
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

Governing Council

Fourteenth session

Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 30 November 2018

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its fourteenth session

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

1. The Governing Council invites all members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to explore opportunities to collaborate with the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and other development partners for promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization at the national and regional levels towards achieving related Sustainable Development Goals.

2. The Governing Council encourages the Centre to enhance efforts to increase its visibility through various channels including through available opportunities during the annual Commission session.

3. The Governing Council recommends that the fifteenth session of the Council be held in the second half of 2019. It recommends that the Centre explore opportunities to co-organize the session with other key events.

II. Proceedings

A. Report on the Centre's activities and financial status for 2018
(Agenda item 2)

4. Representatives of the Centre presented the report on the activities of the Centre and its financial status for 2018.

5. The Governing Council congratulated the Centre for its comprehensive reporting and for the progress achieved by the Centre in 2018 for implementing its programmes towards enabling sustainable agricultural mechanization in the Asia-Pacific region in the areas of regional cooperation for policy and technical support, strengthening institutional capacities, normative analysis and research, communication and outreach, partnership building, and project monitoring and evaluation. The Governing Council noted with appreciation that the work of the Centre is being implemented in the field, engaging engineers as well as other key stakeholders such as policymakers, researchers and academicians, manufacturers, distributors and service providers. It expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the Centre to engage youth in sustainable agricultural mechanization.

6. The Governing Council commended the Centre for its range of activities as an active regional institution of ESCAP, and for successfully playing the role of a regional platform for countries in a region with vast diversity, while mobilizing additional resources including in-kind contributions from national and regional stakeholders for implementing its activities.

7. The Governing Council encouraged the Centre to enhance efforts to increase its visibility through various channels, including through available opportunities during the annual Commission session.

8. The Governing Council endorsed the Centre's work report and financial status report for 2018.

B. Discussion of the proposed plan of work for 2019

(Agenda item 3)

9. The Head of the Centre presented the Centre's proposed workplan for 2019.

10. The Governing Council recommended that the Centre make efforts to address the following areas through its programmes and activities:

(a) Providing technical assistance for strengthening agricultural machinery testing facilities;

(b) Supporting all segments of the value chain including reducing production costs and post-harvest losses;

(c) Promoting public-private partnerships and engagement of the private sector in testing, research and development of agricultural machinery;

(d) Facilitating the engagement of youth in the promotion of sustainable agricultural mechanization;

(e) Enabling mechanization solutions for the subsectors of livestock, fisheries and forestry, as well as promoting precision agriculture;

(f) Undertaking collaboration with relevant partners in order to leverage synergies in areas such as building resilience to climate change and promoting integrated straw management.

11. The representative of Cambodia offered to collaborate with the Centre in the organization of capacity-building activities for promoting conservation agriculture through mechanization.¹

12. The Governing Council noted the need for cooperation among member countries in order to exchange data on the certification of agricultural machinery models that are traded. This would be particularly beneficial for countries importing machinery that had already undergone testing in the exporting countries.

13. The Governing Council recommended that the Centre share information about its activities in advance with relevant stakeholders to facilitate planning and partnerships.

14. The Governing Council endorsed the proposed workplan for the Centre for 2019.

C. Date and venue of the fifteenth session of the Governing Council
(Agenda item 4)

15. The Governing Council recommended that the fifteenth session of the Council be held in the second half of 2019. It recommended that the Centre explore opportunities to co-organize the session with other key events.

D. Other matters
(Agenda item 5)

16. The Council was informed that, in accordance with Commission resolution 71/1, an independent evaluation of the Centre would be conducted in 2019.

17. The Governing Council invited all ESCAP members and associate members to explore opportunities to collaborate with the Centre and other development partners for promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization at the national and regional levels towards achieving related Sustainable Development Goals.

18. The Governing Council expressed appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for hosting the fourteenth session of the Council.

E. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its fourteenth session
(Agenda item 6)

19. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 19 December 2018.

¹ The representative of Cambodia offered to collaborate with the Centre for strengthening capacities in the area of appropriate-scale mechanization for agroecological cropping systems and conservation agriculture, aimed at enhancing the profitability of small-scale farming while optimizing the use of natural resources, namely soil, water and biodiversity. It was proposed that an international training course would be co-organized in 2019 by the General Directorate of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Cambodia, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and relevant partners at the Regional Training Center located in Kampong Cham province, Cambodia.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

20. The fourteenth session of the Governing Council of the Centre was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on 30 November 2018.

21. The Chair invited the Head of the Centre to deliver remarks to the Governing Council. In those remarks, within the overall context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Head of the Centre stressed the role of sustainable agricultural mechanization in addressing the critical challenges facing the agricultural sector and balancing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of agricultural development in the Asia-Pacific region. She requested the Governing Council members to continue to support the Centre through resources, partnerships and guidance.

B. Attendance

22. The session was attended by representatives of all nine members of the Governing Council: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Malaysia; Pakistan; Philippines; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

C. Election of officers

23. The Governing Council elected the following officers:

Chair: Mr. Saruth Chan (Cambodia)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Baldwin Jallorina (Philippines)

D. Adoption of the agenda

24. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report on the Centre's activities and financial status for 2018.
3. Discussion of the proposed plan of work for 2019.
4. Date and venue of the fifteenth session of the Governing Council.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its fourteenth session.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/CSAM/GC/2018/1	Work report for 2018 and plan of work for 2019 of the Centre	2 and 3
ESCAP/CSAM/GC/2018/2	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its fourteenth session	
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/CSAM/GC/2018/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)