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IN FOCUS



World Food Day 2025: Building Food Security and Climate Resilience across Borders-The Relevance of South-South Cooperation

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Every year, World Food Day reminds us that hunger anywhere is a shared challenge everywhere. As nations of the Global South confront the dual crises of food insecurity and climate stress, the call for cooperative action is stronger than ever. From Africa's drylands to South Asia's monsoon-dependent farms and Southeast Asia's deltas, food systems are being reshaped by rising temperatures, erratic rainfall & change in monsoon patterns, soil degradation, and water scarcity. These issues jeopardizing food production and rural livelihoods, demanding coordinated collective responses.

According to the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS, 2025), global agricultural productivity measured by Total Factor Productivity (TFP) has declined by 21% since 1961 due to climate change, with reductions as high as 33% in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. This slowdown reflects how the climate crisis is eroding decades of agricultural gains, particularly in the Global South. Across the Global South, from the drought-prone Deccan Plateau in India to the Sahelian drylands of Africa, the Mekong Delta, and the Pacific Islands, farmers are navigating unprecedented uncertainty. In East Africa, recurring droughts have affected harvests and livestock, while in South Asia, floods and heatwaves have effected crop productivity and Yields. In Latin America's "Dry Corridor," years of low rainfall have crippled maize and bean production, forcing rural migration.

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Indian MOS for External Affairs represents India at the 19th Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Uganda

Minister of State for External Affairs and Environment, Kirti Vardhan Singh in Uganda's capital Kampala, to lead the Indian delegation at the 19th Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Uganda currently holds the chair of NAM for the 2024-26 term and is hosting member states for this high-level gathering aimed at reinforcing unity among developing nations. The theme of this year's ministerial is "Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence." Ahead of the main ministerial, a Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) was held where India was represented by Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Sibi George. On Monday, the MEA shared a post on X, stating that Sibi George held several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the SOM, setting the stage for Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh's participation in the ministerial later this week.

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Egypt, Saudi Arabia discuss strengthening health cooperation

On the sidelines of the opening session of the 72nd meeting of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister for Human Development and Minister of Health, Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, met with Saudi Health Minister Fahd Al-Jalajel and his accompanying delegation. The talks focused on ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in various health fields, reflecting the depth of strategic and historical relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The two sides discussed prospects for localizing Egyptian pharmaceutical industries in Saudi Arabia, capitalizing on the scientific, industrial, and research capacities of both countries to establish a leading regional hub for medicine production. They also reviewed joint preparations for the upcoming Hajj season, including preventive measures to safeguard pilgrims' health, and coordination between Egyptian medical teams participating in Hajj and Saudi Health Ministry.

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India-Brazil-South Africa Fund empowers rural Fiji women via skills training

India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations shared on the occasion of the recently concluded International Day of Rural Women how the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Fund has positively impacted the lives of rural women in Fiji through skill training. India's permanent mission to the United Nations reshared the post by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) on how the IBSA fund initiative in Fiji, "empowered 1,530 rural women through skills training and the production of 1,580 clean cookstoves." The Indian Mission underscored, 'IBSA Fund is brightening the livelihoods of women in rural areas in Fiji. "

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Global South Can Rebalance Climate Agenda in Belém, Says Gambian Negotiator

The Gambia's lead negotiator on mitigation believes that COP30 presents a unique opportunity to rebalance global climate leadership. The global community will descend on the Amazon rainforest in November, the world's largest intact forest, home to more than 24 million people in Brazil alone, including hundreds of thousands of Indigenous Peoples. Here, delegates will come face-to-face with the realities of climate change and see what is at stake. Sambou, a lead climate negotiator who has attended all COPs, says a unified Global South is up to the task. He particularly stressed the need for an unwavering "focus on mitigation or actions to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions.

