



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



## **HLPF 2021 Online High-level Side Event**

### **Leveraging Science, Technology, and Innovation to Build More Resilient Food Systems: the case of the Juncao Technology**

**8:00-9:00 am, 13 July 2021, Eastern Standard Time**

**3:00-4:00 pm, 13 July 2021, East Africa Time**

**8:00-9:00 pm, 13 July 2021, China Standard Time**

**0:00-1:00 am, 14 July 2021, Fiji Standard Time**

**Zoom Meeting**

### **CONCEPT NOTE (Draft)**

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and hunger, is the greatest global challenge facing the world today. It is also an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries, in landlocked developing countries, in small island developing States and in some middle-income countries. However, it is of great concern that the world was off track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of eradicating poverty and ending hunger by 2030 even before the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic hit. If anything, progress in attaining these goals has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to recent World Bank estimates, the global extreme poverty rose in 2020 for the first time in over 20 years as the COVID-19 pandemic pushed an additional 88 million to 115 million people into extreme poverty. This translates into a global poverty rate —the share of the world’s population living on less than \$1.90 per day— between 9.1% and 9.4% in 2020.

A renewed commitment to fully implementing SDG 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development will be critical to getting back on track and avoiding a prolonged or permanent setback to achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Besides increasing official development assistance, efforts are also required to design sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies that include leveraging science, innovation, and technology to promote agriculture development and building the capacity of smallholder farmers to adopt and such technologies. In that regard, the 2030 Agenda calls for enhanced and expanded access by developing countries to appropriate technologies that are pro-poor and raise productivity. Sustainable solutions must be developed, scaled up and disseminated, using the untapped potential of new and rapidly developing technologies. One such solution is the Juncao technology that was developed by the National Engineering Research Centre for Juncao Technology of the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU). The Juncao technology is a successful example of an innovation being deployed through south-south cooperation to build more resilient food systems, minimize

environmental damage and end poverty and hunger in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Smallholder farmers in developing countries experience serious challenges that include low-productivity agriculture, lack of access to high-yielding crop varieties, fertilizer, credit, markets, and land degradation and desertification. Agricultural production systems are also based on increasing cultivated areas and family labor, with limited use of improved inputs, production methods and agricultural equipment, putting them at risk of poverty and hunger. The socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded these challenges, adding urgency to the call to galvanize action and delivery of the SDGs and the eradication of poverty and hunger, particularly in rural areas. Hence, greater efforts are required to address rising levels of poverty and food insecurity and to support countries in achieving SDG1 and SDG2 and nutrition for all.

To support countries in achieving the SDGs, the Chinese President Xi Jinping spearheaded a series of initiatives, notably the establishment of the China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund. The Fund aims to promote scientific and technological innovation in the developing world and contribute to the work of the UN and multilateralism. Sponsored through the Fund, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), in collaboration the National Engineering Research Centre for Juncao Technology of the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, launched an SDG project on poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture through using Juncao technology in several developing countries. Through the transfer of technology and capacity building, the Juncao project has improved the availability and access to productivity-enhancing technology, benefiting smallholder farmers. To date, the Juncao technology demonstration centers and bases have been established in 13 countries by FAFU and around 8,000 agricultural officials and experts from developing countries have been trained. By supporting mushroom cultivation and animal feed, this technology contributes to boosting food security and the transition to a green economy through environmentally friendly technology, more sustainable agriculture, and green jobs, which is the foundation for sustainable and inclusive development.

Through south-south cooperation, this initiative aims to enhance knowledge and strengthen national capacities of developing countries to improve their policies and programmes by supporting sustainable agriculture, promoting productive activities, income generation and entrepreneurship, contributing to getting back on track and accelerating global efforts to achieve the SDGs. In particular, the project is addressing rural poverty and hunger, decent job deficits and inequality as key levers to getting back on track to achieve the SDGs.

Experience from the field in several developing countries shows that the project using Juncao technology has helped local communities advance progress in SDGs implementation, including in eradication of poverty, reduction of hunger, use of renewable energy, promotion of employment, prevention of land degradation, restoration of biodiversity, and improved resilience and adaptation to climate change.

The 2021 high-level political forum (HLPF) is an opportune moment for the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN, UN-DESA and FAFU to co-organize this side event in order to highlight the benefits of south-south and triangular cooperation as a means of enhancing access to science, technology, and innovation, knowledge sharing as well as capacity building and to effectively contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

## **Objectives and Expected Outcomes**

1. To enhance knowledge and strengthen national capacities of developing countries to improve their policies and programmes supporting sustainable agriculture and environment through the transfer of Juncao technology to eradicate poverty, and promote productive

activities, income generation, and entrepreneurship especially among the poor, smallholder farmers, women, youth and to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

2. To highlight the benefits of South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a means of enhancing access to science, technology, and innovation, knowledge sharing as well as capacity building and to effectively contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.
3. Strengthen dialogue among stakeholders, promote the sharing of ideas and suggest initiatives and partnerships, while strengthening its role in facilitating knowledge transfer and offering space for networking.

## **Participation**

Member States, representatives from UNDESA and other UN entities and international organizations, as well as the public, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, agriculture, food and nutrition experts, and entrepreneurs will be invited to participate in the online side event.

## **Language**

English, French, and Chinese.