her familiarity with the work of DAKSHIN and RIS, and indicated her interest in discussing IFAD-supported projects in India, as well as potential collaborations with programs in the

Africa and Asia Pacific regions. Further, she mentioned about IFAD's role in the establishment of a Center of Excellence on gender transformative approaches in Maharashtra, which could serve as a learning opportunity for other countries. Mr Steve Codjo pointed out growing interest in collaborating with India from the Eastern and Southern Africa portfolios, as well as the Western Central Africa portfolios. Following this, Prof. Sachdeva pointed out that DAKSHIN has received specific project proposals received from various countries, such as climate-resilient agriculture initiatives and digital agriculture marketing platforms. Additionally, he noted the government's interest in promoting women-led development and the potential for collaboration in gender-related initiatives. The meeting concluded with both parties agreeing to steer their collaborative work ahead by initially focussing on areas such as women-led development and blue economy.

DAKSHIN Events

Virtual Conference on

Strengthening Agricultural Resilience for the Global South

Jointly organised by ICRISAT Center of Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA) and DAKSHIN-Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS

31 July 2025   3:00PM to 6.00PM IST

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