

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

Governing Council

Fifteenth session

Jeonju, Republic of Korea, 29 November 2019

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

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

1. The Governing Council endorses the overall direction of the proposed five-year development strategy of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (2020–2024). The Council also takes note of the summary of recommendations of the evaluation of the Centre as presented by the independent evaluator.

2. The Council suggests that its sixteenth session be organized alongside the 7th annual meeting of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery to be held tentatively in December 2020 in Malaysia, subject to confirmation in consultation with relevant local partners.

II. Proceedings

A. Report on the Centre's activities and financial status for 2019
(Agenda item 2)

3. Representatives of the Centre presented the report on the activities of the Centre and its financial status for 2019.

4. Recognizing that sustainable agricultural mechanization had a role to play in the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals beyond Goal 2 (Zero hunger), it was suggested that the Centre explore opportunities to contribute to Goal 3 (Good health and well-being) and Goal 14 (Life below water) through the promotion of more efficient machinery and reduced use of polluting chemicals. The importance of supporting the aspect of market distribution of agricultural machinery was also noted.

5. Noting the varying levels of agricultural mechanization among the member States, the Council recommended that the Centre continue to work for the improvement of national capacities in response to demand expressed by countries, including supporting the establishment of testing facilities.

6. The Council recommended that, for future sessions of the Council, the Centre review the structure of its work reports to make them more concise and to further enhance the flow of content. The Council also suggested including a summary of the progress achieved in relation to the approved work plan for ease of reference.

7. The Council endorsed the Centre's work report and financial status report for 2019, based on the successful completion of the work plan approved by the Council at its fourteenth session.

B. Report of the evaluation of the Centre (Agenda item 3)

8. The Council took note of the summary of recommendations of the evaluation of the Centre as presented by the independent evaluator. In the context of recommendation number 2 (increase access by member States to technical expertise on sustainable agricultural mechanization), the Council suggested that lessons learned be included in addition to documentation and sharing of good practices in sustainable agricultural mechanization.

9. The Council was informed that the full independent evaluation report would be circulated by the secretariat to all Council members via email by 17 December 2019 for comments, which should be submitted within a two-week time frame.

C. Discussion of the five-year development strategy of the Centre (2020–2024) (Agenda item 4)

10. Representatives of the Centre presented the proposed five-year development strategy of the Centre (2020–2024).

11. The Council noted that it was important to keep abreast of the trend towards the digitization of agriculture. However, in several countries there were still notable gaps in the levels of mechanization. In that regard, the Council recommended that the Centre continue exploring means to facilitate resource mobilization for improving sustainable agricultural mechanization in member States, and to work in particular on issues such as post-harvest mechanization, adverse impacts of climate change, custom hiring and renting of machinery, as well as the safety of machinery.

12. The Council endorsed the overall direction of the proposed five-year development strategy of the Centre (2020–2024). The Council also suggested fine-tuning the development strategy to enhance its alignment with the Centre's theory of change and work plan for 2020, particularly in terms of harmonizing their overall structure and key components.

D. Discussion of the proposed plan of work for 2020 (Agenda item 5)

13. A representative of the Centre's host country, China, indicated that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs would contribute to all areas of the Centre's work plan for 2020 and, in particular, support capacity-building

activities. He mentioned that the Department of Farm Mechanization of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs would work with the Centre to create a detailed plan for the joint implementation of activities where possible. He also suggested that Council members indicate to the Centre the areas in which they would like to cooperate with the Centre.

14. The Council recommended that the Centre take the following measures:

(a) Develop a matrix of activities for the work plan for 2020, consistent with its overall five-year development strategy (2020–2024);

(b) Give due attention to monitoring and evaluation during the implementation of its work plan for 2020;

(c) Share the calendar of events and necessary information with the Council members well in advance and circulate requests for nominations one month prior to the events to allow enough time for Governments to complete their internal nomination and approval processes;

(d) Explore further opportunities to invite senior-level policymakers in addition to technical officers to its events;

(e) Share invitations to its events with the relevant line ministries, along with a summary of the Centre's activities.

15. The Council endorsed the Centre's proposed work plan for 2020.

E. Date of and venue for the sixteenth session of the Governing Council
(Agenda item 6)

16. The Council suggested that its sixteenth session be organized alongside the 7th annual meeting of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery to be held tentatively in December 2020 in Malaysia. That matter would be subject to confirmation in consultation with relevant local partners.

F. Other matters
(Agenda item 7)

17. No other matters were brought to the attention of the Council.

G. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its fifteenth session
(Agenda item 8)

18. The Council adopted the present report on 23 December 2019.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

19. The fifteenth session of the Council was held in Jeonju, Republic of Korea, on 29 November 2019.

20. The Chair invited the Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to deliver remarks to the Council. In those remarks, the Deputy Executive Secretary emphasized the role of sustainable agricultural mechanization in addressing the impacts of climate change and other challenges facing the Asia-Pacific region, building the

resilience of smallholder farmers and supporting advancement towards the Sustainable Development Goals. While noting the progress achieved by the Centre in the recent past, he expressed appreciation to the Centre's host country, China, and other member States for making valuable voluntary and in-kind contributions to support the programmes and operations of the Centre.

B. Attendance

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

22. Representatives of Japan attended the session as observers.

C. Election of officers

23. The Council elected the following officers:

Chair: Mr. Kanchan Kumar Singh (India)

Vice-Chair: Ms. Thi Tam Dinh (Viet Nam)

D. Adoption of the agenda

24. The 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 2019.
3. Report of the evaluation of the Centre.
4. Discussion of the five-year development strategy of the Centre (2020–2024).
5. Discussion of the proposed plan of work for 2020.
6. Date of and venue for the sixteenth session of the Governing Council.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its fifteenth session.

Annex

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/CSAM/GC/2019/1	Work report for 2019 and plan of work for 2020 of the Centre	2 and 5
ESCAP/CSAM/GC/2019/2	Report of the evaluation of the Centre	3
ESCAP/CSAM/GC/2019/3	Five-year development strategy of the Centre (2020–2024)	4
ESCAP/CSAM/GC/2019/4	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its fifteenth session	
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/CSAM/GC/2019/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)