



Crop Residue Management in South Asia

Advancing Subregional Cooperation for Sustainable, Climate-smart and Integrated Management of Crop Residues

15 September 2022
13:00 – 15:00 (Indian Standard Time)

Hybrid mode
Venue: ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia (SSWA)
New Delhi, India

Draft

Concept Note

Background

The burning of crop residue is one of the key reasons for creating severe air pollution in certain countries of South Asia. It affects people's health, contributes to climate change with the emission of Greenhouse Gases and affects agricultural production and food security by deteriorating soil health. Crop straw yield has kept growing and maintaining a high level with the agricultural productivity development in South Asia. The lack of suitable agricultural technology and machinery to sustainably utilize the straw or promote its recycled usage has led to their burning, which has caused a very high level of air pollution, including through transboundary sources, in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

ESCAP's Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) in collaboration with its network of institutions, have carried out national studies for Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan to better understand the status of crop residue management in these countries, identify gaps and opportunities, collect good practices/technologies of straw management (with particular emphasis on mechanization-based solutions), and design action plans for interventions. A subregional report is also being developed to explore key actions and the possibility of having a subregional framework for cooperation to promote sustainable and integrated management of straw residues.

Objectives

The objectives of the meeting are to:

- 1) Share main findings of national studies carried out for Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan to understand the status of crop residue management, good practices/technologies of straw management, and proposed action plans for interventions at national levels.



- 2) Present findings of a subregional report which identifies common challenges, technologies and best practices used, and explore an action plan and way forward to address the issue of crop residue burning at a subregional level.
- 3) Discuss the reasons for having a subregional framework for cooperation and identify common elements for the cooperation.
- 4) Collect expert's feedback on the proposed action plan and build consensus on the common elements of framework on subregional cooperation on sustainable and integrated straw management.

Feedback received from the meeting will be used to finalize these reports. A summary report of the meeting will be produced. The finalized meeting materials will be made available on the ESCAP website.

Participants

1. Government officials from agriculture and environment ministries/agencies from the subregion
2. Experts from think tanks, academia and civil society organizations
3. Representatives of interested UN Agencies, regional and subregional organizations

Organization

- The hybrid meeting will be conducted in the SSWA office in New Delhi, India, and online via Zoom. This meeting will be held in English.

Tentative Programme

15 September 2022	
13:00 – 13:10	<p>Welcome and Opening</p> <p>Ms. Mikiko Tanaka, Director and Head, ESCAP-SSWA</p> <p>Ms. Yutong Li, Head, CSAM</p>
13:10 - 13:40	<p>Presentation of national studies (7 minutes each)</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Takashi Takahatake, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP-SSWA</p> <p>(Each presenter will highlight the main findings and recommendations of their study)</p> <p>Bangladesh</p> <p><i>Dr. Md. Israil Hossain, Agricultural Engineer & Former Director General Bangladesh Wheat and Maize Research Institute</i></p> <p>India</p> <p><i>Dr. C R Mehta, Director, ICAR- Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering</i></p>



	<p>Nepal <i>Mr. Madhusudan Singh Basnyat, Agricultural Mechanization Expert & Former Deputy Director General, Department of Agriculture, Government of Nepal</i></p> <p>Pakistan <i>Dr. Shabbir Ahmed Kalwar, Agricultural Engineer & Former Director/ Chief Scientific Officer, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council</i></p> <p>Q&A</p>
13:40 - 14:55	<p>Panel discussion on building subregional framework for cooperation and the areas for cooperation Moderator: Mr. Anshuman Varma, Programme Officer and Deputy Head, CSAM</p> <p>Presentation by (15 minutes): <i>Dr. C R Mehta, Director, ICAR- Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, India</i></p> <p>Panel Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sultan Ahmmed, former Member Director, Natural Resources Management, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Bangladesh • Dr. Rajbir Singh, Director, Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Ludhiana, India • Mr. Jawed Alam, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Tribhuvan University, Institute of Engineering (IOE)/Purwanchal Campus Dharan, Nepal • Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan, former Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Pakistan • Ms. Sandra Corsi, Coordinator of Projects on Conservation Agriculture and Climate-Smart Crop Production Intensification, Plant Production and Protection Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations • Ms. Juliana Albertengo, Coordinator for Black Carbon Mitigation – Agricultural Open Burning, International Cryosphere Climate Initiative, USA <p>Open discussion: Questions/comments from floor</p>
14:55 - 15:00	<p>Closing session Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head, ESCAP-SSWA</p>