Master’s Degree Thesis
Brazilian South – South Cooperation in Africa: efforts to combat food insecurity through the application of the “Fome Zero” strategy

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Subject/main field of study: International Relations
Course code: AS3013
Credits: 15 ECTS
Date of examination:

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Abstract
After the end of Cold War, the global system changed and from a bipolar to a multipolar world. This has created a perfect environment for emerging powers that in this period start to appear and advocate the problems and goals related to Southern countries. There are new possibilities for developing countries. They do not have to rely on Western countries anymore and they can support each other and contribute to their own development. In this context I will study South – South Cooperation, in particular between Africa and Brazil, by looking at the strategy carried out by both actors in terms of food insecurity. The aim of this study is to describe SSC through the Afro – Brazilian case study, showing its principles and values and, at the end, reflecting on its capacity to replace the traditional approaches of developed countries.
Table of contents

1. Introduction ......................................................................................................................1
   1.1 Preface .........................................................................................................................1
   1.2 Objective and Research Questions .............................................................................3
   1.3 State of Research .........................................................................................................3
   1.4 Limitations ....................................................................................................................6
   1.5 Theoretical Framework ...............................................................................................7
   1.6 Research Method ..........................................................................................................9

2. The African and Brazilian approaches to hunger .........................................................11
   2.1 A brief background on hunger situation in Africa ....................................................11
   2.2 The African approach: The Maputo and Malabo Declarations .................................12
   2.3 The Brazilian approach: The Fome Zero Program ....................................................14
      2.3.1 The Fome Zero activities .......................................................................................17

3. How the Brazilian approach has been applied in Africa .............................................21
   3.1 Brazil’ strategy towards food security ........................................................................21
   3.2 Fome Zero applied in Africa .....................................................................................26

4. Conclusions .....................................................................................................................30

References ........................................................................................................................32
1. Introduction

1.1 Preface

When talking about cooperation, in terms of development or aid in general, the main topic that comes to mind is North – South Cooperation (NSC). This approach has always been characterized by an asymmetrical relationship between the aid provider country and the receiver, so it can also be said that a western country helps a developing one not only because there’s a commitment toward progress, but mainly because behind its actions there are implicit goals like trade diversification or resource exploitation. But, in the contemporary era there are other alternatives to the traditional approach. In fact, after the end of the Cold War the order of the world was changing. The world was not bipolar anymore, but there were many powers: it was a multipolar situation.

In this context, we find the so-called emerging powers, those states that are usually considered as developing countries, that have always been the aid receivers and never fully involved or heard in international matters. But, after the Cold War everything changed, the developing countries started to think about what they could do for their own development. NSC was not the only alternative, the southern countries want a different approach that considers their past, real needs and culture to develop a proper progress strategy; in the light of this need they started to look to other “southern” countries that could become a strategic partner for their development. The approach they developed has been called South-South Cooperation (SSC). Even though, it is not yet clear whether this new type of cooperation represents an alternative to the traditional North-South or whether it is an additional support for developing countries. It is not possible to affirm its capacity to replace the support of traditional donors, as these are emerging nations that are going through a process of political, economic strengthening and definition of their role in the international context. For this reason, the emerging powers do not yet have the resources and tools to fully support a partner country in its development path. It is important to highlight that SSC refers to the collaboration between countries in the South of the world in the political, economic, social, cultural or environmental fields. This relationship can have various forms and involve more countries, so there are bilateral and multilateral, regional, sub-regional
and interregional ties\textsuperscript{1}. It is not only a matter of mutual aid between developing countries, SSC includes dynamics of knowledge sharing, skills, experts and resources useful to achieve development goals\textsuperscript{2}.

This study will focus on the relations between Africa and Latin America, which have mutual interest considering the common history and similar internal challenges. Both territories are considered to be developing with problems related to security, food security, economic growth, which to be faced need external support that has, in turn, produced a dependence on traditionally hegemonic powers. The latter, most of the time, if not always, are the old colonial powers that continue to maintain economic and political relations with their former colonies.

This thesis analyses the impact of South – South Cooperation in the nutrition domain, in particular the partnership between the African Union (AU) and the Brazilian Centre of Excellence against Hunger (BCEH). New theories and possibilities for southern countries working together will be reflected in this case study, since we find two Third World actors that work together on a path to reach the reduction of child hunger. This is possible partly because of their common past and problems. Both countries have had a colonial period and in the contemporary era they both face similar problems like state security, health and nutrition.

It is also important to consider that it is not just malnutrition. The fight against hunger is a starting point for a wider development; providing food to children means stopping school dropouts and giving more opportunities to the new generations of Africans.

This study will focus on how Africa has applied the Brazilian school feeding program in countries like Kenya, Tanzania and Benin, starting from the first conferences and commitments of the African Governments on the nutrition issues to today’s strategies. And in doing so I am going to highlight the role of the SSC in the international domain. I argue that this case study is a valid example of this new development approach and can represent an alternative to traditional aid frameworks. The Brazilian model, as I will show in the next chapters, demonstrates that cooperation is fundamental for peer to peer relationships and most important of all the actions or programs implemented should be designed by taking into consideration the real needs, problems and conditions of the destination country. This


\textsuperscript{2} Idem.
model represents a good example of how cooperation should be carried out in order to create a long-term development. In this case, school feeding is just a piece of a larger plan; ensuring regular food supplies, as the Brazilian scheme has demonstrated, can have a range of positive knock-on effects. Regular meals can lead to regular school attendance, a better educated workforce and the potential for future economic growth. Furthermore, this program reflects the SSC strategies that are based on horizontal partnerships, not exploitative relationships, on common values and objectives.

1.2 Objective and Research Questions

The objective of this thesis is to analyse the impact of South – South Cooperation (SSC) through the case study of the partnership between Africa, in particular the African Union, and the Brazilian Centre of Excellence against Hunger.

This study will address the following research questions:
- To what extent can the case study – and by extension, SSC - be viewed as an effective means of dealing with food insecurity?
- Why can the Africa – Brazil partnership be considered as a good example of SSC?

1.3 State of Research

The state of research related to the topic of this thesis is quite advanced but it doesn’t cover the whole SSC scope. There are tons of research on what are the best ways for countries to develop, but until today the studies and analysis done don’t cover what’s new in SSC. The main studies refer to topics such as regionalization\(^3\), to the new donor characteristics\(^4\), to what makes SSC different from NSC\(^5\) and some relate to certain case studies like China, India\(^6\) or other new emerging powers.\(^7\) In particular the regionalization trend represents an essential part of SSC, this phenomenon dates back to the post-Cold War period, when the global order changed dramatically, the bipolar system had collapsed.

and new configurations and nations were emerging, eager to see their increased role in the world political apparatus recognized. This process of geopolitical reorganization of relations has involved at various levels many actors from multinational companies, to states, intervention forces, non-governmental organizations, cities, regions, etc. And at the same time did not have a single form of demonstration, there have been interstate alliances, global forums, local partnerships and networks that connect every possible actor.

