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**REVIEW OF ISSUES PERTINENT TO THE SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURE OF
THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE
REPORT FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009 AND THE WORK OF THE
ESCAP REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS: TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

(Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASIAN AND PACIFIC CENTRE FOR
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND MACHINERY**

SUMMARY

The present report reviews the status of implementation of the programme of work, as well as the administrative and financial status, of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) in 2009.

The programme of work of UNAPCAEM experienced substantial development in 2009. While repositioning itself to promote agricultural technology transfer for food security and sustainable agriculture through South-South cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, the Centre endeavoured to disseminate best practices, increase the capacity of member countries to address food insecurity and develop policy options through the enhancement of networking with all stakeholders.

UNAPCAEM projects and research in 2009 centred on food security and sustainable agriculture. In line with its repositioning, and as a follow-up to the ESCAP theme study on food security, the Centre launched a three-year project on understanding hybrid rice cultivation technology for food security in the Asia-Pacific region through South-South cooperation. Expert group meetings were organized to explore the application of the clean development mechanism in the agricultural sector and to consult stakeholders on the role of agricultural machinery development for sustainable agriculture. UNAPCAEM held the fourth and fifth sessions of its Technical Committee and Governing Council in 2009 and increased its networking with nationally designated institutes, in particular through the launch of a new web page designed for members of the Technical Committee and Governing Council.

The Commission may wish to provide the secretariat with guidance on the strategic direction of the Centre, as well as on ways to strengthen its financial and staffing resources.

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Introduction

1. The United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) is a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The Centre, which is located in Beijing, was established pursuant to the headquarters agreement on UNAPCAEM, signed by the Government of China and the United Nations in November 2003. In accordance with article 16 of the revised statute of the Centre, the present annual report on the implementation of the programme of work of the Centre, including its administrative and financial status in 2009, is presented to the Commission for its consideration.

I. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED AND RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2009

2. Since the sixty-fifth session of the Commission, held in April 2009, UNAPCAEM has conducted the following activities and substantive programmes.

3. In line with the repositioning of UNAPCAEM as a centre of excellence in promoting agricultural technology transfer for food security and sustainable agriculture through South-South cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, and as a follow-up to the ESCAP theme study on food security in 2009, UNAPCAEM launched a three-year project on understanding hybrid rice cultivation technology for food security in the Asia-Pacific region through South-South cooperation. The project is aimed at helping member countries to address food insecurity through the transfer of agricultural technology and the dissemination of knowledge and skills and at enhancing the capacity of member countries in the areas of grain production and agricultural research and development. As a first step, a regional training-of-trainers programme on hybrid rice cultivation technology was held in Changsha, China, from 24 August to 4 September 2009. Participants included 26 agricultural technicians from national agricultural research institutes and extension service representatives from 12 Asian and Pacific countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. Those 12 countries are

among the 25 hot-spot countries in terms of food insecurity in the Asia-Pacific region, according to the ESCAP theme study entitled *Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Asia and the Pacific*.¹ The training covered hybrid rice genetics, breeding, seed production and cultivation, with particular emphasis on field practice in the area of hybrid rice seed production and cultivation.

4. In the context of exploring the potential of the clean development mechanism facility for the agricultural sector, UNAPCAEM held an expert group meeting in Beijing on 11 September 2009 to review a draft feasibility study and methodology guidelines on the application of the facility for conservation agriculture and household biogas and to “brainstorm” about the technological challenges to the application of the mechanism in the agricultural sector. That activity is part of the UNAPCAEM component of the China Climate Change Partnership Framework, a joint programme of the United Nations country team in China. Experts from across the region and representatives from relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting. Participants emphasized the need to develop a strategy to promote the wider application of the clean development mechanism in the agricultural sector and to share successful experiences and lessons learned in China with other countries in the region. As a result, the feasibility study and methodology guidelines were revised and substantiated, and participants agreed that the results of the study should be widely disseminated through the holding of a regional seminar.

