

Welcome Remarks by Dr. Yutong Li, Head of CSAM

ANTAM Web Training Introduction to Safety Testing

Wednesday, 18 November 2020
(14:00 – 15:30 hrs Beijing time/GMT+8)

Distinguished presenters and participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning / Good afternoon wherever you are!

On behalf of CSAM, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific or ESCAP, I wish to thank you for joining us on this day for our web training that will provide an introduction to safety testing. I am happy to connect with many familiar names and faces for this event, as it is meant to be training for ANTAM, the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery, of which ESCAP-CSAM is the secretariat. But I also know many of you are joining us for the first time, so please allow me to spend a few words to introduce the Network, and also let me extend a special welcome to our new members from Bhutan, who are joining an ANTAM activity for the first time.

ANTAM is an initiative led by ESCAP-CSAM that aims to harmonize testing standards for agricultural machinery in the Asia-Pacific region. This has the ultimate goal of facilitating its trade, but most importantly it promotes the use of safe, efficient and environmentally sound agricultural machinery in support of the Sustainable Development Goals. ANTAM also has the objective to build capacity for testing facilities and personnel in its member States. Although most of our past trainings have focused on the application of the Testing Codes developed by ANTAM, we have always paired these with trainings related to other relevant aspects of agricultural mechanization.

Several members have been asking us to facilitate trainings focusing on safety, and this is of course a crucial issue for all stakeholders involved in agricultural mechanization because lack of safety measures can lead not only to injuries of

operators, but also to environmental degradation and poor food security, hampering the positive impact that mechanization has in enabling recovery from shocks and building long-term resilience of farming communities. It is crucial to have a strong understanding of the importance of safety requirements, as well as of the aspects that need to be tested to ensure these requirements are met, and I am sure that our excellent speakers today will help you in gaining this expertise. At ESCAP-CSAM we are happy to leverage the wealth of knowledge of our partners to organize this first web training on safety testing. I would like to thank them all, from the ANTAM Technical Reference Unit: ENAMA, or Italian Agency for Agricultural Mechanization and secretariat to the European Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery; to OECD, which is member of the ANTAM advisory council. I am also very grateful to the experts from our participating countries that will share with us today their best practices: the Institute of Agricultural Machinery - National Agriculture and Food Research Organization of Japan, and the Certification and Accreditation Institute of the Certification and Accreditation Administration of China.

Over the past years, five ANTAM trainings of trainers have been organized by ESCAP-CSAM in collaboration with the China Agricultural Machinery Testing Centre, and this year unfortunately this was not possible because of the travel restrictions that the pandemic has brought over the world. However, these restrictions have also brought the opportunity to improve our use of new technologies, and I hope that today's web training will be the first of a series of events dedicated to safety testing, and that these can become an e-learning course to be made available to all on ESCAP's platforms dedicated to continuous learning on topics related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. For this reason, I invite you to compile the evaluation module that my colleagues will share at the end of the web training, where you will be also able to indicate the topics you would like us to address more in detail in the future, after the overview being presented today. I also hope that some of you will join us and support the preparation of other web trainings.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I trust that today we will help promote a safer and more sustainable agricultural mechanization, and I very much look forward to continue working with you for this objective.

Thank you.