

Newsletter

2nd Issue 2015

News Highlights
CSAM Activities in Focus
Member Country Snapshots
Development Trends
Meeting People



News Highlights

Training on Agricultural Mechanization for the Korean Academy of Agricultural Science of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Drew to a Successful Closure

The Training on Agricultural Mechanization for the Korean Academy of Agricultural Science (KAAS) of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) drew to a successful closure on 20 April 2015 in Beijing after three weeks' intensive capacity building.

The Training was organized by the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) in collaboration with China Agricultural University (CAU) with financial support of ESCAP with the aim to enhance the awareness, knowledge and capacity of the participants of KAAS.

Designed for the specific context and requirements of DPRK, the training provided a wide spectrum of agricultural

mechanization development issues covering strategy and policy formulation and implementation, specific technologies and equipment of grain harvesting, maize production, transplanting, storage and processing, animal husbandry, conservation agriculture, irrigation, precision agriculture, green house, and the development and sound practices of machinery testing and extension, research and innovation methods, education and training, and cooperatives. Visits to related agencies and demonstration sites were arranged, including a trip to Zhengzhou, Henan Province, to participate in a large agricultural machinery exhibition.

At the Closure Seminar on 20 April 2015, the DPRK participants were awarded certificates by Mr. Zhao Bing, Head of CSAM. Dr. Han Lujia, Dean of the College of Engineering of CAU. Mr. Bong Seok So, Project Expert of the Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division of ESCAP, also presented more than 50 books on agricultural mechanization to the DPRK delegation. In addition, Mr. Choe Chol Ho, Senior Official of the Department of External Science and Technical Exchange of Korean Academy of Agricultural Science updated on the situation of agricultural mechanization development in DPRK at the Closure Seminar.

In addition to achieving all the designed objectives, the training also enhanced mutual understanding between the Korean Academy of Agricultural Science and CSAM, which laid down good foundation for future cooperation.



ESCAP Member States Made Important Advance towards Mutually-Recognized Testing Codes for Agricultural Machinery to Promote Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and Trade

Testing engineers from Member States of ESCAP, i.e. Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, France, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka and Thailand drafted standard codes and procedures for power tillers and misters/cum dusters across Asia at the 1st meeting of the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM). The meeting was held on 4-7 May in Serpong, Indonesia, with the support of the Indonesian Centre for Agricultural



Engineering. Power tillers and misters/cum dusters are most commonly used agricultural machinery by millions of farmers across Asia, and their safety and efficiency have a direct bearing not only on the wellbeing of farmers, but also on the safety of food production and the environment.

Intensive technical negotiations at the 1st TWG focused on harmonizing existing testing codes that are compatible with the local conditions in Asian countries, while enhancing safety and environmental standards of agricultural machinery. The draft codes were developed by drawing upon

relevant standards adopted by international organizations such as ISO, OECD and FAO, as well as codes from Asian countries. Experts stressed the important role of ANTAM in promoting sustainable agricultural production and facilitating intra-regional trade by reducing transaction cost and enhancing transparency of trade. Moreover, ANTAM codes will offer a guarantee of safety and quality to farmers by increasing their access to safe and efficient machinery.

After test runs in selected laboratories in the region using the testing codes drafted, both the codes and testing reports will be submitted for review and adoption at the 2nd Annual Meeting of ANTAM scheduled to take place in December in New Delhi, India.

The codes drafted were also referred to at the ANTAM Regional Training of Trainers Programme, held in Nanjing, China, from June 23rd to 27th, in collaboration with the China Agricultural Machinery Testing Centre (CAMTC).

ANTAM, launched by CSAM in November 2013, is aimed to promote the manufacture, use of and trade in safe, efficient and environmentally friendly agricultural machinery through harmonizing testing codes among participating countries for sustainable agricultural production. Sixteen Member States and region of ESCAP have designated national focal points for ANTAM. FAO, OECD, UNIDO and the European Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ENTAM) represented by the Italian Agency for Agricultural Mechanization (ENAMA) have joined CSAM in the Advisory Panel of ANTAM.