5. With a view to exploring the potential of establishing an Asian and Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery, a regional expert group meeting on the application of agricultural machinery for sustainable agriculture was held, back-to-back with the fifth session of the Technical Committee, in Los Baños, Philippines, from 14 to 16 October 2009. Experts from 13 countries in the region and from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Institute of Technology and the International Rice Research Institute participated in the meeting. The expert group meeting discussed the development of agricultural machinery in the Asian and Pacific region and agreed on the need to promote the wider application of agricultural machinery for sustainable agriculture across the region, bridge technological gaps among countries and enhance capacity-building through the transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing. Participants proposed that the establishment of an Asian and Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery be pursued in a gradual manner, with the current focus being on upgrading existing facilities and capacity-building.

6. The first draft of the feasibility studies and methodology guidelines on the application of the clean development mechanism in conservation agriculture and household biogas was completed, and field visits to three countries were undertaken to prepare for a study on challenges to and prospects for agricultural mechanization in the region. Policy briefs on water insecurity and peri-urban agriculture were also issued.

7. Under the guidance of the ESCAP secretariat, UNAPCAEM joined the process of developing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for China and explained the role of ESCAP and UNAPCAEM in facilitating South-South cooperation, focusing in particular on how to share China’s experiences and lessons learned with other countries in the course of development.

8. UNAPCAEM further improved its website (www.unapcaem.org), in particular through the launch of a new web page for members of the Technical

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.II.F.12.

Committee and Governing Council, which is aimed at enhancing the participatory process.

9. Guided by a new communication strategy, the Centre enhanced its interaction with the media, resulting in the publication of 20 articles relating to UNAPCAEM activities, in addition to an article by the Executive Secretary on the low carbon economy, which was published in *China Daily* on 30 June 2009. An open house was held on 24 August 2009 to invite representatives of member countries of ESCAP, United Nations agencies, research institutes and foreign and Chinese media sources to further promote the work of the Centre.

II. SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 2010

10. The technical cooperation activities of UNAPCAEM in 2010 will reflect its repositioning as a centre of excellence in promoting agricultural technology transfer for food security and sustainable agriculture, and efforts will be made to focus on long-term and strategic programmes with wider regional impact in the Asia-Pacific region. Specific programmes will be developed on the basis of country needs assessments so as to ensure that projects are relevant to local conditions and responsive to the demands of member countries and that they contribute to the efforts of member countries to promote food security and sustainable agriculture. Technical programmes will be conducted through capacity-building activities, such as training courses, workshops, study tours, the sharing of best practices and knowledge, and research.

11. The second step of the hybrid rice project to be implemented by the Centre will comprise country-specific technology consultations and training workshops. Based on the needs of participating countries, hybrid rice experts will be sent to agricultural research institutes in individual participating countries to advise local trainers on how to adapt hybrid rice cultivation technology to local conditions and monitor the training of local farmers, addressing their concerns through participatory engagement.

12. Building upon the feasibility studies and methodology guidelines on the application of the clean development mechanism in conservation agriculture and household biogas, UNAPCAEM will organize, in May 2010, an international seminar on the application of the mechanism in the agricultural sector, inviting experts from around the world to deliberate on the theme, share successful experiences and design a strategy to promote the wider application of the mechanism in countries across the Asia-Pacific region.

13. A capacity-building programme in the field of agricultural machinery will be designed on the basis of policy recommendations and priority areas suggested by the Regional Expert Group Meeting on the Application of Agricultural Machinery for Sustainable Agriculture and the study on challenges to and prospects for agricultural mechanization (see para. 6 above). Other project concepts under consideration include the application of household biogas in rural areas to promote clean development, and agro-based enterprise development.

14. In line with its mandate to promote agro-based enterprise development across the region,² UNAPCAEM will facilitate the effective participation of ESCAP member countries and regional institutions in the International Fruit and Vegetable Expo, an annual trade fair launched in 1999, to be held in Yantai in 2010.

² Commission resolution 61/3, annex, paras. 5 (b) and (c).

15. In line with the guidance provided by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP after her visit to China in August 2009, efforts will be made to forge synergy with other regional institutions of ESCAP, in particular the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, to jointly promote food security and sustainable agriculture in the Asia-Pacific region, to explore collaborative programmes in order to make better use of existing resources and technical expertise, and to improve the delivery of programmes.

