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The Third Sessions of the Technical Committee (TC) and the Governing Council (GC) of APCAEM was held in Beijing, P.R. China, November 2007



The third sessions of the Technical Committee and the Governing Council of APCAEM was held successively in Beijing, P.R. China, 20-23 November 2007. The session of the Technical Committee was attended by representatives of Bangladesh, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Observers from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) China, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Engineering, China Agricultural Machinery Testing Centre, and an external evaluator from New York and APCAEM's consultant were also present. Representatives from UNESCAP headquarters also attended the sessions.



Representatives of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Viet Nam attended the third session of the Governing Council. Representatives from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka attended the session as observers.

Head / Senior Economic Affairs Officer of APCAEM attended the Greater Tumen Initiatives (GTI) 9th Consultative Commission in Vladivostok, Russian Federation



Head/Senior Economic Affairs Officer of APCAEM presented to the Committee and the Council, the Work Report of APCAEM for 2007, the Work Plan for 2008, as well as the Programme of Work for the biennium 2008- 2009.

At the invitation of the UNDP Tumen Secretariat, Dr. Joong-Wan Cho participated in the GTI 9th Consultative Commission, back to back with the Northeast Asia (NEA) Partnership Forum and the Investment Forum 2007: "Greater Tumen Initiative – Gateway to Northeast Asia," also organized by UNDP Tumen Secretariat in Vladivostok, Russian Federation, 15 November 2007. APCAEM sought partnership with the relevant

government and provincial officials, representatives of international organizations and the private sector involved with the GTI, and the proposed APCAEM project on the “Strategic Framework for Promoting Agricultural Development Cooperation in Greater Tumen Sub-region (GTS)” in particular. He also made a presentation on Enabling Environment for Business in the Northeast Asian Region as a panelist in the Investment Forum 2007. He stressed the role of the government and international organizations in facilitating software infrastructure for attracting foreign direct investment into the sub-region, such as harmonization of legal frameworks, simplification of investment procedures, regulatory regimes and standards, and experience/knowledge sharing.

Project Activities

A. On-going Projects

Regional Forum on Bioenergy Sector Development: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Way Forward in Bangkok, Thailand, 23-25 January 2008

The only way to actively engage developing countries in global action is to develop a market mechanism that helps climate change actions become compatible with the needs of countries to pursue rapid economic growth.

**Dr. Noeleen Heyzer
Executive Secretary
UNESCAP**

A Regional Forum on Bioenergy Sector Development: Challenges, Opportunities, and the Way Forward, was organized by APCAEM and co-hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Royal Government of Thailand in Bangkok, Thailand on 23–25 January 2008.

Around 150 participants, including policy-makers in charge of energy industry and bioenergy experts from 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific, representatives from UNESCAP, United Nations agencies (FAO, UNIDO, UNEP and UNDP), bilateral development organizations (SNV), national institutions, and selected

representatives from the private sector, attended this Forum.



Mr. Yukol LIMLAEMTHONG, Deputy Permanent Secretary, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, delivered the welcome remarks. On behalf of the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, the Head/Senior EAO of the Centre delivered an opening statement during the opening session of the Forum.

25 presentations were delivered by policy-makers and bioenergy experts on the bioenergy development, including the current status in Asia and the Pacific; possibilities for developing bioenergy source while ensuring a balance between its potential benefits and risks associated with environmental sustainability and food security; review of current bioenergy processing/conversion technologies for biofuels, biogas and biomass, and the next generation technologies; CDM project financing and investment in green business opportunities; and conclusions and recommendations for the way forward for the bioenergy sector development in the region.



Aide Memoir, Opening Statement, Programme, Final List of Participants, Conclusions and Recommendations are available at: www.unapcaem.org.

International Seminar on *Enhancing the Extension of Conservation Agriculture Techniques in Asia and the Pacific*

An International Seminar on Enhancing the Extension of Conservation Agriculture (CA) Techniques in Asia and the Pacific was held in Zhengzhou, Henan Province of China from 24-26 October, 2007. The Seminar was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture of China, China Agricultural University, with in-kind contributions from the Henan provincial government.



There were more than 120 participants consisting of experts/researchers, policy-makers, extension specialists and entrepreneurs from the Ministry of Agriculture, agricultural research institutes, academia, agricultural machinery management and the private sector from 9 countries, including Australia, Canada, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, and Vietnam took part in the Seminar. The senior officer from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also participated in the event.

