



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence



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In-Focus Article



India-Africa Agricultural Cooperation: Trade, Food Security, and Shared Development

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India and Africa have emerged as important partners in South–South Cooperation, driven by shared developmental priorities, expanding economic relations, and common challenges in agriculture and food security. With Africa’s population projected to reach nearly 2.5 billion by 2050, the continent is expected to witness a sharp increase in demand for food, agricultural commodities, infrastructure, and employment opportunities. These trends make Africa an increasingly important partner for India in agricultural cooperation.

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DAKSHIN Events



The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence and SIS JNU are co-organised an International Seminar on '*India-Africa Partnership for Sustainable Development: Advancing Cooperation in Trade, Investment, and Health*' on Tuesday, 26 May 2026. The seminar consisted of an inaugural session, followed by two sessions: one on trade and investment

partnership and the other on digital and preventive health care. The seminar brought together policymakers, diplomats, trade and health experts, practitioners, researchers, and industry representatives to exchange perspectives, assess existing mechanisms, and explore avenues for further strengthening India-Africa cooperation.

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Key Developments in the Global South



India Advances Initiatives on BRICS Capacity Building Centres, Future Networks and Digital Cooperation for the Global South

Under India's BRICS Presidency 2026, the Department of Telecommunications successfully organised and headed the Second Meeting of the BRICS Working Group for Cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in virtual mode. The meeting reflected the shared commitment of BRICS nations towards strengthening cooperation in digital technologies, future networks, innovation ecosystems, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), and capacity building for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth. The meeting brought together representatives and senior officials from BRICS member countries to deliberate on strengthening cooperation in the ICT sector. Held under the overarching theme of India's BRICS Presidency — “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability” — and the ICT Track theme — “Innovate, Cooperate and Transform (ICT) for a Resilient Future” — the discussions focused on collaborative approaches for bridging the digital divide, promoting innovation-led growth, enhancing digital resilience, and ensuring affordable and meaningful connectivity across emerging economies.

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India Sends 20 Tones Of Vaccine Supplies To Afghanistan

India has sent 20 tonnes of essential supplies for BCG, tetanus and diphtheria vaccines to Kabul to support Afghanistan's child immunisation programme. Shri Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs, said that India had delivered the

medical supplies and vaccine materials to support Afghanistan's national child immunisation programme. He described the assistance as an important step towards meeting the needs of Afghanistan's health sector. He stressed that India remains committed to supporting the Afghan people in the healthcare sector. He said the shipment includes specialised dry materials used in the preparation of BCG, tetanus and diphtheria vaccines, which are considered vital for children's health and strengthening immunity.

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South African Agriculture Minister H.E. John Steenhuisen Calls for Urgent Climate Resilience in Agriculture

Agriculture Minister H.E. John Steenhuisen says resilience is no longer an abstract concept for agriculture but an “operational necessity” as climate change, failing logistics infrastructure and volatile global markets reshape the future of South Africa's deciduous fruit industry. Addressing the Hortgro Symposium 2026 in Somerset West, he said the deciduous fruit industry is operating at the frontline of change, confronting increasingly unpredictable climate conditions, logistical pressures, stricter export requirements and growing international competition. “Climate change is no longer a future challenge for agriculture. It is already reshaping production realities today,” he said.

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WHO and African Medicines Agency Launch Landmark Framework to Strengthen Access to Quality-Assured Health Products In Africa

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the African Medicines Agency (AMA) have announced the launch and signing of a Framework Agreement for Collaboration, marking a major milestone in efforts to strengthen regulatory systems and improve access to safe, effective and quality-assured health products across Africa. Signed on the margins of the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly (WHA79) during a high-level ministerial side event, the agreement establishes a structured partnership to advance regulatory harmonisation, convergence and reliance across the continent, while supporting the operationalisation of AMA as a key continental institution.

