



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-third session**

Bangkok, 15-19 May 2017

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure
of the Commission, including the work of the regional
institutions: trade and investment****Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable
Agricultural Mechanization on its twelfth session***Summary*

The Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) expressed deep appreciation for the progress made by the Centre in 2016, including through implementation of its key initiatives. It also expressed deep appreciation to the host country, China, for increasing its annual contribution for the operation and programmes of CSAM for the period 2016-2020.

The Governing Council emphasized the need for CSAM to support policy advisory services, tailored capacity-building, technology transfer (including sharing of prototypes and post-harvest and processing technologies), the improvement of technical know-how of local manufacturers and knowledge-sharing. The Council also highlighted the importance of conducting a needs analysis to ensure the alignment of the Centre's work with the needs of member States.

The Governing Council underscored the importance of mutual learning and enhanced collaboration among member States and relevant stakeholders to maximize synergy and avoid duplication. In addition, the Council emphasized the need to seek high-level political support for sustainable agricultural mechanization efforts.

The Governing Council stressed the importance of its members exploring opportunities to contribute to and support the implementation of the programmes and activities of CSAM, for example, through voluntary and in-kind contributions.

The Governing Council recommended that CSAM should:

1. Explore the feasibility of developing testing codes for four-wheel tractors and combine harvesters, and that a proposal on power weeders should be submitted to the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery Technical Working Group on Rice Transplanters;
2. Analyse linkages between agricultural mechanization and specific Sustainable Development Goals through modalities such as a research study or a technical workshop;
3. Continue to make efforts to share information in advance on the Centre's planned events to enable member States to make preparations in order to contribute to those events;
4. Explore opportunities to collaborate with other regional and subregional organizations;
5. Strengthen its work in the area of custom hiring of agricultural machinery.

* E/ESCAP/73/L.1.

The Governing Council endorsed the Centre's work report and financial status report for 2016 as well as its proposed work plan for 2017. It also supported the draft midterm development strategy (2017-2019). In addition, the Council underscored the need to increase the Centre's in-house technical expertise to accelerate project implementation.

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with guidance on the future work of the Centre.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

1. The Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) expresses deep appreciation to the host country, China, for increasing its annual contribution for the operation and programmes of CSAM for the period 2016-2020.

2. The Governing Council underscores the importance of mutual learning and enhanced collaboration among member States and relevant stakeholders to maximize synergy and avoid duplication in the area of sustainable agricultural mechanization development in the region.

3. The Governing Council stresses the importance of its members exploring opportunities to contribute to and support the implementation of the programmes and activities of CSAM, for example, through voluntary and in-kind contributions.

4. The Governing Council requests that the secretariat explore options for holding the thirteenth session of the Council in Nepal in conjunction with the Centre's Fifth Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific. In case that option cannot be confirmed, the Council recommends that the thirteenth session be held in Thailand or China.

II. Summary of proceedings

A. Report on the activities of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and its financial status in 2016

(Agenda item 4)

5. A representative of CSAM presented the report on the activities of the Centre and its financial status in 2016.

6. The Governing Council expressed deep appreciation for the progress made by the Centre in 2016, including through the implementation of initiatives like the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery, the Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations in Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Database of Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific, the whole-process mechanization of potato production, and capacity-building. It also expressed appreciation for the Centre's efforts to work closely with various member States and stakeholders.

7. The Governing Council concurred with the Centre's assessment of the importance of the standardization of testing codes, integrated straw management, engagement of the private sector with regard to scaling up relevant technologies and custom hiring of agricultural machinery. In the context of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery initiative, the Council suggested that CSAM explore the feasibility of developing codes for four-wheel tractors and combine harvesters. In addition, the Council suggested that a proposal on power weeders should be submitted to the Network's Technical Working Group on Rice Transplanters.

8. The Governing Council emphasized the need for CSAM to support policy advisory services, tailored capacity-building, technology transfer (including sharing of prototypes and post-harvest and processing technologies), the improvement of technical know-how of local manufacturers and knowledge-sharing to enable sustainable agricultural mechanization development in the region.

9. The Governing Council endorsed the CSAM work report and financial status report for 2016.

B. Discussion of the proposed midterm development strategy (2017-2019)
(Agenda item 5)

10. The Head of CSAM presented its draft midterm development strategy (2017-2019) outlining the proposed future priorities of the Centre and their delivery modalities, including linkages between its work and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

11. The Governing Council emphasized the need to address the requirements of groups like smallholders and landless and poor farmers. In that regard, the Council highlighted the importance of conducting a needs analysis to ensure the alignment of the Centre's work with the needs of member States.

12. The Governing Council emphasized the need to seek high-level political support for sustainable agricultural mechanization efforts. It also recommended that CSAM analyse the linkages between agricultural mechanization and specific Sustainable Development Goals through modalities such as a research study or a technical workshop.

13. The Governing Council recommended that CSAM should continue to make efforts to share information in advance on its planned events to enable member States to make preparations in order to contribute to those events.

