



UCI Conference
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Booster Knowledge Exchange for Sustainable Development

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Main questions...

- What is knowledge exchange?
- Why is knowledge exchange important for sustainable development?
- How can we exchange knowledge to support sustainable development?

What is knowledge exchange?

- **Knowledge exchange** – just in time sharing information and experience among development cooperation participants;
- **Knowledge exchange participants:** policy makers, practitioners, civil society, academia, think tanks, NGOs, knowledge brokers;
- **Knowledge broker** is an organization that creates links between knowledge producers and knowledge users; facilitates their interaction; and coordinates opportunities to exchange knowledge;
- **Effective knowledge exchange** results in mutual learning through planning, producing, translating, disseminating, and applying existing or new knowledge in decision-making;
- **Instruments:** training and technical assistance; practitioners' exchanges and study visits; comprehensive economic development consultation programs;
- **Levels:** national, regional, international.

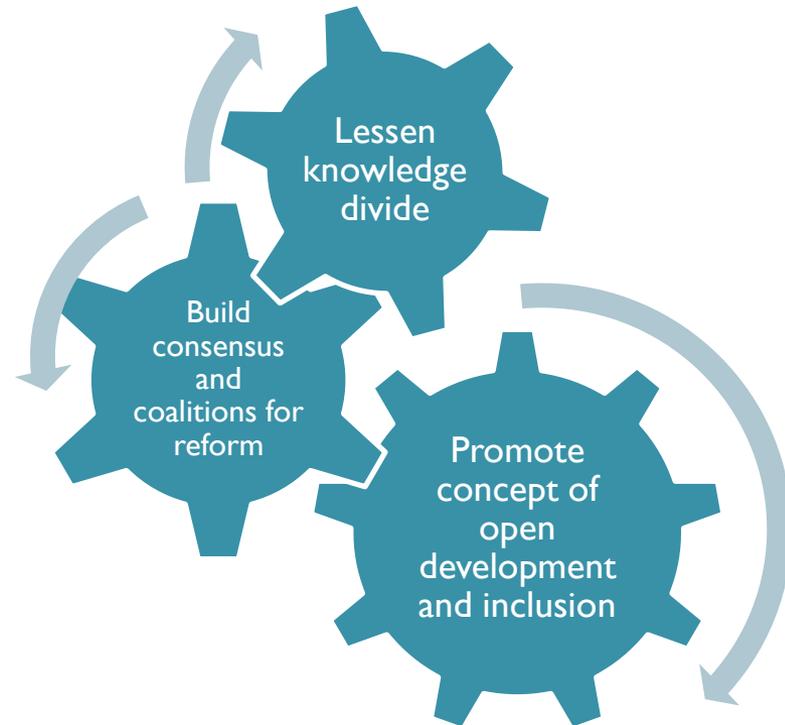
Why is knowledge exchange important?

Knowledge exchange

- Distinct **tool** for promoting growth and **sustainable development** that is complementary to finance and technical cooperation

Scaling Up Knowledge Sharing for Development- G-20 Development Working Group, Pillar 9

- Instrument for **emerging donors' positioning** (Korea, Singapore, Turkey) in international development cooperation.



Knowledge exchange –
way to share, replicate, and scale up
what works in development



How can we exchange knowledge to support sustainable development?

- Networks
- NGO platforms
- Partnerships
- South South Cooperation
- Trilateral Cooperation

Networks to booster Knowledge Exchange

Empowering Sustainability on Earth



Sustainability Fellows 2011

NGO Platforms to booster Knowledge Exchange

CONCORD

EUROPEAN NGO CONFEDERATION
FOR RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT



CONCORD - 26 national associations and 18 international networks represent 1,800 NGOs

- Influence the EU's policies and practices so that the Union and its member states enhance social justice, equality and human rights throughout the world.
- Promote the rights and responsibilities of citizens, development NGOs, civil society as a whole to act in solidarity with those living in poverty and to influence their representatives in governments and EU institutions.

