



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

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In-Focus Article



Pulses for Livelihoods, Ecology, and Productivity: A Climate-Resilient Pathway for the Global South

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Across the Global South, pulses such as chickpea, pigeonpea, lentil, cowpea, and beans are far more than staple foods; they are central to climate resilience, soil regeneration, and rural livelihoods. Observed annually on 10 February, World Pulses Day highlights how these crops contribute simultaneously to nutrition security, sustainable agriculture, and ecosystem health. In rainfed and dryland regions of Africa, South Asia, and parts of Latin America, pulses are not merely supplementary crops but central pillars of diversified farming systems that sustain rural livelihoods while restoring ecological balance.

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Key Developments in the Global South



India-Malaysia Cooperation across Sectors

At the invitation of Prime Minister of Malaysia, His Excellency, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, His Excellency, Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, undertook an official visit to Malaysia. The visit reflected the deep-rooted friendship and enduring people-to-people ties, based on civilizational connections between the two countries. It reaffirmed the shared commitment of the two Leaders to further consolidate and expand the India–Malaysia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Since the

establishment of diplomatic relations in 1957, Malaysia and India have built a partnership based on mutual respect and shared values, which was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in August 2024.

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ADB approves \$182 million loan to scale up flood management along Brahmaputra

ADB has approved USD 182 million in additional financing to expand its support for strengthening Assam's resilience to chronic flooding and severe riverbank erosion along the Brahmaputra. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 182 million in additional financing to expand its support for strengthening Assam's resilience to chronic flooding and severe riverbank erosion along the Brahmaputra. The funding supplements the ongoing USD 200 million ADB-supported Climate Resilient Brahmaputra Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Project in Assam, which was approved in October 2023.

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Egypt explores healthcare cooperation with Türkiye at global health event in Dubai

Egypt's Healthcare Authority Chairperson Ahmed El-Sobky discussed prospects for expanded healthcare cooperation with Türkiye during a visit to the Turkish pavilion at the World Health Expo (WHX 2026) in Dubai, as part of broader efforts to strengthen bilateral ties. According to a statement from the Authority, El-Sobky reviewed a range of innovations showcased at the pavilion, including digital health solutions, advanced diagnostic systems, medical imaging technologies, and integrated healthcare platforms designed to enhance clinical decision-making and improve patient experience. He said

potential areas of cooperation with Türkiye include technology transfer and the localisation of medical industries in Egypt, as well as professional training and knowledge exchange across hospitals and healthcare centres to reinforce domestic healthcare capabilities.

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India – Seychelles Joint Vision for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages (SESEL)

At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the President of the Republic of Seychelles Dr. Patrick Herminie is on a State Visit to India. President Herminie’s State Visit coming around 100 days after his inauguration signals the shared commitment of India and Seychelles to strengthen, expand and deepen our longstanding and multifaceted bilateral partnership. The two leaders reaffirmed that India and Seychelles, as close maritime neighbours, enjoy a special and time-tested partnership built on ties of history and kinship, and nurtured by the shared values of democracy and pluralism. The leaders acknowledged that Seychelles-India ties are people-centric and reinforce security and stability in the Western Indian Ocean Region. The leaders also reaffirmed Seychelles' role as an important pillar in India's Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

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Rwanda and Kenya position themselves as Africa’s AI leaders at global forum

Rwanda and Kenya used a global digital policy platform in Kuwait to outline how they are positioning themselves as leaders in Africa’s artificial intelligence (AI) journey, as governments worldwide debate how to govern rapidly advancing technologies and manage their risks. The discussions took place during the 5th General Assembly of the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) and the International Digital Cooperation Forum (IDCF), held under the theme “Inclusive Prosperity in the Age of AI.” The gathering brings together ministers, policymakers, technology leaders, and international organisations to shape the future of digital cooperation and AI governance. Speaking at the forum, Rwanda’s Minister of State for ICT and Innovation, Yves Iradukunda, outlined the country’s ambition to position itself as a regional hub for applied AI, anchored on infrastructure development, skills building, and adoption that delivers measurable national impact.

