

# Newsletter

Issue No.4, December 2014



## New Year Message

Upon this festive occasion, on behalf of CSAM, I wish to extend my warm season's greetings and best wishes to our members of the Technical Committee and the Governing Council, focal points in member countries, partners and collaborators within the region and across the world. I wish you and your families a very happy and prosperous year of 2015.

In 2015, CSAM will continue to count on your valuable support, and work closely with you to deliver more tailored programmes to assist member countries in achieving sustainable agriculture including sustainable agricultural mechanization across Asia and the Pacific.

Bing Zhao  
Head  
Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

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# News Highlights

## **The Tenth Session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), 16 December 2014, Bangkok, Thailand**



The Tenth Session of the Governing Council (GC) of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) was held on 16 December 2014 at

Bangkok, Thailand. Governing Council members from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated in the meeting.

The GC endorsed the Report of the 10th Session of the Technical Committee of CSAM and the Centre's work plan for 2015. The GC suggested CSAM to design pilot projects to demonstrate good practices of sustainable agricultural mechanization to member countries as follow-up to thematic workshops and seminars. It requested that CSAM continue exploring collaboration with NGOs, the academia and various other stakeholders to mobilize resources, and to increase publicity. It also requested the Centre to make its website more dynamic and interactive to effectively facilitate information exchange. The GC members thanked the Government of China for its continued support to the operation of the Centre, expressed deep appreciation to member countries which provided valuable in-kind contribution to and assistance in organizing programme activities of the Centre in 2014.

Mr. Shun-ichi Murata, Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP, addressed the opening of the meeting. Mr. Murata commended the remarkable progress that the Centre achieved in 2014 in implementing its programme of work and resources mobilization, and expressed hope that CSAM should continue to diversify its programme of activities, and deliver better services by tapping into its comparative advantages. Dr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director of Trade and Investment Division of ESCAP, encouraged CSAM to continue its efforts to design and deliver projects with long-term impact among member countries.

## **Regional Workshop on Establishing a Regional Database of Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific & the 10th Session of the Technical Committee of CSAM, 17-19 November 2014, Siem Reap, Cambodia**

Regional Workshop on Establishing a Regional Database of Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific and the 10th Session of the Technical Committee (TC) of CSAM was held on 17-19 November 2014. Participants from governments, research institutions, associations, the private sector, and representatives

from international and regional organizations gathered to assess the need and feasibility of establishing a database of agricultural mechanization in the region.

Country representatives briefed participants on the existing institutional arrangement, scope and availability of agricultural mechanization statistics in their respective countries. Representatives from regional and international organizations and private sector associations shared their activities on agricultural mechanization statistics. Participants identified common challenges and constraints facing agricultural mechanization statistics, inter alia, reduced priority and financial support to agricultural statistics, lack of standard classifications, questionable credibility of data, poor access to data by end users, lack of coordination in data collection, and inadequate competency of personnel. It was agreed that reliable, timely and comparable data and statistics was essential to evidence-based policy making in promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization and food security. Participants applauded the initiative of CSAM on establishing an Asia-Pacific regional database of agricultural mechanization, and recommended the first few steps to improve the quality and quantity of agricultural mechanization data and statistics in support of sustainable agriculture.



Discussions at the 10th TC focused on the Centre's work report of 2014, proposed work plan for 2015, and how to tap the resources of TC members to facilitate the work of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM). Thematic discussions were held on the merits of prototype/drawing exchange programmes among member States, and how the Centre can best facilitate technology transfer among member countries under the current situation in the region.

The TC members commended the work of the Centre in 2014, particularly for its initiatives and efforts in building regional platforms for enhancing information exchange and technology transfer for sustainable agricultural mechanization. TC members requested the Centre to develop a list of capacity building/training programmes for the next year, and disseminate it ahead of time to better prepare member countries for such trainings. The TC emphasized the importance of voluntary financial contribution of member countries to the work of the Centre, and requested member countries to make or increase their pledge for financial support to the Centre.