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Ayush diplomacy expands global reach as India highlights ayurveda and homoeopathy in Iceland's Reykjavik assembly

As part of the Indian delegation, Prof. (Vaidya) Rabinarayan Acharya, Director General, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), and Dr. Srinivas Rao Chinta, Joint Advisor (Homoeopathy), Ministry of Ayush, participated in the 2025 Arctic Circle Assembly held at Reykjavík, Iceland. During the plenary session titled “The Role and Importance of the Global South in the Arctic,” Prof. Acharya presented India’s proactive engagement in the Arctic region under its comprehensive Arctic Policy. He emphasised the growing relevance of traditional systems of medicine in addressing global health challenges and highlighted the potential of Ayush interventions in fostering wellness and resilience even in extreme ecosystems such as the Arctic. The session was organised by the Government of India and featured distinguished speakers, including Rear Admiral T.V.N. Prasanna, Polar Coordinator, Government of India; Manish Tiwari, Scientist F, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR); and Wassim Said, Steering Committee Member, Emirates Polar Program, UAE.

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Asia-Pacific Biosphere Unite for Action at 5th World Congress

The Asia-Pacific Biosphere Reserves (APBRs) came together to reinforce regional cooperation and shared priorities at the 5th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves, jointly organized by the UNESCO Regional Offices in Jakarta, Beijing, and New Delhi. More than 40 participants attended, representing member countries from across the region to share achievements, address common challenges, and identified priorities under the new MAB Strategy 2026–2035. Through its four subregional networks – EABRN, SACAM, SeaBRnet, and PacMAB – the Asia Pacific region embodies a unique convergence of science, traditional knowledge, and community practice. Despite persistent challenges such as uneven data collection, limited resources and climate-related pressures, participants reaffirmed the region’s strength in innovation, South-South cooperation, and adaptive solutions.

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Indonesian Runners Boost Sports Diplomacy at 2025 Chicago Marathon

The participation of 400 Indonesian runners in the 2025 Chicago Marathon is being hailed as a powerful expression of sports diplomacy, strengthening Indonesia's global image and expanding international social networks, according to a press release from the Indonesian Consulate General in Chicago received. "The Indonesian runners are ambassadors of the nation," said Consul General Trisari Dyah Paramita, as quoted by antaranews.com. "Through their spirit and sportsmanship, they carry the message that Indonesia is resilient, healthy, and determined to compete on the world stage," she added. The Consulate reaffirmed its commitment to fostering collaboration with running communities, students, diaspora groups, and corporate partners to amplify the impact of sports diplomacy. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to integrate cultural promotion, tourism, and Indonesia's creative economy into international outreach.

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Joint commission to mark new phase in Türkiye-South Africa ties

Türkiye and South Africa opened a new chapter in their political and diplomatic relations, Vice President Cevdet Yılmaz said as the two nations held the inaugural meeting of the Joint National Commission in Ankara. Co-chaired by Yılmaz and his South African counterpart, Paul Mashatile, at the Presidential Complex, the high-level gathering focused on closer coordination on bilateral, regional and global issues. The meeting concluded with the signing of several agreements and memoranda of understanding aimed at strengthening collaboration in trade, higher education and sports.

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African Caucus and the IMF Reaffirm Commitment to Africa's Resilience and Long-Term Development

Mr. Hervé Ndoba, Central African Republic's Minister of Finance and Chair of the African Caucus, and Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), issued the following statement at the conclusion of the African Caucus meeting at the 2025 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings. African Ministers and Governors of the Bretton Woods institutions convened with IMF management to take stock of current economic conditions and prospective developments for the African continent and chart a course ahead for the region. They noted that the global economic environment remains challenging, with growth projected to ease from 3.3 percent in 2024 to around 3.2 percent in 2025 amid persistent headwinds from rising protectionism, policy uncertainty, and geopolitical tensions. Inflation pressures and tight global financing conditions continue to weigh on fiscal positions and debt dynamics across many economies, with climate shocks adding further complexity to the challenges the African continent faces.

