

ANTAM Survey on Testing Fees

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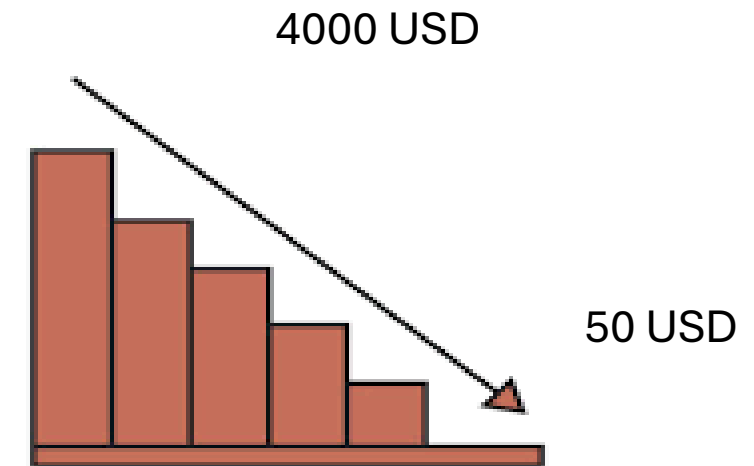
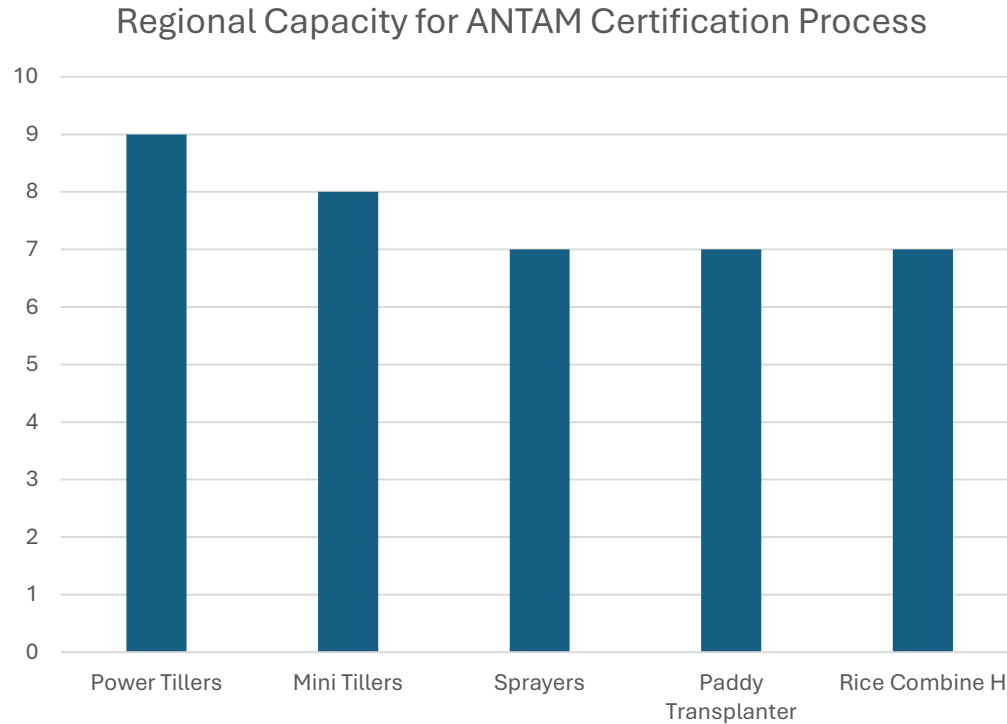
Objectives

- Purpose: To prepare rough estimation of the testing fees that each participating country or testing station would charge for the performance of tests following the ANTAM Codes
- Objective: Provide data for discussion on networking ANTAM test fees at the Annual Meeting 2025.

Testing Charge Categories – Cost Structures Identified

- ANTAM Testing Fee - Excluding optional test and including all other tests provided by the Code
- Engine Test – Taken Separately as some member countries do not have facility
- Noise Test - Taken Separately as some member countries do not have facility
- Vibration Test - Taken Separately as some member countries do not have facility
- Optional Tests – Ex: Waterproof Test
- Administrative charges - If not included in the ANTAM Testing Fee
- Other charges –If not included in the ANTAM Testing Fee
- Surveillance according to the ANTAM rules - If applicable
- Renewal according to the ANTAM rules - If applicable

Regional Strength for ANTAM Test Codes



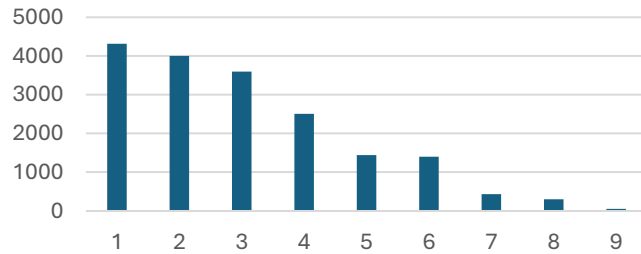
Note: 10 Testing stations belongs to 09 member countries provided information to the survey.

Data Analysis

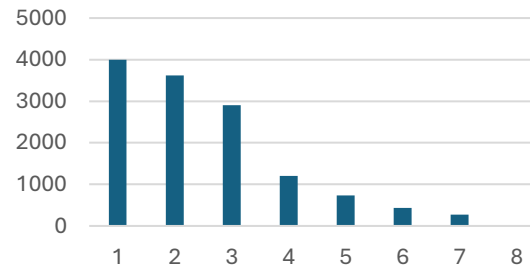
- All values have been considered in United States Dollars (USD) for consistency and comparability.
- Staff fees, fuel expenses, and other administrative costs, although mentioned separately by some member countries (Without values), have not been included in the calculation.
- This analysis focuses solely on the basic testing fees that are directly aligned with the ANTAM codes, specifically covering the ANTAM common test procedures noise levels, vibration, and engine performance.
- Therefore, the above testing fees can be described as the minimum testing fee charge by the member countries to test machinery with the ANTAM test procedures.

