

Briefing on the Eighteenth Session of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

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Respected Chair and distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the members of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), It is indeed my great pleasure, as the Chair of the Eighteenth Session of the Council, to brief you about the meeting. The meeting was attended by all nine Governing Council members, namely Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Malaysia; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Viet Nam, and two observers, Bhutan and the Republic of Korea.

Following the Food Systems Summit convened in 2021, the Governing Council took note of the important role of mechanization in enabling sustainable, inclusive and transformative food systems. During the deliberations, the Council recognized the growing number of women in the agricultural workforce and underscored the importance of gender mainstreaming in sustainable agricultural mechanization in the Asia-Pacific region. Given the rapid advancements in technology, it also highlighted the importance of automation and of precision and smart technologies in agriculture.

The Governing Council commended CSAM for the excellent progress achieved in the implementation of its programmes and activities in 2022. It endorsed the report on the Centre's activities and financial status in 2022 and the plan of work for 2023. Among recommendations, the Council encouraged CSAM to continue to promote climate-smart mechanization, smart technologies, capacity building and partnerships.

On behalf of the Governing Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of China, CSAM's host country, for its generous voluntary financial contributions and office space for the Centre. I also thank other members of the Governing Council for their voluntary financial contributions to CSAM.

Thank you for your attention.