

**Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM)
2020 Work Report**

**Adopted by the 7th Annual Meeting of ANTAM
17 December 2020**

1. This annual report is prepared by the secretariat of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asian and the Pacific (ESCAP).
2. The report describes developments in the implementation of programme activities of ANTAM since its 6th Annual Meeting held on 10-12 October 2019 in Moscow, Russian Federation. Based on the analysis carried out in 2016 regarding the network progress since its inception, 2020 was supposed to be the final year of phase (ii) of ANTAM implementation as outlined below:
 - i. Development of region-wide agricultural standards that reflect the agricultural and technological needs of countries in Asia and the Pacific (2014-2016);
 - ii. Establishment of a network of testing stations able to perform the standardized ANTAM Codes and produce consistent test reports (2017-2020);
 - iii. Establishment of a mutual recognition agreement for test results produced under the ANTAM umbrella (2021-2023).
3. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted the activities related to ANTAM as well as those of its participating countries' focal points and partners. Not only travel restrictions made in-person trainings impossible, but it was necessary for several ANTAM members and partners to refocus activities towards the immediate response to the pandemic and recovery from it.
4. In support of the objectives of phase 2 and 3, the secretariat circulated surveys to identify priorities and interests of member countries in relation to the adoption of a certification system and mutual recognition of test results, as well as to support national testing stations capacity building for the performance of consistent tests. With the world now heading towards action for the recovery from the pandemic, the role of regional harmonization of agriculture machinery testing will have more significance amid the need to ensure food productivity and facilitate trade. Although several activities in the 2020 work programme will have to be repropose in 2021, this will also be an opportunity for member countries to reconsider the priorities in the ANTAM initiative and to be more involved in its activities.

I. Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on Power Tillers, Knapsack Misters-Cum-Dusters and Paddy Transplanters

5. The ANTAM secretariat received two inputs for the revision of the Codes in 2019, and participating countries were asked to update them in 2020 in line with the decision of the 5th Annual Meeting to adopt new modalities for the update of the Codes. A total of three participating countries updated their requests for amendment or submitted new ones. As the secretariat was not able to receive all nominations of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) members, with several national focal points changing roles throughout the year and some position being vacant to this date, the secretariat convened meetings of the TWGs following their 2019 composition, and also inviting Bhutan to be represented in the TWGs as a new ANTAM member. Such meetings are to be considered informal meetings for an initial revision of the proposed amendments to the Codes, to be carried out in 2021. The TWG meetings were

carried out in an informal way, with the secretariat leading the discussion in consideration of the fact that some of the 2019 Chairs were not able to participate.

6. The TWG on Power Tillers saw the participation of Bhutan; Cambodia; China; India; Japan; Malaysia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Turkey; and Viet Nam.
7. The TWG on Powered Knapsack Misters-Cum-Dusters saw the participation of Bhutan; Cambodia; China; France; Japan; Malaysia; Philippines; Russian Federation; Turkey; and Viet Nam.
8. The TWG on Paddy Transplanters saw the participation of Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation; Sri Lanka; Turkey; and Viet Nam.
9. The secretariat compiled the proposed amendments to the Codes with relevant annotations in order to facilitate the early convening of the TWGs in 2021 for the preparation of an updated version of the Codes to be submitted at the 8th Annual Meeting.

II. Regional Training and Strengthening of Testing Capabilities in the Region

10. In contribution to Objective 3 of the 2020 Work Plan; “Strengthen Testing Capabilities,” and due to the impossibility to conduct a Training of Trainers in the traditional format, the secretariat organized a ‘Web Training’ presenting an ‘Introduction to Safety Testing’ on 18 November.¹ The significance of safety was discussed in the 6th Annual Meeting, where it was reaffirmed that in view of the high incidence of accidents, safety of agricultural machinery users is a key priority for countries in the region. The web training provided approximately 100 registered participants with a basic overview of the concepts relating to safety requirements and standards and introduced testing practices for the safety of agricultural machinery while emphasizing how they can help to improve agriculture and benefit all stakeholders. The web training was also broadcast live on ESCAP’s youtube channel, where it has received close to 300 views.² This is intended to be the first of a series dedicated to safety, to be collected into a wider e-learning/training module and made available on ESCAP’s learning platforms.
11. The web training leveraged new as well as long-standing partnerships facilitated by the secretariat, and also the expertise from participating countries. In fact, the web training was organized in collaboration with the Institute of Agricultural Machinery (IAM-NARO), Japan; the Italian Agency for Agricultural Mechanization (ENAMA, also Technical Reference Unit of ANTAM); the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People’s Republic of China (CNCA); and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
12. As part of its efforts towards Objective 3 of the 2020 Work Plan, to strengthen the testing capabilities in the Region, the secretariat circulated two calls for expressions of interest in participating in: (i) round robin tests for power tillers; (ii) field visits/study tours. These will need to be recirculated in 2021 when the conditions for round robin testing and field visits will be appropriate. Nevertheless, it is important to stress the importance of round robin tests to the