CSAM Joins Hands with CAPSA and APCTT in Incepting the LIFT Project for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar 5-8 May 2015, Yangon, Myanmar

The three regional institutions of ESCAP, i.e. the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture (CAPSA) and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), launched “An Integrated Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar” at the Inception Workshop held on 5 May 2015 in Yangon, Myanmar. The Workshop was co-organized by the Network Activities Group (NAG), a local NGO, with the support of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development of Myanmar (MLFRD) and United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS).



The project is funded through the Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) managed by the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) and aims to support integrated socioeconomic development in Myanmar's dry zone in the context of inclusive and sustainable development with special emphasis on livelihoods improvement and food security. APCTT, CAPSA and CSAM will work interdependently on three corresponding thematic areas, namely technology transfer of improved and environmentally sound technologies, sustainable agriculture and agricultural engineering and farm mechanization, in developing case studies, designing and implementing trainings, and formulating policy briefings.

The overall objective of the Workshop was to facilitate mutual understanding among stakeholders on the project and other ongoing and planned activities, and to identify opportunities for collaboration. Around 30 participants including representatives of LIFT development partners working in the dry zone of Myanmar, government ministries, international aid agencies, academia, NGOs and local civil society organizations participated in the workshop.

On 8 May 2015, representatives of the three RIs visited the Yezin Agricultural University and the Department of Agricultural Planning (DOP), Agricultural Mechanization Department (AMD) and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) of Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Myanmar (DOA-MOAI) to inquire about the Dry Zone and other relevant national and international development initiatives and to seek advice and opportunities of collaboration in implementing the project.

The Dry Zone mainly covers the three central regions of Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing in Myanmar, characterized by less and uneven distribution of monsoon rains. The challenges and constraints to food security and rural livelihoods in the Dry Zone have been exacerbated in recent years by increasing evidence of climate change.

CSAM Successfully Conducted the 1st Training on ANTAM Testing Codes



The Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) in collaboration with China Agricultural Machinery Testing Centre, Ministry of Agriculture (CAMTC/MOA) successfully delivered the first training activity for testing engineers from ANTAM participating countries in Nanjing, China from June 23rd to June 27th. The 1st Training of Trainers Programme on ANTAM Test Codes was the first capacity building programme of ANTAM since its annual meeting in September last year.

The training involved a total number of twenty participants from testing centres and agricultural mechanization research institutes of 11 member States of ESCAP i.e. Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

In order to target specific country needs and match participants' area of expertise, the training was conducted in two parallel sessions based on two sets of draft codes on power tillers and knapsack powered misters-cum-dusters recently developed by the Technical Working Group of ANTAM.

A pool of international trainers from China, France, India and Malaysia in collaboration with CAMTC designed rigorous curriculums to provide participants with solid knowledge of ANTAM testing standards. During the training, participants received theoretical instruction, and were provided with laboratory demonstrations and hands-on practice. Participants were also guided to fill up ANTAM standard test reports and given exposure to multiple testing practices. Thorough training manuals, including pictures of testing equipment were distributed to maximize the effects of the training and facilitate knowledge sharing on standard testing in participating countries.

The training was aimed to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of ANTAM codes and procedures and practical knowledge on their application. Moreover, the training also provided an opportunity to test ANTAM codes drafted at the 1st TWG Meeting and gather technical feedback from experts of participating countries.

In the following months, ANTAM participating countries will test run the ANTAM codes and generate uniform ANTAM test reports for technical review. The first set of ANTAM test codes on power tillers and knapsack powered misters-cum-dusters, and uniform ANTAM test reports will then be submitted to the 2nd Annual Meeting of ANTAM for review and adoption.

On-going Activities

An Integrated Rural Economic and Social Development Programme for Livelihoods Improvement in the Dry Zone of Myanmar

Following the Inception Workshop and official meetings with related government departments of Myanmar in May, after rounds of research work in recent weeks, CSAM has identified a few areas for conducting case study, training and formulating policy dialogues and trainings.