It is clear that this phenomenon transcends every concept of nation and community, aiming at the non-exclusion. In fact, being part of a region not only means being part of the defined geographical area, but also involves ideological, functional, historical and social elements. Regionalism therefore encompasses a wide range of phenomena, but its most concrete form is the institutionalization of regional organizations. The phenomenon of regionalism has evolved and has led to numerous organizations such as the South Atlantic Peace Cooperation Zone (ZOPACAS), the Africa – South America Summit (ASA), the India Brazil South Africa Dialogue Forum (IBSA), and so on.

So far the case studies analysed by other research mainly focus on themes like development and environment, development and economy, development and market, and development and health. But none of these studies focuses on food security, the object of my study. For this reason, I can argue that my study can contribute to the development of research into SSC, since my thesis will link food security and nutrition to health, development and education.

That said, many of these past studies can be useful to understand my study, especially those about the characteristics of the new donors. A report from the United Nations defines new donors as aid providers that don’t put financial logics and political aims before the aid, but support developing countries without impositions or clauses since they both have common aims and problems. This new kind of relationship is based on mutual respect, benefits and respect of the state’s sovereignty.

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9 Mattheis F., Regionalism and Interregionalism: The case of Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa, University of Pretoria, p. 3.
10 Idem.
Another area of research that is relevant for my study is the work that has been done to define and characterize what SSC actually is. For authors like Muhr and Michelle Morais de Sá e Silva see SSC not as a dependency relationship but as an interdependency where can be found values like solidarity, complementarity and cooperation.\textsuperscript{13} Moreover, the author Soule-Kohdou sees SSC as relationships between nations that can be bilateral, multilateral, regional or sub regional.\textsuperscript{14} This means that our concept of South is not just the physical south, but it involves all the countries that have development issues or are willing to cross a path towards progress. That’s why there are coalitions between countries that don’t come from the same region or just from the southern hemisphere. We can mention BRICS that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, or IBSA where there are India, Brazil and South Africa. SSC is a wider phenomenon that reaches different situations and unites nations from every corner of the world. In this regard, it’s important to point out that partnerships are not only based on the financial wealth of the donor, but on past experiences in particular fields or common internal issues like poverty, hunger or lack of infrastructure. In terms of infrastructures it’s important to cite studies focused on the Chinese role in Africa, in fact authors like Godement\textsuperscript{15} and Serra\textsuperscript{16} point out the Chinese approach that covers its economic interest behind the Beijing Consensus that sets the basis for a partnership between Africa and China. The main reasons behind Chinese SSC are the desire to establish itself as an emerging power, increase its competitiveness on the global market and define its role as a donor for developing countries. In addition to these aspirations, there are the most intrinsic needs, namely the need for raw materials and natural resources in order to sustain its economic productivity, which has been increasing since the 1990s. In this context the Beijing Consensus of 2004 and the principles of Ramo, i.e. innovation-led development, social development, sustainable development, non-interference and stability\textsuperscript{17}, have presented a more pragmatic possibility of development that goes to support projects related to the training of each level, infrastructure projects,

\textsuperscript{13} Muhr T., Beyond 'BRICS': Ten theses on South – South cooperation in the twenty-first century, University of Nottingham, 2016, pg. 6 – 10.
\textsuperscript{15} Godement F., Gong. C, Le Van J., Vendryes T., (2012), Facing the risks of the "Going out strategy", European Council on foreign relations, Asian Centre
\textsuperscript{16} Serra N., Stiglitz J.E, (2008), The Washington Consensus Reconsidered Toward a New Global Governance, Oxford Scholarship online
\textsuperscript{17} Course notes Dynamics of Africa at Dalarna University, The Beijing Consensus (Part I), Iva Sojková Seminar, 07/11/2018.
projects that enhance the environment without damaging it, initiatives aimed at encouraging security and stability of the state; all this without intervening in matters of internal governance, without demanding respect for human rights and democratic standards, and respecting the self-determination of each nation.

All these factors have made China one of the main partners of Africa and that from 2010 makes preferential agreements for oil supplies with Angola, Sudan, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Equatorial Guinea\textsuperscript{18}.

In the end, it’s important to take into account the previous studies to have a better vision of what SSC is, to understand why this approach is different and why these new actors and aid providers act differently from the Western donors. If we consider this and relate it to study, I can argue that through this case study is possible to show some of the characteristics mentioned above, i.e. solidarity, complementarity, mutual respect and non-interference in internal affairs.

1.4 Limitations

This study focuses on the SSC between Africa and Brazil in the nutrition domain. Considering that cooperation as a topic is too wide it is impossible to not have limitations while writing. This thesis can’t cover everything in development studies, so it is focusing on SSC (and not other development approaches) through the Afro Brazilian partnership, and just on nutrition and hunger issues that represent a common problem for both actors involved (and not other development concerns).

In the end, there’s one last limitation regarding resources that it’s necessary to mention: the current worldwide sanitary crisis due corona virus has changed the way of living and working of everybody. It was impossible for me to rely on materials gathered on the field and direct contact with organizations involved in SSC between Africa and South America. For this reason, I had to rely on online resources available in the virtual libraries of WFP and BCEAH, this represents a relevant limit since I couldn’t retrieve more detailed information directly from the actors carrying out projects in Kenya, Tanzania, Benin and Mozambique.

\textsuperscript{18} Fiori A., \textit{La Cina in Africa, un primo bilancio}, in: Novati G.C., p.94
1.5 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this thesis is based on the existent theories on North – South Cooperation. Even though there is research on South – South Cooperation, there are theories, but not as much as for others phenomena. It’s a new phenomenon and the studies still lack some elements.

There isn’t a lot of research on SSC or research that looks at it from a theoretical perspective. But Kragelund in his paper “The Potential Role of Non-Traditional Donors’ Aid in Africa” defines the role of new donors, that are not just developing countries, but emerging powers that by supporting and investing in southern countries try to contribute to their development. In his text he argues that the fast growth of economies like China and India has resulted in their potential to become donor nations and this has also affected the potential of SSC. In fact, the emerging powers by investing in Southern partners use development to facilitate economic flows; in this way they create a win – win relationship that helps both countries to reach their goals.

A study from the United Nations reaffirms the economic growth of certain developing countries that has stimulated the debate on SSC, the new emerging actors and the principles of SSC. In this debate, the main actor involved is Africa, that represents an important partner for Southern countries because of its natural resources and the possibility of trade diversification that is an economic boost for emerging countries like China, India and Brazil. This situation has also opened up opportunities to Africa, that has implemented projects and actions in partnership with developing countries in order to achieve a general growth of the continent.

However, one of the most sustained discussion of SSC is by Silva. Her analysis is particularly relevant to this study, so I will discuss it in some detail further on. First, however, I will discuss another theory on NSC.

In this thesis I will refer to “Modernization Theory” a paradigm of beliefs that says that every country has to go through the process of improvement and modernization. This means that the developing countries have to experience the same phases of development.