Some 32 study reports were presented at the Seminar, focusing on (1) the Environmental Implications for CA; (2) CA techniques and Machinery; (3) Application and Extension Services of CA, and (4) Policy and Strategy for the Development of CA.

The participants shared experiences and advancement in promoting CA techniques and reviewed the current status of CA practice at the national and subnational levels. They also shared the latest findings of the socio-economic and environmental/ecological benefits as well as the lack of public awareness of the CA practice in the region. They exchanged ideas as to how to further enhance the application of the CA system for the region. Conclusions and recommendations were drawn up at the end of the Seminar, including the possible establishment of an Asian Network on Extension of Conservation Agriculture (ANECA). As a follow-up to this project, the Centre will look to the opportunities for the implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) applied to the Conservation Agriculture in developing member countries in the region.

Documents on the International Seminar are available at: www.unapcaem.org.

Training Workshop on *Enhancing the Access of Agro-Based SMEs to the Regional Market through Trade Fair Promotion*



A Training Workshop was organized in Yantai, Shandong Province of China on 24 September 2007 to help trade fair organizers facilitate agro-based SME's participation in international expositions. Two consultants were invited to provide professional advice to trade fair organizers on how to enhance their capacity to provide first-rate agro-trade fair facilities and a create a more appealing environment for agro-based SMEs from the Asian and Pacific region to take part in trade fairs.

Government officials, experts and representatives from selected member countries (India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Thailand, and Viet Nam) involved in agro-trade/agribusiness were invited to engage in roundtable discussions on building the capacity of agro-based SMEs to access the regional market through agro-trade fair promotion, such as the International Fruit/Vegetable/Food Expo in Yantai, in parallel with the Workshop.

B. Newly Approved Projects

MDG Achievement Fund: Climate Change and the Environment Proposal for Joint Programme by UN Country Team (UNCT) in China

APCAEM has been involved in the preparation of the joint programme proposal by the UNCT since June 2007. The joint programme proposal (with a total budget of US\$ 12 million) was approved by the Spanish MDG Fund Secretariat in New York. As a result, a joint programme document was prepared by the nine participating UN organizations in China, including APCAEM, and has been submitted to the MDG Fund Steering Committee in New York in mid-October 2007, which has been approved for implementation in early 2008.

APCAEM's component in this joint programme is related to the potential of Conservation Agriculture and bioenergy (e.g., biogas) development for the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol.

Research Project (Phase I) on Green Technologies to Promote Sustainable Agriculture for Development

This research project, funded by UNESCAP, is aimed at identifying agro-based green technologies suitable for sustainable agriculture for development and rural economic growth, applying ecological agricultural techniques and practices to high value food crops (e.g., mushroom cultivation techniques) and bioenergy crops. Two international consultants have been selected to prepare the research study report to be completed by April 2008.

C. Project in the Pipeline

Establishment of the Asian Network for Testing of Agricultural Machines (ANTAM)

As a follow-up to the Roundtable Forum for Regional Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers/Distributors Associations held on 22 November 2006 in Seoul, Republic of Korea, a draft project profile on the establishment of the Asian Network for Testing of Agricultural Machines (ANTAM) has been prepared. The project proposal was presented at the third session of the Technical Committee (TC) of APCAEM for the TC members' inputs and comments; the project profile is ready to be submitted to UNESCAP for approval and funding.

Recent Events Participated by APCAEM

The Third China Jilin-Northeast Asia Investment and Trade Expo, Changchun, Jilin Province, China, 1-3 September 2007



At the invitation of the Organizing Committee, the Head/Senior EAO of the Centre took part in the third China Jilin-Northeast Asia Investment and Trade Expo (NAITE) on 1-3 September 2007 in Changchun, Jilin Province of Northeast China.

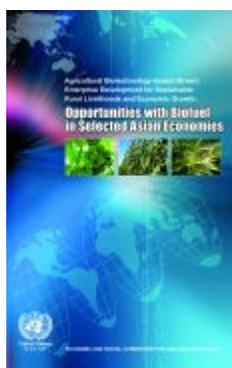
During Dr. Cho's visit in Changchun, he met with Mr. Wang Min, Secretary of the CPC Jilin Provincial Committee, along with the UNIDO delegation headed by the Director-General, Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella. Mr. Wang debriefed the preparatory situation of the third NAITE and expressed his warm welcome to UN's participation in the Jilin province of China's annual flagship event.