Proposed case studies include: 1) Scoping study to identify and propose priority areas of farm mechanization in the Dry Zone in the near future (including baseline and gap analysis and impact study); 2) Analysis of the feasibility and strategy of applying conservation agriculture (CA) in the Dry Zone in Myanmar; and 3) Status of custom hiring of agricultural machinery in the Dry Zone, including policy, financial capacity, impact (social and economic benefits), challenges and constraints, practices.

Related training will cover: 1) Trainings for policy-makers on creating an environment for farm mechanization, including experience and lessons from neighboring countries; 2) Application of conservation agriculture in the Dry Zone; and 3) Training for entrepreneurs on custom hiring business management.

Upcoming Activities

Training and Study Tour for Agricultural Machinery Distributors

In collaboration with the Centre of International Cooperation Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of China and the China Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association (CAMDA), CSAM will organize a training and a study tour for agricultural machinery distributors from 27 July to 4 August 2015 in Beijing, China. The programme is conducted under the framework of the Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations in Asia and the Pacific (ReCAMA), established in October 2014. The training and the following study tour are aimed to introduce the best practices and share experiences in agricultural machinery industry development, and to facilitate regional trade and investment. Around 20 participants from 9 countries will attend the programme, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The participants will also visit their Chinese peers in Wuhu, Anhui Province, and Weifang, Shandong Province.

Outreach and Partnership

CSAM joined the UNCT to meet with Mr. Li Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) during his official visit to China, on 10 June 2015. The meeting introduced the work of each agency and exchanged on-going joint initiatives in China.

CSAM attended the working meeting of United Nations Theme Group on Climate Change and Environment (UNTGCCE) in China on 12 June 2015, with colleagues from FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNWOMEN and WHO. The theme group, chaired by representative of UNEP, is established to coordinate the activities and pool of knowledge of the UN system, donor agencies and national partners to assist China in its efforts to balance the development of people and nature.

Member Country Snapshots

CSAM Focal Point in the Philippines: Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center, University of the Philippines, Los Baños

The success of the agricultural machinery industry requires a high level of technical competence and adequate facilities to ensure quality control. Testing is essential in agricultural mechanization to improve machine quality. Cognizant of these requirements, the Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center (AMTEC) was created. It was created in response to the need for an official testing agency for agricultural machinery to guide farmers, agricultural machinery manufacturers and financing institutions in

determining suitability of agricultural machines and equipment used under the Philippine conditions. AMTEC was established on July 11, 1977 through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB). However, beginning 1996, AMTEC became under full control of UPLB. The College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology (CEAT) of UPLB is the implementing unit of AMTEC. A Director who is concurrently a member of the academic staff administers the center. AMTEC's plans and programs are reviewed annually by an Advisory Board.



AMTEC shall establish standards of performance of machinery, conduct laboratory and field tests of machinery, evaluate the results using rationalized criteria, and disseminate the information to concerned agencies, farmers and fisher folks. The functions of AMTEC include:

A. To establish standard specifications, test procedures and performance indices for agricultural and fisheries machinery.

Sub-functions:

1. To identify critical machine parts that should be standardized to allow inter-changeability and complementation in the manufacture and maintenance of agricultural and fishery machinery.
2. To assess spare parts supply and after-sales service capabilities of firms engaged in manufacture and supply of agricultural machinery.

B. To conduct test and evaluation of agricultural and fishery machinery under established standard specifications, test procedures and performance indices.

Sub-functions:

1. To design and fabricate test instruments and rigs.
2. To maintain and calibrate test instruments and rigs.
3. To maintain and operate a power and machinery laboratory.
4. To maintain and operate a grain analysis laboratory.

C. To train students, technicians and engineers on standards development and test and evaluation of agricultural and fishery machinery; and

D. To publish and disseminate standards and test results of agricultural and fishery machinery in print and electronic media.

National Seminar on “Value Addition of Cotton Stalks and Other Agro-Wastes for Rural Livelihood” held in Nagpur, India

Mr. Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways & Shipping inaugurated the National Seminar on “Value Addition of Cotton Stalks and Other Agro-Wastes for Rural Livelihood” in Nagpur on 6 June 2015.



