

ICRISAT Center of Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA)



A New Era of Agricultural Development Cooperation

- The Global South is emerging as a major source of agricultural innovations, expertise, and scalable development solutions.
- Countries facing similar agroecological and socio-economic realities can accelerate progress through direct exchange, adaptation, and mutual learning.

**The Global South is no more just a recipient of solutions.
It is becoming a source of solutions.**

What is South-South Cooperation?

South-South Cooperation (SSC): exchange of knowledge, technologies, skills, & solutions among countries of the Global South to address shared challenges & accelerate sustainable development.

Principles

- National ownership and sovereignty
- Equality, mutual benefit, and solidarity
- Demand-driven partnerships
- Non-conditionality and local adaptation

In Practice

- Sharing proven innovations and expertise
- Building capacities and institutions
- Facilitating technology adaptation and scaling
- Mobilizing partnerships and investment

Examples of Cooperation in Agricultural Development

Australia as a leading partner in triangular cooperation: linking innovation, investment & development outcomes across the Indo-Pacific & Africa.

Example 1

ICRISAT Semi-arid Crops

- Improved sorghum, millet and legume varieties developed in India adapted across Africa.
- Shared germplasm, breeding approaches and seed systems accelerated adoption.
- Result: improved productivity, resilience and food security.

Example 2

FPO Models

- Lessons from India's farmer aggregation and value-chain models through Farmer Producer Organization are increasingly being adapted in Africa and Asia.
- Strengthened market access and farmer incomes.

Example 3

Digital Advisory Services

- Mobile-based advisory, weather and agronomy tools piloted in South Asia and replicated in African contexts.
- Enabled rapid dissemination of knowledge at low cost.

Example 4

Integrated Watershed Management

- Watershed approaches validated in India transferred to dryland regions in Africa.
- Benefits included soil conservation, water productivity and climate resilience.

Triangular Cooperation: Scaling Impact Through Partnership

Triangular Cooperation: Combines Global South leadership and innovation with the expertise, networks, and resources of developed countries or multilateral organizations

- **How it works:**

- South-South-North exchange of proven solutions
- Northern/multilateral support through funding and technical expertise
- Local adaptation, ownership, and scaling:

- **Why it matters:**

- Accelerates adoption of successful innovations
- Builds stronger institutions and capacities
- Delivers greater development impact at scale

The Missing Link in South-South Cooperation

- Proven solutions exist. The challenge is scaling them across countries.
- Many successful agricultural innovations remain localized because of:
 - Limited platforms for systematic exchange and adaptation
 - Fragmented partnerships across research, policy, and development actors
 - Weak mechanisms for translating knowledge into scaled action
 - Limited pathways for mobilizing investments around proven solutions

The gap is not innovation. The gap is a mechanism to connect, adapt, scale, and sustain innovation across countries.



The Strategic Opportunity

The Global South holds vast **untapped** agricultural knowledge, innovation, and implementation experience.

Proven solutions often **remain confined** within national boundaries despite their relevance across countries.

South-South cooperation offers a **cost-effective pathway** for accelerating innovation adoption and scaling impact.

Scaling impact requires **platforms that connect** innovation, institutions, partnerships, and investment across countries and regions.

Strategic platforms can transform isolated successes **into regional and global development outcomes**.



The ISSCA Model

A Global Platform for Scaling Agricultural Innovations across the Global South



ICRISAT Center of Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA)

ISSCA's Purpose

- Translate decades of agricultural research into scalable, context-appropriate solutions
- Enable the exchange & scaling of innovations across the Global South with shared climatic, agricultural, & socio-economic challenges.

ISSCA is focussed on all domains of Agriculture

ISSCA's objectives

Accelerate Technology Adoption

Strengthen South-South Networks

Build Capacities & Partnerships

Focus on CGIAR-Aligned Impact

Launched on 3 June, 2025 in New Delhi, India

Acknowledged and recognized by CGIAR as a practical & implementation vehicle for South-South Cooperation.

ISSCA Domains

Agribusiness & Market Systems

Crop improvement & Production Technologies

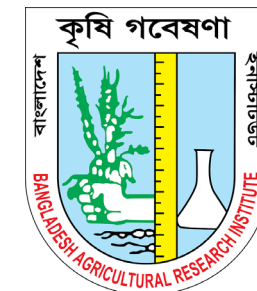
Digital Agriculture

Livestock improvement & Production Technologies

Natural Resource Management (NRM) & Climate Resilience

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion





ISSCA Partnership Ecosystem

ISSCA aims to evolve into a trusted convening platform where partners contribute expertise, networks, and resources toward shared development outcomes of the Global South.