As an important component of this Expo, a high-level Forum on Northeast Asia Economic and Trade Cooperation was organized, where the Vice Premier of the State Council of China, H.E. Mr. Zeng Peiyan; Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia, H.E. Mr. Enkhsaikhan Mendsaikhany; Vice Minister of Commerce, Industry and Energy, ROK, H.E. Mr. Hong Sukwoo; Vice Minister for Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Japan, H.E. Mr. Masakazu Toyoka; Vice Minister of Foreign Trade, DPRK, H.E. Mr. Ri Ryong Nam; Presidential Plenipotentiary Envoy to the Far Eastern Province of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Kamil Shamilyevich Iskhakov; and other high-level government officials delivered keynote presentations on current economic and trade situation in Northeast Asia.

This event raised the awareness of APCAEM and its initiative on the GTS agricultural development cooperation programme by the provincial government entities, participating international organizations and the private sector associated with Tumen River Area Development Programme (TRADP). By taking part in the third NAITE, APCAEM has established a firm network of cooperation and collaboration with all the stakeholders in TRADP, including the UNDP Tumen Secretariat, UNIDO, and Tumen River Area Development Administration Development Zone Management Administration of the Government of Jilin of Province.

Publications and Study Reviews

Agricultural Biotechnology-based (Green) Enterprise Development for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods and Economic Growth: Opportunities with Biofuel in Selected Asian Economies



A publication, entitled *Agricultural Biotechnology-based (Green) Enterprise Development for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods and Economic Growth: Opportunities with Biofuel in Selected Asian Economies* was released in October 2007. Agriculture and rural development strategies are a critical component of an inclusive growth strategy for Asia and the Pacific region. In particular, the production and use of bioenergy in its modern forms can have a major and positive impact on agricultural development and the environment.

The application of bioenergy will possibly speed up socio-economic development, and a large number of farmers could increase food production and their own energy in a sustainable manner. This publication examines the specific country experiences in selected Asian economies, including China, India, Republic of Korea, the Philippines and Thailand. This publication presents an initial framework for developing biofuel enterprises for rural development through enhanced and sustainable energy production and suggests ways and means of regional cooperation in this area.

The Second Issue (Vol. 1, No. 2) of APCAEM Policy Brief is Available On-line



APCAEM Policy Brief (Vol. 1, No. 2): *Towards Sustainable Agriculture - Challenges and Opportunities in Conservation Agriculture* (November 2007) is available on-line. The policy brief makes the following policy recommendations on Conservation Agriculture: 1) An institutional framework of government services to mainstream sustainable agriculture development and GHG mitigation into national policies, laws, investment strategies, education and extension programs; 2) Raise public awareness to facilitate the extension of CA techniques by full involvement of all concerned stakeholders, including farmers, researchers, technicians, extension specialists and agronomists; 3) Enhanced research and manufacturing of suitable direct seeding implements supported by both public and private sectors; 4) Sharing of knowledge about all aspects of minimum/no-tillage system by farmers, researchers, technicians and extension specialists; 5) Demonstration of good practices to promote farmers' mindset change toward minimum/no-tillage CA; 6) Subsidies for buying new implements and phasing out the old ones; 7) Policy on financing the application of CDM in agricultural sector; and 8) Promote the public-private partnership in financing the CDM application to the agricultural sector.

Member Country Information

Country Pages for all APCAEM active member countries now available on-line

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The country pages containing the information on the agricultural sector have been completed for all the 15 active member countries of APCAM (namely, Bangladesh, China, India, DPR Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam). The country pages provide rich information and an easy access to agricultural engineering research institutions and universities, machinery manufacturers and dealers, as well as the resource persons in the respective country.

The country reports presented during the past Technical Committee meetings of APCAEM and other major seminars organized by the Centre have been uploaded in the respective member country web pages at [HTTP://WWW.UNAPCAEM.ORG/CP_INDEX.HTM](http://www.unapcaem.org/cp_index.htm). The authors are encouraged to send their resume and personal photo to APCAEM by email ([INFO@UNAPCAEM.ORG](mailto:info@unapcaem.org)). APCAEM webmaster will keep updating the information on the respective country pages.

About Us

Based in Beijing, P.R. China, the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM) is a subsidiary body/regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

As a subsidiary body of UNESCAP, APCAEM is fully committed to fulfilling the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Centre is particularly committed to make contributions to achieving MDGs 1, 3, 7, and 8 for the Asian and Pacific region through the implementation of its mandated functions and work programmes endorsed by the Governing Council of APCAEM and approved by the Commission of UNESCAP.



We sincerely wish that the readership and the stakeholders find the current issue of e-Newsletter highly informative and a useful channel for e-communications.



Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM)

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