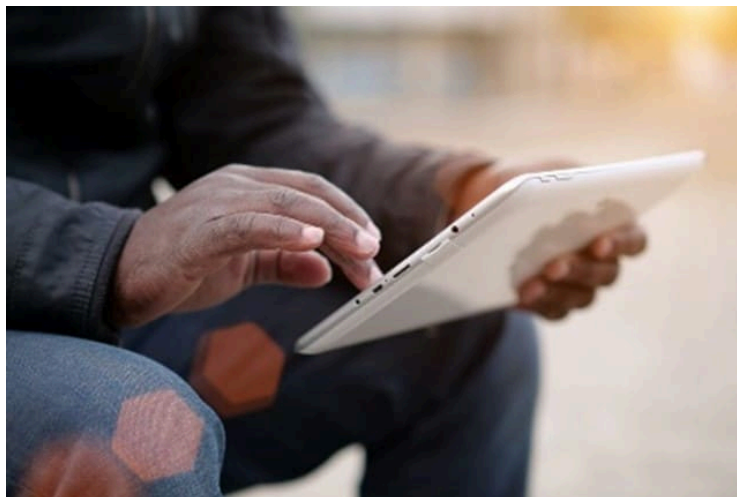
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Georgian Health Minister Meets WHO Europe Regional Director in Geneva

Georgia's Minister of Health, H.E. Mikheil Sarjveladze, has met with Dr. Hans Kluge, Regional Director for Europe at the World Health Organization. Georgia's Ministry of Health says the meeting focused on avenues of cooperation between Georgia and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, as well as ongoing and planned reforms within the country's healthcare sector. The discussion addressed key healthcare priorities, including strengthening primary healthcare, advancing the universal health coverage program, improving access to medicines, addressing the needs of people living with rare diseases, and enhancing regional cooperation strategies.

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Nigeria, Kenya and Morocco Selected for AfCFTA Digital Identity and DPI Rollout

Three countries in Africa will be implementing a flagship digital public infrastructure program for the first time in a bid to create a more unified African market. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat has chosen Kenya, Morocco and Nigeria as the first countries to implement the Africa Digital Access and Public Infrastructure for Trade (ADAPT) initiative. The selection marks one of the continent's most ambitious attempts to build interoperable digital public infrastructure across national borders. Rather than focusing on individual government systems, ADAPT seeks to create shared digital rails for identity, payments and trusted data exchange that can support the long-term goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

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West Africa Internet Governance Forum Ends with Renewed Push for Digital Sovereignty

The 18th West Africa Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF) has concluded in Freetown, Sierra Leone, with stakeholders across the region calling for stronger regional cooperation and a more inclusive approach to digital governance and sovereignty. According to the final communiqué issued at the end of the event, digital sovereignty in West Africa should not be viewed as isolation from the global internet, but rather as the ability of governments, institutions, and citizens to make informed and accountable decisions regarding data governance, digital infrastructure, emerging technologies, platforms, cybersecurity, standards, and digital rights while maintaining the openness and interoperability of the internet.

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SSTC Forum Advances South-South Collaboration on Renewable Energy Transition

Developing countries are strengthening collaboration on renewable energy development, technology transfer, and capacity building through the South-South and Triangular Cooperation on Renewable Energy (SSTC RE) forum held in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara, from May 19–23, 2026. “Indonesia views the energy transition not only as an environmental agenda, but also as a strategic pathway to strengthen energy security, economic resilience, and public welfare. Therefore, international collaboration is essential to accelerate inclusive and sustainable renewable energy development,” Director General of New, Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation (EBTKE) Prof. Dr. Eniya Listiani Dewi said in her remarks.

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South-South Cooperation Seen as Vital for Urban Solutions At WUF13

A panel discussion at the 13th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13) in Baku focused on strengthening cooperation among countries of the Global South in response to rapid urbanisation and evolving development challenges. The session, titled “South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Innovative Partnerships and Solutions in the Urbanising Global South,” was organised by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, according to local media. Participants examined the accelerating pace of urbanisation across Africa and Asia, emphasising the growing need to expand access to housing and essential services. The discussion also addressed the importance of identifying sustainable and scalable solutions tailored to the needs of rapidly growing urban populations in the Global South.

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AEC-Venezuela Alliance Accelerates Pathways into South-South Energy Expansion

The African Energy Chamber (AEC) and Venezuela have intensified coordination through high-level engagements in Brazzaville and Caracas, building on a structured cooperation roadmap linking the African Petroleum Producers’ Organization (APPO), Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA) and Venezuelan diplomatic channels. The most recent meetings confirmed Venezuela’s formal status as a strategic non-African observer within APPO, expanding technical exchanges and policy alignment with African national oil companies (NOCs). These developments underline a wider AEC strategy to integrate African energy institutions into global upstream markets while supporting long-term energy access goals.