ISSCA's Approach to Enabling South–South Cooperation

- **Adopting a multi-stakeholder model** that brings together CGIAR centres, NARS partners, donors, and development agencies to jointly design and implement initiatives under ISSCA
- **Integrating collaboration of ISSCA partners** (CGIAR centres, NARS partners, and development agencies) in all ISSCA programmes, through expert engagement, participant nominations, and sharing of technologies and knowledge
- **Leveraging complementary strengths of ISSCA stakeholders**—CGIAR centres for research and innovation, NARS partners for local adaptation, and development agencies for outreach and scaling
- **Building a shared platform with distributed ownership**, where CGIAR centres, NARS partners, and development agencies actively contribute to and shape ISSCA's growth

ISSCA's Scope of Activities

Stakeholder Engagement and Collaborations

- Engage with stakeholders across the Global South to assess their needs and identify national priorities
- Identify & Execute the Demand-Driven Projects/solutions collaborating with Relevant partners for the development and funding of the identified projects

Technology Scaling and Adoption

- Showcase validated, scalable agricultural solutions suitable for adaptation and replication
- Facilitate the adoption/transfer of the scalable technologies to global south partner institutions, enabling demand-driven implementation with local ownership of solutions

Agri-Education & Capacity building

- Agri-related capacity building in partnership with National and Global Institutions
- In-Person high-level development workshops in Global South to demonstrate the shortlisted technological solutions and capacity building of the stakeholders
- In-person Field Visits for global south partners to the identified project sites

ISSCA Impact (2025 –to date)

- 18 National and International Partners onboarded as ISSCA member institutions since June 2025
- The ISSCA Technology Solutions Repository features **100+ validated and scalable technology solutions** from the Global South, with a growing portfolio of solutions being added.
- Delivered **8** international two-week residential training programs, benefiting **299** mid- and senior-level professionals from **40+** countries across the Global South since June 2025.
- Engaged with over **5,000** stakeholders across the Global South through **6** virtual activities including conferences, webinars, and knowledge-sharing activities.



Upcoming ISSCA Activities for Q2, 2026

- **2 International in-person Training programs**
 - Agri-Entrepreneurship for Women and Youth;
 - Strategic Innovation Management for SMEs in Global south
- **3 Webinars** on ISSCA technology Solutions
- In-person **International Conference** on 12 September 2026 to celebrate **UN-Day for South-South Cooperation**, as part of Dryland Congress 2026 (10-12 Sept, 2026) at New Delhi, India
- **ISSCA Awards** to recognise outstanding Scalable innovations from the global south

Target Outcome

To convert these engagements into concrete collaborations, institutional partnerships and new project opportunities emerging from countries that see value in adopting ISSCA technologies and solutions

International UN Day for South-South Cooperation



Celebrated every year
on 12 September

In 2025 –the Occasion
was celebrated via a
Virtual Conference to
commemorate the day

2026

In-person International Conference –Dryland Congress 2026 is being held
Theme: Transforming Dryland Agriculture through South–South Cooperation
Dates: 10 –12 September 2026 | Venue: NASC Complex, New Delhi, India

Conference Activities

High level Plenary
sessions

Technical
Sessions across
6 thematic areas

Dryland Expo
and Innovation
Showcases

Startup and
Industry
Engagement

Policy Dialogues

ISSCA awards

Breeding for Tomorrow: Accelerating Genetic Gains
in Dryland Crops

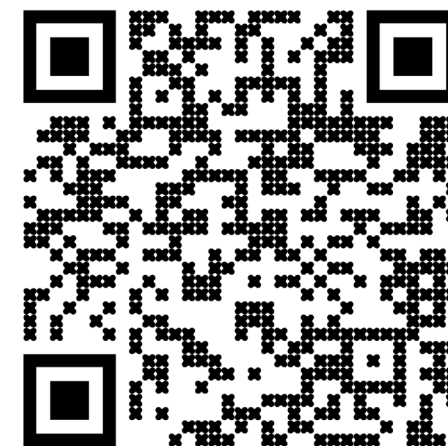
Climate Resilient Dryland Landscapes

Better Diets and Nutrition through Markets & Policies

Reimagining Resilient Dryland Farming Systems

Transforming Seed Systems in the Global South

Gender and Youth-centered Transformation



Register to Participate in
the conference

[https://drylandcongress.i
crisat.org/registrations/](https://drylandcongress.icrisat.org/registrations/)

Email : dryland-congress@icrisat.org
Phone: +91 8455683071



ISSCA Global Candidate Pool

- A standing pool of professionals from the Global South who can be considered for upcoming ISSCA capacity building initiatives
- Eligible candidates from this pool will be contacted by the ISSCA Team when a programme relevant to the profile comes up

Nomination Link & QR code:

<https://forms.office.com/r/RZC8FqhqER>



Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from ICRISAT!

The ICRISAT Centre of Excellence for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA) is building a standing pool of professionals from the Global South who can be considered for upcoming ISSCA capacity building initiatives. These include in-person international training programmes, short-term courses, and workshops designed to enable the deployment and scaling of field-ready innovations across the Global South — organised in partnership with ISSCA's global network of partners.

