



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

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IN FOCUS

Shared Soils, Shared Solutions: Soil, Water and Climate Resilience in Latin America

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Latin America's agriculture is increasingly shaped by climate-induced stress on soil and water systems, placing the biophysical foundations of food production and rural livelihoods under growing pressure. Prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, rising temperature extremes, shifting precipitation regimes, soil degradation and declining water availability are increasingly shaping agro-ecosystem performance across the region. These challenges are particularly acute in rainfed, highland, coastal and dryland systems, where agriculture is largely driven by small and fragmented landholdings.

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Key Developments in the Global South

INDIA-ETHIOPIA List of Outcomes	INDIA-ETHIOPIA List of Outcomes
Bilateral Visit of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Ethiopia	Bilateral Visit of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to Ethiopia
MoUs/ Agreements/ Announcements	MoUs/ Agreements/ Announcements
1. Elevation of bilateral ties to 'Strategic Partnership'	1. Elevation of bilateral ties to 'Strategic Partnership'
2. Agreement on Co-operation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Custom Matters	2. Agreement on Co-operation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Custom Matters
3. MoU for Establishing Data Centre at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia	3. MoU for Establishing Data Centre at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia
4. Implementing Arrangement for Co-operation in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Training	4. Implementing Arrangement for Co-operation in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Training

Recent India-Ethiopia South-South Cooperation

Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed and Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi announced a new status for bilateral relations following joint talks. The main decision was the transition from historical interaction to strategic partnership. During the meetings, the parties signed a number of agreements and agreed to increase humanitarian assistance. The signed package included an agreement on mutual administrative assistance on customs matters, a memorandum on the establishment of a data processing centre at the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a memorandum on cooperation in UN peacekeeping missions. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed recalled the historical ties on which the new partnership is built.

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EBID and Colombia cement historic south-south development partnership

The ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) has taken a major step in strengthening South-South Cooperation discussions on strategic partnerships in agribusiness, ICT, and sustainable development. Cooperation is expected to serve as a defining milestone in the partnership, further promoting collaboration between Development Finance Institutions in Latin America and their West African counterparts. EBID hosted Her Excellency Francia Elena Márquez Mina, Vice President of the Republic of Colombia, at its headquarters in a historic gesture that signals a new era of SSC. Vice President Márquez, the first Afro-Colombian to hold the office, was welcomed amid high-level discussions that underscored the growing importance of collaboration between Latin America and West Africa.

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Cambodia embraces inclusive digital development

Cambodia remains committed to building a people-centred, inclusive and development-orientated digital society while calling for stronger international cooperation to bridge the global digital divide, particularly for least developed countries (LDCs). Speaking on Tuesday at the High-level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to review the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Cambodia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Keo Chhea, outlined the Kingdom's national priorities and shared key perspectives on global digital governance.

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India-Jordan Strengthen SSC and Sign MoUs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has wrapped up his two-day visit to Jordan, a trip that comes at a milestone moment as India and Jordan mark 75 years of diplomatic relations. The visit saw high-level engagements in Amman, including talks with King Abdullah II, resulting in a joint statement that outlines the next phase of the bilateral relationship. The discussions covered a wide canvas, from political engagement and economic cooperation to technology, culture and regional connectivity. Several agreements were concluded during the visit, reflecting a shared intent to broaden and modernise the partnership, while reinforcing long-standing ties of trust and goodwill. The visit also underscored India's growing engagement with West Asia, with Jordan emerging as a key partner linking regional connectivity, trade and people-to-people exchanges.

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UN India SDG Country Fund for Nepal

The South-South Triangular Cooperation Project on “Strengthening Nepal’s Fortified Rice Supply Chain” was launched yesterday in Kathmandu in the presence of the Hon’ble Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal, Mr. Anil Kumar Sinha. This partnership involving India, Nepal and the World Food Programme, includes a three-phase project that will enable structured knowledge exchange, focussing on India’s experience of integrating fortified rice into its public distribution system.

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African Development Fund mobilises a historic \$11 billion, marking a new era of African ownership and investment-led development

The African Development Fund (ADF), the concessional financing arm of the African Development Bank Group, has secured a record \$11 billion from 43 Partners for its 17th Replenishment (ADF-17), the largest in the Fund's history, despite severe global fiscal constraints and declining aid budgets. The outcome represents a 23% increase over the previous replenishment and sends a clear signal of confidence in Africa's development prospects, the African Development Bank Group's leadership, and a new development model centred on investment, risk-sharing, and scale.

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Operation Sagar Bandhu continues providing Emergency HADR Support to Sri Lanka following Cyclone Ditwah

Guided by India's Neighbourhood First policy and Vision MAHASAGAR, India has been standing steadfastly with the people of Sri Lanka in this difficult time. Working in close coordination with Sri Lankan authorities, India has been delivering life-saving assistance, essential relief supplies and humanitarian support, and critical early-recovery capabilities across Sri Lanka, including in areas that were badly impacted and had been rendered inaccessible. This has been done by swiftly dispatching emergency relief material by air and sea; rapidly deploying several specialized search and rescue units, medical and engineering equipment and teams including BHISHM Cubes and Bailey bridge systems; and setting up an Indian Army Field Hospital.