¹ http://www.un-csam.org/news_detail.asp?id=567

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54qPHCGB2iE&feature=youtu.be>

positive outcome of the ANTAM initiative, as they are a measurement system analysis technique, where technicians perform tests in their respective stations, and their test reports are independently evaluated by a third party expert. Such interlaboratory activity is encouraged to identify and compare any discrepancies in results, and recommend measures for enhancing the conformity and reproducibility of test methods. For the test to be significant, an adequate number of testing facilities should participate in it. In order to facilitate the expressions of interest in round robin tests by participating countries, a suggestion to conduct round robin tests of only certain machinery components or only certain items of each Code was submitted to the attention of the secretariat, and may be implemented upon endorsement at the Annual Meeting.

III. Survey on national certification systems and process for the adoption of ANTAM certification

13. In order to inform the further advancement of ANTAM as a network driven by participating countries, the secretariat conducted a survey among ANTAM national focal points and other stakeholders for development of criteria for accreditation of testing stations and help position the role of ANTAM certification amid national certification systems in participating countries. The survey highlighted the different interests and needs of participating countries, ranging from support to the development of national testing codes and facilities to monitoring of the development of a regional certification system to protect national manufacturers. The secretariat also carried out dialogues with some National Focal Points for further inputs. The secretariat duly took note of various suggestions for improvement, ranging from a stronger focus on testing for safety in agricultural machinery to the preparation of tutorial videos.
14. Among the results of the survey, the answers from stakeholders not directly involved in the ANTAM initiative highlighted the perceived benefits in terms of quality assurance and safety, but also highlighted the necessity to ensure the buy-in of government agencies in charge of trade and industry as well as mutual recognition without excessive bureaucratic steps.
15. The secretariat has prepared a note to inform the Annual Meeting on international instruments that could be considered to facilitate the establishment of a mutual recognition agreement for test results produced under the ANTAM umbrella.

IV. Partnership Development and Resource Mobilization

16. As mentioned above, ANTAM highly benefitted from ongoing collaboration with its participating countries, as well as ENAMA/ENTAM (Italian National Agency for Agricultural Mechanization/European Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery) in its capacity of Technical Reference Unit for the development of its first web training and the planning of an e-learning curriculum to be launched in 2021. The secretariat was also invited to attend the ENTAM Annual Meeting where the ANTAM experience was highlighted, thus providing new partnership opportunities.
17. Following up on the secretariat's engagement with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to explore how the ANTAM experience could be enhanced and also be brought as a best practice to countries beyond the Asia-Pacific region, the secretariat also presented the ANTAM initiative at the 4th Agriculture Machinery Forum organized by the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ) and CIMMYT Ethiopia.

18. As anticipated at the 6th Annual Meeting, the secretariat received through ESCAP headquarters the formal nomination by the Royal Government of Bhutan of its ANTAM national focal point at the Agriculture Machinery Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests. Bhutan thus became ANTAM's 19th participating country. The secretariat also had bilateral briefings with other countries from which it received informal expression of interest in joining the Network or participating/supporting some of its activities.
19. The secretariat has engaged and is in the process of following up with potential donors and national development agencies in order to secure funding that could support member countries in equipping their testing facilities and developing adequate human resources. Such funding is not guaranteed but usually subject to approval of a project proposal that the secretariat will draft together with National Focal Points of countries that potentially meet the criteria set by the relevant donors and national development agencies. Some of the calls for applications defining such criteria have been delayed or the fundings have been repurposed to target the response to the pandemic. However, the secretariat looks forward to the timely collaboration of National Focal Points in the drafting process. Study tours/field visits, if possible, will be conducted with a view to facilitate such drafting process, i.e. looking not only into the recommendations for the improvement of the facilities through existing resources, but developing a plan for the use of potential additional funding.
20. The secretariat seeks opportunities for more efficient use of the its funds and those of its contributing members be leveraging the online training opportunities. For this purpose, the realization of training videos for the implementation of ANTAM Codes, to be recorded in testing facilities of participating countries, is being considered.