A sneak peek into our earlier international capacity building programs:

- <https://pressroom.icrisat.org/icrisat-strengthens-south-south-collaboration-through-issca-and-itec-global-training-programs>
- <https://pressroom.icrisat.org/icrisat-equips-global-leaders-with-technology-transfer-expertise-for-real-world-impact>
- <https://pressroom.icrisat.org/icrisat-and-indias-ministry-of-external-affairs-empower-small-businesses-for-agricultural-transformation-in-the-global-south>

As we plan our capacity building calendar, we are proactively identifying and connecting with professionals across the Global South whose expertise, institutional positioning, and interests align with ISSCA's mission. This is not an application for a specific programme — rather, it is an opportunity for professionals to register their interest and be considered for participation when suitable programmes are announced by ISSCA.

We invite professionals working in any of the following areas to submit a nomination:

- Scientific Research and Technology Development
- Technology Transfer and Commercialisation
- Intellectual Property and Innovation Management
- Extension, Technology Deployment, and Dissemination (Capacity building)
- Policy, Planning, and Regulatory Affairs
- Market Systems and Value Chain Development
- Gender, Inclusion, and Social Research
- Community-Based Development

Eligible candidates from this pool will be contacted by the ISSCA Team when a relevant programme is identified and guided through the formal application process at that stage.

Nomination Form:
[ICRISAT ISSCA - Global Candidate Pool for Capacity Building Programmes - Nomination Form – Fill out form](#)

We encourage you to circulate this among colleagues and peers within your global networks who may find it relevant and beneficial. The form remains open on a rolling basis.

For any queries, please write to us at contact.issca@icrisat.org with cc: Sravanti.vedula@icrisat.org

Warm regards,
ISSCA Team
ICRISAT



ISSCA Activities – 2027 & Beyond

Expansion of ISSCA
Ecosystem to onboard
more Global South
Partners

Triangular Cooperation
with Developed Regions
like Australia and Europe
for Technology Transfer
and Investments

Pilot Studies and
Projects on themes
such as “Seed without
Borders”

Joint Projects on
technology scaling and
adoption

In-person Visits to
Proven Technology
Solution sites

International
Fellowships & Executive
Leadership programs

What makes the ISSCAmodel different?

1. Platform, Not a Project

ISSCA is a long-term collaboration platform that continues beyond individual projects.

2. Demand- Driven

Solutions are identified, and adopted by countries facing similar agricultural realities, ensuring relevance and sustainability.

3. Beyond Technology Transfer

ISSCA facilitates not only innovation exchange, but also capacity strengthening, institutional learning, and partnership development.

4. Multi- Stakeholder by Design

It brings together CGIAR centres, NARS, governments, academia, development partners, and the private sector on a single platform.

5. From Knowledge to Scale

ISSCA creates pathways for adaptation, adoption, investment, and scaling of proven innovations across countries and regions.

ISSCAas Global Platform

Multi-country
innovation testing

Shared living
laboratories and
research facilities

Cross-country
climate adaptation
research

Joint seed system
initiatives

Digital agriculture
validation
networks

South-South-North
research partnerships

Exploring Opportunities for Triangular Cooperation in Agricultural Development

Australia as a leading partner in triangular cooperation: linking innovation, investment & development outcomes across the Indo-Pacific & Africa.

Technology and Knowledge Exchange

- Facilitate exchange of relevant agricultural innovations, expertise, and best practices between Australia, the developed world, and countries of the Global South.
- Facilitate the adaptation of proven innovations to diverse agroecological and socio-economic contexts.

Capacity Strengthening and Learning

- Facilitate fellowships, study visits, training, and professional exchanges for researchers, extension personnel, and policymakers from the Global South
- Facilitate demonstration of new technological solutions developed by public and private institutions in Australia and other developed nations.

Scaling of Proven Solutions

- Facilitate the dissemination, adaptation, and scaling of validated agricultural innovations
- Facilitate long-term institutional linkages and professional networks for ISSCA member institutions in Australia and other developed nations.

Facilitate Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Investment

- Facilitate collaborations and funding for technology adoption and scaling-up initiatives.
- Facilitate opportunities for collaborative investment to further expand the reach and impact of the ISSCA platform.

What could Crawford Fund contribute?

1. Convening Power

Connect ISSCA with Australian universities, ACIAR networks, funders, private entities and research institutes.

2. Leadership Development

Fellowships, executive programs and mentoring for emerging agricultural leaders.

3. Knowledge Brokerage

Translate Australian scientific advances into scalable applications across the Global South.

4. Co-investment Facilitation

Help build partnerships attracting philanthropy, development finance and industry participation.

5. South-South-North Partnerships

Position Australia as a trusted facilitator rather than just a donor.

The next generation of agricultural development cooperation will not be North-to-South or South-to-South alone. It will be triangular partnerships that combine Global South innovation, Australian expertise, and shared investment to deliver impact at scale.

ISSCA helps development partners convert investments into multi-country impact by connecting proven innovations, capable institutions, and scalable partnerships across the globe.



A collective vision. A shared future. United by purpose.
Shaping inclusive and sustainable progress across the Global South.



For a resilient agricultural transformation

Join the ISSCA Journey Today!

Contact.issca@icrisat.org