14. The representative of China invited CSAM to explore the possibility of collaborating on the Belt and Road Initiative. The Governing Council suggested that CSAM explore opportunities to collaborate with other regional and subregional organizations.

15. The Governing Council agreed with the objectives, the proposed future priorities and the delivery modalities contained in the draft midterm development strategy (2017-2019) and supported it.

C. Discussion of the proposed workplan for 2017
(Agenda item 6)

16. A representative of CSAM presented the Centre's proposed work plan for 2017.

17. The Governing Council endorsed the proposed work plan for 2017. The Council emphasized the need to provide tangible results in response to the increased funding for CSAM. In particular, members underscored the need to increase the Centre's in-house technical expertise to accelerate project implementation. Given the constraints faced by smallholders in the region on investing in agricultural machinery, the Council further recommended that the Centre's work in the area of custom hiring of agricultural machinery should be strengthened.

D. Implementation of resolution 72/2 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
(Agenda item 7)

18. The Governing Council stressed the importance of its members exploring opportunities to contribute to and support the implementation of the programmes and activities of CSAM, for example, through voluntary and in-kind contributions.

E. Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Governing Council
(Agenda item 8)

19. The Governing Council was informed that a proposal to hold the Centre's Fifth Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific was under discussion with the Government of Nepal. The Council expressed support for a suggestion that it hold its thirteenth session in Nepal in conjunction with that event and requested the secretariat to explore that option further. In case that option cannot be confirmed, the Council recommended that the thirteenth session be held in Thailand or China.

F. Other matters
(Agenda item 9)

20. No other matters were discussed.

G. Adoption of the report
(Agenda item 10)

21. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 3 April 2017.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

22. The twelfth session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization was held in Bangkok on 16 March 2017.

23. The Head of CSAM welcomed the members of the Governing Council. She then invited the Director of the Environment and Development Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to deliver the remarks of the Executive Secretary of ESCAP. In those remarks, the Executive Secretary had noted the importance of sustainable agricultural mechanization in order to increase agricultural production as well as productivity and enable progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Asia-Pacific region. She had also noted the progress made by CSAM in the recent past.

B. Attendance

24. The session was attended by representatives of all nine members of the Governing Council: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Viet Nam. A representative from Nepal attended the session as an observer.

C. Election of officers

25. The Governing Council elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Rohan Ranganath Amitha Wijekoon (Sri Lanka)
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Sultan Ahmmed (Bangladesh)

D. Adoption of the agenda

26. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:
1. Opening of the session.
 2. Election of officers.
 3. Adoption of the agenda.
 4. Report on the activities of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and its financial status in 2016.
 5. Discussion of the proposed midterm development strategy (2017-2019).
 6. Discussion of the proposed workplan for 2017.
 7. Implementation of resolution 72/2 of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
 8. Date and venue of the thirteenth session of the Governing Council.
 9. Other matters.
 10. Adoption of the report.

Annex I**List of documents**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
E/ESCAP/CSAM/GC(12)/1	Annotated provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/CSAM/GC(12)/2	List of participants	2
E/ESCAP/CSAM/GC(12)/3	Work report of 2016 and workplan for 2017 of the Centre	4 and 6
E/ESCAP/CSAM/GC(12)/4	Midterm development strategy of the Centre (2017-2019)	5

Annex II

Financial statement of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization for the year ended 31 December 2016

(United States dollars)

<i>Income</i>	
Contributions	1 775 000
Interest income	8 842
Gain on exchange	111
Total income	1 783 953
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>	572 598
Net income over expenditure	1 211 355
Fund balance as at 1 January 2016	1 095 568
Refund to donors	-
Fund balance as at 31 December 2016	2 306 923

Annex III

**Financial statement of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural
Mechanization for the year ended 31 December 2016, by project component**
(United States dollars)

	<i>Joint contributions - capacity development project</i>	<i>Government of China - capacity development project</i>	<i>Establishing regional cooperation mechanisms and platforms for agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Income</i>				
Contributions	95 000	1 680 000	-	1 775 000
Interest income	3 437	5 326	79	8 842
Gain on exchange	111	-	-	111
Total income	98 548	1 685 326	79	1 783 953
<i>Less: Expenditures</i>				
	315 107	260 433	(2 941)	572 598
Net income over expenditures	(216 559)	1 424 893	3 020	1 211 355
Fund balance as at 1 January 2016	449 760	636 409	9 399	1 095 568
Refunds to donors	-	-	-	-
Fund balance as at 31 December 2016	233 201	2 061 302	12 419	2 306 923

Annex IV

**Cash contributions to the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural
Mechanization for the year ended 31 December 2016**
(United States dollars)

<i>Country/area</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2016</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2015</i>
Bangladesh	3 000	3 000
Cambodia	2 000	-
China	1 680 000	38 980
Fiji	-	-
India	-	15 000
Indonesia	30 000	30 000
Mongolia	-	-
Philippines	30 000	-
Republic of Korea	10 000	10 000
Sri Lanka	5 000	5 000
Thailand	15 000	15 000
Viet Nam	-	3 000
Total	1 775 000	119 980