



“Increasing agricultural productivity through testing standards for sustainable agricultural machinery”

Side Event: 11th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development

February 23, 12:30-14:15 GMT+7

Meeting Room G, UNCC, Bangkok

Co-organizers

Governments of Nepal and the Philippines, ESCAP Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM)

Registration

To register for this event, please use the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/jxT1nGuG7M?origin=lprLink>

To attend the side event, all registrants must also register on Indico to attend the APFSD using the link here:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1007683/>

Please register using the option “Registration for Others” and choose your side event. Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Center.

Background

Agricultural machinery has improved the farming process across Asia-Pacific countries in recent decades, with positive effects for smallholder farmers through the improvement of working conditions, better livelihoods and increased yields. However, inefficient machinery remains a prominent cause of food loss, injuries of operators and environmental degradation. Ensuring quality of agricultural machinery through testing standards can address these issues. International standards can support developing countries with limited testing capacity, and improve regional trade of sustainable machinery through mutual recognition of testing, making sustainable agricultural machinery accessible to smallholder farmers in countries lacking a strong national manufacturing industry. Apart from fostering regional integration and competitiveness,

harmonized testing standards make it easier for governments to optimize subsidy policies and investments for the improvement of the mechanization levels of their agricultural sector.

The event will discuss the improvement of food security through the development and mutual recognition of testing standards for agricultural machinery. This is directly linked to SDG2 targets 2.3 (doubling agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, also through access to productive resources), and 2.A (increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development), and responds to the call of the UN SG for stakeholders “urgently unlocking all possible resources [...] to support smallholder and family farmers to increase productivity and self-reliance” in order overcome the “challenging moment for global food security.”

Key Questions and Outcomes

The event will make the case of the development and mutual recognition of standards for sustainable agricultural machinery for the improvement of agricultural productivity in the region, and support to food security and the SDG2 targets. Building on the experience of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM), it will showcase the achievements of some of its members and partners in developing standards for sustainable agricultural machinery in support of food security. The discussion will address the following questions:

1. How can sustainable agricultural mechanization better contribute to food security, increasing agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers
2. What can be done to provide access for smallholder farmers to more efficient, safer, and sustainable agricultural machinery
3. How can regional cooperation unlock investment in rural infrastructure and agriculture extension

Bringing together a diverse panel, this event aims to gather knowledge and share experiences and best practices from member States on the role of international standards and mutual recognition systems for food security with a special focus on trade of agricultural machinery.

The discussions will be reflected in a study on the “feasibility of establishing a regional system for the mutual recognition of agricultural machinery testing to enhance trade of safe and efficient machinery” currently under development, to guide the future direction of the ANTAM initiative and in particular of its Expert Group for the development of a mutual recognition system.

Tentative programme

Welcome remarks		
	<p>H.E. Mr. Dhan Bahadur Oli Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Nepal Permanent Representative to ESCAP</p> <p>Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</p> <p>Mr. Arthur Fajardo Director, Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center of the Philippines [video message]</p>	12:30 – 12:45
Multilateral experiences		
Stakeholder representatives; Subregional and intergovernmental organizations	<p>Ms. Estrella 'Esther' Penunia Secretary General, Asian Farmers Association <i>Smallholder farmers' needs for access to sustainable agricultural machinery</i></p> <p>Mr. Sugeng Raharjo Director for System and Harmonization of Accreditation, National Standardization Body of Indonesia, ASEAN ACCSQ <i>International standards for trade facilitation of agricultural machinery</i></p> <p>Mr. Jose Brambila-Macias [online] Project Director, OECD <i>Agricultural machinery standards for food security</i></p>	12:45 – 13:00
National experiences		
Country representatives	<p>Nepal - <i>Establishment of agricultural machinery testing stations and development of first national test codes for sustainable agricultural machinery</i></p> <p>Dr. R.R. Poudel, Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock Development</p>	13:00 – 13:50

	<p>Mr. Arun Raut, Engineer in Charge of Agriculture Equipment, NBSM - Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology</p> <p><i>Philippines - Agricultural machinery testing for improved food security</i></p> <p>Mr. James Empeno, Director, Philippines Accreditation Bureau</p> <p>Mr. Mark Twain Limbo, Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering, Philippines Department of Agriculture</p> <p><i>Thailand – Private sector involvement in the development of codes for agricultural machinery</i></p> <p>Ms. Nuanapa Chaisuwan, Thai Industrial Standards Institute</p> <p><i>China - Participation in international standards and national network of agricultural machinery testing stations</i></p> <p>Mr. Xue Yan, Department of Certification, State Administration for Market Regulations of China [video intervention]</p>	
Interactive discussion and Q&A		
Round of discussion among participating countries/agencies and audience	13:50-14:15	
Closing		

For information, please contact
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