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21 Krüger L., North – North, North – South, and South – South relations, University of Trier, Germany, pg.3.
the western nations. Following this theory, the northern nations are characterised by freedom, entrepreneurship, dynamism, industrialization and achievement, while Third World countries are seen as undeveloped, overpopulated and irrational because of their predominant rituals and primitive culture. This theory was very popular in the 1950s and was promoted by scholars like Lerner and Deutsch. However, since the end of 1990s, more academic research has suggested that the modernization approach is not the right one for the developing countries. Scholars have argued that the path to progress for them should be characterized by their own culture and their real needs. For example, Levy argues that Modernization theory is Europeanised and Americanised, that’s why as times passes every country will resemble each other, it’s a homogenizing process. For this reason, I conclude that the Modernization Theory suggests that it can be applied to any country regardless of its needs and conditions, but SSC suggests otherwise. It argues that developing countries need to create and implement a strategy based on their own characteristics, needs and problems.

Another theory to take into consideration is “Dependency Theory” that focuses on the relation between northern and southern countries and argues that we cannot analyse today’s situation without considering the past and current interventions. The main point of this theory is the fact that dependency on the north has been based on the exploitation and oppression of the southern countries by leading them to a chronic underdevelopment.

It is evident how Western countries have contributed to the current situation of the African and Latin-American countries, so it’s not possible to detach the historic past from the on-going issues related to health, education, economy and security. This theory won’t be used in this thesis, but it’s useful to understand and notice why and how NSC is different from SSC; so it will be also helpful to highlight SSC as a new approach for developing countries.

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24 Krüger L. pg. 4.
Although SSC is still an emerging field and I want to refer to Michelle Morais de Sá e Silva’s approach. In her article she characterises the functioning of SSC in three historical phases:

1. Self-reliance and political strengthening (1949 - 79)
2. Demobilisation (1980 – 98)
3. “best practice transfer” among developing countries (1999 - onwards)

The best practice transfer approach is crucial for my study, since Silva points out that it represents the sharing of methods and techniques that have worked in other environments by producing positive results. This is the theoretical approach which I plan to take in my study. I want to argue that the Africa-Brazil partnership studied here is an example of ‘best practice transfer’. It is a clear example of sharing among Third World Countries, in this case showing how Africa and Brazil are working together to reach the zero hunger goal by taking the Brazilian approach and adapting it to the African context.

This idea of ‘best practice transfer’ is fundamental to explain why SSC differs from traditional development partnerships. The basis of the cooperation among southern countries is based on solidarity, complementarity and cooperation. This means that every country involved in a partnership commits to a mutual support without any interference in the internal affairs. Moreover, this relationship is characterized by the shared responsibilities and the adherence to develop joint projects that lead to mutual benefits and development.

The theories outlined here – about new donors and best practice transfer - will help me to further define how SSC works, particularly in the area of nutrition.

1.6 Methods and Sources

The research approach used in this study is the qualitative method, since to extract the necessary data it has been fundamental to read and analyse the reports published by the BECAH and the WFP. To select the needed data, I have looked for keywords and themes that were common to all the reports in order to have different information on the main areas of my study, i.e. food programmes, school nutrition and projects related to development starting from food security.

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Muhr T., Beyond ‘BRICS’: Ten theses on South – South cooperation in the twenty-first century, University of Nottingham, 2016, pg.6.
Considering the organization described above, the reports and studies produced by them have been central to understand the scope of its actions and the results. That’s why its virtual library has been my main source, where I could find annual reports and studies about the field missions in the countries supported by the centre.

Even in this case, the online library has been fundamental to get the data required to my research. In this database I looked for the regional annual reports, reports about partnerships, country reports and development reports.

I have examined the annual reports released by the CEAH between 2012 and 2019. This include a total of eight reports, each of which was on average between 15 and 40 pages long. The examined reports were published in English by a group authored characterized by experts in food security, projects implementation, communication, south – south relations, and so on, in order to provide a regular update on the projects and actions development.

Apart from these main sources, I have retrieved information also from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) where I analysed evaluation reports about the implementation of the Brazilian approach in Africa. The ECOWAS was established in 1975 via the treaty of Lagos\(^26\) and involves 15 African countries like Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Gambia, Mali, Liberia and others. The main aims of this organization are the promotion and support of self-sufficiency, creation of opportunities under a sustainable environment and give access to abundant resources to the whole population.

The source materials have been analysed and compared in order to extract the data related to the nutrition issue. But firstly, I have divided the reports depending on the topic covered, i.e. the food program, the Brazilian approach and the African past strategies. After this division, a careful reading has helped me to understand the main points of the feeding program, its principles and ways of action. This phase of reading has been applied to every report regardless of the topic.

After the reading and analysis, the next step has been compare the data retrieved in order to see if I got concordant ideas or not. At this point, the writing can start by dividing the data according to the topic.

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\(^{26}\) Information retrieved in ECOWAS “About Ecowas” at https://www.ecowas.int/about-ecowas/basic-information/, accessed 27/05/2020.
2. The African and Brazilian approaches to hunger

2.1 A brief background on hunger situation in Africa

Before moving to the African and Brazilian approach towards food security it is useful to describe how the hunger issue is measured and in which situation we find the African continent. When we talk about hunger we refer to the sickness caused by the absence of sufficient calories to live the everyday life. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) gives a more complete definition and states that hunger is determined when there is a shortage of food or you are in a state of malnutrition, i.e. there is no adequate calorie consumption that an individual, based on sex, age, stature and activity, needs to face a healthy daily life.\(^\text{27}\) In the context of hunger, malnutrition should be mentioned, which refers both to undernutrition, a condition in which the subject has deficiencies in vitamins, proteins and essential minerals, and to over nutrition, a state in which the individual has an unbalanced diet and excessive calorie consumption.\(^\text{28}\)

According to these concepts all nations are classified according to the Global Hunger Index (GHI) a useful tool to measure and monitor the level of hunger present in the world. The scores given to the nations are determined on the basis of four following values:\(^\text{29}\)

1. Undernourishment: the share of the undernourished population (there is a deficit of calories taken);
2. Child wasting: the share of children under 5 years of age in decay (weight is not suitable for their height);
3. Child stunting: the share of children under 5 years of age affected by growth cessation (height does not correspond to age);

According to the above criteria, in 2019, all African nations were present in the GHI ranking; it is not surprising, but it does understand the extent of the problem. All African states have an GHI of more than 20, which means that they are in a worrying situation with regard to food, food security and nutrition. Despite being in a serious and difficult state to

\(^{28}\) GHI website “About”, [https://www.globalhungerindex.org/about.html](https://www.globalhungerindex.org/about.html), accessed 27.05.2020.
\(^{29}\) GHI website “Results”, [https://www.globalhungerindex.org/results.html](https://www.globalhungerindex.org/results.html), accessed 27.05.2020.
deal with, their GHI score does not exceed 35 or 50 points that refer to an extreme and alarming situation.

