



Concept Note

High Level Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific 26 - 27 June, 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

“Sustainable Mechanization Across the Food Chain”

Background

Agricultural mechanization is at a very basic stage of development in most countries of Asia and the Pacific region. With urbanization and increasing scarcity of labour in rural areas across the region, there is a growing need for the development of farm mechanisation to address productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner. It is equally important to address the quality of, and use of machinery and equipment in post-harvest and processing operations.

The development of sustainable agricultural mechanisation strategies (SAMS) is critical to ensuring the environmental soundness of agricultural machinery used across the food value chain. SAMS is expected to serve as the foundation to create a policy, institutional and market environment in which farmers and other end-users have the choice of machinery and equipment suited to their needs within a sustainable delivery and support system.

A round table jointly convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), in December 2011, developed a strategic framework founded on five key pillars in order to address SAMS development in Asia and the Pacific Region:

- Pillar 1 Assessments and analyses of the current status of agricultural mechanization
- Pillar 2 Enabling policies and institutions
- Pillar 3 Human capacity development
- Pillar 4 Investment in SAMS
- Pillar 5 Advocacy on sustainable agricultural mechanization

This two-day 2 high level multi-stakeholder consultation will review the status of sustainable agriculture mechanization in Asia and the Pacific Region, bringing in a focus on agricultural machinery and equipment to improve efficiency and sustainability across the food chain in Asian countries. It will also seek to formulate a sustainable agricultural mechanization strategy based on the framework developed during earlier consultations, and develop a regional network for SAMS.

Objectives

The Consultation will: Review agricultural mechanization across grain and non-grain value chains in the region; finalize a regional sustainable mechanization strategy and develop a regional network for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (SAM).

Expected Outputs

Targeted outputs of the consultation include:

- Key issues that impact agricultural mechanization in the region, identified and agreed to;
- A regional sustainable mechanization strategy formulated and agreed to;
- A regional network for promotion of SAMS developed and endorsed;
- A comprehensive report of the Consultation.

Date and Venue

The two day consultation will be convened 26-27 June 2014, in Bangkok.

Participants

Participants will be senior level government officials and policy makers, technical experts working on agricultural mechanization across different parts of the food chain, in the region, representatives of private sector associations associated with mechanization, representatives of research and development institutions, representatives of CSOs, agricultural finance institutions, development agencies.