Trilateral Cooperation offers a unique approach to development where multiple actors join hands in creating innovative solutions that build on international best practices and concrete experiences. UNDP’s partnership with China focuses on transferring Chinese experience, innovation and technology, technical capacity and hardware to promote mutual learning between China and other developing countries.

**TRILATERAL MODALITIES**

**TRILATERAL COOPERATION WITHIN SSC PARTNERS**

China cooperates with UNDP to provide financial resources and/or technical support for projects. It opens a channel to facilitate technology transfer, and peer-to-peer learning.

**EXAMPLE:** UNDP - China - Malawi Cooperation on Disaster Risk Management

**TRILATERAL COOPERATION WITH AN EXTERNAL DONOR**

This model incorporates an external donor who provides financial support to pilot projects together with know-how and experience.

**EXAMPLE:** UNDP - Denmark - China - Ghana & Zambia Cooperation on Renewable Energy

**TRILATERAL COOPERATION WITH COMPONENT LEVERAGE**

UNDP supports implementation as part of a larger Chinese cooperation programme that aims to scale development impact.

**EXAMPLE:** China’s South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund
Cambodia has identified agriculture as the top priority for socio-economic development. Even though cassava is the second largest agricultural crop, there is very little technical assistance provided to the sector. Lack of technical support might result in serious ecological damage considering cassava cultivation could lead to nutrient depletion and other side effects on the soil.

To improve sustainable cassava cultivation and boost trade, UNDP, China and Cambodia have worked together to help small processors and exporters of cassava move up the value chain, increase their revenue and cassava export, and create jobs in the cassava sector.

Total Budget: USD$700,000

Major Partners: Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM), Chinese Academy of Tropical and Agricultural Sciences, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia (MAFF), Kampong Cham and Pailin Provincial Department of Agriculture (PDA)

Project Period: 2011 – 2015

Knowledge and Research:

A comprehensive Needs Assessment Study (NAS) was conducted, which aimed at identifying specific needs of the Cambodian cassava sector in relation to production and processing, as well as gaps in relation to supply and demands for the Chinese market.

Cambodia’s first ever Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was conducted, which aimed at mitigating the environmental damage resulting from malpractice in cassava cultivation techniques.

Capacity Development for Improved Yields:

30 Cambodian officials and local academic institutions received specialized training to increase capacities on cassava cultivation. Tailored training for processors/exporters, farmers, and government officials was developed using the Training of Trainers approach to empower trainees to become trainers.

Increased Trade:

Targeted support to enhance cassava exports from Cambodia to China was provided through a business-matching mission, where a Cambodian delegation of key stakeholders visited the city of Nanning in China’s Guangxi Province in September 2014. They met potential Chinese Cassava buyers, local trade and commerce officials, and other major actors in the cassava industry in China. The mission proved significant for understanding market requirements and entry points.
Malawi is prone to climate-related disasters, especially droughts and floods leading to loss of lives, properties, and livelihoods. The 2015 floods brought devastating effects to the country and its people. Exacerbated by a weak early warning system, when disasters hit, people often sought emergency shelters in public buildings such as schools and mosques. Yet, some of the shelter locations were unsafe, often leading to cases of disease outbreaks and sexual exploitation and abuse.

Given the frequency and the severity of extreme weather events in Malawi, UNDP, China, and Malawi launched a Small Grants Scheme to reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience of local communities and people.

After a competitive process, five community-based organizations and one civil protection committee were selected to implement micro-projects, constructing evacuation facilities, dyke, and dams in five out of the fifteen disaster-prone districts.

**Total Budget:** USD$900,000

**Major Partners:** Ministry of Commerce of China (MOFCOM), Department of Disaster Management Affairs of Malawi (DODMA), Beijing Normal University

23,000 people helped

This community-led project directly helped 23,000 people. The Small Grants Scheme model was a success and will be scaled up and applied to all disaster-prone districts in Malawi.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Trilateral projects are community-driven and support local community members to design, implement, and manage projects to meet their needs. In Malawi, daily consultations were carried out with six communities throughout the projects.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Developing men and women’s knowledge and capacities and ensuring full participation from a wide range of community members are critical components of the trilateral projects, ensuring local ownership and long-term sustainability. In Cambodia, by using the Training of Trainers approach, more than 30 Cambodian officials received specialized training on cassava cultivation and went on to provide training to local community members.

WHY TRILATERAL PROJECTS?

A platform to bring in multiple partners for better development solutions

CREATING SYNERGIES

Trilateral projects boost existing synergies between the partner governments’ development plans, China’s strategic cooperation, and UNDP’s country development programme. These projects encourage close collaboration among all stakeholders and ensure a demand-driven process with tailored and innovative solutions.

POLICY IMPACT

Trilateral projects seek to scale up and foster an enabling environment for long-term policy change. In Malawi, the Small Grants Scheme model was a success and will be scaled up and applied to all disaster-prone districts in the country.

ALL PROJECTS

- **Post-Disaster Recovery**
  - Antigua and Barbuda
  - Bangladesh
  - Commonwealth of Dominica
  - Nepal
  - Pakistan

- **Renewable Energy**
  - Ghana
  - Zambia

- **Agricultural Development**
  - Cambodia

- **Disaster Management**
  - Kazakhstan
  - Kyrgyzstan
  - Malawi
  - Tajikistan