Thirty-eight participants from 15 countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam, as well as representatives from Regional Office for Asia and Pacific of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-RAP), Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific of ESCAP (SIAP) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) participated in the two events.

[Read more](#)

## Regional Roundtable of National Agricultural Machinery Associations in Asia and the Pacific, 28-30 October 2014, Wuhan, China



The Roundtable, themed on “Connecting for Growth and Cooperation”, was organized by the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) with the support of the organizers of the 2014 China International Agricultural Machinery Exhibition (CIAME 2014). The meeting was funded in part by China-ESCAP Cooperation Programme. Over 50 representatives of national agricultural machinery associations and the private sector from participating countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Participants of the Roundtable agreed to establish Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations in Asia and the Pacific (ReCAMA), following discussions on its mandate, membership and modalities of operation. ReCAMA is mandated to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific through strengthening the capacity of national agricultural machinery associations, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and information, and enhancing collaboration and closer business connection among national associations and their members. It is open to all national associations of agricultural machinery sector and/or other similar function cooperatives and institutions in member countries.

All associations participating in the Roundtable became founding members of ReCAMA. China and India were elected Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council for 2015 respectively. CSAM was asked to provide secretariat support and assist in developing a work plan of ReCAMA in consultation with members of ReCAMA. Participants also visited the 2014 China International Agricultural Machinery Exhibition and on-site machinery demonstration.

ReCAMA is expected to hold its first annual meeting in 2015 to adopt its ToR and work plan.

[Read more](#)

## Publication

### Proceedings of 2nd Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific 2014

The 2nd Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific was held on 9-11 September 2014 in Serpong, Indonesia, in collaboration with Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development (IAARD) of the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia and the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-RAP), and with the funding of the China-ESCAP Cooperation Program. The theme of the 2nd Regional Forum was “Enabling Environment for Custom Hiring of Agricultural Machinery”. The proceedings synthesize the country papers and presentations of peer organizations, including recommendations and way forward for creating an enabling environment for custom hiring of agricultural machinery in support of sustainable agriculture, food security and poverty alleviation in the region. It is planned to be released in January 2015.



### DVD on Regional Workshop on Establishing a Regional Database of Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific

Prepared by the meeting host, the Department of Agricultural Engineering of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia, the DVD on Regional Workshop on Establishing a Regional Database of Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific contains video record of discussions and presentations at the workshop for reference of member countries upon request.



# CSAM Activities in Focus

- Program Plan in 2015

## Regional Forum

CSAM will collaborate with member countries to organize the 3rd Regional Forum in concurrence with a major regional/national agricultural event.

## ReCAMA

CSAM will assist ReCAMA in preparing its work plan in 2015 and provide secretariat support to ReCAMA. ReCAMA is expected to hold its 2nd meeting in late 2015.

## Capacity Building

CSAM will organize a training course for participants from the Korean Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on conservation agriculture and agricultural mechanization. The agricultural mechanization components of the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) Myanmar Project will also likely to be initiated in 2015, with a focus on capacity building.

## Prototype/ Drawing Exchange

Following the recommendations of the 10th TC, CSAM will work with member countries to look deeper into the issue and prepare an actionable proposal to be submitted for consideration at the 11th TC.

## ANTAM

- The first set of ANTAM test codes and procedures will be developed by the Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG will hold its first meeting in late April or early May in 2015 to approve draft ANTAM test codes and procedures for power tillers, ROPS for tractors, and sprayers;
- Voluntary test runs by member countries of the ANTAM test codes will be conducted before the 2nd Annual Meeting, and draft ANTAM test report will be submitted to the 2nd Annual Meeting of ANTAM for review;
- The 2nd Annual Meeting of ANTAM will be held in latter half of 2015;
- A training of the trainers programme is designed to train testing engineers from ANTAM countries on standard testing procedures and skills, and to provide technical assistance to member countries on ANTAM test codes.