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Discussions held with Nepal and Maldives to enhance cooperation in the agriculture sector

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan held a courtesy meeting today at his residence located at 12, Safdarjung Road, in New Delhi with Nepal's Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Shri Dr. Madan Prasad Pariyar, and Maldives' State Minister for Agriculture and Animal Welfare, Ahmad Hassan Didi. During the meeting, there was an extensive discussion on further strengthening mutual cooperation in the agriculture sector between India, Nepal, and Maldives. The Union Agriculture Minister stated that Nepal and Maldives are close friend nations of India, and the relationships between India and these countries are not only bilateral but also cultural and emotional in nature. In the meeting, deliberations took place on various aspects of agricultural development aligned with agricultural research, advanced seeds, livestock, soil health, and agro-climatic conditions.

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Turkmenistan, WHO explore new frontiers for health sector cooperation

Turkmenistan and the World Health Organization (WHO) discussed the current state and prospects of bilateral cooperation across priority areas, Trend reports via the Turkmen MFA. The discussions were conducted via videoconference between Myakhri Bashimova, Turkmenistan's Deputy Foreign Minister, Azat Ovezov, Deputy Minister of Health and Medical Industry, and Egor Zaitsev, Head of the WHO Country Office in Ashgabat. The dialogue placed particular emphasis on the preparations for the forthcoming High-Level Dialogue on Global Health Diplomacy, which is set to take place in Turkmenistan later this month. Following the exchange, the participants reaffirmed their shared commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation and expressed a strong willingness to pursue joint initiatives and projects within the health sector.

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FAO representative and Jamaican Minister of Agriculture discuss technical cooperation programs

Dra. Ana Touza, FAO Representative for Jamaica, The Bahamas and Belize visited Rodwell Ferguson, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and New Growth Industries at the Ministry of Agriculture headquarters at the National Agriculture and Trade Show Grounds. Dr. Touza and the FAO team sat down for discussions with Minister Ferguson and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture. Discussions included upcoming Technical Cooperation Programs for Belize for 2026/2028 and the new Country Program Framework for 2027/2031. Initiatives under discussion include climate smart agriculture, agro-processing, inclusion of women and youth in agriculture, the school garden program and farmer inclusivity to ensure enhanced productivity through value addition to raw products.

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Ethiopia's Kerchanshe Group, Brazil's Embrapa sign coffee technology cooperation agreement

Ethiopia's Kerchanshe Group and Brazil's Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) have signed a cooperation agreement aimed at strengthening collaboration in agricultural technology, with a strong focus on coffee development and modern production systems. The agreement was signed a day after the Ethiopia–Brazil Trade and Investment Forum held in Addis Ababa, underscoring concrete follow-up action to deepen bilateral economic and agricultural cooperation between the two countries. Under the partnership, the two institutions will focus on coffee development activities in Debeka, Abaya Woreda, located in the West Guji Zone of Ethiopia's Oromia region.

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India's DPI model continues global expansion with 23 country partnerships

India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Stack, commonly known as India Stack, keeps inspiring nations around the world with more of them turning to Delhi for working relations. In a recent announcement, the government disclosed that it has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 23 countries to cooperate on one or more components of its DPI Stack, among which is the Universal Payment Interface (UPI) system now operational in at least eight countries. The India Stack is the trinity of Aadhaar digital ID, UPI, and the DigiLocker data-sharing platform, which all form the backbone of the country's ongoing digital transformation journey. India is baking on the Stack to grow its digital economy into a trillion-dollar one by 2030.

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ECOWAS Commission Extends Regional Integration Strategy Until 2027

After an extensive high-level consultation, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS Commission) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) have agreed to extend until 2027 the West Africa Regional Integration Strategy Paper (RISP), reaffirming their shared commitment to accelerating regional integration, resilience, and inclusive development in West Africa. The three-day consultations, held during the first week of February 2026 at the ECOWAS Commission headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria, brought together senior management of ECOWAS and the AfDB to deliberate on the strategic orientation of the West Africa RISP. The meeting provided a platform for both institutions to align their priorities and validate the Indicative Regional Operations Programme proposed for AfDB support during the extension period.

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IFAD mobilizes more than 1.1 billion dollars in investments to transform rural lives in Brazil

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a long standing and strategic partner of Brazil, has announced a major expansion of its investments in the country. IFAD has doubled its investments, increasing from 450 million dollars between 2017 and 2024, to more than 1.1 billion dollars for a new portfolio of rural development projects through 2030, aimed at supporting an estimated one million rural people. The announcement was made by Rocío Medina Bolívar, IFAD’s Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, during a visit to Brazil with a delegation from the Fund for high-level meetings with authorities and representatives of the public and private sector. IFAD’s portfolio in Brazil ranks fifth among the Fund’s investments worldwide and has the highest number of IFAD-financed projects in one country.

