



# CSAM Activities in Focus

## Regional mechanism is appealed for human resource cooperation for sustainable agricultural mechanization at the 3rd Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific



On 9-11 December, 2015, around 400 key stakeholders of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) gathered in Manila, the Philippines, to share information and knowledge and exchange insights on “Human Resource Development for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization at the 3rd Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific. The meeting was co-organized by

CSAM in collaboration with the Board of Agricultural Engineering of the Professional Regulation Commission, University of the Philippines-Los Banos, Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Committee of the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Philippine Society of Agricultural Engineers.

H.E. Benigno S. Aquino III, President of the Republic of the Philippines, sent his written remarks emphasizing that agricultural mechanization and engineering is vital in supporting the region and empowering the population to be active contributors to inclusive growth. Ms. Cynthia Villar, Senator and Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture and Food, Senate of the Philippines, addressed the opening ceremony of the Forum.

The participants of the 3rd Regional Forum cover governmental officials, researchers and academics, and representatives from international and regional organizations, NGOs, associations, and the private sector from 16 countries in Asia and the Pacific. It was agreed at the Forum that a regional cooperation mechanism for human resource development in the field of agricultural mechanization shall be pursued.





# CSAM Activities in Focus

## Region-wide codes to promote sustainable agriculture at the 2nd annual meeting of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM)

Participants to the 2nd annual meeting of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) met on 3-5 December 2015 in New Delhi, India to adopt new sets of testing codes for agricultural machinery. The ANTAM Codes will help reduce the huge social and economic costs associated with the use of unsafe farm machinery, while also improving the environmental sustainability of farming. The Codes will also facilitate cross border trade of machinery by reducing transaction cost, enhancing transparency and promoting fair trade.



Organized by the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), the meeting was co-hosted by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), and held in parallel with EIMA Agrimach INDIA 2015.

At the opening ceremony, Dr. K. Alagusundaram, Deputy Director General of ICAR stated: "Region-wide codes of ANTAM will lessen efforts to export and benefit farmers by providing the best machines in the fields."

Mr. ZHAO Bing, Head of CSAM, emphasized that the ANTAM Codes will protect the well-being of farmers, enhance food safety and reduce the environmental impact of agricultural machinery. Moreover, he said: "The ANTAM Codes reflect the gratifying progress made by the agricultural community towards achieving the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for sustainable agriculture."

Developed by a pool of regional experts, the ANTAM Codes largely align national standards from ESCAP's member States with international codes and guidelines adopted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Organization for Standardization (IOS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

# CSAM Activities in Focus

## Technical Workshops to Promote Sustainable Agriculture in Myanmar's Dry Zone

The Centre for Sustainable Agriculture Mechanization (CSAM) joined hands with two other regional institutions of ESCAP, the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA), and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) to implement a project titled 'An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar'. Collaborating partners also included the Network Activities Group (a national NGO) and the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development of Myanmar. The project, funded by the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), aims to support livelihoods improvement and food security in the country's Dry Zone which suffers from a high incidence of poverty.

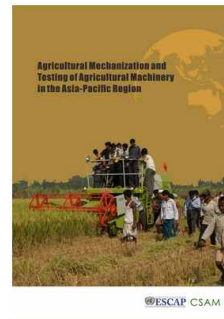


The project's capacity development component focuses on addressing the climate resilience of agriculture, strengthening capacities of policymakers and LIFT development partners, and aligning with the outcomes of a needs assessment of stakeholders conducted earlier. Under the project, three technical workshops were organized in December 2015:

- (i) Knowledge-sharing Workshop on Enabling Environment for Custom Hiring of Agricultural Machinery, 30 November – 1 December 2015, Mandalay (led by CSAM).
- (ii) Workshop on Promoting Farmer-led Innovation for Climate-resilient Agriculture, 10-11 December 2015, Mandalay (led by CAPSA).
- (iii) Workshop on Mung Bean Seed Production, Quality Control and Maintenance, 21-22 December, Magway (led by APCTT).

These workshops strengthened the skills of over 50 mid-level technical, professional and managerial staff from union and local governments, international and local NGOs as well as entrepreneurs and private sector representatives working on sustainable agriculture in the Dry Zone.