16. Networking by experts from member countries has proved to be a very important resource for UNAPCAEM. In this regard, explorative efforts will be made to solicit project proposals from the focal points of the Technical Committee. This process is expected to enhance the formulation and implementation of projects for technical cooperation. At the same time, a project-specific web page will be opened on the UNAPCAEM website.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

17. The non-reimbursable loan expert funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea returned to that country in October 2008 upon the expiration of his three-year tenure, and no progress has been made in recruiting non-reimbursable loan experts and associate experts since the submission of the request to potential donor countries by ESCAP.

18. In addition to benefiting from free office space and the provision of institutional support, with costs covered by China under the agreement regarding administrative and financial arrangements for UNAPCAEM, in 2009 the Centre received voluntary contributions from Bangladesh, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam (see annex I).

19. The year 2009 was fruitful for UNAPCAEM in terms of resource mobilization. It was successful in obtaining funding for the three-year project on hybrid rice cultivation. Partnership-building with the United Nations country team in China, as well as participation in the country team to underscore “Delivering as one”, generated a new avenue for resource mobilization. In addition, there is potential for collaboration with UNIDO for the conduct of a joint programme in the field of agricultural machinery.

IV. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMISSION

20. Since its establishment, UNAPCAEM has faced the challenges of limited financial and professional staff resources. While the Centre will continue working towards securing more funding, including seed money from member countries for technical projects to help mobilize resources, and seek to engage non-reimbursable loan experts and associate experts, the Commission may wish to encourage member and associate member States to provide support to UNAPCAEM in terms of increased financial contributions and expertise.

Annex I

CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2009

**Institutional support (joint contributions):
funds received as of 31 December 2009**

(United States dollars)

Country/area	Funds received in 2009
Bangladesh	3 000.00
China	19 980.00
Fiji	4 975.00
India	15 000.00
Indonesia	29 982.00
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	7 000.00
Mongolia	2 500.00
Papua New Guinea	20 000.00
Sri Lanka	4 975.00
Thailand	15 000.00
Viet Nam	3 000.00
Total	125 412.00

Annex II

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Institutional support and technical cooperation projects as of 31 December 2009

(United States dollars)

	Donor	Balance carried over 31 Dec. 2008	Contributions (2009)	Expenditure (2009)	Interest earned (2009)	Account transfers (2009)	Balance at 31 Dec. 2009
Institutional support	Institutional support - JCE	421 807.71	125 412.00	98 740.61	11 099.29	0.00	459 578.39
	Institutional support - Government of China	2 871 611.48	0.00	325 562.72	79 957.96	0.00	2 626 006.72
Subtotal		3 293 419.19	125 412.00	424 303.33	91 057.25	0.00	3 085 585.11
Technical cooperation projects	ESCAP - China Cooperation Fund	11 964.88	384 200.00	123 499.51	0.00	(13 413.07)	259 252.30
	ESCAP - Korea Cooperation Fund	122.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	(122.50)	0.00
	Government of Spain/ MDG-F	152 944.86	64 200.00	149 058.15	1 845.60	0.00	69 932.31
	United Nations regular programme for technical cooperation (section 22) ^a	0.00	146 860.00	100 615.31	0.00	0.00	46 244.69
Subtotal		165 032.24	595 260.00	373 172.97	1 845.60	(13 535.57)	375 429.30
Total		3 458 451.43	720 672.00	797 476.30	92 902.85	(13 535.57)	3 461 014.41

Abbreviations: JCE, joint contributions; MDG-F, United Nations Development Programme-Spain Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund.

^a Fund balance under the regular programme of technical cooperation cannot be carried forward to the next biennium (2010-2011).

Annex III

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON ITS FIFTH SESSION

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I. ORGANIZATION

A. Date and venue

1. The fifth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) was held in Bangkok on 14 and 15 December 2009.

**B. Opening of the session
(Agenda item 1)**

2. Mr. Sakchai Sriboonsue, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, delivered the welcome address. He praised UNAPCAEM for its work in combating hunger and reducing poverty in 2009 in accordance with its mandate^a and emphasized that UNAPCAEM should further promote knowledge dissemination to help member countries to enhance their agricultural production capacity and better address emerging challenges. Mr. Sriboonsue also expressed the strong support of the Government of Thailand for the work of UNAPCAEM.

