

Newsletter

Issue No. 1/2014

Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization



Inaugural Issue of CSAM Newsletter

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. The renewed strategic functions of the Centre are: 1) to provide a regional forum for regular policy dialogues among member states and other interested parties on sustainable agricultural mechanization; 2) to become a data and information hub in the agricultural mechanization community for evidence-based decision-making; 3) to serve as a reference point for testing standards and protocols of agricultural machinery and equipment; 4) to deliver targeted capacity development assistance on agricultural mechanization through policy advisory services and technical assistance; and 5) to facilitate regional agro-business development and agro-technology transfer.

This Newsletter is issued quarterly to update Member States on the latest project activities of the Centre. It also collects information from Member States on agricultural mechanization policies, sustainable agricultural technologies and best practices, and agricultural research institutions of Member States. Major agricultural events held in the Asia-Pacific region are also listed.

For submission of background information and feedback on the Newsletter, please kindly contact Ms. Sheng WU, Research Assistant of CSAM, at wus@un-csam.org.

News Highlights

CSAM Reaches out to Partners and Stakeholders

On 19-28 February 2014, CSAM reached out to major partners and stakeholders, including IFAD, OECD, FAO, ENTAM and CEMA. Mr. Bing Zhao, Head of CSAM, participated in the 37th Governing Council of IFAD and the 2014 OECD Annual Meeting of the Tractor Codes.

During the 37th Governing Council of IFAD (Feb. 19-20, Rome), which focused on smallholder family farming amid the celebration of the International Year of Family Farming, Mr. Zhao met with Ms. Hoonae Kim, Director of the Asia-Pacific Division and IFAD's country programme managers. The two sides briefed each other of their respective programmes of work and priorities and explored opportunities of collaboration especially in better aligning CSAM's activities with IFAD's country programmes in Asia and the Pacific. CSAM presented concept notes for IFAD's regional grants projects.

The meetings with Dr. Laurent Thomas, ADG of the Department of Technical Cooperation, and Dr. Ren Wang, ADG of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection of FAO focused on: 1) potential areas of collaboration in technical cooperation project, particularly through South-South Cooperation; 2) the role mechanization in sustainable agriculture development; 3) the relevance of ANTAM in ensuring safety and quality of farm machinery; and 4) specific technical issues regarding the combination of machinery and agronomy, especially the prospect of mat-type rice transplanting.

Meetings with Dr. Xia Jingyuan, Chinese PR to FAO, WFP and IFAD, and Mr. Zhang Zhengwei, Chinese Governor with IFAD, explored possible funding channels through China-related cooperation funds.

Mr. Zhao also met with Dr. Michael Ryan, Head of the Tractor Codes of OECD, and Dr. Sandro Liberatori, Director of ENTAM (European Network for Testing of Agricultural Machines), during the 2014 OECD Annual Meeting (Feb. 26-27, Paris). Agreement has been reached on a number of issues pertinent to the preparations for the first Annual Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM), to be held in September 2014.

The discussion with Mr. Gilles Dryancour, President of CEMA (Comité Européen des groupements de constructeurs du machinisme agricole), explored areas of common interest from a public-private partnership perspective.

The Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) was launched on 18 November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand

Policy-makers from 14 countries across the Asia-Pacific region pledged their support to a regional network to facilitate trade in safe, efficient and environmentally friendly agricultural machinery at the Regional Policy-makers' Roundtable on the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) held on 18 November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.



ANTAM, an open regional network, is composed of national testing stations of agricultural machinery of participating countries, research institutes, associations of agricultural machinery manufacturers and farmers organizations with an aim to promote harmonization of testing codes and standards of agricultural machinery applied in the region that address quality, performance, occupational safety and environmental sustainability of agricultural machinery.

The first meeting of ANTAM will be held in September 2014 in Beijing, China in parallel with the 18th Congress of International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR, Commission Internationale du Genie Rural).

Publications

Proceeding of Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific (26 - 27 October 2013, Qingdao, China)



CSAM in collaboration with China's three leading associations in agricultural mechanization, namely, China Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association, China Agricultural Mechanization Association and China Association of Agricultural

Machinery Manufacturers, organized the first Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific on 26-27 October 2013, in Qingdao, China. The forum was supported by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, FAO and Shandong Changlin Deutz-Fahr Machinery Company LTD.

More than 100 participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, The Philippines and Viet Nam, representatives from international organizations, including the FAO, and European Network for Testing of Agricultural Machines (ENTAM) conducted dialogues on "Public-Private Partnership for Improved Food Security and Rural Livelihoods".

