



Global South Matters

# DAKSHIN

## Global South Centre of Excellence

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### DAKSHIN Think Tank Partner News



#### **Muhammad Ibrahim assumed office as IICA Director General, pledging to deepen science-based cooperation to strengthen agriculture in the Americas**

Muhammad Ibrahim assumed office as the new Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) - DAKSHIN's think tank partner, in a ceremony witnessed by ministers and senior officials of more than thirty countries. The Guyanese agronomist pledged to work for all regions of the Americas, striving to build more competitive and efficient science-based agrifood systems. Ibrahim boasts extensive experience in agricultural development, international cooperation and public policy and has occupied various leadership positions in academic institutions and international organizations, establishing himself as an authority in issues related to sustainable agriculture and rural development. On the other hand, IICA, which has a presence in thirty-four countries of the Americas, plays a fundamental role in providing support to governments to design and implement public policies to boost agricultural productivity and resilience.

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### Disruption burden falls heaviest on the Global South

Companies in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the Gulf (GCC) lose over a month of operational time every year due to logistics disruption, more than their peers in Europe and North America, according to DP World's Without Logistics Global Report, published on 8 January. Companies in the GCC and 43% in MENA report annual disruption costs of one million dollars or more. These regions also report the world's highest levels of customer complaints, lost contracts and reputational damage caused by supply chain failure. The report adds that companies in parts of the Global South are losing months of productivity, millions of dollars and long-term customer trust as supply chain disruption shifts from episodic shock to a defining feature of today's operating environment. Without Logistics is based on a global study of 680 senior logistics and supply chain decision-makers across eight industries and nine regions. It found that while disruption is now commonplace, its impact is deeply uneven, with firms in SSA, MENA and GCC experiencing the longest downtime, the highest costs and the most severe customer fallout. The study shows that 83% of firms in SSA, 72% in MENA, and 61% in the GCC lose more than a month of operational time in years when there is major logistics disruption, as against 50% of firms in North America, 41% in Germany and 36% in the UK.

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### Key Developments in the Global South

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### Belarus, Turkmenistan Boost Ties in Agriculture, Tourism

Belarus and Turkmenistan are moving to deepen bilateral cooperation across agriculture, culture, and tourism following high-level talks held in Ashgabat. Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Belarus Stanislav Chepurnoy met with senior Turkmen government officials to discuss a range of joint initiatives, The Caspian Post reports via Turkmen media. During talks with Deputy Prime Minister for Agriculture Tangryguly Atahalliiev, the focus was on strengthening agricultural ties, including the potential participation of a Turkmen delegation in the Belarusian Agro-Industrial Week and the 36th International Specialized Exhibition BELAGRO-2026.

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## **India–Fiji Agriculture Ties Strengthen Through Key Collaborations on Technology, Research and Capacity Building**

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan held a bilateral meeting with Tomasi Tunabuna, Minister for Agriculture and Waterways of Fiji, at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi on Thursday to advance India–Fiji cooperation in the agriculture sector. The discussions focused on expanding key collaborations across technology, research, capacity building and food security. During the meeting, the Indian Minister highlighted the long-standing historical relationship between India and Fiji, underpinned by mutual respect, cultural affinity and strong people-to-people ties. He noted that agriculture and food security remain central pillars of bilateral engagement, given their importance to livelihoods and sustainable development in both countries.

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## **Uzbekistan expands cooperation with IsDB in the agricultural sector**

A meeting of the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, led by Deputy Minister of Agriculture Alisher Shukurov and IsDB Vice President for Operations Rami Ahmad, took place at the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Headquarters in Jeddah. During the talks, the parties discussed the current state of bilateral cooperation and its further development, as well as the implementation of joint projects and initiatives. Special attention was paid

to modernizing agricultural machinery through cooperation with IsDB. The participants exchanged views on the needs of the agricultural sector, the feasibility of a phased upgrade of the technical park, and the introduction of advanced, resource-saving, and efficient technologies.

