

South-South Cooperation Policy as a Tool for Agricultural Technical Change

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The idea of South-South cooperation allows developing countries to find sustainable and low-cost solutions to their problems and possibilities for development in the experiences of other southern nations. Since increasing of productivity in agriculture is crucial for poverty alleviation in developing countries, this sector appears to be one of the driving forces of South-South scientific and technical cooperation. Especially it began to gain momentum after 2000, and although there were some earlier initiatives such as the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR, established in 1971), developing countries started to feel the need for more effective institutional framework. It resulted in intensifying regional cooperation and establishing of some inter-regional projects. Many of these arrangements have political origins; however they become important sources of funds for South-South research collaboration and technology transfer which is alternative to traditional diffusionism. This paper primarily will focus on the example of South Africa's participation in South-South agricultural projects of African Union, South African Development Community (SADC), India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum and some other organisations.