In Africa, according to WFP data, between 2018 and 2019 the population in food crisis has increased by 22 million people; what has led to this increase is the political instability of some countries, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, climate change which has caused severe droughts and economic crises (as in Zambia and Zimbabwe). The combination of these elements has meant that in Africa in 2019 there were 69 million people in economic and food crisis whereas the African population is mostly young, the most affected groups being children, young people and pregnant women, that already under normal conditions fail to have a proper daily calorie intake and find the greatest difficulties when there are political crises, internal movements, floods or drought.

Considering these data, the hunger issue has been a long – lasting problem in Africa caused by climate, political and economic changes, that has led the African Head of states to commit themselves to overcome or at least improve the nutrition conditions of its inhabitants.

2.2 The African approach: The Maputo and Malabo Declarations

Considering hunger, the African continent is still in difficulty. But this does not exclude the existence of deliberate policies to tackle the food problem. In fact, in 2003 in Mozambique, with the Maputo Declaration, the African Heads of State and the African Union have committed themselves to create the basis to ensure food security to the whole continent. With this declaration they wanted to lay the foundations for a change in the continent, which in 2003 had 30% of the total African population suffering from malnutrition and Africa had become the largest food importer and recipient of food aid. With the Maputo Declaration, the Heads of states recognise the continent’s capabilities and potential, and

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32 Ibidem.
33 FSIN, op. cit, p. 30 – 37.
34 African Union publication, [Assembly of the African Union Second Ordinary Session 10 – 12 July 2003 Maputo Mozambique](https://www.au.int/en/_decision/2003_07_12_agm_03), online publication, pp. 9
35 The African Union is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the African Continent. The main aims of the AU are the promotion of the unity and solidarity of the African States, to coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life, defend their sovereignty, eradicate all forms of colonialism and so on.
above all, they committed themselves to achieving sustainable food security and economic development. To achieve this goal, it was necessary to observe elements such as the revitalization of agricultural production sectors with adequate policies, the implementation through the aid of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) a series of projects aimed at agricultural development at national, regional and continental level, the involvement of civil society, organizations, stakeholders, youth and women’s association in regional/national consultations and intensify cooperation with partner to realise the AU’s vision of prosperous continent 37.

As can be seen from the above elements, the problem of food insecurity has been an African priority only since the early 2000s, when a long line of efforts to deal with food insecurity has started. The existing data with respect to the effects of the declaration are almost non-existent, there is not enough information to understand the extent and impact. Scholars like Sers and Mughal have analysed the impact of Maputo Declaration by taking into account the public agricultural spending on food security in Africa.38 From this study emerges that the commitment, claimed in Maputo, to allocate 10% of the total government expenditure to agriculture in order to eradicate hunger by 2015 following the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), hasn’t reach a satisfactory result as expected. In fact, by looking at the data reported only a fifth of the African countries have addressed the 10% or more of expenditure to agriculture, others have shared the 7.7% and some West African Countries have reached the 9.7% of total spending in 2010.39 This study highlights the fact that only the countries that have allocated the 10% or more have reached a considerable result in terms of agriculture development, but other countries like Nigeria and Cameroon who have addressed only 5% or less have almost failed the attempt. Considering this data, it can be argued that some points of Maputo Declaration, in particular the one concerning government expenditure, are too high level and set big goals that even though they are necessary, they can’t be achievable in a short time in Africa. It should be taken into account that not every African country has the same possibilities in terms of sharing expenditure, so the goals instead of being so rhetoric should be targeted in a different way, and as Sers and Mughal

37 Idem.
39 Ibid, pp. 5047.
claim it can be improved by targeting expenditure items that can reach the most vulnerable population.  

Because of these disappointing results, in 2014 another document was ratified, the Malabo Declaration, with which all African heads of state adopted a series of agricultural objectives to be achieved by 2025. With this declaration they wanted to give a more specific approach to the problems of the continent, in fact, with regard to the eradication of hunger from the continent by 2025, some elements like accelerate agricultural growth to double productivity, ease the access to quality products, reduce the pre – harvest losses and improve the nutritional status of children by reducing growth stunt to 10% and underweight to 5%, has become the focal point of the future actions.  

These points show a new approach is being adopted by the AU, there are precise elements with data, figures and measures directed to the sectors in need, but always referring to the sustainability and accessibility of the measures.

2.3 The Brazilian approach: The Fome Zero Program

Over the years, Brazil has shown its will to become a world power capable of giving concrete solutions to developing countries. Its field of action has been varied and wide, it has contributed to the development of antiretroviral medicines in Mozambique, the creation of scholarships for African students and has committed itself to improving agriculture in the Portuguese speaking countries.

In two decades Brazil has made progress and thanks to its participation in various forums such as IBSA and BRICS has strengthened its influence in the international system.

The real success of the Lusophone state is the “Fome Zero Program”, which, from a national project to fight malnutrition started in 2003, had become by 2011 a global program supported by the World Food Programme.

Brazil is the largest Latin American state and its main problems include food insecurity, malnutrition, high unemployment and the unfair distribution of wealth. The State’s commitment has long been focused on ensuring proper nutrition for its population, as food security is believed to be the first necessary step in addressing the nation’s other problems. Since 1988 the Constitution of Brazil guarantees among the social rights of

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40 Ibid, pp.5060.
citizens the right to food and nutritional security. In order to ensure this right, the government in 1991 created the National Plan of Food Security and in 1993 the National Council for Food and Nutritional Security: it was two fundamental elements for the elaboration of a plan against hunger. Despite this commitment by the Brazilian state in 2001, more than 9 million families were still subject to food insecurity.

The situation began to change in 2003 when President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on the basis of what has been created in 1991 and 1993 i.e. the National Plan of Food Security and the National Council for Food and Nutritional Security, designed the Fome Zero program so as to guarantee to the Brazilian population access to healthy food, since about 70 million of Brazilians were in critical food conditions. The program, whose name is taken from Portuguese and means “Zero Hunger”, involved various sectors, cooperation activities and municipalities in order to implement a policy that would involve structural changes such as job creation and economic growth, all starting from nutrition. To achieve this goal, four main objectives were set:

1. Promote access to food;
2. Strengthening family farming;
3. To promote income-generating activities;
4. Promote partnership and social mobilisation.

What helped to realize the program was its particular approach to the right to food; in fact, it was considered as a right of humanity that should not be violated, but protected, and to do so Brazil created a strong legal base to support the project. In fact, in 2010 the Brazilian Constitution has included the right to food into the social rights guaranteed by the Constitution. The article 6 claims as follows:

“Education, health, food, work, housing, leisure, security, social security, protection of motherhood and childhood, and assistance to the destitute are social rights, as set forth by this Constitution.”

