# Brief Statement for Elections of the Governing Council of CSAM

Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) endeavors to ensure promotion of sustainable farm mechanization technologies in the member countries to increase crop productivity and to develop standard test codes and procedures of agricultural machinery for Asia-Pacific countries. The Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) is an initiative led by the CSAM.

Pakistan is a member country of CSAM and has been promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization technologies and practices in the country with the technical collaboration of CSAM and ANTAM. Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) is the Focal Point for all correspondences with CSAM/ANTAM and regularly participates in events organized by CSAM/ANTAM. From these meetings, Pakistan had the opportunity to seek experience and knowledge from other member countries, who have already established machinery testing centres.

Since, Pakistan is attempting to establish an agricultural machinery test centre in the Punjab province with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank. CSAM/ANTAM has been extending the full technical support for Pakistan in this regard. Establishment of a farm machinery testing centre will enhance the quality and safety of locally manufactured agricultural machinery, which can also be exported to other countries.

## Aim

Our aim is to enhance crop productivity of the member countries of CSAM to make them food secured nations by interventions of sustainable and climate-smart farm mechanization technologies, standardization of farm machinery and to reduce reliance on human labour.

## Vision

Our vision to increase crop productivity for feeding ever increasing population of the world with shrinking natural resources and safeguarding the human environment using climate-smart mechanization technologies.

## Commitments

- Pakistan is committed to develop farm machinery locally according to our local cropping patterns and social-economic conditions. This will ensure the availability of desired farm

machinery for local farmers in affordable price. For this, more than 500 small to medium agricultural machinery manufactures have been manufacturing agricultural machines to fulfil the local demand.

- We are committed to standardize the locally manufactured agricultural machines by establishing an agricultural machinery test centre in the Punjab province with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank for mutual trade of machinery in the Asia-Pacific countries. We will adopt ANTAM test codes as well as to develop our local test codes and standards of agricultural machines.
- We are committed to fabricate more efficient agricultural machines locally and standardize them to reduce postharvest losses for grains as well as for horticultural crops, which are currently very high up to 40%. Reduction in postharvest losses will reduce cost of production, increase yield and farmers' income, increase trade and lower the commodity price for local population.
- In Pakistan, a large number of women are engaged in farming, who perform various operations manually. We are committed to manufacture more sophisticated and gender-friendly agricultural machines including digital and smart farming tools.
- Environment has no boundary and any damage to it also spoils the cross-border environment. We are committed to manufacture climate-smart agricultural machines with zero crop residue burning in fields. We have already developed a couple of direct wheat sowing machines in combine-harvested paddy fields that mulch or incorporate crop residue in the soil that will enhance soil fertility. Focus will also be on ex-situ crop residue management machines, such as straw baling and pelleting for industrial uses.
- We are committed to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and focusing on alternate sources of energy, such as biogas, solar, biomass and biodiesel for powering heaters, stoves, roasters, and agricultural dryers.
- Manufacturing of small agricultural machines for 80-90% smallholder farmers in the country will also be main focus in future.
- Strengthening of custom hiring systems and rental services of agricultural machinery at village level should also be focused in future.
- We are also committed to train young agricultural engineers, technicians and machinery manufacturers for their capacity development.
- We are also committed to host ANTAM meetings and other events in Pakistan in future once we could establish a machinery test centre in the country.