



## Concept Note

### **9<sup>th</sup> Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific**

Transforming Food Systems through Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in  
the Region

*Friday, 26 November 2021*  
*14:30-16:30 Beijing Time (GMT +8)*

#### **I. Background**

The first-ever United Nations Food Systems Summit held on September 23, 2021, provided opportunities for diverse stakeholders including governments, academia, private enterprises and civil society organizations to share their vision for food systems that can help achieve a world where ‘no one is left behind’. Sustainable, inclusive and transformative food systems are needed to feed a growing global population while protecting our planet in the backdrop of the current complex challenges including impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

The Food Systems Summit was organized around five action tracks to achieve the transformation of food systems and realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable agricultural mechanization can play a key role in transforming food systems, particularly in three out of the five actions tracks of the Summit, namely 1) advance equitable livelihoods 2) boost nature-positive production, and 3) build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

The role of sustainable agricultural mechanization in increasing agricultural productivity, output and farmers’ income such as by enhancing cropping intensity, and improving the precision and efficiency of field operations has been well recognized. Appropriate agricultural machinery and equipment are also an important part of approaches for nature-positive production like conservation agriculture and integrated crop residue management. In addition, agricultural mechanization is key for climate-smart agriculture and for achieving both adaptation and mitigation goals, for instance through water efficient technologies. However, equitable distribution of the resulting benefits requires that smallholders, women farmers and marginalized groups with limited resources and capacities are able to get access to and sustainably adopt the necessary machinery and equipment.

The Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (Regional Forum) is an annual strategic initiative of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) with the aim to promote policy dialogue, knowledge exchange and regional cooperation on relevant shared or emerging issues of member countries in Asia and the Pacific. Since initiation in 2013, the Regional Forum has addressed various demand-driven themes in the context of mechanization including public private partnership, custom hiring, human resource management, climate-smart approaches, national strategy and policies, financing and recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **II. Objectives**

The objective of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Forum is to support follow-up to the outcomes of the Food Systems Summit with particular reference to sustainable agricultural mechanization by:

1. Examining the role of sustainable agricultural mechanization in transforming food systems;
2. Promoting knowledge exchange and prioritization of efforts among stakeholders; and
3. Enabling regional cooperation and networking.

The event will serve as one of the independent dialogues in follow-up to the Food Systems Summit. The deliberations will be structured around the three action tracks of the Summit noted above, namely:

- Advancing equitable livelihoods
- Boosting nature-positive production
- Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

## **III. Organization and Participation**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific will be organized by CSAM on 26 November 2021 at 14:30-16:30 Beijing Time via MS Teams and also broadcast live on YouTube. The event will be conducted in English.

The Forum is open to all stakeholders with a special focus on representatives of policymaking entities, research institutes and academia, farmers' organizations, non-profit organizations, and the private sector, as well as staff from relevant international and regional organizations working in the domain of agricultural and rural development in general and sustainable agricultural mechanization in particular in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### IV. Tentative Programme

14:30-14:40	<b>Opening remarks:</b> Dr. Yutong Li, Head, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, United Nations ESCAP
14:40-14:50	<b>Outcomes of the United Nations Food Systems Summit and role of mechanization:</b> Dr. Katinka Weinberger, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, ESCAP
14:50-15:20	<p><b>Advancing equitable livelihoods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sustainable agricultural mechanization for increasing rural incomes and reducing poverty:</i> Mr. LIU Xu, Deputy Director General, China Agricultural Mechanization Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, China</li> <li>• <i>Mechanization for empowerment of rural women:</i> Ms. Meghna Upreti, Agriculture Engineer, Agriculture Machinery Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan</li> </ul>
15:20-15:50	<p><b>Boosting nature-positive production</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Scale-appropriate mechanization for conservation agriculture:</i> Mr. Ngin Kosal, Director, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia</li> <li>• <i>Mechanization-based solutions for crop residue burning:</i> Dr. Kanchan Kumar Singh, Assistant Director-General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, India</li> </ul>
15:50-16:20	<p><b>Building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Intensification of tillage system in dryland conditions of Kazakhstan:</i> Mr. Kanat Akshalov, Head of Laboratory for Adaptive and Agro-landscape Technology, A.I. Barayev Research and Production Centre for Grain Farming, Kazakhstan</li> <li>• <i>Building resilience through digitalizing agriculture:</i> Dr. Jehoon Sung, Team Leader, National Institute of Agricultural Science, Rural Development Administration, Republic of Korea</li> </ul>
16:20-16:30	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
16:30	<b>Closing remarks:</b> Mr. Anshuman Varma, Deputy Head, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, United Nations ESCAP

**For more information, please contact:**

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