



UPDATES FROM CSAM

December 2017

Policy Brief: Strategic Plan for Agricultural Engineering in Cambodia 2016-2020: Towards Modernization and Commercialization of Cambodian Agriculture

This policy brief aims to introduce the strategic plan developed by the Department of Agricultural Engineering, of the General Directorate of Agriculture, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Royal Government of Cambodia (DAEng). The strategy builds on an analysis of the current state of Cambodian agriculture to identify five main pillars as the key components to increase mechanization of rice field operations in Cambodia to 68% covering operations from land preparation to milling by 2020.

Link: <http://www.un-csam.org/publication/PB201701.pdf>



Policy Brief: Policy Priorities for Promoting Custom Hiring of Agricultural Machinery

Custom hiring of agricultural machinery is a useful approach, particularly for smallholder farmers, to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization by addressing the lack of financial resources and necessary technical skills to purchase and operate the required machinery. This policy brief builds on CSAM's previous work on custom hiring to provide policy recommendations on the key elements to be established to facilitate proliferation of custom hiring services in the Asia-Pacific region for modernization of agricultural operations and improving rural livelihoods.

Link: <http://www.un-csam.org/publication/PB201702.pdf>



Ensuring family farmers' access to food key to tackling global hunger – UN agency

28 November 2017 – Family farmers need more support and access to food, the head of the United Nations agriculture agency has said, urging lawmakers to consider legislation that improves productivity and boosts social protections to tackle the global hunger challenge which, he warned, is at an “inflection point.” “The main cause of hunger nowadays is not the lack of food, but the lack of access to it,” José Graziano da Silva, the Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said in his speech to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Agriculture and Food for Development in London on Monday.

Mr. Graziano da Silva stressed the paradox that rural farmers face today: they produce most of the world's food but they are the most vulnerable to food insecurity.

Climate change and rising civil conflicts are the main factors that have left rural farmers in developing countries being barely able to manage to survive, he said, calling for greater awareness and support of the worsening predicament of such people.

FAO has been actively involved with the “Parliamentary Front Against Hunger and Malnutrition” initiative for about a decade, and has partnered with Japanese lawmakers and the European Parliament to fight hunger.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/printnews.asp?nid=58175>

Farmers in developing countries need support to adapt to climate change, says IFAD at Climate Conference

“We need to invest in the future that we want and accompany those who need support, leaving no one behind,” said the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in a statement released at the UNFCCC COP23 in Bonn. With more than two billion people dependent on smallholder farming for their livelihoods and food security, the involvement of smallholders as positive agents of change is central to identifying solutions and taking effective climate action.

Poor rural and coastal communities are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Their livelihoods on what can be marginalized lands are dependent upon the sustainable management of natural resources – so climate change increases any existing vulnerabilities, threatening their stability. Helping smallholders adapt to climate change and reduce carbon emissions results in long-term social, economic and financial opportunities for farmers that can raise household wellbeing, incomes, and eventually GDP.

In response, IFAD has developed the world's largest climate adaptation programme dedicated to supporting poor smallholder farmers, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP). Lessons learned are documented and shared in IFAD's Advantage series and other documents to share knowledge and promote innovative solutions.

To read more: https://www.ifad.org/topic/tags/climate_change/49409918

CSAM Activities in Focus

ReCAMA Training and Member Meeting Promotes Technical Capacities and Trade and Investment for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific



Wuhan, China, 27 October 2017. The 3rd Training and Study Tour for Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers and Distributors and the 3rd Member Meeting of the Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations (ReCAMA) has ended with a vibrant closing ceremony in Wuhan, China.

ReCAMA is an initiative led by CSAM to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific by strengthening capacities and networking amongst national agricultural machinery associations. The 3rd ReCAMA Training and Study Tour was co-organized by CSAM and the Centre of International Cooperation Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of China with the support of the China Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association. Targeted at key stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific region, this year's tour focused on precision agriculture and harvesting technologies for rice and maize.

The Training and Study Tour deepened the understanding of 37 participants coming from 11 countries on various dimensions of sustainable agricultural mechanization and enhanced business connections among them, receiving very positive response. The programme included three insightful seminars delivered by established agricultural mechanization experts from China, and visits to four leading Chinese enterprises specialized in agricultural machinery in Shijiazhuang, Zhenjiang, Danyang, and Huzhou. In order to maximize international exposure for the participants, the programme also included participation in the Agrievolution Summit 2017 and the China International Agricultural Machinery Exhibition (CIAME) 2017 in Wuhan.

In the Member Meeting, a team of experts presented findings of a ReCAMA Research Paper on Trade and Investment Policies in 5 case countries, namely China, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The Council approved and welcomed the participation of two new members, namely Malaysian Farmers Organization Authority (LPP) and Turkish Association of Agricultural Machinery & Equipment Manufacturers (TARMAKB R). The Member Meeting also reviewed and endorsed the work report of ReCAMA in 2017, and explored research and training areas that the Regional Council should focus on in the coming year.