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### **Türkiye seeks multi-sector cooperation with Ethiopia**

A Turkish trade delegation is set to visit Ethiopia this week to explore cooperation opportunities across a wide range of sectors, including construction, textiles, energy and health care. The program, coordinated by the Trade Ministry and organized by the Türkiye Exporters Assembly (TİM), aims to conduct market research and evaluate new business and investment prospects in the country. Business representatives from both nations will hold meetings in Addis Ababa, with discussions expected to cover areas such as construction materials, machinery and equipment, agriculture and food processing, health care and pharmaceuticals, textiles and ready-to-wear, as well as energy and electrical equipment.

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### **FAO Launches Regional FMD Emergency Project in Iraq with National FMD Laboratory Diagnosis Techniques Training Workshop**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of Iraq (MoA) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (MoAWR-KRI), has officially launched the regional Technical Cooperation project “Emergency control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks in Iraq and Syria and prevention of its transmission to Lebanon and Jordan”. The project officially kicked off in Erbil in the

presence of the Technical Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Dr Mithaq Al Khafaji, FAO Representative in Iraq, Salah El-Hajj Hassan, and representative of Ministry of Agriculture and Water resources -KRG, through the launch of a five-day workshop about “FMD Laboratory Diagnostic Techniques with a Specific Focus on the SAT-1 Serotype,” bringing together veterinary laboratory specialists from across Iraq.

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## **Morocco, Mauritania Sign Two Agreements to Promote Higher Education & Executive Training in Agricultural Sector**

Morocco and Mauritania have strengthened their cooperation with the signing of two partnership agreements as part of an ambitious project aimed at promoting specialized higher education and training of highly qualified Mauritanian executives in the agricultural sector. The two agreements were signed on Thursday in Nouakchott by Secretary General of the Mauritanian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Mohamed Bilal, Director of the Higher Institute of Technological Education of Rosso, Chamekh Mbareck, and Director of the Hassan II Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine (IAV Hassan II), Abdelaziz El Hraiki, in the presence of the Mauritanian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Yacoub Ould Moine.

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## **Chile and India advance agricultural partnership with joint horticulture plan**

Chile and India have reached a new milestone in bilateral agricultural cooperation by formalising a strategic agreement on technical and scientific collaboration in horticulture. The partnership reflects the growing importance of knowledge exchange and innovation in strengthening food security and sustainable agriculture. The cooperation is based on a Joint Action Plan for 2025–2027 signed by the Agricultural Research Institute (INIA) of Chile and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research

(ICAR). The document transforms years of expert-level dialogue into a practical framework for joint research, innovation and the development of horticultural production.

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## **Global health leaders to meet in Nairobi for Africa-Focused World Health Summit 2026**

Nairobi will host the World Health Summit Regional Meeting in April 2026, bringing together global health leaders, policymakers, researchers and development partners to deliberate on Africa's health priorities, including workforce development, digital health, and climate and pandemic risks. The three-day meeting, scheduled for April 27–29, 2026 will take place at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) and is expected to advance African-led solutions aimed at strengthening health systems across the continent.

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## **Foreign diplomats learn about the role of the Development Cooperation Agency in Latvia in implementing international projects**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted a meeting with foreign embassy representatives with the aim to share information on Latvia's development cooperation priorities and projects implemented by Latvia to support partner countries. Particular attention was paid to the role of the Central Finance and Contracting Agency (CFCA) as the Development Cooperation Agency in Latvia collaborating with international partners. Latvia contributes to development cooperation by sharing its reform experience and expertise, strengthening institutional capacity, and promoting sustainable development in partner countries across the EU Eastern Neighbourhood, with particular focus on Ukraine, Central Asia, and Africa. During the meeting, foreign diplomats learned about Latvia's areas of expertise, as well as the solutions created by Latvian entrepreneurs to address the development needs of partner countries.

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## Uruguay assumes G77+China presidency

Uruguay assumes as of this Wednesday the presidency of the Group of 77 and China (G77+China), a group that unites 134 developing countries at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York. Foreign Minister Mario Lubetkin is here to assume the presidency on behalf of his country. The G77 presidency rotates on a regional basis each year, and this time it is Latin America and the Caribbean's turn, with Uruguay serving as coordinator and spokesperson. According to its official definition, the Group "provides the means so that countries of the Global South articulate and promote their collective economic interests and enhance their joint negotiating capacity." In particular, it addresses important international economic issues within the UN system and promotes South-South cooperation for development.

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