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Jordan and Venezuela Sign Cooperation Agreements During Foreign Minister's Visit

Jordan and Venezuela signed a series of agreements aimed at expanding cooperation during a visit by Venezuelan Foreign Minister H.E. Yvan Gil to the kingdom. He met King Abdullah II in Amman, where discussions focused on ties between the two countries, opportunities for cooperation across several sectors and key regional and international developments. They also signed four agreements and memoranda of understanding covering agricultural cooperation, political consultations between the two foreign ministries, academic cooperation between diplomatic institutes and the establishment of a joint committee. The two sides said they were also working to finalise agreements related to investment protection, double taxation and visa exemptions.

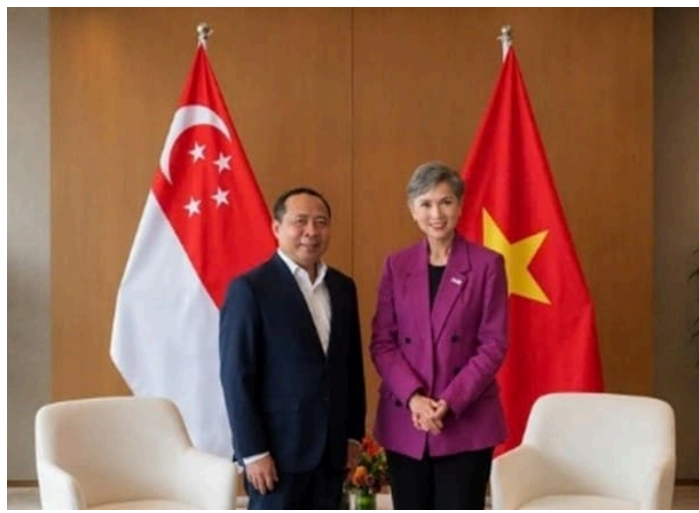
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Leaders Support African Development Bank President Dr. Sidi Ould Tah's Daring Strategic Vision for Economic Transformation

The 2026 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group opened officially on Tuesday, 26 May in Brazzaville, the Republic of the Congo, with leaders expressing confidence in the institution and the strategic vision of its President, Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, to mobilise financing at scale and speed for Africa's economic transformation. "Development finance for Africa henceforth requires more daring approaches," Congolese President H.E. Hon'ble Denis Sassou- N'Guesso said in his speech during the ceremony at the Kintele International Conference Centre. The theme of the 2026 Annual Meetings is "Mobilising Africa's Development Finance at Scale in a Fragmented World." It is the first Annual Meeting for Ould Tah, who took office in September 2025.

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Vietnam and Singapore Discuss Cooperation in Digital Development

Within the framework of Asia Tech x Singapore 2026, Vietnam's Minister of Science and Technology H.E. Prof Dr. Vu Hai Quan held talks with Singapore's Minister for Digital Development and Information H.E. Josephine Teo. The two sides discussed cooperation orientations, particularly in artificial intelligence (AI), digital data governance, submarine cable infrastructure, and the development of the regional digital ecosystem. Minister H.E. Prof. Dr. Vu Hai Quan affirmed that Vietnam highly appreciates Singapore's role in promoting ASEAN's digital initiatives, including support for the development and implementation of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030. The delegation also exchanged views with Singapore's leading startup and innovation support organisations on their experience in developing startup ecosystems.

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Cambodia and Liberia Pledge to Strengthen Agricultural Cooperation

H.E. Dith Tina, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and H.E J. Alexander Nuetah, Liberia's Minister of Agriculture, pledged to strengthen bilateral agricultural cooperation and expand agri-trade ties during a meeting held at the ministry on May 22. During the discussions, both sides exchanged views on promoting the rice production value chain and enhancing connections between private sector stakeholders, particularly by exploring opportunities to export Cambodian rice to the Liberian market. The talks also focused on addressing growing food demand and contributing to global food security through closer agricultural collaboration between the two countries.