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44 Idem.
47 Idem.
48 Brazilian Constitution, information retrieved in http://www.oas.org/es/sla/ddi/docs/acceso_informacion_base_dc_leyes_pais_b_1_en.pdf, accessed 29.05.2020
In 2004, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics began a study collecting all the data in relation to the country’s vulnerable population\textsuperscript{49}. This information informed understandings of the level of food insecurity in the country and created a register of families in difficulty. In 2006, the Organic Law on Food Security was passed, which defined the role of family agriculture and placed human dignity and emancipation at the centre of attention\textsuperscript{50}. In the same year the National Food and Nutrition Security System (SISAN) was established based on the principle of public participation through the creation of a National Conference on Food and Food Security, that every four years involves representatives of the whole society to outline the guidelines of the Fome Zero strategy and facilitate a dialogue between the government and civil society\textsuperscript{51}. The construction of the legal base ended in 2010, when the Brazilian Constitution recognized the right to food as constitutional law\textsuperscript{52}.

This legal framework has been fundamental for the program and has changed the consideration of Brazil in the global domain; as Wittman and Blesh argue in their article about food sovereignty, many countries especially North Africa and Europe have developed their food programmes, but they have rarely looked at the legal aspect of it and happens that the UN WFP implements food strategies in the countries in need.\textsuperscript{53} Most of the programmes developed so far link food to child nutrition and school context, only a few of them consider the local agricultural environment as well. The Brazilian strategy does otherwise, the food issue is connected to many other sectors and problems that vary from school, education, women empowerment, water availability, entrepreneurship, agricultural production, market access and so on. This holistic approach has shown to the world powers a new path towards food security and has at the same time attracted the attention of international organisations such as UN or WFP.

Although the legal and political foundations of the programme were not completed until 2010, the practical aspects of the project began in 2003 with a holistic approach that encompasses various activities, sectors and, above all, it targeted all vulnerable people. An important element to underline is the inclusion of farmers. From the start they have been

\textsuperscript{50} De Bruyn T., Marcondes G., Brazil’s South – South Cooperation in food security Capacity building approaches of the Centre of Excellence against hunger, Spinger (published online), 2015, pp. 1156.
\textsuperscript{51} ECOWAS Report, op. cit., p. 8
involved in the Food Purchase Program\textsuperscript{54} aimed at producers with difficulties in placing their products on the market and urban residents with problems of access to food.

The project was not limited to the legal recognition of producers and the right to food, but, following its active nature on various domains, put in place activities related to each other and aimed at improving the food and living conditions of the population. The initiatives gave support to families, farmers, facilitating access to credit, and guaranteed a meal to students by encouraging school enrolment. These activities reached a very important goal: in 2014 FAO removed Brazil from the map of nations subject to food insecurity\textsuperscript{55}, since its GHI index was 5.4 (today is 5.3) that means a low level of hunger present in the country\textsuperscript{56}.

2.3.1 The Fome Zero activities

To fully understand the scope of the programme is fundamental to examine the main initiatives that have contributed to the success of Brazil as a model for the fight against food insecurity. Fome Zero is based on five activities: Bolsa Família, Programa de Acquisição de Alimentos, Programa Nacional de Alimentação Escolar, Programa Nacional de Fortalecimento de Agricultura Familiar and Programa Cisternas.

1. Bolsa Família Grant

The Bolsa Família Grant was created in 2004 and consists of transferring money to poor families through a card directly provided by the state. It is a monthly contribution that varies according to the level of vulnerability of the beneficiary, but it’s also taken into account the age of the members of the family, if the children are enrolled in school and if they enjoy basic health services. In addition, in order to be eligible families must be registered at the local municipality. This programme from 2004 to 2010 reached 50 million people, equivalent to 12 million families\textsuperscript{57}. Despite this, the activity was much criticized by the public as it was believed that it would encourage the population to leave their job so as to apply for the subsidy and live on it. The result was the opposite, 70% of the beneficiaries had a stable job\textsuperscript{58} not enough to support the family and the contribution helped them to cope with

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\textsuperscript{54} FAO Report, pp. 25.
\textsuperscript{55} FAO Hunger Map 2014, \url{http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4033e.pdf (accessed in: 27.05.2020)}
\textsuperscript{56} GHI index, Brazil GHI, \url{https://www.globalhungerindex.org/brazil.html}, accessed 22.06.2020.
\textsuperscript{57} FAO Report, op cit., p. 101
\textsuperscript{58} Ibidem, p.12.
everyday expenses. An important element of the program is women’s empowerment; in fact, the cards given to families were not on behalf of the heads of families, but mothers or other women because it was felt that those who can best manage the money and know the real needs of the household are women.

2. Programa de Acuisição de Alimentos - PAA (Food Purchase Program)

The Food Purchase Program began in 2003 with the aim of promoting local production for farmers in difficulty\(^59\). The Government, through this initiative, has blocked prices by ensuring that they are not higher than regional ones, so as to facilitate market access to local producers. This has strengthened the sense of community and guaranteed fair prices for both the farmer and the consumer. In addition, the programme has encouraged donations of food for vulnerable families and from 2003 to 2010 the PAA has contributed to the healthy diet of 15 million people\(^60\). Other findings of the PAA include collaboration with farmers' associations and cooperatives to facilitate the adoption of hygiene standards, preventive vaccines for livestock and the adoption of new techniques\(^61\).

3. Programa Nacional de Alimentação Escolar – PNAE (School Feeding Programme)

The school feeding program is not a new initiative in Brazil, but it has been present in the country for 50 years now and over time has always been updated and improved. The School feeding programme was reinforced and based on the Law 11,947 of 2009 which stipulated that at least 30% of school supplies should be purchased by local producers\(^62\). The producers to which the law gave priority to are farmers and rural families, indigenous people and the Quilombo community\(^63\). In addition to strengthening the role of the producer, the PNA has established guiding principles with regard to the relationship between producer families and school curricula\(^64\): provide a healthy and appropriate nutrition, respect food culture and healthy eating habits and support sustainable development (local and diversified production).

\(^{59}\) Ibidem, p.28.
\(^{60}\) Idem.
\(^{61}\) FAO Report, op. cit., p. 29.
\(^{62}\) Idem.
\(^{64}\) Idem.
4. Programa Nacional de Fortalecimento de Agricultura Familiar - PRONAF (Strengthening Family Agriculture National Programme)

The PONAF was already present in Brazil since 1995, but in 2004, it became part of the Fome Zero strategy and it set up services for farmers in order to protect them in case of a poor harvest due to floods, wind or dry seasons. In order to define who could be a beneficiary, the Brazilian State decided to categorize the producers and to give a definition to their status and for this reason in 2006 passed the Law 11.326\textsuperscript{65}. According to this provision, food actors, in particular producers, were defined on the basis of the following elements\textsuperscript{66}: no land in possession shall be larger than 4 fiscal modules\textsuperscript{67}, family support depends on the production activity, household income depends on the production activity and production activity is managed by the family.

The PONAF has been a useful tool for farmers to give it more space in the government’s agenda, it has contributed to the recognition of their role in the development of the country and especially has given them support in the event of crises due to poor harvests.