## Data/Statistics

Drawing upon the results of the regional workshop, a scoping survey will be conducted and a feasible work plan will be prepared for building a regional database of agricultural mechanization. To prepare for its establishment, specific activities recommended by the regional workshop, including preparation of an overall framework of the database and a draft template of a core dataset, will be undertaken by the Centre.

## SAMS

CSAM will continue to work with FAO-RAP and member countries to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization Strategy (SAMS) at country levels, including through the proposed SMAACNET.

## Programme/ Project Design and Fund-raising

In compliance with ESCAP's decision on Regional Institutions' governing structure, CSAM will work with stakeholders to formulate and expand its future work programme to better respond to ESCAP's corporate needs. Fund-raising and outreach efforts will be made based on the existing and evolving programme/project designs.

## Publications and Analytical Work

CSAM will continue its work on its main publications and research products, including publication on regional agricultural mechanization status, regular e-newsletters, policy briefs and research papers.

# Activity Snapshots

## **China-ASEAN International Agricultural Machination Development Forum, 17 September 2014, Nanning, China**

The China-ASEAN International Agricultural Machination Development Forum was held on 17 September 2014 in Nanning, China. More than 400 participants attended the meeting including government officials from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia and Vietnam as well as representatives from the private sector and scholars from research institutes. The Forum was themed on “Cooperation, Innovation, and Development”. Participants deliberated on regional cooperation in promoting agricultural mechanization among China and ASEAN countries, integrated development of agricultural mechanization, environment-smart agriculture and sustainable agricultural mechanization and related service industry development. Participants also shared experiences in adopting circular economy and energy-saving agricultural machinery at the country level. (Source: [People.cn](#))

## **The Asia-Pacific region celebrates the World Food Day with a focus on small holders and family farmers towards the eradication of hunger**

This year's World Food Day (16 October) was celebrated across Asia and the Pacific with increasing optimism that the region could achieve the Millennium Development Goal on reducing hunger by 2015.

The theme of this year's celebration is “Family Farming: Feeding the world, caring for the earth.” More than 80 percent of the food produced in Asia-Pacific comes from small-holder and family farms. Yet the members of these groups are often, themselves, among the poorest and most disadvantaged.

World Food Day is also a day to remember that the future of agriculture in Asia and the Pacific needs special attention – from land based food production of crops, livestock and other pastoral pursuits to fisheries and aquaculture – in order to nourish those chronically undernourished at present and produce yet more food to feed an ever growing population. At least 60 percent more food is needed by 2050 to feed an estimated nine billion people in the world – most of them in this region. (Source: [FAO website](#))

## **Nepal launches National Zero Hunger Challenge to eradicate hunger by 2025**

The Government of Nepal, with the collaboration and support of the United Nations, launched a national Zero Hunger Challenge, a major initiative to eradicate hunger in the Himalayan country by 2025 on 9 December 2014.

During the launch, a roadmap was presented by the Government of Nepal for the formulation of a National Action Plan to meet the Zero Hunger Challenge in Nepal. (Source: [Nepal Agricultural Research Council Website](#))

## **Farmers benefit from soil management training conducted by the National Agriculture Research Institute (NARI) of Papua New Guene (PNG)**

Farmers from Ungai/Bena in Eastern Highlands have acquired new techniques on soil fertility and moisture management during a training program at Korefegu, conducted by NARI's Aiyura-based Highlands Regional Centre during December 15-17, 2014.

The training, both in theory and live demonstrations, was delivered at the Korefegu Resource Centre in the Lower Bena LLG, a drought hotspot area in PNG. The event was conducted as part of a climate change adaptation project, “Coping with Climate Change for Resilient PNG Agricultural Communities”, implemented in the area to increase awareness and develop capacity of local beneficiaries for improved soil management practices and coping with dry periods and related climatic stresses.

NARI has participated in many CSAM activities including technical consultations on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM). (Source: [PNG National Agriculture Research Institute Website](#))

[Read more](#)

## **Mechanization level of crop production in China exceeds 60%**

According to the Ministry of Agriculture of China, the overall mechanization level of crop production in China in 2014 achieved 61%, reaching the 60% target set by the 12th Five-Year Plan one year in advance.