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WHO and Carter Center sign new agreement to accelerate the elimination of Guinea Worm in Angola

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Carter Center have signed a new cooperation agreement, worth US\$300,000, which guarantees the continuity of activities to fight Guinea worm disease in the province of Cunene. The agreement reinforces the commitment of both organizations to support Angola in eliminating this Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD), which is targeted for global eradication by 2030. The signing of this agreement was driven by the long-term collaboration and advocacy with the Ministry of Health and the province of Cunene, which was strengthened during the Health Circle, a public dialogue promoted by the WHO in partnership with the Private University of Angola, which, in its second edition, highlighted the urgency of a collective effort to eradicate this disease.

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CARICOM Ministers Endorse Human Resources for Resilient Health Systems Caribbean Roadmap (2025-2030)

CARICOM Ministers of Health unanimously approved and endorsed the Human Resources for Resilient Health Systems Caribbean Roadmap 2025-2030 during the 50th Meeting of the Council of Human and Social Development- Health (COHSOD-Health) at the Pan American Health Organization Headquarters in Washington, DC, USA. The Roadmap provides a strategic approach to address the challenges associated with developing and maintaining the Caribbean health care workforce. Acknowledging that health workers are the backbone of care and compassion, Dr Jarbas Barbosa, PAHO Director, emphasized that the Roadmap is “not just about numbers or training; it is about valuing, retaining, and empowering the very people upon whom lives depend.” To further strengthen human resources for health in the subregion, he advised that the “reorientation of health workforce planning, development and investment among Caribbean countries...is critical in building resilient health systems that meet the needs of the population.”

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Investment through JICA-Funded Trust Fund ‘TADAC’ Loan Disbursement for Sustainable Agriculture Promotion Support Project in Mexico

The Trust Fund Achieving Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (TADAC) invested by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Inter-American Development Bank’s investment arm (IDB Invest) completed the disbursement of a loan signed with Dinverttech SPR de RL de CV (Dinverttech), a local company in the United Mexican States. IDB Invest is providing Dinverttech with a total loan of USD130 million, of which USD40 million is contributed by TADAC.

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Ghana, Grenada Sign Health Cooperation Agreement

Ghana and Grenada have signed a memorandum of understanding to deepen bilateral cooperation in the health sector, the Office of the Prime Minister of Grenada announced. Under the deal, Ghana will deploy trained nurses and medical personnel to Grenada on a temporary basis. The initiative aims to strengthen Grenada's healthcare system by addressing workforce shortages and enhancing its public health response capabilities.

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Increasing South-South Trade between Russia and Tajikistan

Russia exported agricultural products to Tajikistan worth almost \$201 million in 8M 2025, up 12% compared to a year earlier. In physical terms, exports exceeded 140,000 tonnes. The main export revenue came from five products. The share of margarine shipped to the Tajik market was 13%, flour confectionery - 10%, chocolate - 7%, baby food - 6% and sunflower oil - also 6%. At the same time, exports of agricultural products to Tajikistan almost doubled in value terms between 2018 and 2024, Agroexport said. For the full year 2024, exports reached almost \$294 million. Tajikistan is interesting for Russian exporters primarily because it is a country with a predominantly young population and growing income levels, Agroexport's experts said. It is developing trade, especially with Russia.

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Oman, Cyprus explore means of boosting health cooperation

Dr. Hilal Ali Al Sabti, Minister of Health, received in his office Michael Damianos, Minister of Health of the Republic of Cyprus, who is currently paying an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During the meeting, the two ministers discussed matters of common interest, reviewed features of the health journey in the two countries and the most important achievements made by both sides in this field. They also explored ways to broaden the scope of partnership and cooperation between the two countries in the health sector. The meeting was attended by several officials from both sides.