5. Programa Cisternas (Cistern Programme)

The Cistern Program is part of the Fome Zero Strategy and the government project “1 million cisterns”\textsuperscript{68}. It is a plan that considers safe access to water as a fundamental element of food security. This program is addressed to the arid area of Brazil where rainfall, although modest, is concentrated in a short period of time of three months. To ensure access to water throughout the year to the populations of these areas, the project has built from 2003 to 2010 over 300,000 cisterns for the collection of rainwater\textsuperscript{69}. The initiative did not limit itself to training people how to store water, but educated them in the proper use of cisterns in order to reduce waste and improve the nutrition of families\textsuperscript{70}.

\textsuperscript{65} Ibidem, pp.195.
\textsuperscript{66} Ibidem, pp. 196.
\textsuperscript{67} The term “fiscal modules” refers to the parameter used for the classification of land according to Article 4 of Act 8,629/93. According to this method the soils are divided into:
- Small properties: less than 1 fiscal module;
- Small properties: between 1 and 4 fiscal modules;
- Medium-sized properties: between 4 and 15 fiscal modules;
- Large properties: more than 15 fiscal modules.
Source: IPAM - Amazon Environmental Research Institute https://ipam.org.br/glossario/fiscal-module/
\textsuperscript{68} Ibidem, pp. 31.
\textsuperscript{69} Idem.
\textsuperscript{70} FAO, The Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) Program cit., p.257.
By looking at these initiatives the multi-sectoral nature of the Brazilian programme is clear. The State has not limited itself to providing meals to pupils, but has created a virtuous circle in which the whole of society is involved. There’s not only income-generating activities supported by starting the local economy, but there’s a contribution to the improvement of life and nutrition of young people and adults by guaranteeing them healthy food and water throughout the year.

The Fome Zero Programme from 2003 to 2013 has reached significant results, but following the data presented by De Mattos and Bagolin in 2013 there were still a part of the population suffering from food insecurity. The two authors have analysed the Fome Zero data and have found out that only the 21.4% of rural inhabitants were subjected to mild food insecurity, 8.4% to moderate food insecurity and 5.5% to severe food insecurity; in the urban area there were still people suffering food insecurity but in a minor percentage, respectively 13.7%, 3.9% and 2.8%71. Considering this data, emerges the fact that even though the percentage are still high in respect to the western countries, the food program has worked in Brazil and this has attracted the attention from all over the world by making Brazil an example to follow or to which countries should be inspired. Unfortunately, if we look at the recent years, in particular 2019 when the President Bolsonaro started his mandate, the food program has lost part of its funds by making it less effective and reducing its improvements in terms of participation and food security in rural areas.

3. How the Brazilian approach has been applied in Africa

The Brazilian Centre of Excellence against Hunger (BCEAH) is a global hub created in 2011 by a partnership between the Brazilian government and the World Food Programme (WFP), whose main aims are South – South public policy dialogue, learning, capacity building and technical assistance to promote actions against hunger. To reach these objectives, on the one hand, the national governments of the countries involved commits to achieve sustainable nutrition solutions and, on the other hand, the BCEAH brings together countries that face similar challenges in food security and nutrition. They look to achieve these goals both remotely and in person through study visits, summits, meetings and expertise exchange. The other organization included in this study is the World Food Programme, a humanitarian organization that works closely with the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The WFP has contributed to the creation of the CEAH and it is committed to end hunger, achieve food equality and improve nutrition by 2030.

3.1 Brazil’ strategy towards food security

Brazil’s success in combating food insecurity and its ability to help more than 14 million Brazilians out of poverty has attracted global attention. In 2000, the United Nations Millennium Declaration was ratified, in which all states committed themselves to achieving the Millennium Goals by 2015, including access to education and poverty reduction. Brazil has shown competence in the field of nutrition and, through the Fome Zero strategy, has managed to achieve the Millennium Goal of reducing poverty and extreme hunger by 2015. This global recognition meant that the Brazilian strategy was seen and considered as a model adaptable to all contexts characterized by food insecurity.

The results obtained in Brazil from 2004 to 2011 were further underlined by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon who, in 2012, during the Rio+20 Conference on sustainable development, urged all nations to engage in the fight against hunger. From this period onwards, Fome Zero became the Zero Hunger Challenge in which the states took part and, above all, this strategy was included among the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) launched in 2015.

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73 FAO Report, From Fome Zero to Zero Hunger, cit., p.98.
74 Ibidem, p.3.
The peak of the Brazilian success came in 2011 when the World Food Programme is interested in Fome Zero and decides to support the strategy through a partnership that will lead to the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brasilia. This success was due to the incredible results achieved in Brazil, the state has managed to reduce poverty, hunger and provide safe water to the inhabitants living in the arid area of the country. The CEAH represents a real platform through which the South Cooperation Brazilian drive can promote all the activities useful to the fight against food insecurity, i.e. capacity building, technical assistance and exchange of good practices. The main objective is therefore to bring together all the nations that face similar problems with regard to food security and guide them towards the development of local agriculture and school feeding programs.

The CEAH embraces all aspects of the Fome Zero strategy. In fact, it develops and implements with the support of partner countries school programs of food, social development, agricultural trade with social impact, research and support to small producers and farmers.

The activities carried out by the centre are developed according to a precise methodology. When a partnership or relationship with a country looks interested in starting, the project undertakes a path characterized by study visits, consulting workshops, technical assistance and support missions. The country concerned, the Brazilian centre and the WFP office in the country are involved in this process.

The study visits are the key tool for the development of a project; it is the initial phase of the collaboration in which the various delegations meet and inform each other about the Brazilian experience, the policies adopted, the strategies and methods of implementation. It is important to point out that the aim is not to reproduce copies of the Fome Zero in each country but, starting from the Brazilian case, the goal is to create an analysis aimed at the generation of an innovative program that is created ad hoc for the partner state. The meetings, which are usually held 3 months before the mission, are

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75 De Bruyn T., Marcondes G., (2015), Brazil’s South – South Cooperation in food security Capacity building approaches of the Centre of Excellence against hunger, Spinger (published online), p. 1154.
78 Ibidem, p. 10.
79 Ibidem, p. 11.
useful to bring together stakeholders and governments in order to speed up the design. Taking into account that each nation has different needs and problems, each delegation, in addition to receiving a general view of the project, each country receives special treatment in terms of meetings, field visits or points of interest. In fact, meetings are not held only between the authorities, but according to the needs you visit schools or farmers.

After all these activities, the visit ends with a planning session, in which the delegations produce a draft of what will be the next steps towards the final strategy. This final phase takes into account 5 quality standards\textsuperscript{80} (legal, political framework, financial capacity, institutional competences and coordination, program design and participation of civil society), useful as guidelines for the issues to be addressed.

After this first phase the consultation workshops begin, in which the stakeholders and the authorities develop a draft of an Action Plan whose aim is to stimulate a political environment favourable to food safety policies, school feeding programmes and other national or local strategies.\textsuperscript{81} The guiding principle of these meetings is the promotion of a participatory approach so as to involve all partners and arrive at common ideas.

