



UPDATES FROM CSAM

March 2018

CSAM Activities in Focus

Regional Training on Protected Agriculture Technologies in Asian Countries

A Regional Training on Protected Agriculture Technologies 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 for Agricultural Mechanization (NRIAM) of the Ministry of Agriculture of China, on 22-29 January in Shanghai, China.

The Regional Training was a follow-up initiative under the cooperation network envisaged at the 'Regional Workshop for Research and Academic Institutions on Establishing a Cooperation Mechanism for Human Resource Development on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization' co-organized by CSAM and NRIAM in April 2017.

Targeted at 10 researchers and academicians coming from as many countries, the Regional Training introduced new innovations and know-how on protected agriculture in the participating countries from Asia, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The programme included three insightful seminars delivered by established protected agriculture experts from China, and visits to two leading enterprises in China specialized in irrigation technologies and greenhouse cultivation. Moreover, utilizing the opportunity provided by the knowledge sharing session of the training, participants presented and discussed recent developments in protected agriculture in their home countries.

The training effectively enhanced the participants' knowledge and research network in the field of protected agriculture and received very positive feedback from all of them. Given the fruitful outcomes of the training, most of the participants expressed their intention to continue this network, while some of them additionally contributed very constructive suggestions for future cooperation to build upon the network.

http://www.un-csam.org/news_detail.asp?id=499



CSAM Activities in Focus

Participation in '13th Shandong China International Agricultural Machinery Exhibition' in Jinan City, Shandong Province, China

CSAM attended the Opening Ceremony of the 13th China (Shandong) International Agricultural Machinery Exhibition' on 6 March 2018 in Jinan City, Shandong Province. Shandong Province has more than 2,000 agricultural machinery manufacturing enterprises, accounting for 25% of all such enterprises in China. The main business income of these enterprises reached RMB 163 billion ranking the first in China. China (Shandong) International Agricultural Machinery Exhibition is a regular event in Jinan in March of each year. Up till present, 12 exhibitions have been held. CSAM facilitated the attendance of around 20 participants to the Exhibition through its network titled the Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations in Asia and the Pacific (ReCAMA) representing Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

Establishment of ANTAM Technical Working Groups 2018

The Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) was established by CSAM in 2013 to promote the mutual recognition of regional standards for testing of agricultural machinery. ANTAM aims to address constraints to the expansion of mechanized agriculture, such as the lack of a regional agreement on trade of agricultural machinery, the need to conduct national tests before promoting use of imported equipment and the fragmented regulations on safety and use of chemicals. By developing regional, mutually recognized testing standards for agricultural machinery ANTAM contributes towards the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) among others. The standards developed under ANTAM go through a process of international negotiations that aims to harmonize at the highest level national practices carried out in ESCAP member countries, and integrate international criteria. In 2018 CSAM is conducting negotiations on standards for safety and environmental impact related to the performance of Power Tillers, Powered Knapsack Misters-cum-dusters and Paddy Transplanters. The Technical Working Groups of ANTAM in 2018 comprise of 37 experts representing 15 ESCAP member countries including: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Pakistan; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russia; Sri Lanka; Turkey; Vietnam; and Thailand. International negotiations are conducted through online meetings between February and June and one in person meeting is planned for the last week of June 2018 in Malaysia.



Upcoming events

Regional Workshop on the Role of Mechanization in Strengthening Smallholders' Resilience through Conservation Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific

The quality of the natural resource base, especially soil and water, plays a critical role in sustaining agriculture. The inter-related processes of deforestation, expansion of agricultural land and intensification have led to large scale soil erosion and to a deterioration in soil and water quality and availability. Over the last several decades, trends towards degradation of the soil resource base have been observed.

Conservation Agriculture has acquired increasing significance in recent times and provides a range of economic, agronomic, environmental and social benefits, thus serving the plan of action for 'people, planet and prosperity' embodied in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A 'Regional Workshop on the Role of Mechanization in Strengthening Smallholders' Resilience through Conservation Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific', to be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 18-20 April 2018, will seek to facilitate a better understanding of how sustainable agricultural mechanization can promote the application and mainstreaming of Conservation Agriculture in the specific context of the constraints and challenges facing smallholders in the Asia-Pacific region.

The specific objectives of the Regional Workshop are to:

- Increase awareness of the role of sustainable agricultural mechanization in promoting Conservation Agriculture and building smallholders' resilience in the Asia-Pacific region;
- Share good agricultural mechanization practices and innovations suitable for smallholders for promoting Conservation Agriculture in the region;
- Understand the main challenges and constraints in using machinery for Conservation Agriculture for smallholders in the region, and
- Identify potential areas for regional cooperation among key stakeholders in the region and beyond.

Coordination Workshop of International Organizations in Food and Agriculture in China

A series of Coordination Workshops for international organizations working in the areas of food and agriculture in China were initiated by the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture of China (MOA) in December 2016 to enhance information sharing and facilitate cooperation among the international organizations and their Chinese partners.