CSAM Activities in Focus

Regional Training on Effective Utilization of Pesticides and Plant Protection Equipment in Asian Countries, 23-31 October 2017, China



Nanjing, China, 30 October 2017. The Regional Training on Effective Utilization of Pesticides and Plant Protection Equipment in Asian Countries was successfully completed today after an intensive one-week schedule. The Regional Training on Effective Utilization of Pesticides and Plant Protection Equipment in Asian Countries was co-organized by the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Nanjing Research Institute of Agricultural Mechanization of the Ministry of Agriculture of China.

The Regional Training was conducted to introduce crop and plant protection machinery for precision application of pesticides; share new developments and know-how on pest control in the participating countries; enhance the knowledge and capacity of the participants on pesticide effectiveness and efficiency; and contribute to improving the quality and safety of agricultural products, and protect the agro-ecosystem. In addition, the Training contributed towards strengthening capacities in the region for promoting sustainable agricultural development and mechanization, and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture), and SDG 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns).

Fourteen Participants from government, and research and academic institutions, working in the area of pesticide utilization and plant protection in nine countries attended the meeting. Established experts in the field were invited to deliver lectures during the training. The participants also visited testing laboratories and manufacturers of plant protection machinery, and attended the 'China International Agricultural Machinery Exhibition 2017 (CIAME)'. Moreover, the participants prepared and shared pertinent information on pesticide utilization and plant protection, including general conditions and policies and regulations, in their respective countries.

The Training was a follow up action under the academic cooperation network of CSAM established at the 'Regional Workshop for Research and Academic Institutions on Establishing a Cooperation Mechanism for Human Resource Development on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization' held in April 2017. More such thematic training events are planned to be organized under the academic cooperation network in the coming years.

China-UN Initiative to Boost Smallholders' Resilience to Climate Change Launched at COP23



Bonn, Germany, 16 November 2017. China and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on Thursday launched a new initiative that will boost smallholders' resilience to climate change through South-South Cooperation, during a side-event at the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) in Bonn, Germany.

Smallholders in developing and least developed countries who suffer from food insecurity and income instability are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Therefore, strengthening their resilience is critical not just for the development of the agricultural sector but also for achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Under the new initiative, institutions from China and United Nations partners including ESCAP, WFP, FAO and IFAD will enhance their collaboration to better equip smallholders to deal with these challenges by facilitating policy dialogue, providing evidence-based research and advisory services, and supporting capacity building to help countries enhance value chain development for the benefit of smallholders in rural areas.

At the side event organized by ESCAP's Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), in partnership with China partners and collaborating UN agencies, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Dr. Shamshad Akhtar highlighted that smallholders are at a disadvantage in accessing finance and resources to cope with climate-related risks to strengthen their resilience, and that South-South Cooperation can be an important part of the solution to tackle the climate change challenge.

Participants, which included senior officials, and representatives from international organizations and the public and private sector, also discussed shared needs and priorities, such as climate smart and sustainable agricultural development, and showcased successful strategies and models from China.

Online Meeting on Guideline for Development of a Regional Database on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific

Beijing November 30, 2018- CSAM organized a series of 3 online (Skype) meetings wherein the draft Guideline Document was presented to members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Regional Database project. Each meeting lasted for approx. 1.5 hours. A total of 12 TWG members or their representatives from 10 countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand) took part and reviewed aspects related to the definitions of the indicators, format of data tables, and classification of the indicators.

The meeting was a concrete step taken by CSAM towards the development of the 'Regional Database on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization' which aim aims at enhancing the effectiveness of regional and national strategies for promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization by complementing and strengthening existing national databases, and improving the quality and quantity of comparable, timely and reliable data.

To guide member countries in data gathering, CSAM has developed a draft 'Guideline for Development of a Regional Database on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific'. The meetings discussed the content of the guidelines and achieved positive outcomes. Overall, participants expressed their concurrence with the main elements of the Guideline and additionally provided useful comments which will be incorporated in the current draft to further enhance its quality and relevance.

CSAM Activities in Focus

4th Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) Annual Meeting



Manila, The Philippines, 24 November 2017. Sixteen countries at a United Nations forum in Manila, Republic of the Philippines, have reviewed and adopted in principle a new set of safety and quality standards for agricultural machinery manufactured, traded and utilized in the Asia-Pacific region. The standards developed by the ANTAM initiative led by CSAM, help to reduce the social and economic costs associated with the use of unsafe and substandard farm machinery, while improving the environmental sustainability of farming operations.

Organized by CSAM, the 4th Annual Meeting of the ANTAM was co-hosted by the Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center (AMTEC), College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology, University of the Philippines Los Baños from 22 to 24 November, 2017.