Mr. Shri Gadkari, while delivering inaugural address as Chief Guest, advised farmers to grow crops after studying economic viability, instead of blindly sticking to traditional crops. The Minister stressed upon utilizing technology, innovative thinking and fostering the spirit of entrepreneurship among the rural youth. He urged to use cotton stalk and other agro wastes for making pellets and briquettes as an alternative to coal, firewood, cooking gas and for conversion into ethanol as an alternative

to fossil fuel.

The Minister felicitated several farmers and entrepreneurs who make good use of agro waste. Dr. C. D. Mayee, President, ISCI, while delivering the speech as Guest of Honor, expressed the need to amend the curriculum of agriculture universities from primary agriculture to secondary agriculture. He said that advancement in agricultural technology is needed to convert waste into wealth. Earlier, Dr. P. G. Patil, Director, ICAR-CIRCOT delivered the welcome address and emphasized upon the need to promote entrepreneurship in the field of agro waste management.

The National Seminar was organized by GTC of ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai in collaboration with Indian Society for Cotton Improvement (ISCI) and Agro-Plus Foundation. More than 350 delegates including farmers, raw material suppliers and industry personnel participated in the seminar. (Source: [website of The Indian Council of Agricultural Research](#))

27th National Summer Crops Research Workshop Held at Nepal Agricultural Research Council

Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) organized a 3-day Summer Crops Research Workshop at National Maize Research Programme, Rampur, Chitwan. The workshop was chaired by the Executive Director of NARC, Dr Dil Bahadur Gurung and inaugurated by Chief Guest Mr. Tek Bahadur Thapa, Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives and Forestry. Dr GO Ferrara from CIMMYT Nepal, Dr Bhaba Prasad Tripathi representative from IRRI/Nepal, Division Chiefs, Regional Directors, representative from Seed Companies, NARC Scientists and Technical Officers and dozen of journalists and private sector entrepreneurs participated in the workshop. A total of 153 persons participated in the workshop. During the workshop, more than 100 papers were presented orally and 40 papers were displayed as posters. Speaking in the inaugural session, the Honorable Mnister Mr. Tek Bahadur Thapa highlighted importance of improved seed for agriculture production and food security. He suggested Agricultural Research, Extension and Agriculture Education should jointly work for effective transmission of the activities. The workshop was held from 5-7 Baisakh 2070. Workshop finally made recommendations and suggestions on different aspect of agricultural research to be further strengthened. Speaking on the closing ceremony, the Executive Director of NARC, Dr DB Gurung, urged the scientists that the generated technologies should be marketable and suitable for the entrepreneurs to compete with the international market sales. (Source: [Website of NARC](#))

Inception Workshop on Post Harvest Management and Value Addition of Fruits Production Catchments in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Countries

8 June, Islamabad - Date palm and banana are two main cash fruit crops of district Khairpur and Sukkur of Sindh Province. Pakistani dates have a huge national and international market demand. Pakistan is the 4th largest producer of dates with total annual production at around 650,000 tons in the form of over 300 varieties. Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) scientists' efforts are appreciated for introducing solar dates drying technologies. This was stated by Mr. Abdul Majeed Nizamani, President Sindh Abadgar Board and Member PARC Board of Governors in his inaugural address on the occasion of a day long "Inception Workshop on Post Harvest Management and Value Addition of Fruits in Production Catchments in SAARC Countries". Mr. Amir Mumtaz, Senior Scientific Officer (SSO), Food Sciences & Product Development Institute (FSPDI) of National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), gave a presentation on "Banana Value Addition Technologies", Mr. Waqar Akhtar of Social Sciences Research Institute (SSI), NARC, on "Result of Base Line Survey", and Mr. Riaz Murre of the Shah Abdul Latif University (SALU) Khairpur on "Date Production through Tissue Culture", Mr. Abbas Bhutto and other scientists also shared their knowledge and experience. (Source: [Website of PARC](#))

China signs \$50 million South-South Cooperation agreement with FAO

7 June, Rome - China and FAO today signed a \$50 million agreement to support developing countries in building sustainable food systems and inclusive agricultural value chains, recognizing the growing importance of collaboration between Southern countries in the fight against extreme hunger and poverty.