Data Visualization

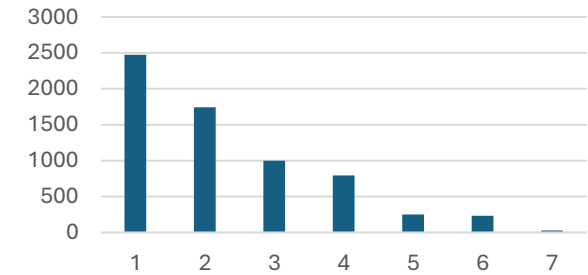
Variation of Testing fees of Power Tillers



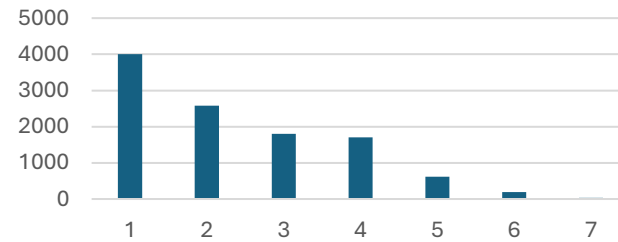
Variation of Testing fees of Mini Tillers



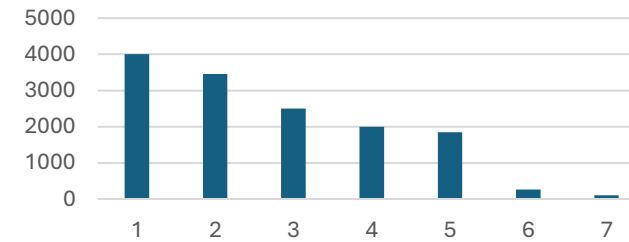
Variation of Testing fees of Sprayers



Variation of Testing fees of Paddy Transplanter



Variation of Testing fees of Rice Combine Harvesters



Discussion

Such a wide difference in fees could incentivize them to choose countries with the lowest costs

Note: Mitigating Factors exist.

- ***Geographic proximity***
- ***Technical knowledge of Testing Staff***
- ***Responsiveness and feedback***
- ***Duration for Test***
- ***Local market opportunities***

Some stations may be concerned for a risk of overloading in low-fee countries while leaving high-fee centres underutilized, ultimately undermining the efficiency, sustainability, and fairness of the regional testing system.

This could be addressed by a harmonized fee structure, if approved by the ANTAM member countries.

Proposal for the Discussion

Revision of national fee structures with a view toward achieving a harmonized and sustainable pricing model.

Establish a reasonable price band within which all member countries operate (Not to impose a uniform fee across the region).

The Cost Structure may include:

- Nominal Testing Charge
- Staff salaries
- Equipment upkeep
- Facility maintenance
- Fuel and Lubricant

Other Considerations

- National operational costs
- Inflation rates

Such an approach would discourage both fee undercutting and excessive pricing, thereby fostering a more balanced, transparent, and resilient regional testing ecosystem.

Precedents and Outcomes

- The harmonization of the testing fees could be applied only for the testing related to the ANTAM Codes.
- **Outcomes:**
 - More balanced distribution of testing requests across countries
 - Improved efficiency and workload management at testing centres.
 - Enhancement of the financial sustainability of national testing institutions.
 - Strengthen the credibility and fairness of the ANTAM Mutual Recognition System.
 - Improvement of the mutual trust and encourage greater participation from private sector stakeholders.

Proposed Methodology

- Establishment of a working group (WG) to develop a proposed *testing fee band and methodology*.
- Collection of updated cost structures and operational budgets from the testing stations.
- Dialogs among member countries to reach a consensus on an acceptable range of fees (Facilitated by ANTAM Secretariat).
- Publish of the recommendations encouraging voluntary adoption through national policy framework to adjust the fees.

Steps for Implementing Recommendations

- Member countries shall agree to upgrade their facilities as part of their commitment to implementing an ANTAM mutual recognition system as it becomes effective.
- This would include improving infrastructure, updating laboratory equipment, accreditation procedures and aligning operational procedures with standardized protocols to ensure consistent, accurate, and credible testing results across all member countries.
- These upgrades are critical to support the goals of the ANTAM mutual recognition system and to build trust among stakeholders by ensuring uniform quality and comparability in testing practices.
- (Part of the testing fees could be used for this purpose)

Way Forward

- Submission of current fee structure including all the costs.
- Appointment of Working Group and WG consultation for analysis and benchmarking fee ranges.
- Determination of testing fee bands and setting up of goals for restructuring the cost structures.
- Bilateral or subregional dialogues with national policy makers to review proposed targets and support the development of national fee revision strategies.

Continued..

- Voluntary commitments to the revised fee targets during the Annual Meetings.
 - Stakeholder Consultations informing the new fee bands.
- (Benefits for the private sector: faster processing, greater transparency, and equal competition to manage expectations and maintain trust).*
- Monitoring protocol by the ANTAM secretariat to ensure accountability.
 - Publish summaries of compliance and adjustments, promoting transparency, peer pressure, and continuous improvement as a part of mutual recognition system of ANTAM.

Conclusion

To safeguard the integrity and sustainability of the ANTAM testing and mutual recognition framework, it is essential to ensure that testing fees reflect true operational costs and do not lead to imbalances in service delivery.



Thank you