^a Commission resolution 61/3, annex, paras. 4 and 5 (b) and (f).

3. The Officer-in-Charge, a.i., of the Trade and Investment Division of ESCAP delivered an opening statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary, noting that the region was home to more than 64 per cent of the world's undernourished adults and children and that agriculture continued to be the main means of livelihood for the poor. There was a need for greater regional South-South cooperation and the development and transfer of technologies when responding to challenges. There was also a need to build upon lessons learned in order to strengthen UNAPCAEM and turn it into a centre of excellence in promoting technology transfer for food security and sustainable agriculture for the region.

C. Attendance

4. The session was attended by representatives of the following members of the Governing Council: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam.

5. Representatives of the following State Member of the United Nations attended as an observer: Mongolia.

6. Representatives of the following specialized agency also attended: the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

D. Election of officers (Agenda item 2)

7. The Governing Council elected the following officers:

Chair:	H.E. Mr. San Vanty (Cambodia)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Quoc Viet Nguyen (Viet Nam)

E. Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 3)

8. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Report on the activities of UNAPCAEM in 2009.
5. Proposed workplan for 2010.
6. Report of the Technical Committee on its fifth session.
7. Financial statement for 2009 and resource mobilization for 2010-2011.
8. Round-table discussion on priority areas, issues and ideas for the UNAPCAEM long-term strategic plan.
9. Review of the draft annual report of UNAPCAEM to the Commission.
10. Date and venue of the sixth session of the Governing Council of UNAPCAEM.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Report on the activities of UNAPCAEM in 2009 and proposed workplan for 2010 (Agenda items 4 and 5)

9. The Officer-in-Charge and Senior Expert of UNAPCAEM presented the Work Report of 2009 and the proposed workplan for 2010 for review and endorsement.

10. In 2009, the following activities were conducted:

(a) Fourth session of the Technical Committee and Governing Council, held in Chiang Rai, Thailand, from 10 to 13 February;

(b) Subregional launch of the ESCAP theme study entitled *Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in Asia and the Pacific*;^b

(c) Regional training-of-trainers programme on hybrid rice cultivation technology;

(d) Expert group meeting for reviewing the feasibility studies and methodology guidelines on the application of the clean development mechanism in conservation agriculture and household biogas;

(e) Regional expert group meeting on the application of agricultural machinery for sustainable agriculture;

(f) Fifth session of the Technical Committee, held in Los Baños, Philippines, on 14 and 15 October;

(g) Substantive preparations for the publication of feasibility studies and methodology guidelines on the application of the clean development mechanism in conservation agriculture and household biogas, as well as a study on challenges to and prospects for agricultural mechanization, in early 2010;

(h) Preparation of policy briefs.

11. The Officer-in-Charge also informed the Governing Council that efforts had been made to enhance expert networking through the new dedicated website for members of the Technical Committee and the Governing Council, as well as to promote the visibility of the Centre through an effective communication strategy and by building partnerships with other stakeholders.

12. In 2010, the UNAPCAEM programme of work will focus on the following areas:

(a) Conducting country-specific technology consultations and training workshops on hybrid rice cultivation technology;

(b) Organizing an international seminar on the application of the clean development mechanism in the agricultural sector;

(c) Designing a capacity-building programme in the field of agricultural machinery, in close consultation with other stakeholders;

(d) Organizing effective participation by member countries and other regional institutions of ESCAP in the Yantai International Fruit and Vegetable Expo to promote agro-based business development;

^b United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.II.F.12.

(e) Exploring potential areas of collaboration with other regional institutions of ESCAP to promote food security and sustainable agriculture;

(f) Intensifying human resource development and resource mobilization.

13. The Governing Council commended UNAPCAEM on its fruitful results in 2009 and praised the Centre for having developed practical and demand-driven projects.

14. The Governing Council emphasized that project development by UNAPCAEM should reflect the mandate and comparative advantage of the Centre in agricultural engineering and mechanization.^c Accordingly, it suggested that the Centre consider agricultural engineering and mechanization aspects when framing projects. It supported the priority areas identified by the Technical Committee, noting that there was a need to develop action plans within the broad areas it had proposed.