Once the initial planning phase is over, the technical assistance process starts, in which the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger, based on previous results, offers support from specialist expertise in the development and implementation of programs.\textsuperscript{82} In addition to this phase, there are missions, the aim of which is to support partner nations by encouraging and facilitating dialogue between authorities and stakeholders.

The results of this strategy are many and important; In 2012, the first year after the CEAH was established, 12 study visits were held in Latin America and Africa (Malawi, Rwanda, Niger, Tanzania, Senegal, Mozambique, Guinea Conarky).\textsuperscript{83} The Ethiopian government in March 2012 launched the partnership with the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and the first meeting was attended by the Minister of Education, Agriculture and Employment. Ethiopia understood the importance of the school feeding program and during the first visit the delegation met the farmers of the PNAE program and the local schools.

\textsuperscript{80} Idem.
\textsuperscript{81} WFP Report, op. cit., p.13.
\textsuperscript{82} Idem.
\textsuperscript{83} WFP Report, op. cit., p. 11.
In the same year, Lesotho sent Education Minister Makbelo Mosothoane\textsuperscript{84} to Brazil to have a direct testimony of the results obtained with the Fome Zero. In Lesotho there was already a school feeding program, but the government wanted to improve it; at the end of the visit a plan was developed for a pilot project that linked local producers to schools.\textsuperscript{85} The same happened in Zambia, where the government already had a working school program, but aspired to improve it by making it multisectoral;\textsuperscript{86} for this reason the government resorted to the Centre of Excellence Against Hunger so that he could see the activities operating in Brazil.

The results obtained concern not only the development of projects, but also the continuous support and contact between countries in terms of exchanges of views and experiences. In fact, since 2011 the Centre has been working with Malawi to promote the exchange of skills between Brazil and other states interested in food security.\textsuperscript{87}

In 2012 Malawi had its first study visit to Brazil, later on in May the two countries worked together and the Malawian Government included the Action Plan in the National Implementation Plan on food security. In April 2012, Rwanda had a study visit in Brazil, where both countries worked on the Action Plan, in May in Rwanda was carried out a study on cost analysis and investment case with the support of WFP, in August the CEAH had a high-level follow-up mission in Rwanda\textsuperscript{88}.

The diversity of this SSC approach is also understood through the responses of the authorities; in fact, if we observe the statement below reported by Makabelo Mosothoane (Minister of Education of Lesotho), the key elements which have attracted the attention of African governments and which, at the same time, have stressed the importance of the programme are being grasped.

"Before I came to Brazil, I thought we were going to meet people in the office, sit down, talk, and then go back to my country. But we saw different activities done in the country, like agriculture, school feeding. We saw action taking place, it was very surprising.

\textsuperscript{84} Ibidem, p. 15 – 16.
\textsuperscript{85} Idem.
\textsuperscript{86} Idem.
\textsuperscript{87} Ibidem, p.21.
We even tasted the food eaten by the students, and the food was fresh, you could see the students were happy.\footnote{WFP report, (2013)., p.17.}

As we understand, Minister Mosothoane was amazed by the Brazilian approach, as she expected a traditional meeting between authorities and actors involved; against all her expectations, she found herself meeting and observing directly the school feeding program. She not only saw the project in action, but was able to taste the food given to the students by personally proving their genuineness and freshness. It is clear that it is an innovative cooperation strategy, that fully involves partners and stakeholders so that they can directly observe and evaluate the results and impact of the programs implemented.

The Minister Masothoane wasn’t the only one positively surprised by the Brazilian approach, also the Minister of Finances of Ethiopia, Mr. Ahmed Shide has considered the Fome Zero strategy as a useful tool to support and from which to learn how to implement and make a public policy about food security.

"There is political will for the execution of a National School Feeding Program. The only thing that we need now is to implement it and make it into a public policy. You are supporting us to create a new future for Ethiopia”.

As we read from the quote above, Mr. Ahmed Shide has considered the Brazilian support as a way to reach the goal of creating a public policy in Ethiopia. But, as emerges from the phrase, Ethiopia had already a political will to implement its own school feeding program, and this new approach to aid for developing countries has become essential to implement the national strategy. This shows how the Brazilian idea is helping countries not only through the study visits and support in the design of the action plans, but it has become an actor that support and helps to implement what a country already has like in Ethiopia.
3.2 Fome Zero applied in Africa

The recognition of Brazil as a model to follow meant that the State, supporting countries in such situations, was directly involved in the fight against hunger and food insecurity.

This recognition has led to a commitment by the African authorities to create an environment favourable to the development of the continent, that don’t stop at the mere ratification of documents; from 2012 to 2014 the African Union held several meetings with the Brazilian CEAH\(^\text{90}\). During these meetings, the various delegations exchanged views and ideas on school feeding programmes, so as to encourage an exchange of skills and facilitate the design of strategies. The result of the sessions came in 2015 when the partnership was formalized and the Commissioner of Human, Scientific and Technological Resources of the Africa Union committed to:\(^\text{91}\)

1. Include a local school feeding programme in the continental educational strategy;
2. Promote the commitment of the African Union and encourage member states to adopt a school feeding programme;
3. Produce results to promote the local food program throughout Africa.

In 2016, following the wave of enthusiasm caused by the partnership, during the celebrations of the first School Feeding Celebration in Brazzaville, the government of Senegal has proposed the creation of a network for the Multidisciplinary Committee of African experts in collaboration with the African Union and the Brazilian CEAH\(^\text{92}\). Since then the relationship between Brazil and the continent has intensified leading to the implementation of various projects to increase food security on the one hand, on the other hand, local agricultural productivity.

The African governments, in collaboration with the Brazilian CEAH, has succeeded in obtaining results which, although they represent the beginning of a long journey, they make us understand that the Brazilian model works and that a participatory SSC can be an alternative to traditional approaches (NSC).

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\(^{90}\) WFP, *WFP Brazil Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and the African Union Partnership*, WFP online publication, 2019, p.2.

\(^{91}\) Idem.

\(^{92}\) WFP, *WFP Brazil Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and the African Union Partnership*, cit., p. 3.
The Fome Zero applied in Africa has mostly used its multi-sectoral nature, in fact after four years of planning, the Cape Verdean State saw the school feeding program come to life, which, like the Brazilian one, was shown to be multi-sectoral and strongly linked to the local product. And in 2015 the legislative framework of the Cape Verdean state has been liven up, there is the first law on the school feeding program and it states that at least 25% of the food destined to schools must be purchased by local producers and farmers.\textsuperscript{93}

In São Tomé and Príncipe in 2011 a law established the school health and nutrition program, created a body linked to the Ministry of Education, whose task was the management of the project, and set the standards to be met in order to offer healthy and nutritious food.\textsuperscript{94}

In Benin, Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique, through the project Beyond Cotton in partnership with the Brazilian CEAH, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and the Brazilian Cotton Institute, the school feeding program has been linked with the production of cotton and products derived from it.\textsuperscript{95} Following this idea, the goal is to increase the added value of products derived from cotton such as cotton flour and oil\textsuperscript{96} so as to increase the income of producers, production and local food security.