China's new contribution to the FAO-China South-South Cooperation Trust Fund will support the exchange of Chinese agricultural experts with countries in the global South, particularly in low-income food-deficit areas of Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America, over a period of five years.

"China has made strides in decreasing hunger and has used its own experience to support other countries in doing the same," FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva said during a signing ceremony on the sidelines of the FAO Conference.

"It has become clear that while we have the power to end hunger in our lifetime, we will only succeed if we work together - Southern countries empowering one another by exchanging knowledge and tools is a key part of this," he added.

Since 1990, China has successfully lifted 138 million of its people out of chronic hunger and reached the World Food Summit Goal, in addition to reaching the Millennium Development Goal of halving the prevalence of hunger ahead of the 2015 deadline.

"China is the leading agricultural producer among the developing countries; FAO is the world's top agricultural organization. We are ready to enhance our cooperation with FAO, which will not only benefit agricultural development and progress toward hunger reduction targets, but also the poor and hungry people of the world," said Mr. Wang Yang, Vice Premier of China, who attended the event.

Since FAO's South-South Cooperation initiative was established in 1996, China has been a front runner in sharing its agricultural expertise worldwide, deploying so far 1 023 experts and technicians to 25 countries. This partnership was galvanized by China's establishment of a South-South Cooperation Trust Fund with an initial contribution of \$30 million in 200

(Source: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/289386/icode/>)

FAO and ASEAN Members Move Forward with Improvements to Collection and Analyses of Agricultural Statistics

15 June, Bangkok - Representatives from ASEAN member countries have gathered in Bangkok to further improve their systems of collection and analyses of agricultural statistics, part of a regional and worldwide effort to strengthen agricultural statistics and ensure a food secure world.

The ASEAN Stakeholders Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics is convened by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in collaboration with the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Secretariat, and with the support of the ADB Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction. The meeting also coincides with the 8th Meeting of Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN Plus-Three Countries.

"This is an historic opportunity to enable countries to develop sustainable statistical systems which will produce accurate and reliable agricultural and rural data, comparable over time and across countries, for use by decision-makers," said FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative Hiroyuki Konuma in his opening statement, which was delivered by Vili Fuavao, Deputy Regional Representative.

“However, a necessary condition for the strategy to succeed is the political will and commitment of the governments who will benefit from the initiative. Governments need to demonstrate ownership and commitment by funding regular statistical services to produce the minimum core set of data,” Mr. Konuma added.

Five countries from the ASEAN region – Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam – are participating in these consultations. In Indonesia, an In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA) has been conducted and a proposal for national action has been prepared. A Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) is being developed. An IdCA is presently being developed in Lao PDR while the other three countries are expected to commence activities with their National Statistics Offices and relevant ministries in the near future.

The Secretariat of ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS), a Bangkok based agency, was established in 2003 following a consensus of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) meeting. The main role is to strengthen food security in Southeast Asia through dissemination of better food security information to its member states and to assist them in building capacity to develop their own systems. In the past, AFSIS and FAO have worked together on statistical initiatives such as a Crop Supply and Demand Analysis in Cambodia and Lao PDR, an Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) in Thailand and Philippines and South-South cooperation to transfer ASEAN experience to African countries.

(Source: <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/news/detail-events/en/c/293893/>)



*Cover photograph: courtesy of China Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association
Publication concept and design by WEI Zhen
Edited and reviewed by Adrien Morin, AI Yuxin, ZHAO Bing*

Meeting People



Mr. Adrien Morin(Intern)

Mr. Adrien Morin, joined CSAM on 1 May 2015 as an intern, to assist the office with various tasks such as projects planning and implementation. He will assist with CSAM's research and bring insights into the office's strategy. Mr. Morin received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science in 2013 from the University of Geneva in Switzerland, and obtained a Master's degree in International Relations from Peking University, China in 2015. He previously worked on international cooperation related issues and international projects, and interned for the Direction of International Relations and Operations for the French Red Cross in 2013.



*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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