Added value:

- Joint positions
- Coordination of activities
- Knowledge exchange

<http://www.concordeurope.org>

Partnerships to booster Knowledge Exchange

PAMS – Partnership Actions for Mitigating Syndromes within Swiss National Center of Competencies in Research

- Small participatory projects of limited time and financial scope designed to ensure that research results are tested for their practical use and eventually contribute to sustainable development;
- 22 PAMS between 2006 and 2010, average duration – 15 months;

Participants: NGOs, academia, local and national government, local people, international organizations, development organization, private sector.

Goals:

- **Transdisciplinarity** (linking scientific and practical knowledge)
- **Social learning** (negotiating and reaching a joint solution)
- **Mitigation** (developing tools to mitigate the effects of unsustainable development)

Outcomes: from individual to the national level in the partner countries ranging from awareness raising at the local level to policy changes at the national level

Knowledge exchange - a two way process to ensure research results are brought into practice, validated and adapted to rapidly changing conditions

PAMS Projects

- Bridging the gap between research, policy and practice on land issues in Nepal (2009-2011)
 - ➔ Nepal think tank established – Consortium for Land research and Policy Dialogue (COLARP) – formulation of responses to land related issues demanded by policymakers.
- Strengthening governance processes for sustainable agriculture in western Mexico (2009)
 - ➔ Training initiative “for farmers by farmers” jointly implemented by researchers and farmers for local farmers in organic farming and fair trade