The next Coordination Workshop will be convened by MOA and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in April 2018 in Beijing. The one-day Workshop will include a discussion on: 1) understanding new developments in the areas of food and agriculture in China; 2) enhancing information sharing among the relevant international organizations including their work plans in 2018; and 3) strengthening and maximizing synergies between country-level international organizations and exploring opportunities for joint programming to address needs in the areas of food and agriculture in China.

Upcoming events

4th Meeting of the Technical Working Groups of ANTAM & Workshop on Developing a Regional Database for Agricultural Machinery in Asia and the Pacific

The Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), a government body in Malaysia under the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry (MOA), and CSAM will co-host the 4th Meeting of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) of ANTAM and a Workshop on Developing a Regional Database for Agricultural Machinery in Asia and the Pacific in Malaysia from June 25 to June 29, 2018.

The 4th Meeting of the Technical Working Groups of ANTAM will comprise of a 4 days meeting in which representatives from ESCAP member countries will conduct in person technical negotiations on regional standards on safety, efficiency and environmental impact of agricultural machinery. The groups will conduct parallel sessions to discuss power tillers, misters-cum-dusters and paddy transplanters. Moreover, the last day will see a plenary meeting to discuss common challenges and take unanimous decisions regarding common issues such as the structure and validity of each test report.

The Workshop on Developing a Regional Database for Agricultural Machinery will be held on June 28- 29, 2018. CSAM's initiative titled 'Regional Database on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization' aims to enhance the effectiveness of regional as well as 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. CSAM has developed a draft 'Guideline for Development of a Regional Database on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific'. The Guideline presents an overall framework to 1) provide key indicators pertaining to sustainable agricultural mechanization 2) provide classification of the identified indicators and group them into categories according to need 3) provide definitions, data samples and update frequency of the indicators, and 4) highlight how the identified indicators are linked to and can complement various SDG indicators. The Regional Workshop will present the latest version of the Guideline to participating countries for endorsement, assess the status of availability of data at the national level in accordance with the Guideline, share knowledge and experiences in relation to national databases, and explore opportunities for capacity building. The Workshop is expected to make an important contribution towards shaping the future direction of this initiative.

Elections to the Governing Council of CSAM

CSAM has a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of China (CSAM's host country) and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) of relevant line ministries elected by the Commission. Governing Council members participate in the Council meeting, held at least once a year, to provide guidance to the Centre as stated in its Statute. The current Governing Council of CSAM comprises of the following countries: China (host country), Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The three-year term of the present members of the Governing Council of CSAM will end at the forthcoming seventy-fourth session of the Commission, to be held from 11 to 16 May 2018 in Bangkok. The Commission will elect Governing Council members for the next three-year term (2018-2021) during the session

Further information for the election can be found at <http://www.unescap.org/commission/74/forDelegates>

To better tackle humanitarian crises, combine relief assistance with development actions

Timely aid through flexible funding can help farmers stay active, reducing overall humanitarian costs



FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva (fourth from left) at the Riyadh Humanitarian Forum.

26 February 2018, Riyadh - The international community needs to intervene more swiftly in humanitarian crises in ways that are also designed to support affected farmers, pastoralists, fishers and other food producers, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva said today. "The international community has not been effective enough in its response to humanitarian crises. To improve results, we need to better combine humanitarian assistance with development actions on the ground," Graziano da Silva said. "To do this effectively we need financing that encourages stronger collaboration among partners across the humanitarian and development spheres." In an address to the First International Humanitarian Forum taking place in the Saudi

capital, the FAO Director-General also highlighted the need to be more financially flexible and predictable when responding to crises. He noted that "even in the worst situations" rural people can continue to produce food for their families and communities, when provided with early and appropriate support. "A 2017 FAO assessment of the impact of conflict on agriculture in Syria showed that despite six years of violence, 75 percent of rural families continued to produce their own food," Graziano da Silva pointed out. Support that keeps rural communities producing their own food offers a way to stop hunger from cascading into famine and can prevent humanitarian assistance needs from escalating, the FAO Director-General argued. Yet while humanitarian funding requirements nearly tripled from \$8.5 billion in 2013 to \$22 billion in 2018 agriculture was one of the least-funded sectors under the UN's 2017 humanitarian appeal. This despite all the evidence that investing in the sector is a fundamental and cost-effective way to respond to crises. We cannot afford to neglect agriculture. Some 815 million people currently suffer from hunger to varying degrees of intensity, according to the most recent UN global report on world hunger. And up to 80 percent of people at risk of severe hunger rely on different agricultural sectors for their survival, including crops, fishing, livestock and forestry. When crises break out and food security is impacted agriculture and local food production cannot be an afterthought in the equation, "we have to help people maintain and restore their livelihood" noted Graziano da Silva. He challenged his listeners to stop short-changing on investments in rural resilience, arguing: "Investing in agriculture not only saves lives and protects livelihoods, but it lays the foundations for recovery and resilience building." Early action yields dividends. Quick responses to early warning alerts allows humanitarian interventions to have the greatest impact on at-risk rural livelihoods - and this requires investment in early action, or forecast-based financing, according to the FAO Director-General. That is why in 2016 FAO established an early warning, early action fund which enables it to respond rapidly to ease the impact of crises on vulnerable people, like drought-hit pastoralists in the Horn of Africa. "Tools such as the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) provide clear information on evolving food crises, we need to act early and not wait until is declared or about to be declared" said Graziano da Silva. Improved coordination among donors and among agencies at field level remains a priority so as to avoid duplication and bridge the humanitarian-development gap, Graziano da Silva noted.