In 2014, agricultural machinery purchase subsidies provided by the central government reached CNY 23.75 billion, an increase of CNY 2 billion over the same period of last year. Total power of agricultural machinery reached 1.076 billion KW, a growth of 3.57% over the same period of last year. Comparing with last year, the number of large and medium-sized tractors grew by 8.6%, reaching 5,720,000 units. The small-sized tractors increased only by 0.6%.

The safety of agricultural machinery operation was also improved in 2014. From January to November 2014, the total of death toll and injuries related to agricultural machinery decreased by 27.7% and 2.2% respectively, and the direct economic loss fell by 15.9%, thanks to enhanced safety monitoring and management. (Source: [China Agricultural Mechanization Herald, Issue: 511, 22 December 2014](#))

# Focal Point Profile

## CSAM focal point in India: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)



The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Formerly known as Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, it was established on 16 July 1929 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 in pursuance of the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. The ICAR has its headquarters at New Delhi.

The Council is the apex body for co-coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country. With 100 ICAR institutes and 70 agricultural universities spreading across the country, it is one of the largest national agricultural systems in the world.

The ICAR has played a pioneering role in ushering Green Revolution and subsequent developments in agriculture in India through its research and technology development. It has also played a major role in promoting excellence in higher education in agriculture. It is engaged in cutting edge areas of science and technology development with internationally acknowledged scientists are in respective fields.

The Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering (CIAE) was established at Bhopal on Feb. 15, 1976. The institute is one of the leading engineering institutes under ICAR. It is mandated to undertake adaptive and applied research on process for production, including post-harvest technology, energy-use in agriculture and rural industries, leading to development/improvement of equipment, technology. The institute is also responsible for providing inputs to ICAR for policy intervention, consultancy, and undertaking post graduate education programmes, training, and developing and manufacturing hardware in cooperation with other ICAR Institutes.

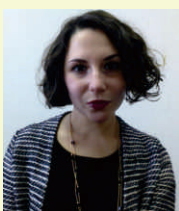
At present, the Institute has five Divisions (Agricultural Mechanization, Agricultural Energy and Power, Irrigation & Drainage Engineering, Agro Produce Processing and Technology Transfer), Coordinating Cells of four All India Coordinated Research Projects (Farm Implements and Machinery, Utilization of Animal Energy, Renewable Energy Sources and Ergonomics & Safety in Agriculture) and two centres (Krishi Vigyan Kendra and an outreach Industrial Extension Project at Coimbatore).

To address region specific technological issues, CIAE is linked with the whole country through All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs). The network of AICRPs helps in identification of specific regional problems needing engineering intervention. These problems are then solved through expertise available at CIAE or other partners of the linkages.

Over the years, both ICAR and CIAE have taken active part in CSAM activities, and provided valuable technical support. CIAE co-hosted the 9th Session of the Technical Committee of CSAM in 2013. It has also been designated as the focal point for the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) in India, and provided valuable technical support. At present, CSAM is working with ICAR and CIAE to jointly organize some activities in 2015.

## Meeting People

### Ms. Camilla Stelitano (Intern)



Ms. Camilla Stelitano, joined CSAM on 15 September 2014. She got her Bachelor in Oriental Cultures and Languages in 2011 from the University of Rome La Sapienza. Since then she has been involved in several development projects in Italy, China, and India focusing on land and migration issues. In 2014, she obtained her Master of Public Administration in International Development from Tsinghua University in Beijing (Distinctions), with a research project titled "Policy Experimentation in Contemporary China: Functions & Overall Trends".

### Ms. Zitong Guo (Intern)



Ms. Zitong Guo, joined CSAM on 1 October 2014. Zitong is a 3rd-year postgraduate student in Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) majoring in International Relations and Diplomacy. Zitong completed undergraduate study at BFSU (2008-2012) majoring in Malay Studies.



*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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