The Annual Meeting elected the Philippines as the Chair for 2018 and Indonesia as the Vice Chair for 2018. In addition, the meeting reviewed and agreed upon several procedural aspects, including roles of key entities involved, in a new, proposed ANTAM certification system.

By establishing a functional certification system, this CSAM standard-setting initiative will facilitate cross border trade of agricultural machinery and contribute to reducing transaction costs, enhancing transparency and promoting fair trade. Regional integration is at the core of ESCAP's mandate and the ANTAM Codes represent a unique regional effort in coordinating the work of various players in the field of testing of agricultural machinery. To this end, the meeting involved representatives from agricultural machinery manufacturer associations as well as national governments, and research and testing institutes. As part of the programme, a field trip was also organized on the last day to expose participants to local good practices and enable sharing of experience.

CSAM Activities in Focus

The 13th Session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization



Katmandu, Nepal, 13 December 2017. The 13th Session of the CSAM Governing Council was held in Kathmandu on 13 December 2017, and attended by all 9 members, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

The Governing Council expressed appreciation to CSAM for the progress achieved by the Centre in 2017 for implementing its programmes towards promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization in the Asia-Pacific region. It also commended the Centre for the success achieved in mobilizing additional resources including in-kind contributions from national and regional stakeholders for execution of its activities and events.

The Governing Council expressed appreciation to the Government of China, as CSAM's host country, for its financial contributions towards supporting the operational and programmatic costs of the Centre. The Council also expressed appreciation to member countries who have provided valuable financial contribution to CSAM and to Japan for its contribution for the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) project of CSAM. The Governing Council noted the importance of diversifying CSAM's resource base and encouraged the Centre to strengthen efforts to mobilize additional resources from, and strengthen partnerships with, a broader range of countries and stakeholders.

The GC provided a number of recommendations for further development of CSAM's programmes on sustainable agricultural mechanization. It endorsed the Centre's work report and financial status report for 2017, proposed work plan for 2018 and the Centre's updated draft midterm development strategy (2017-2019).

CSAM Activities in Focus

The 5th Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Workshop on Integrated Straw Management



Katmandu, Nepal, 12- 14 December 2017. Following up on the outcomes of the 4th Regional Forum held in November 2016 in Hanoi, Vietnam, the 5th Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific was co-organized by CSAM and the Ministry of Agricultural Development of Nepal on 12-14 December 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The high-level forum provided a platform for countries to develop and share best practices that are vital for increasing agricultural productivity, sustainable agriculture, food security and rural welfare.

Underscoring the importance of supporting sustainable food production systems and offsetting climate change impacts on the agriculture sector, Head of CSAM Ms. Li Yutong said, “Sustainable

Agricultural Mechanization Strategies provide a framework for making decisions on allocating resources, addressing current challenges, and developing achievable actions and programmes through a structured, but flexible, participatory process.” She added, “CSAM is pleased to play a role in convening key stakeholders to explore opportunities for synergy and collaboration.”

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Li Hong, Permanent Representative of China to ESCAP, said “China has deep recognition of the important role of mechanization in agriculture. We are privileged to be the host of CSAM and have been showing strong support to the work of CSAM.”

This year's forum was highlighted by a regional workshop on 'Integrated Straw Management in Asia-Pacific,' where participants shared best practices and explored targeted assistance for piloting in affected areas of China, India and Vietnam. The workshop was held in the response to last year's Forum in Hanoi, Vietnam, where participants identified the need to advance climate-smart agricultural practices, along with measures to address the impacts of straw residue burning in the region.

Initiated in 2013, the Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific is a strategic annual event held by CSAM to promote high-level policy dialogue and regional cooperation. The meeting aims to create an enabling policy framework, as well as an institutional and market environment that provide sustainable climate-smart agriculture solutions.

Meeting New People



Ms. YIN Ni

Ni Yin has previously served Peking University as an academic associate and international higher education officer. She is experienced in urban planning and minority culture conservation as a policy consultant. Her research interest lies in sustainable development of rural areas, China minority policy, gender and international relations. She is interested in applying the human right approach, where urban planning sets the framework for human wellbeing and community development. She holds a masters degree in Human Rights and Democratization and a masters degree of social science from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



Mr. WU Xing

Wu Xing works at CSAM as an intern since October 2017. He graduated as an Electric Engineer from Beijing Forestry University. In 2018, he will continue to pursue graduate studies in United States. As a student, he has always dreamed to be a UN staff and he believes this internship is the best opportunity to achieve it with his specialized knowledge.



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The Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) is a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), based in Beijing, China. Built on the achievements of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM) and the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) CSAM started operations in 2012.

CSAM serves the 62 members and associate members of UNESCAP. It is guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals, as well as, the resolutions and mandates adopted by 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.

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