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Investment through JICA-Funded LEAP2 (Private Sector Investment Finance): Financing aircraft modernization and improving safety in Papua New Guinea

Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a loan agreement for a total 35.8 million US dollars with Air Niugini Limited (Air Niugini), Papua New Guinea's national airline, of which 16.8 million US dollars will be provided through LEAP2. This facility is delivered in partnership with Export Finance Australia (EFA), which is also providing a matching facility for up to 35.8 million US dollars. LEAP2 is an ADB-managed fund with a commitment of up to 1.5 billion US dollars from JICA. It focuses on providing financing for high-quality private-sector infrastructure projects in ADB's developing member countries in Asia and the Pacific. Projects supported by LEAP2 include initiatives to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency, and enhance access to affordable healthcare, education, and telecommunication services.

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India, Argentina sign plan to strengthen cooperation in agriculture

India and Argentina on Tuesday signed a work plan for 2025-2027 to deepen bilateral cooperation in agricultural research, technology exchange, and capacity building. The agreement was signed between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Argentina's National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA). The signed document was exchanged by the Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), the Director General of ICAR, and the Ambassador of Argentina to India. The work plan aims to expand collaboration in key areas such as natural resource management, sustainable agronomy, crop and animal biotechnology, livestock improvement, digital agriculture, and value chain development. It also includes cooperation on zero tillage, farm mechanisation, micro-irrigation, fertigation, biosafety, and phytosanitary measures.

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Iran, Uganda emphasise expanding trade, agriculture cooperation

The first Iran-Uganda Joint Agricultural Working Group Meeting was held with the aim of strengthening economic cooperation, bolstering bilateral ties and implementing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) inked between the two countries. Iranian chairman of Iran-Uganda Joint Agricultural Working Group Saeed Hosseini pointed to the background of cultural and economic relations between the two countries, stating that agriculture can serve as a strategic gateway to achieving sustainable growth and prosperity and increasing the economic resilience of Iran and Uganda.

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Government of India highlights rural transformation and development leadership at IFAD–India Day in Rome

The Government of India showcased the country's pioneering achievements in rural development, women's empowerment and climate-resilient agriculture at the IFAD–India Day event held in Rome. The occasion marked the celebration of India's long-standing and successful partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). IFAD President Mr. Alvaro Lario commended India's leadership in driving scalable, community-led rural transformation and noted that several India–IFAD initiatives have become global reference models.

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WHO and ICDT announce launch of Coalition on Islamic Financing Towards Global Health

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), today announced the launch of a new Coalition on Islamic Financing Towards Global Health. The announcement was made at the High-Level Roundtable on Promoting Investment in Global Health through Islamic Financing, convened in Riyadh with senior leaders from across the Islamic finance, development and global health sectors. The Coalition aims to strengthen collaboration among governments, multilateral institutions, financial actors, philanthropies and technical partners to expand the use of Islamic financing instruments in support of primary health care (PHC), universal health coverage (UHC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Membership in the Coalition is voluntary, and interested institutions will be invited to join as the initiative develops.

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India and Oman sign Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

India and Oman sign a Comprehensive Trade Agreement Advancing a New Era of Economic Partnership and Opportunity. This Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) marks an important milestone in India's engagement with the Gulf region and reflects the shared commitment to deepen bilateral economic integration. Oman is an important strategic partner in the region and is a key gateway for Indian goods and services to the wider Middle East and Africa. Nearly 7 lakh Indian nationals reside in Oman, including Indian merchant families with a presence of over 200–300 years, contributing significantly to Oman's economy and society. Indian enterprises have built a strong presence in Oman, with over 6,000 Indian establishments operating across sectors. Annual remittances of around USD 2 billion further reflect the depth of economic engagement. Bilateral trade between India and Oman stands at over USD 10 billion, with strong potential for expansion under the CEPA framework.

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Abu Dhabi Fund for Development launches its new 2030 Strategy

Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) has announced its comprehensive 2030 Strategy. Guided by a set of strategic pillars, the strategy seeks to maximise development impact and effectiveness by fostering sustainable global economic growth and delivering development-focused aid and investments. It also aims to strengthen the national economy through export financing, broaden access to international markets for UAE exporters, and enhance their global competitiveness. ADFD's 2030 Strategy focuses on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations and initiatives, prioritising key sectors, and pioneering a range of financing tools and solutions. Aligned with global best practices in development, the strategy serves as a key pillar supporting the UAE's foreign development assistance policy, while reinforcing partnerships with regional and international development institutions engaged in sustainable development.

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Seventh Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has been providing a platform to facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation among and with Asia-Pacific member States to advance sustainable development. The meeting aimed for Directors General of technical cooperation agencies to interact with peers, regional policymakers, development partners and other key stakeholders in order to: Discuss challenges and opportunities for advancing South-South cooperation to promote inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific; Promote replicable and scalable solutions that address multidimensional aspects of inclusion through South-South and triangular cooperation; Showcase innovative development practices and technologies that contribute to inclusive and sustainable development; Facilitate in-person networking and bilateral meetings to identify partnership opportunities among governments, technical cooperation agencies, and development actors aimed at enhancing South-South cooperation.

