



Republic of Cameroon

Peace – work – fatherland

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Developpement



Training Workshop on Sustainable Mechanization for Smallholder Farmers in Asia and Africa in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals *12 – 18 May 2019, Nanjing, China*

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- *What are the current constraints and challenges (including institutional, economic, technical, and social aspects) in adopting sustainable agricultural mechanization by the smallholders in your country?*



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- *What are the good practices and experiences in adoption of sustainable agricultural mechanization by smallholders, for example, machinery custom hiring and rental practices...?*

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I. Introduction and background

. Brief description of your country and its agriculture.

- Cameroon is a country that lies in the central and western part of Africa. It shares boundaries with Nigeria on the West, Chad to the North East, Central African Republic to the East, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea to the South and the Gulf of Guinea to the South West.
- The Republic of Cameroon is a unitary, constitutional democracy in Western Central Africa and bordered by the Atlantic oceans Bight to the South West.
- Cameroon which is a home to more than 200 different linguistic groups, is known as Africa in miniature due to its diversity.

Location of Cameroon in Africa



NATIONAL FLAG

➤ National Flag:



Green- Equatorial forest .

Red - Bloodshed by our forefathers for independence.

Yellow - Light that brings hope.

Yellow star in the middle - unification of the two Cameroons that became one and indivisible.

THE CAPITAL CITY OF CAMEROON

Yaounde



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Président of République of Cameroon



His Excellency Mr. Paul BIYA, « *Man of peace* »

- Cameroon's agriculture is the country's main source of growth and foreign exchange, until 1978 when oil production began. In 2004, agriculture accounted for 44% of GDP. Agricultural activity and productivity in the sector declined during the oil boom of the 1980. Agriculture is the main occupation for 56% of the active population in Cameroon in 2003, although only about 18.4% of the lands arable.
- This low percentage is due to poor farmland management policy and an almost universal isolation of farmland. In deed, there are very few roads linking the country side to major cities, which has a significant economic impact since the regions likely to be exploited are not linked to markets. However, despite these short comings (which are gradually being resolved), Cameroon enjoys a dynamic agriculture that not only manages to achieve more than 80% food self-sufficiency, but also to stimulate export of consumer products to neigh boring land locked countries (Chad and the Central African Republic) as well as those that do not produce enough food such as Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

Some agricultural products





II. Situation analysis at country level

- *General information of agricultural mechanization, the prioritized development areas of agricultural mechanization, and the future technical demand;*

He need to substitute artisanal methods with modern agricultural practices that include auricular machinery. This involves the use of tractors, trucks, combines, helicopters or any other agricultural vehicle. This is for better productivity. In order to make the industrialization of Cameroonian agriculture, which is part of the desire to promote second- generation agriculture.

It is in this perspective that the establishment of a tractor assembly and agricultural equipment manufacturing plant in Ebolowa, the result of cooperation between Cameroon and India, is being carried out. The purpose of this agro-industrial complex is to provide, high quality agricultural equipment; to the national territory and the countries of the Central African sub-region. However, the effective commissioning of this a decisive element for the linkage to a second generation agriculture, example mechanized, industrial and above all productive. However, beyond this desire to mechanize agriculture, experts stress that emphasis must be placed on reformatting the farmer, and giving him the opportunity to appropriate the new requirements of second-generation agriculture, which recommends a forward-looking vision and new skills capable of appropriating mechanization and transformation.

- *The policies and practices of government, enterprises and farmers' group in promoting smallholder mechanization.*

The necessity of agricultural modernization in Cameroon . This is in response to request from the Cameroonian Government dated 24 September 2007, which aimed to assist it in formulating an agricultural mechanization strategy with a view to contributing to the revival of agricultural production, by supporting the processing of the United Nation (FAO) has responded favorably to give its full support to this sector, whose revolution constitutes the major challenge of His Excellency Paul BIYA, whose effective implementation of this project, despite the long process that it constitutes, will be the sustainable economic take off of Cameroon and will also be its grander try among the so-called industrialized countries of the world: hence the legitimate joy of his compatriots today and now for generations to come.

Can this dream for the people become reality. FAO's support made it possible to carry out an inventory of agricultural mechanization in Cameroon, with the participation of the various stake holders. In deed, this strategy document is in line with the Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (DSCE), as well as with the rural sector development Strategy, Agriculture and Rural Development component. In fact, this mechanization strategy is accompanied by and action plan consist of three programs with a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. For FAO, its wish would be that the implementation of this strategy would lead to a substantial increase in the rate of agricultural mechanization in Cameroon, which could result in an improvement in agricultural production and a greater availability of agricultural products through processing.