The proceeding of the Forum will consist of summary of presentations on sustainable agricultural mechanization strategies, presentations on agricultural mechanization status and trends of member countries, and the key findings in discussion. The proceeding will be circulated among various stakeholders in April in 2014.

Member Country Snapshot

China Reviews its Five-Year Plan for Agricultural Mechanization Development

The Consultation Workshop of Mid-term Review of the *Twelfth Five-Year Plan for National Agricultural Mechanization Development (2011-2015)* (the Plan), was held on 18 January 2014 in Beijing.

The Plan was formulated in 2011 in light of the requirements of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development (2011-2015) and the Twelfth Five-Year Plan for National Agriculture and Rural

Economics Development (2011-2015). The Mid-term Review of the Plan was undertaken by the China Research Center for Agricultural Mechanization Development, commissioned by the Department of Agricultural Mechanization of the Ministry of Agriculture of China (MOA).

The Review highlighted some major challenges and issues of agricultural mechanization development in China, including disparities among different regions, the contradiction between the endogenous market demands for rapid development of agricultural mechanization and the insufficient supply in terms of technology, funds, human resources, and institutional supports, and the unsustainable nature of previous development pattern. The Review proposed measures and suggestions for the full implementation of the Plan by the end of 2015. Priorities are given to: putting in place comprehensive supportive policies; strengthening R&D and commercialization of machinery and equipment; promoting the development of agricultural mechanization in a sustainable and inclusive manner; improving the safety of agricultural machinery and equipment; and encouraging the development of machinery service systems embracing households and cooperatives.

CSAM Focal Points

Cambodia

The Department of Agricultural Engineering (DAEng) is supervised by the General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and has its mandate as below:

- Research on farm machinery and equipment and identified zoning for using agricultural equipment and machinery based on classification of soil and type of crops in order to develop agriculture sector;
- Research on appropriate pre and post-harvest technology and value added for agricultural production;
- Formulate guidelines and regulations on utilization of farm machinery for agricultural production effectively;
- Advice and provide technical extension on utilization farm equipment and machinery effectively to users and relevant stakeholders;

The Department consists of following offices and centres:

1. Office of Administration, Planning, Accounting and International Cooperation;
2. Office of Agricultural Pre-harvest Technology;
3. Office of Agricultural Post-harvest Technology;
4. Office of Training & Community Development;
5. Office of On-farm Irrigation;
6. Office of Engineering & Agricultural Land Reform; and
7. Toul Samrong Agricultural Engineering Center, Battambang province; and
8. Kbal Po Agricultural Engineering Center, Takeo Province.

DAEng also has indirect communication and networking with all provincial offices of Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Education Institutions and local artisans/manufacturers and farmers.

Calendar of Events

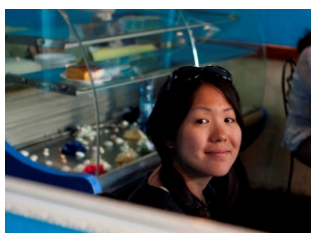
■ Major Agricultural Exhibitions in the Asia-Pacific Region (January – March 2014)

Date	Event	Venue
February 2014	Annual International AgroTech, Bangladesh 2014	Rural Development Academy (RDA) Campus, Bangladesh
27-29 March 2014	China National Agricultural Machinery and Spare Parts Exhibition	Zhengzhou International Convention and Exhibition Center, Zhengzhou, China

■ Forthcoming Events of the Centre

Date	Event	Venue
26 - 27 June 2014	High Level Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific Region	Bangkok
June 2014 (TBC)	Inception Workshop of "An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar (LIFT)".	Bangkok

New Staff of CSAM



Ms. Lian Zhang joined CSAM on 14 March 2014. As a staff assistant, Ms. Zhang will perform a full range of office management and administrative support functions for CSAM.

Ms. Zhang has had experience of working at both international organizations and the private sector in the past. From 2010 to 2011, she worked as a United Nations Volunteer at the United Nations Mission in Sudan, and later at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, where she was responsible for events management, providing administrative support to project related activities.

Ms. Lian Zhang can be reached at zhangl@un-csam.org.



*Towards a more resilient, inclusive
and sustainable Asia and the Pacific*

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 started operations in 2004, built on the achievements of the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery (RNAM) established in 1977 with support of UNDP, FAO and UNIDO, and the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM). 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 agro-business 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.

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