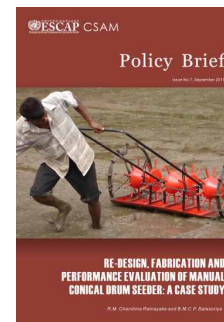
# Publication



## **Agricultural Mechanization and Testing of Agricultural Machinery in the Asia-Pacific Region**

This publication presented latest status of and challenges facing agricultural mechanization and testing of agricultural machinery in the Asia-Pacific region. It also provided recommendations for achieving sustainable agricultural mechanization, covering policy framework, database building and regional collective efforts to harmonize testing codes. A case study on China's experience in promoting standard testing of agricultural machinery was also included to share best practices.

[http://un-csam.org/publication/Pub\\_ANTAM2015.htm](http://un-csam.org/publication/Pub_ANTAM2015.htm)



**CSAM Policy Brief (Issue No.7, September 2015):** Re-design, Fabrication and Performance Evaluation of Manual Conical Drum Seeder: A Case Study by R.M. Chandima Ratnayake and B.M.C.P. Balasoriya. Reprinted with Permission of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE- 2013)

<http://un-csam.org/publication/PB201503.pdf>

# Member Countries Snapshots

## Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)



The Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), is the umbrella institution that coordinates the entire agricultural research effort in Bangladesh. BARC strives to develop an efficient, effective and sustainable system of agricultural research, promoting the standard of living of the people of Bangladesh. Being the apex of the national agricultural research system (NARS), the council strengthens and mobilizes research capabilities of the institutes of the NARS, universities, the private sector and other stakeholders in partnership in order to generate appropriate technologies and knowledge for the development of the agriculture sector.

Its responsibility is to strengthen the national agricultural research capability through planning and integration of resources, to coordinate research and foster inter-institute collaboration, monitor and review the research program of NARS institutes, assist institutes to strengthen research capacities, establish system-wide operational policies and standard management procedures and assure that each institute is optimally governed. This involves cooperative activities in several ministries of the government: Agriculture, Forest and Environment, Fisheries and Livestock, Rural Development, Education, Industries, etc. Established in 1973, BARC has enormously contributed to Bangladesh's efforts in improving the living standards of the people of Bangladesh. Achievements include among others: the development of more than 50 promising technologies on crops, livestock and fisheries through the implementation of Sponsored Public Goods Research, the dissemination of 55 appropriate technologies through the Agricultural Technology Transfer (ATT) with support of the Japan Debt Cancellation Fund (JDCA), the preparation of crop zoning maps for an optimum utilization of land, soil and other natural resources in order to maximize crop productivity, and the preparation of a human resource development plan 2025 for enhancing skills and efficiency of the NARS scientists.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.barc.gov.bd/>

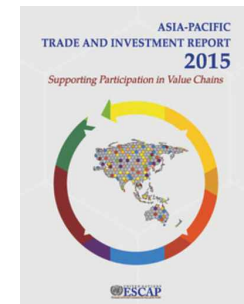
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# Development Trends

**Discover more about the Paris deal on climate change:** Following the adoption of the new Paris Agreement on climate change, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said government representatives made history today. For detailed information, please visit <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52802#.VmyZnUorIgv>



**ESCAP Trade and Investment Report** – The 2015 Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report highlights the challenges posed by slowing regional trade growth and outlines how changing dynamics in the global economy call for a renewed effort to enhance the prospects of export-led growth, both of merchandise trade and in commercial services. The 2015 report also provides analysis on the spread of Global Value Chains in the Asia-Pacific region and evaluates policies that contribute to developing countries participation in GVCs. For more information, please visit <http://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-trade-and-investment-report-2015-supporting-participation-value-chains>



**The most important event on China-Africa cooperation took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, on December 4-5.** Learn more about the new deals and the core principals that will lead China-Africa cooperation and investments in the coming year. For more information, please visit <http://www.focac2015jhb.com/docs/Declaration.pdf>



CSAM, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, is a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), based in Beijing, China. CSAM is built upon the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM) and the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM), and started operations in 2004. CSAM serves the 62 members and associate members of UNESCAP.

The vision of CSAM is to achieve production gains, improved rural livelihood and poverty alleviation through sustainable agricultural mechanization for a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable Asia and the Pacific.

CSAM's objectives are to enhance technical cooperation among the members and associate members of UNESCAP as well as other interested member States of the United Nations, through extensive exchange of information and sharing of knowledge, and promotion of research and development and agrobusiness development in the area of sustainable agricultural mechanization and technology transfer for the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### Disclaimer

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