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Korea–Thailand Launch Project to Boost Carbon Neutrality for ASEAN

The Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Thailand have officially launched a landmark triangular cooperation project aimed at advancing carbon neutrality across ASEAN. By positioning Thailand as a regional hub for low-carbon industrial transformation, the initiative marks a strategic shift toward shared climate leadership in Southeast Asia. The Kick-Off Ceremony, held on February 11, 2026, marked the formal commencement of the project titled “Thailand Triangular Cooperation for Carbon Neutrality Capacity Building in the Electrical and Electronics Industry in ASEAN,” jointly implemented by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), and the Ministry of Industry (MIND). The launch follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) last year.

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India tightens AI rules for social media platforms

India's Ministry of Information Technology has updated rules for the use of generative artificial intelligence on social media platforms. Now platforms have three hours to remove content requested by authorities. Previously, they had a 36-hour window to take down such content. Under India's IT rules, authorities can order the removal of content deemed illegal under any of its laws, including those related to national security and public order. India's new rules require labelling of AI content. It will also be mandatory for platforms like Instagram, TikTok, Facebook and YouTube to clearly label what the government calls "synthetically generated information." The labels must be permanent markings that can't be suppressed or removed. The government is also holding social media platforms responsible if this synthetic content is published without the required markings. Certain categories of synthetic content are banned in the new rules, which were published on Tuesday as amendments to the country's 2021 IT Rules.

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Ethiopia to launch first artificial intelligence university next year

Ethiopia is set to make a major leap in digital education as its first-ever artificial intelligence (AI) university is expected to become operational in the next Ethiopian year, as reported by ENA, a partner of TV BRICS. The announcement was made by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed during an address to members of the House of People's Representatives, where he highlighted artificial intelligence as a central pillar of Ethiopia's national reform agenda. According to the Prime Minister, AI has been elevated to the highest level of government policy, reflecting the country's ambition to compete in an increasingly technology-driven global economy. The government, he said, views early investment in advanced technologies as essential for future competitiveness and sustainable growth.

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APPO Seeks Deeper South-South Cooperation, Local Content Push

African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO) Secretary General Farid Ghezali is steering the Organization toward deeper South-South cooperation and an expanded local content strategy in 2026. In an exclusive interview with Energy Capital & Power during Libya Energy & Economic Summit in Tripoli last month, Ghezali outlined APPO's priorities, emphasizing cooperation among African producers and Global South partners. APPO is looking to energy producers in South America, as potential partners in knowledge-sharing, joint ventures and market cooperation. The continent has emerged as a major global energy hotspot, offering lessons and models for African producers navigating similar development challenges.

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Ethiopia's Commitment to Assist other African Nations Exemplifies Capacity to Enhance Regional Integration

Equatorial Guinea's Secretary of State for International Organizations, Mari-Cruz Evuna Andeme, told ENA that Ethiopia's commitment to assist other African nations exemplifies not only South-South cooperation but also its capacity to enhance regional integration. "Ethiopia's commitment to assist other African nations exemplifies not only South-South cooperation but also its capacity to enhance regional integration," the Secretary of State said. In an exclusive interview with ENA, she recalled that Ethiopia has made a remarkable gesture of solidarity by facilitating the delivery of critical medical supplies across Africa during the height of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Andeme reminisced about how Ethiopia coordinated the transportation of essential equipment and medications from China to various countries on the continent, adding that the effort underscores Ethiopia's logistical capabilities and showcases its commitment to regional solidarity during a global crisis.

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Cuba and Russia launch new phase of scientific and academic cooperation

Cuba and Russia's Tyumen State University have agreed to deepen scientific and academic cooperation following a series of high-level meetings held in Havana on 9–10 February, as reported by the official website of Tyumen University. The Russian delegation met with Cuban partners to formalise a new cooperation agreement with the University of Havana. The document provides for expanded joint research projects and academic exchanges, building on previous collaboration that included soil biodiversity studies, participation in scientific conferences and practical training placements for Russian students in Cuba. Both sides expressed interest in developing new educational approaches incorporating artificial intelligence technologies, as well as broadening biological research to address biosecurity challenges affecting humans, animals and plants.

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