Source: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1104015/icode/>

New tools for reporting on world's forest resources launched

Help countries to compile better data and increase transparency – Google partnership

5 March 2018, Rome/Toluca - FAO has launched today a new online platform for reporting on the status and trends of the world's forest resources. The platform enables countries to increase the efficiency of their reporting process and improve the consistency, reliability and transparency of forest data. Efficient monitoring of and reporting on forest cover and land-use change is essential for monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is crucial as countries adopt measures to adapt to and mitigate climate change. The platform will be used for the next 2020 Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) report. The tool developed by FAO with financial support from the European Union and the Government of Finland was presented at a special high-level ceremony in Toluca, Mexico. "Assessing the state of the world's global forest resources requires consistent and reliable data," said FAO Senior Forestry Officer Anssi Pekkarinen. "The new platform allows countries to improve their capacity to compile up-to-date and precise forest data, reduces reporting burden, and allows to better measure progress towards the 2030 Agenda." The new tool contains a number of new features including improved data entry and data visualization, and review and analysis functions. The platform has a more user-friendly interface, which allows adding data, copying and pasting from existing entry sheets and documenting national data sources. For the first time since FRA 2000, the number of assessment variables has been significantly reduced which eases the reporting burden for countries. To further facilitate the reporting process, especially for countries where forest information is limited or not available, the platform provides the opportunity to access related external information as well as geospatial data from global remote sensing products. The platform uses Google Earth Engine and for the first time will provide all 171 FRA National Correspondents - officially nominated national forest authorities who are responsible for compiling the country reports - as well as their collaborators free access to vast global data repositories and analytical tools alongside the computing power of Google. "This announcement builds on our productive three years partnership with FAO that we signed at COP 21 in Paris," said Rebecca Moore, Director, Google Earth, Earth Engine & Earth Outreach. "We are excited to enable all countries with equal access to the latest technology in support of global climate action and sustainable development." The tool makes it easy even for people without prior remote-sensing experience to access satellite imagery and other geospatial data to monitor national forest cover and land-use changes over time. Reporting on progress towards the SDGs. The scope of the new platform is not limited to forest assessments only. It serves other reporting needs as well, including its significant contribution to the implementation of 2030 Agenda and to the forest related indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Source: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1105144/icode/>



Aerial view of forests, Tatarstan Republic, Russia

Meeting New People



Dr. Surendra SINGH

Dr. Surendra Singh joined CSAM as a Technical consultant in March 2018. Born in Ballia, Uttara Pradesh, India on January 1, 1951 Dr. Singh completed his Bachelor of Technology in Agricultural Engineering from the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar, India in 1976. Afterwards he pursued his Master of Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand, in 1977-78 and his Ph.D from The Royal Veterinary & Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark in 1978-81. He worked as part of the Scientist Pool (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research or CSIR) from 1982-83 at the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi, India, as Assistant Engineer, 1983-86; as Agricultural Engineer in 1986-94; and as Professor at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana from 1995 to 2007. Dr. Singh was the Project Coordinator of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Farm Implements and Machinery, for Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering Bhopal from 2007 to 2012 (under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research). During his career Dr. Singh was awarded several prizes and honours. In addition, Dr. Singh is a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS); The Institution of Engineers (India); and the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE). He has also worked as Consulting Editor for the Journal of Institution of Engineers (India), and as Chief Editor for Agricultural Engineering Today, among others. Moreover, Dr. Singh is Technical Advisor to the Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers' Association (AMMA-India).



Mr. YUAN Yifeng

Mr. Yuan Yifeng has joined CSAM as an Intern. He is about to graduate from Peking University this summer and considers his association with CSAM as an excellent opportunity to practice what he has learned during his four year study in the Politics, Philosophy and Economics major. He will peruse study towards Juris Doctor in the United States this autumn.



Mr. QIN Qian

Mr. QIN Qian is currently an undergraduate student of China Foreign Affairs University, majoring in Diplomacy and Japanese, and has joined as an Intern at CSAM. This year, he will continue his graduate studies related to peace-keeping and peace-building at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. He is interested in the work of international organizations and happy to be part of the team at CSAM.

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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