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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session

Bangkok, 19-23 May 2014

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 ninth session

Summary

The Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) reviewed reports of the Centre covering its work in 2013 and its administrative and financial status. It endorsed the five strategic functions of the Centre identified in 2013 as a result of the strategic repositioning process, the proposed work plan for 2014 and the report of the Technical Committee of CSAM, specifically the recommendations of the Technical Committee at its ninth session on measures to enhance the effectiveness of the Technical Committee. It also adopted the terms of reference of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) and further reviewed and adopted the annual report of CSAM to the Commission on its seventieth session.

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

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

Recommendation

1. The Governing Council calls for the active participation in and support of member States and stakeholders to the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM), launched at the Regional Policymakers' Round Table on the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery, held in Bangkok on 18 November 2013.

* E/ESCAP/70/L.1.

II. Summary of proceedings

A. Report on the 2013 activities of CSAM and its financial status as of 30 September 2013 (agenda item 4)

2. The Governing Council thanked the host Government, China, for its continued support to the operation of CSAM, and welcomed the change of the focal point of CSAM in the Government to the Ministry of Agriculture. It also expressed deep appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand for its valuable in-kind contribution and assistance in organizing the exhibition on ANTAM.

3. The Governing Council was informed that, for the year, as of 30 September 2013, the following countries had made voluntary financial contributions totalling \$45,000 to CSAM: Bangladesh; India; Philippines; Republic of Korea; and Thailand.

4. The Governing Council also was informed that, since its eighth session, the following activities had been conducted:

(a) Strategic repositioning of the Centre with the identification of five functional roles: (i) a regional forum for regular policy dialogues; (ii) a data and information hub; (iii) a reference point for standards and protocols; (iv) a centre for capacity-building; and (v) a platform to facilitate intraregional agribusiness development and trade;

(b) Launch of ANTAM;

(c) Regional forum on sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Outcome of pillar I of the sustainable agricultural mechanization strategy (SAMS);

(e) Project design for funding for 2014-2016.

5. The Governing Council commended the work of CSAM in the preceding year and approved the report on the work of CSAM for 2013. It endorsed the five strategic functions of the Centre identified in 2013 as a result of the strategic repositioning process and advised the Centre to develop and implement programmes and projects to fulfil those functions.

6. The Governing Council agreed that there was a need to enhance the effectiveness of the Technical Committee of CSAM by formalizing the Technical Committee's membership and representation, and endorsed the recommendation that the members of the Technical Committee of CSAM should serve a term of three years.

7. On substantive projects of the Centre, the Governing Council agreed that CSAM should become a lead organization to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific and beyond. The Centre could play a vital role in supporting member countries in mechanizing their agricultural sector by developing more service-oriented programmes and promoting small-scale machinery in the light of their national conditions. It also should enhance collaboration with other relevant organizations in project implementation. The Governing Council agreed that ANTAM was an important initiative of the Centre to fulfil its mandate, and that CSAM should better coordinate with member countries to advocate for participation and leverage resources. Representatives of member countries, in turn, should communicate with relevant authorities of their respective countries on the latest outcomes of ANTAM.

B. Report of the Technical Committee on its ninth session (agenda item 5)

8. The ninth session of the Technical Committee of CSAM was held in Bhopal, India, on 17 and 18 October 2013. The Governing Council endorsed the report of the Technical Committee.

C. Review and adoption of the terms of reference of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (agenda item 6)

9. The Governing Council praised CSAM for its preparatory work on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) and adopted the terms of reference of ANTAM. It called on the members of the Commission to actively participate in ANTAM activities, and pledged its support to the work of ANTAM.

D. Discussion of the proposed work plan for 2014 and resource mobilization (agenda item 7)

10. The Governing Council approved the work plan for 2014. It agreed that CSAM should develop branding activities, such as the Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, to enhance dialogues and policy exchange among member countries, and encouraged the Centre to engage with potential partners to regularize the organization of the Forum. The participation of the private sector in sustainable agricultural mechanization was crucial for the implementation of project activities, as well as for resource (technical and financial) mobilization. In the light of the large market potential of agricultural machinery in the Asia-Pacific region, CSAM should work with member countries to reach out to the private sector in order to promote the benefits of its activities and forge an effective partnership. Given the existing financial situation and the renewed mandate of the Centre, enhanced communication among CSAM and the members and associate members of the Commission on the work of the Centre was important not only to update relevant authorities but also for the purpose of advocacy with the hope of obtaining additional financial support. In that regard, it was imperative for CSAM to issue policy briefs and reports on the status of regional agricultural mechanization to disseminate information and provide policy recommendations for member countries.

E. Review of the draft annual report of CSAM to the Commission at its seventieth session (agenda item 8)

11. The Governing Council approved the draft annual report of CSAM for submission to the Commission at its seventieth session.

F. Agreement on the date and venue of the tenth session of the Governing Council (agenda item 9)

12. The Governing Council agreed in principle that its tenth session should be held in Bangkok in December 2014, subject to consultations with member States.

G. Other matters (agenda item 10)

13. No other matters were discussed.

H. Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)

14. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 19 November 2013.

III. Organization of the session

A. Opening, duration and organization

15. The ninth session of the Governing Council of CSAM was held in Bangkok on 19 November 2013.

16. The Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP addressed the Governing Council at the opening of the session.

17. Ms. Siriporn Thanaratchataphoom, Senior Policy and Plan Analyst, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, delivered welcome remarks on behalf of the Government of Thailand.

B. Attendance

18. The session was attended by representatives of the nine members of the Governing Council: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

C. Election of officers

19. The Governing Council elected the following officers:

Chair: Mr. Wais **Kabir** (Bangladesh)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Kanchan K. **Singh** (India)

D. Adoption of the agenda

20. 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 2013 activities of CSAM and its financial status as of 30 September 2013.
5. Report of the Technical Committee of CSAM on its ninth session.
6. Review and adoption of the terms of reference of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing Agricultural Machinery.
7. Discussion of the proposed work plan for 2014 and resource mobilization.
8. Review of the draft annual report of CSAM to the Commission at its seventieth session.
9. Agreement on the date and venue of the tenth session of the Governing Council.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report.

Annex**List of documents**

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