

## **Opening Remarks of Ms. Li**

### **The 8th ReCAMA Training and Study Tour for Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers and Distributors**

Sustainable Mechanization for Smallholder Farmers

*22-27 October 2023, Nanjing, Wuhan, China*

Distinguished Mr. WU Junqi, Chief Supervisor of China Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association (CAMDA); Mr. WANG Tianchen, Vice President of China Agricultural Mechanization Association; Mr. LI Youji, Chairman of Supervisor Board of China Association of Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers (CAAMM), and Mr. ZHANG Chuansheng, Deputy Director of the Division of System & Foreign Affairs of China Agricultural Mechanization Center (CAMC),

Dear Representatives of ReCAMA member associations, delegates, and distinguished partners,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning.

On behalf of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), I would like to extend my warm welcome to you all at *the 8th ReCAMA Training and Study Tour for Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers and Distributors* of the Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations in Asia and the Pacific (ReCAMA).

At the upmost, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our co-organizers, including the China Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association, China Agricultural Mechanization Association, China Association of Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers and Nanjing Institute of Agricultural Mechanization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China in organizing the 8th ReCAMA Training and Study Tour.

The Food Systems Summit convened in 2021 highlighted the critical role of agriculture and food systems in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Notably, FAO data highlights that 600 million

smallholder farmers, cultivating under 2 hectares, contribute to about 35% of global food production. This demographic, often working with limited resources and facing numerous challenges, stands at the forefront of sustaining global food security. Thus, it's imperative that they are equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to maximize their yields and optimize their processes.

Recognizing their significance, the 8th ReCAMA Training and Study Tour targets "Sustainable Mechanization for Smallholder Farmers" this year. The proposed training aims to bridge the existing gaps in knowledge and infrastructure by introducing environmentally friendly, economically viable, and socially inclusive farming techniques, making them more resilient to external shocks like climate change and the recent pandemic. By adapting to appropriate machinery tailored to their specific needs, the small holding farmers can better manage weather patterns and other challenges, ensuring a more stable food supply.

Since its inception in 2014, the Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations, abbreviated as ReCAMA, is a visionary initiative of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) mandating to enhancing collaboration and closer business connections among national associations and private sectors. With a track record of generating business opportunities worth around USD 29 million for its members by 2020, and being cited by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation as a 'Good Practice' in 2020, ReCAMA plays a crucial role in increasing the accessibility, trade and investment of agricultural machinery at the regional level.

Before the training session today, I am glad to know that you have visited several enterprises and agencies specialized in sustainable agricultural mechanization for small holding farmers. I do hope that you have improved your understanding in this regard; and the trip helps you to improve your capacity to meet to the genuine needs of the small holders in your countries in your daily work.

I invite each one of you to join the discussions and share your insights in the coming days and a great success of the 8th ReCAMA Training and Study Tour. Wish you have an enjoyable in Wuhan.

Thank you.