The implementation of projects in each country has followed the Brazilian strategy of adapting the program to the needs and characteristics of the state; in fact, in each country there have been different developments and plans of action. In Benin, the cotton industry accounts for 13% of GDP, making it an important sector that produces 70% of the country’s exports and annually employs 3 million people.\textsuperscript{97} Considering these data, in 2019 in Parakou the government of Benin organized participatory workshops to outline the logical structure of the national project and the expected impact in agricultural areas. The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries considers the project a necessary and fundamental tool for the economic development of the country, but the planning work is still ongoing and it is not yet possible to assess objectively the impact of the program.

\textsuperscript{93} WFP CEAH, Good Practices Series School Feeding in Portuguese Speaking Countries, online publication, 2019, p.2.
\textsuperscript{94} Idem.
\textsuperscript{95} WFP CEAH, Annual Report 2019, WFP online publication, 2019, p.8.
\textsuperscript{96} Idem.
In Mozambique cotton production is mainly family-run; it involves 220,000 families in rural areas and directly benefits 1.2 million people. In addition to cultivation in plantations, the other income-generating activity is the sale of cotton seeds which, together with harvesting and processing, generates between 15,000 and 20,000 seasonal and permanent jobs. In August 2019 a workshop was held in Maputo attended by the Brazilian delegation, two expert agronomists and nutritionists of the University of Lavras and the government of Mozambique. In this meeting it has been considered the data relating to cotton, visited schools and small farmers, in order to develop the first draft of the national program. Again, the project has not yet been implemented but, according to the CEAH, it should be implemented shortly.

The cotton industry in Tanzania involves 40% of the total population making cotton the main source of income. However, the cultivation and subsequent processing depend on the precipitation and pollution that affect the harvest and the price on the market. Despite this, cotton remains the key product for the development of the country; in fact, in 2019 the CEAH, the Government of Tanzania and the local headquarters of WFP have been working to design a project that takes into account the relevance of cotton for the nation. One of the main objectives of the strategy is to increase the value of products derived from cotton (oil and flour), but the draft is still under development and in 2020 there will be another workshop and field visits.

In the end, in Kenya the project is at an early stage, the delegations and authorities met to exchange strategies designed to implement the national program, but the in-depth diagnosis of the Kenyan cotton sector has yet to be carried out. As all these projects show, it is always a multi-sectoral strategy which does not only aim to provide meals for pupils, but it wants to create a social impact by referring to local farmers who are directly involved with a stable income and activate the local economy. The latter, having fixed revenues, can in turn buy products from farmers or fishermen, triggering a virtuous circle that moves the economy. Thanks to this system, students benefit from a healthy daily meal and their school attendance is increased. It is well known that one of the reasons that keep African children in school is the possibility of eating, offering them this

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98 Idem.
99 Idem.
100 Idem.
101 Idem.
102 Idem.
opportunity that, other than feeding them, they are formed so that they can constitute the generation that leads Africa towards development.
4. Conclusions

The end of Cold War has represented the starting point for SSC and the rising powers. The newly multipolar world has opened up many opportunities for developing countries such as Brazil, China, South Africa or India, that have taken advantage of this new global order and imposed themselves as emerging powers. In this context SSC has developed and defines its values and guidelines that are still working today. SSC as any other phenomenon has continued to develop and created discussion on its ability to take over or complement NSC.

The aim of this study has been the description of SSC through the Afro Brazilian case study on food security, to reach this goal I have raised two research questions, according to the first question, "To what extent can the case study – and by extension, SSC - be viewed as an effective means of dealing with food insecurity?", it can be argued that throughout the text has been defined the various characteristics of SSC by showing it as future alternative to NSC. Even thought, there are not many cases of SSC, it can be claimed that represents an effective means of dealing with food security since both countries involved had personally lived common challenges and issue. In NSC this is not possible and its privileged a vertical relation, where the southern countries find themselves with the support of someone that doesn’t consider their real needs. It can be argued that the SSC’s principles are valid and constitute a fundamental aspect that will foster and strengthen future southern relations. The values of solidarity, cooperation, complementary, mutual respect, non – interference and mutual benefits, differentiate SSC from NSC, since there’s no action that impose internal adjustments or policies reforms like the ones requested by the Western countries. SSC attracts developing countries, that see in the emerging powers a possibility to cooperate with actors that have lived or live their same issues. The above mentioned principles represent the strength of SSC and of its effectiveness in the various domains. The Brazilian case study show every value of SSC and applies them to the food security issue by using a participative relation with the countries involved and stakeholder. The peer-to-peer relationship helps to foster the SSC and in this case has produced remarkable results in countries like Ethiopia, Cape Verde and Sao Tome e Principe.

According to the second research question that represents the focus of my thesis, "Why can the Africa – Brazil partnership be considered as a good example of SSC?", I can affirm that the research method and source material has been fundamental and valid to prove that the Afro Brazilian approach represents a good example of SSC. The partnership
between Africa and Brazil has been based on common experiences and problems such as hunger and food insecurity, but also on the willingness to help to coordinate and implement programs designed ad hoc to the receiver country. In fact, by looking at this case study it’s easy to understand the SSC values: solidarity, cooperation, mutual benefits and non-interference. The Afro Brazilian case and its ways to put into practice the Fome Zero Program show an alternative path to plan a cooperation project. It has been based on a participative collaboration, a peer to peer relation, where there’s no country A or B, but two partners that interact and exchange ideas in order to create a strategy ad hoc for the state involved. The many study visits, workshops, best practices and expertise shared has led to projects like “Beyond cotton” in Kenya, Benin, Tanzania and Mozambique and the various food programmes. Although the projects are at an early stage and there are no “real” results, so far the many reports, press releases and documents indicate that these are strong basis for future results and development.

This case study has shown that development can be designed even by Southern countries and that it’s not always necessary the presence and support of Western states. Even though these states are still developing countries, we shouldn’t consider this fact as a limit, the case study has shown that SSC is effective and has a direct impact on the challenges. Furthermore, contributes to the progressive detachment of Southern countries from Western powers; it represents an alternative aid to the support received from European countries or United States. In fact, in this way third world countries don’t rely only on the Western cooperation, but can have a southern aid in specific areas like food security, poverty or education, in which other developing countries have experience and can understand their needs.

Considering the above situation, it can be argued that SSC can be a real alternative to NSC, its innovative ways of implementing plans and working with third countries is essential for making it effective. The cooperation domain needs new ways of approaching to problems, and countries like Brazil or Tanzania are doing so by reaching their goals firstly looking at the characteristics of the territory and adapting the aid to it, and most of all, creating a horizontal relation. In this way, African, Latin-American, Asian and other southern states can achieve the desired development by working together with countries that have overcome or managed similar problems.
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