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Tanzania and Kenya Strengthen Strategic Agricultural Cooperation

Tanzania and Kenya are moving to deepen their partnership in the agriculture sector, with both nations committing to enhanced trade, investment, and food security initiatives that could reshape agricultural cooperation across the East African region. The pledge emerged from high-level discussions between H.E. Gerald Mweli, Permanent Secretary in Tanzania's Ministry of Agriculture, and H.E. Catherine Wahome, Kenya's Ambassador to Tanzania. The weekend meeting, held at Mtumba in Dodoma, centred on implementing existing bilateral agreements and charting a path forward for expanded agricultural collaboration. A key priority identified during the talks involves harmonising phytosanitary certification requirements between the two countries. Phytosanitary standards, which govern plant health and prevent the spread of pests and diseases, have long been cited as non-tariff barriers hindering agricultural trade within the East African Community.

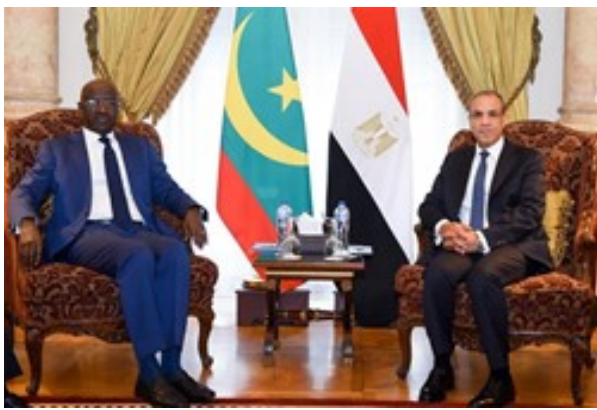
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Uzbekistan and Vietnam Expand Agricultural Cooperation

A delegation of the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan is currently on a visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, where it is participating in the 10th International Agricultural Exhibition ILDEX Vietnam and familiarising itself with modern agricultural technologies. As part of the visit, the delegation visited the Mekong Delta Rice Research Institute. Following negotiations, an agreement was reached on the implementation of a joint science and innovation cooperation programme in rice production until 2030. The Uzbek side was also handed 20 varieties and samples of Vietnamese-bred early-maturing and stress-resistant agricultural crops. These varieties are characterised by resistance to salinity, diseases and drought.

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Egypt And Mauritania Discuss Boosting Trade and Launching Agricultural Cooperation

Egyptian Foreign Minister H.E. Badr Abdelatty and his Mauritanian counterpart H.E. Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug discussed expanding economic ties and launching strategic cooperation in the agricultural sector to strengthen food security, while coordinating positions on regional crises and African security challenges, the foreign ministry stated. During talks in Cairo, the two ministers agreed on the need to advance bilateral cooperation, particularly in energy, mining, fisheries, logistics, and agriculture, as Egypt and Mauritania seek to deepen economic integration and boost trade. The talks also reviewed development cooperation projects, including executive steps to renew a memorandum of understanding for the Nouakchott tramway project in cooperation with the Egyptian construction firm Arab Contractors.

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Mental Health Intercountry Meeting Pushes for Regional Action to Advance Mental Health Care in Africa

The mental health intercountry meeting for the East and Southern African countries provided a collaborative platform for countries to assess progress, identify challenges and realign national strategies with regional and global priorities in the bid to strengthen mental health systems and advance mental health care, accelerating progress towards the 2030 regional mental health targets. “African countries continue to face an immense burden from mental health conditions,” said Dr. Benido Impouma, Director of Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Control, WHO African Region. Participants reflected on ways to strengthen mental health information systems, integrate mental health into primary health care, expand community-based services and enhance multisectoral collaboration.

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Egypt And Cuba Talk Enhancing Partnership in Primary Health Care and Elderly Care

H.E. Dr. Abla El-Alfy, Deputy Minister of Health and Population, met with Dr. Tania Margarita Cruz Hernandez, First Deputy Minister of Public Health of Cuba, and her accompanying delegation, on the sidelines of the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva. The two sides discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation within the framework of the cooperation protocol signed between the two countries, focusing on developing the primary healthcare system in Egypt.

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Nigeria Advances Sovereign Digital Infrastructure and AI-Driven Public Service Reforms at ICSC 2026

The federal government has reaffirmed its commitment to improving public service delivery through sovereign digital infrastructure, artificial intelligence, and accelerated public service digitalisation at the International Civil Service Conference (ICSC) 2026 in Abuja. The conference brought together Heads of Service from different states and countries, senior government officials, reform experts, and technology stakeholders to discuss the future of governance and digital transformation in Africa, using the Nigerian Public Service as a benchmark.

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