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Qatar Champions Health Equity at Global South Policy Summit

H.E. Minister of State for International Cooperation, Dr. Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad, reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to global health equity during the second annual meeting of the Doha Global South Health Policy Initiative, held in the Qatari capital. In her keynote address, HE Dr. Al Misnad stressed that health must be recognized not as a privilege, but as a fundamental human right. She described the initiative as more than a platform for reflection — it is a continuation of a humanitarian vision that places cooperation, innovation, and collective responsibility at the heart of global health advancement. She further mentioned this initiative holds special importance for Qatar, Her Excellency said as it reflects its vision to ensure countries in the Global South are not merely recipients of policy, but active participants in shaping it — voicing their solutions and priorities in global dialogue.

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WFP and Tajikistan sign technical assistance agreement to accelerate agricultural digitalization and youth empowerment

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan have signed a Technical Assistance Agreement to jointly implement key activities under the project titled: “Engaging Youth Smallholder Farmers through Agri-Tech for Improved Food Security and Value Chains,” supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). The agreement marks a significant milestone in Tajikistan’s efforts to modernize its agricultural sector through digital innovation, youth engagement, and inclusive partnerships. It aligns with the Government’s strategy for agricultural digitization (2025–2027), which prioritizes enhanced knowledge sharing, innovation, and value chain connectivity.

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Honduran President Acknowledges Cuba's Support in Healthcare Sector

The President of Honduras, Xiomara Castro, thanked Cuba for its unconditional assistance to the country in the healthcare sector, following a visit to a free ophthalmology clinic built by her government in the city of San Pedro Sula. Accompanied by several members of her administration and the Cuban ambassador to Honduras, Juan Loforte, the president supervised the services offered by the new facility. This clinic is the fifth of its kind at the national level and is located in the so-called industrial capital of the Central American nation. Castro praised "the special participation of our sister people and country, which is Cuba" in this project, part of the Operation Milagro program, which counts on the collaboration of specialist doctors from the Caribbean nation.

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Nigeria reaffirms commitment to South–South Cooperation at World Food Forum 2025

Nigeria has reiterated its commitment to strengthening South–South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) as a key strategy for transforming agrifood systems and promoting sustainable development among developing nations. The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari, CON, made the declaration during the Ministerial Dialogue on SSTC at the World Food Forum (WFF) 2025, held in Rome to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The session, themed “SSTC as a Catalyst for Agrifood System Transformation: Commitments, Approaches, and Experiences from the Countries,” brought together ministers and senior representatives from across the Global South to share experiences and explore new avenues for collaboration.

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Việt Nam backs Non-Aligned Movement members for common interests

Việt Nam has always shown solidarity and support for the members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) for shared interests, stressed Ambassador Phạm Hải Anh, Director-General of the Department of International Organisations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the 19th NAM Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau, themed "Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence," in Kampala, Uganda. In his remarks, the head of the Vietnamese delegation to the event called on NAM to strengthen unity, innovate operational methods, and enhance effectiveness, while promoting South-South cooperation. He noted the need for the movement to adopt a common stance on global governance, particularly regarding United Nations reform, implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, climate action, reform of the global trade and financial systems, and governance of emerging technologies.

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Morocco's AMCI wins FAO award for excellence in south-south cooperation

The Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI) received the prestigious technical excellence award from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. This accolade underscores Morocco's pivotal role in advancing south-south cooperation for development. Presented as part of the World Food Forum (WFF), the award acknowledges Morocco's dedication to fostering and promoting this form of collaboration, with a particular focus on sustainable agriculture and food security.

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Trade, defense, agri cooperation discussed by Sen. Erwin Tulfo with Ukrainian solons at IPU sidelines

Senator Erwin Tulfo on Sunday met with members of the Ukrainian Parliament to discuss cooperation on defense, trade and agriculture between the European state and the Philippines at the sidelines of the 151st Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland. During the bilateral meeting with Ukraine Parliament First Deputy Chairman Oleksandr Korniyenko, MP Lesia Vasylenko, and MP Oleksandr Sanchenko, Tulfo echoed the support of the Philippines for Ukraine in the ongoing war with Russia. He mentioned that the Philippines, like Ukraine, is also facing territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

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