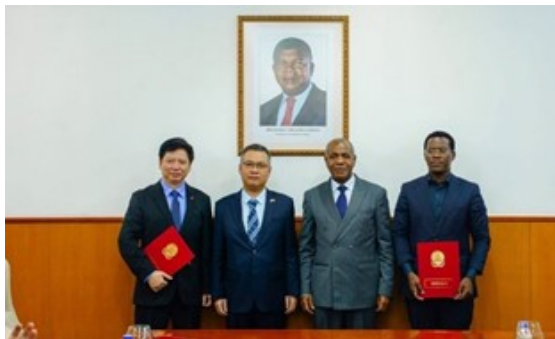
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Driving inclusive innovation for micro, small and medium enterprises in Bolivia

Micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) generate nearly 70% of employment and contribute 25% to Bolivia's GDP, yet they face persistent challenges such as informality, limited access to financing, and constrained innovation capacity. Addressing these gaps is critical to unlocking inclusive and resilient growth opportunities for MSMEs. As part of UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC)'s SDG Partnership with Bolivia on supporting MSMEs through innovation, USPC and UNDP Bolivia co-hosted a learning exchange webinar titled, "Innovation in Action: Lessons from the Korean Ecosystem for the Development of Venture Studios in Bolivia". The event brought together key partners from both countries, including the Banco de Desarrollo Productivo (BDP; Productive Development Bank of Bolivia), the Seoul Center for Creative Economy and Innovation (SCCEI), and leading Korean impact investor, Impact Square.

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Viet Nam provides technical support for sustainable agricultural and forestry development in Angola

The visit to Angola by a delegation of the South–South Cooperation (SSC) Working Group under the Viet Nam Ministry of Agriculture and Environment represents a concrete step in implementing high-level commitments made by the senior leaders of the two countries, as well as an effective rollout of the Viet Nam–Angola Agricultural Cooperation Action Plan for the 2025–2030 period. A delegation of the SSC Working Group of the Viet Nam Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, led by Dr Pham Ngoc Mau, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Cooperation and Head of the SSC Working Group, paid a working visit to Angola.

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Morocco emerges as strategic hub for South-South cooperation at Atlantic Dialogues

Morocco's ambassador to the United States Youssef Amrani said all political figures and experts attending the 14th Annual International Conference of the Policies for the New South Centre, "Atlantic Dialogues," highlighted Morocco's leading role in fostering South-South cooperation. They specifically cited King Mohammed VI's initiative to facilitate landlocked Sahel countries' access to the Atlantic Ocean, widely welcomed for its ambition and continental scope. Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the conference, Amrani noted that Morocco is now regarded as a key partner thanks to its proactive foreign policy, successful experience and innovative initiatives. He emphasised that the strength of the Moroccan model stems from the depth of economic and social reforms achieved, which are fundamental to the resilience and credibility of Morocco's partnerships.

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Azerbaijan and Kenya strengthen environmental and urban development cooperation after UNEA-7

Azerbaijan and Kenya reaffirmed their growing cooperation on environmental protection and sustainable urban development during a diplomatic engagement in Nairobi that followed the conclusion of the seventh United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7). The meeting, hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, brought together senior government officials, diplomats, Kenyan media, and sustainability stakeholders to reflect on global environmental commitments and outline areas for deeper bilateral collaboration.

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African Union Participates in Science-Policy Dialogue to Accelerate Implementation of Regreening and Land Restoration Actions in Africa

The African Union Commission (AUC) and representatives from the scientific and technical organizations met in Nairobi today, on the margins of UNEA-7 for a Science-Policy Dialogue convened by CIFOR-ICRAF (Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry) to advance the accelerated implementation of Regreening and Land Restoration actions in the continent, including the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI), the Nairobi Declaration of the 2024 Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit and CAADP (Comprehensive African Development Programme) Kampala Declaration. The Dialogue brought together participants from a diverse range of non-state actors to deliberate and provide insights relevant to the ‘100 Days Priorities for Africa’s Food Security’ initiated by H.E. Moses Vilakati, Commissioner, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, And Sustainable Environment (ARBE), African Union Commission.

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Antigua and Barbuda Takes the Helm of UN Caribbean Development Committee

Antigua and Barbuda has assumed the chairmanship of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), a key United Nations body focused on advancing economic and social development across the Caribbean, marking a significant milestone in the country’s regional and international leadership. The twin-island state will chair the 31st session of the CDCC for the 2026–2028 period, following a formal handover from Trinidad and Tobago during the committee’s 22nd meeting held in Trinidad last week. The CDCC operates under the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and was established in 1975 to promote cooperation among Caribbean nations.

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Digital Innovations for Health Security in the Global South

Date: 12 December 2025

DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), in partnership with Jhpiego India, convened its inaugural webinar on “Digital Innovations in Global South Health Security” on 12 December 2025. The virtual session was organised under the broader framework of BRICS+ and South-South Cooperation, and brought together a diverse group of policymakers, public health leaders, researchers, and implementation experts from across Africa, Asia, and other Global South regions.

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