It can also contribute to the achievement of Cameroon's vision 2035. according to Cameroon's vision, the agricultural sector will be characterized by large and small farms using a power productive apparatus, including the use of machinery, irrigation and appropriate in puts, for large-scale production that will enable Cameroonian populations not only to be self-sufficient in food, but also to sell and export to countries in Africa and the world.

III. Constraints and challenges

If second generation agriculture is effective, there will be a lot of happiness in rural areas. This is all the more so as producers will be able to produce better and more, and they will also be able to sell, Cameroon is the largest supplier of food products in the CEMAC zone and even beyond.

We feed countries like Nigeria. But now, a good organization must accompany all this. In terms of statistics, the state' projections predict an increase of a round 30 to 40% in the next 10 years, in terms of the level of increase introducers; in comes second-generation agriculture can really contribute to the influence of the economy and to the make second-generation agriculture a tangible reality in Cameroon. In the mean time, farmers continue to use archaic materials. As a result, Cameroon's production is still low today.

Problems in increasing the use of mechanization by smallholders are numerous:

- Small farmers often live in precarious living conditions and therefore receive irregular and low incomes
- The cost of mechanization inputs (and other inputs) is often beyond the reach of farming families
- Low yields do not allow money to be set aside, leading to low demand for mechanization and increasingly low productivity
- The technical skills needed to adopt and operate agricultural machinery profitably are lacking
- The contractual machine services offered by the state have practically disappeared because of their lack of profitability
- The local manufacture of machinery has not developed sufficiently to be able to supply sophisticated machinery, like tractors
- Repair services are generally satisfactory for simple technologies (hand or animal operated), but for motorized equipment, the supply of spare parts can be slow and cause long periods of unemployment, usually at critical times of the year.

IV. Good practices and experiences

The provision of safe and good quality agricultural machinery is an essential condition for the promotion of agricultural mechanization. The machines must be accompanied by high quality, reliable technical assistance and after sales service at reasonable prices for the supply of spare parts, maintenance and repair.

A code of good practice agreed by industries and stake holders could enable farmers suppliers of tractors and machinery technical assistance and spare parts service maintenance and repair services extension services technical training provision of funding ensure a good service to end users.

The need for better use of natural resources and wide spread greening of agricultural practice can be a valuable ally in agricultural mechanization, particularly at the level of smallholders. The increased availability of mechanization technologies not only improves smallholder yields through intensification, conservation agriculture, work that is more resistant to climate change and more labor and energy efficient, thus promoting practices that promote gender equality, but also allows for a more rational and efficient approach to agriculture in the long-term, thus increasing the prospects for sustainable profitability over time. It can also strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of small farms.



V. Recommendations

Recommendations actions for the future include

- The integration of policies facilitating the development of agricultural mechanization into the new Pan-African Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and in particular into the African policy framework for agricultural processing, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth and prosperity for all
- The formulation of sustainable agricultural mechanization strategies adapted to each country
- The adoption of sustainable agricultural practices for smallholders in terms of greening production
- Empowering smallholders through business models specifically designed to enable access and better integration into agri-food value chains,
- The development of agricultural mechanization through organizational and institutional elements common to smallholders, such as producer organizations

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- The expansion of agricultural mechanization in value-added production and in the development of agri-food value chains through its adoption in post-harvest processing and marketing activities
 - Greater attention to private sector development and public-private partnership in terms of increasing pan-African manufacturing of agricultural mechanization vehicles, tools and equipment, and the development of light mechanization enterprises by small farmers and for small farmers
 - A much greater integration of South-South cooperation to develop a common understanding in terms of technology and know-how transfer
 - Increased capacity building and development in the field for smallholders with the integration of agricultural mechanization into agricultural technical schools and agricultural business schools
 - The establishment of regional centers of excellence in agricultural mechanization

VI. Conclusion

Agriculture in Cameroon contributes sufficiently to economic activity. Because it is the main one a job provider, employing about 60% of its staff of the working population, mainly with in the family farms. It also plays a role in irreplaceable in the creation of in come in the campaigns, for the nearly two million agricultural house holds surveyed.

Thus MINADER has adopted a strategy of development of the rural sector, including the political vision aims to strong then Cameroon in the of sub-regional agricultural power, where the sector is a driving force of the national economy, ensuring the food security for the population in order to sustainable development, respectful of the environment.



Un champ d'engins

New tractor factory in Cameroon



THANKS FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

