

## **Summary Report of the Regional Workshop on Establishing a Regional Database of Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific**

**17-18 November 2014, Siem Reap, Cambodia**

1. The Regional Workshop on Establishing a Regional Database of Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 17-19 November 2014 back-to-back with the 10th Session of the Technical Committee of CSAM and with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
2. The Workshop attracted the attendance of thirty-eight participants, including representatives from 15 member countries, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, five regional and international organizations/institutions and private-sector associations.
3. Mr. Pech Sovanno, Deputy General Director of General Directorate of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia addressed the Opening. Ms. Ismal Kumudini, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India, delivered remarks on behalf of member countries. Ms. Marit Nilses, Head of Unit, Economic Affairs Officer of Trade and Investment Division of ESCAP and Ms. Rosa Rolle, Senior Agro-Industries and Post-harvest Officer of FAO-RAP also made opening remarks. Mr. Zhao, Head of CSAM expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia for its forceful support to the meeting, and delivered a key-note presentation entitled “New Generation of ICT to Serve Regional Agricultural Mechanization Development” on behalf of Professor WANG, Maohua, Member of Chinese Academy of Sciences.
4. Country representatives briefed the meeting the status quo, existing institutional arrangement, and scope and availability of agricultural mechanization statistics in their respective countries. The participants identified common challenges and constraints facing agricultural mechanization statistics, inter alia, reduced priority and financial support to agricultural statistics, lack of standard classifications, questionable credibility of data, poor access to data by end users, lack of coordination in data collection, and inadequate competency of personnel.
5. Representatives from regional and international organizations and private sector associations shared their activities on agricultural mechanization statistics. Ms. Margarita Guerrero, Head of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), briefed participants on the work related to Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the components of the Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics 2013-2017 at the

country level. Ms. Rosa Rolle, Senior Agro-Industries and Post-Harvest Officer of FAO-RAP shared FAO-RAP and CSAM's joint initiative on setting up a web-based network to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific, and good practices applied to FAOSTAT on agricultural machinery data including the introduction of harmonized commodity description and coding system. Representatives of ENAMA, SAARC, India Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers' Association, and China Association of Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers introduced their agencies and work related to agricultural mechanization statistics.

6. Dr. Gajendra Singh, a renowned professor on agricultural mechanization, and Adjunct Professor of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) outlined the main components that the proposed regional database shall cover. Dr. Peeyush Soni, Assistant Professor of AIT enumerated the existing regional and global database in this field and delineated a roadmap to establish the proposed database. Dr. Minli YANG, Professor of China Agricultural University, Executive Deputy Director of China Research Center for Agricultural Mechanization Development emphasized the importance of reliable data on policy making, and suggested to develop a framework to define the aim, functions, scope, key dataset, and other aspects of the proposed regional database.
7. There was consensus among all participants that reliable, timely and comparable data and statistics are essential to inform evidence-based decision and policy making in promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization and food security. Lack of a regional framework and insufficient capacity at country level were identified as main constraints. The participants applauded the initiative of CSAM to deliberate on a regional database of agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific.
8. Such a database should assist member countries in identifying the level of agricultural mechanization, facilitate industry adjustment and technology innovation and cross border trade of agricultural machinery. While consolidating data from countries, it should comply with international statistical standards and the data should be comparable across countries. This regional database would not duplicate, but rather complement the existing initiatives. Participants stressed the necessity to develop a minimum core set of data through introduction of a simple, uniform template and development of a common set of indexes and standards to ensure data comparability. Meanwhile, participants emphasized the necessity of collaborating with the private sector in data collection. Participants suggested that CSAM should design a detailed action plan in close consultation with collaborating partners and member countries.

9. The meeting concluded by recommending CSAM on the first steps of this effort to improve the quality and quantity of agricultural mechanization data and statistics in support of sustainable agriculture, including to:
  - a) develop an overall framework defining the regional database supported by a concrete work plan;
  - b) undertake survey of the data availability and needs of member countries;
  - c) prepare a template of core dataset and indicators to seek comments and consensus from member countries and other key stakeholders;
  - d) conduct discussions/consultations with the regional and international organizations with similar initiatives to avoid duplication and increase synergy and complementarities;