South South Cooperation to booster Knowledge Exchange

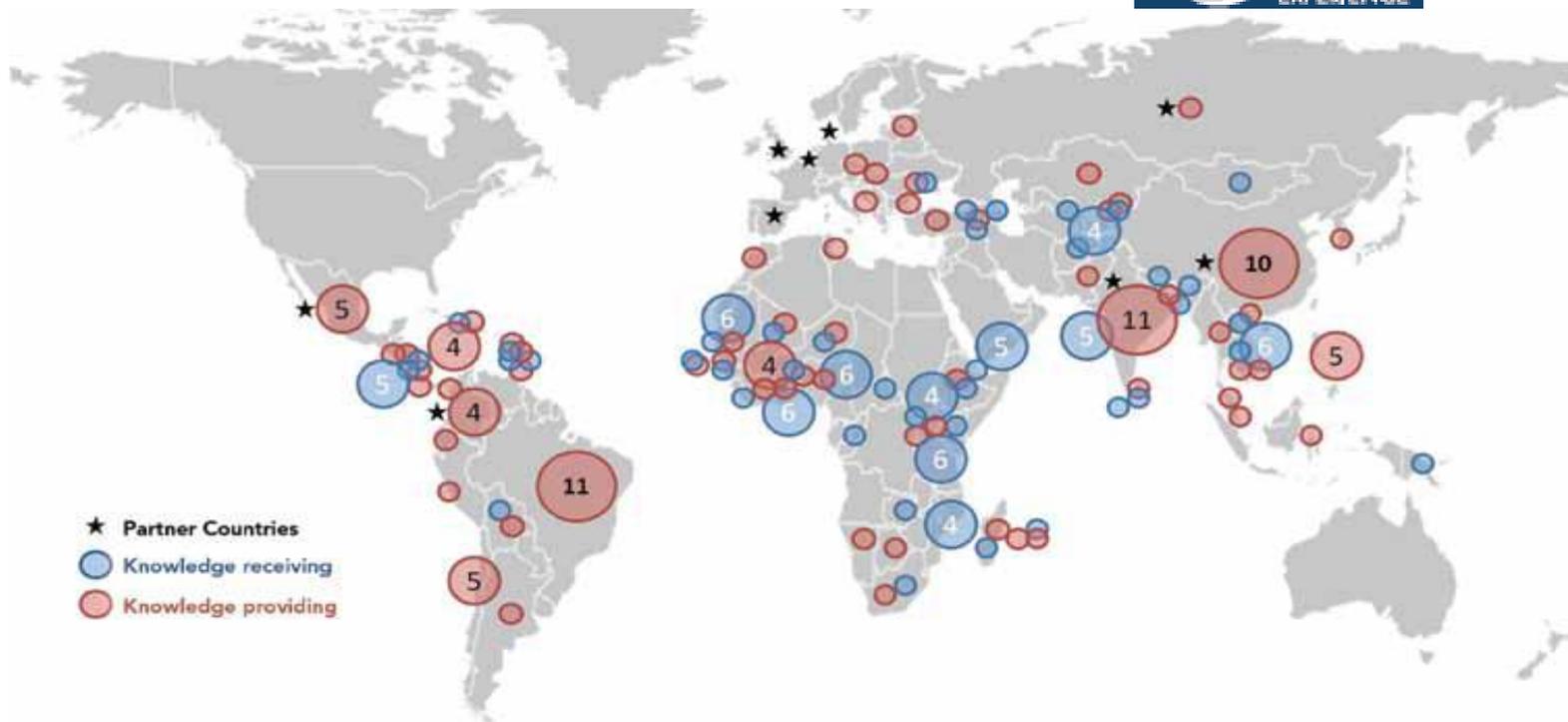
South-South Cooperation

- Key **development mechanism** going forward (Accra Agenda for Action, G20 Summit in Cannes, the UN South-South Cooperation summit in Nairobi and the 4. High Level Forum in Busan);
- Process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual or collective development through cooperative **exchanges of knowledge**, skills, resources and technical know-how on regional, subregional or interregional basis;
- Countries **collaborate as partners** based on the construction of **Consensus by the heads** of each country in such a way that its **benefits are equitably distributed** among all participants.
- Latin America, South and Southern Asia, Middle East, Africa, Pacific Region.

<http://www.southsouth.info/>

South South Knowledge Exchange facilitated by the World Bank

- World Bank's Knowledge Strategy;
- World Bank Institute South –South Knowledge Exchange Unit;
- South –South Experience Exchange Facility



South South Knowledge Exchange Case

Sharing experience in small scale private irrigation

(Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria)

Goal: to improve agriculture productivity and mitigate drought;

Participants: agriculture policymakers, regulators, and other stakeholders;

Activities: Field visits, regional conference

Results: a “best practice” guide which contributed to irrigation reform, conference reports dissemination to irrigation professionals throughout West Africa.

Trilateral cooperation to booster Knowledge Exchange

Trilateral cooperation

- relatively **recent mode of development cooperation** between developing countries for implementing a development project/program with the support of a developed country or international organization;
- a major boost in 1993 at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD);
- conceived as a **learning process** where interests of three parties are identified, and internationally agreed principles of aid effectiveness are applied;
- effective combination of the strengths of different partners;
- providers of **South-South co-operation** ; **Africa**- Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia ; **Asia**- India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam; **Eastern Europe, Latin America** - Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico.

Trilateral cooperation allows to distill **good practices** taking the advantage of linguistic and cultural **similarities** and similarities between emerging donor experiences and partner country needs

Trilateral cooperation.

Case

Training on cultivation techniques

Goal: to provide a training course on cassava cultivation techniques for partners from Cambodia

Parties: Cambodia, China, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Activity: a three week training course on cassava cultivation techniques hosted by the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) in Hainan.

Division of labor:

- Chinese provided the training venue, Chinese experts, covered costs;
- UNDP undertook a full training needs assessment in Cambodia, fielded an international cassava expert, facilitated the training.

Way forward for Sustainability Fellows

*“If you’re privileged to have knowledge,
you’re privileged to share this as well”*

(Quote from “Last Call at the Oasis”)

1. Consider available knowledge exchange environment
2. Network to identify knowledge exchange areas and partners
3. Identify national change agents on both sides of the knowledge exchange
4. Involve local policy leaders to support knowledge exchange
5. Approach international development community for facilitation of knowledge exchange process
6. Exchange knowledge to support sustainable development

Be proactive to make difference!