15. The Governing Council called for the active participation of member countries in the activities of UNAPCAEM.

16. The Governing Council requested that concerted efforts be made to address the chronic lack of professional staff and high turnover rate at UNAPCAEM.

17. The Governing Council also requested that ESCAP and UNAPCAEM intensify efforts to mobilize resources through more effective engagement with member countries and other stakeholders.

18. The Governing Council encouraged intensified collaboration between UNAPCAEM and the other regional institutions of ESCAP, in particular the Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology.

19. The Governing Council thanked member countries for their valuable technical inputs and financial contributions.

B. Report of the Technical Committee on its fifth session (Agenda item 6)

20. The report of the Technical Committee of UNAPCAEM on its fifth session, held in Los Baños, Philippines, on 14 and 15 October 2009, was presented to the Governing Council by the Officer-in-Charge and endorsed by the Council.

21. The Governing Council proposed that technical programmes be developed for each area identified by the Technical Committee. It further supported the development of a template for country presentations at meetings of the Technical Committee.

C. Financial statement for 2009 and resource mobilization for 2010-2011 (Agenda item 7)

22. The Officer-in-Charge presented an overview of the financial situation of the Centre since 2005, explaining the various sources of income to the Governing Council members. There were three primary sources of funding: voluntary contributions from member States (joint contribution account); institutional support from the host Government; and project funding. The traditional sources for project funding were the China-ESCAP Cooperation Fund, the Korea-ESCAP Cooperation

^c Commission resolution 61/3, annex, paras. 4 and 5 (a) and (b).

Fund and the regular programme of technical cooperation. In addition, the Governing Council was informed that the Centre had received project funding in 2008 and 2009 from the Government of Spain/United Nations Development Programme-Spain Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund. Resources for institutional support were in decline, as the level of annual expenditures exceeded yearly contributions, and the host Government contribution of \$3.8 million had already been given in full. Funding would be a key issue to ensure the implementation of project activities.

23. Governing Council members proposed that recommended minimum contribution levels for voluntary contributions by member States could be considered, as had been discussed by the governing councils of some other regional institutions of ESCAP. The Governing Council also appealed to member countries to enhance their financial contributions to UNAPCAEM. The Council would review the appropriate level of voluntary contributions and make recommendations at its next session.

24. Governing Council members requested ESCAP and UNAPCAEM not only to effectively engage member countries, potential donors and stakeholders, but also to explore potential areas of collaboration with the private sector to expand the base for funding. The Governing Council recommended that reminders be sent to countries which usually provided support so that the regular contributions would not be forgotten, keeping in mind the varying fiscal years of member countries. The Council also recommended that ESCAP highlight the potential implications of a budget shortfall for the operations of the Centre in the longer term.

**D. Round-table discussion on priority areas, issues and ideas for the
UNAPCAEM long-term strategic plan
(Agenda item 8)**

25. The Officer-in-Charge, a.i., of the Trade and Investment Division of ESCAP invited Governing Council members to examine the overall strategic approach of the Centre and provide guidance on how to make the Governing Council and the Technical Committee more effective.

26. Governing Council members endorsed the idea of drafting a long-term strategic plan, including the priority areas identified by the Technical Committee, noting that they had to be developed into specific projects. They also suggested the following areas for future projects: machinery testing (reviewing standards set by the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery); information and communications technology applications for the agricultural sector; water and land management; conservation agriculture machinery; biogas and biofuel for rural areas; the system of rice intensification; farm residues/farm waste management; livestock; organic farming; seed processing; horticulture/greenhouses; improving rural livelihoods, especially those of smallholders through agro-based business development; and post-harvest technology. They supported the project on hybrid rice cultivation and proposed that UNAPCAEM incorporate the agricultural engineering and mechanization aspect in project implementation.

27. Governing Council members also stated that, given the financial and human resource constraints, UNAPCAEM should be practical in its project development, make better use of existing resources and draw upon the resources and expertise of other regional institutions and national designated institutes, for example, by inviting national designated institutes to prepare and present project concept notes on the basis of their respective areas of expertise.

28. Governing Council members sought clarification from the secretariat on the procedure for recruitment of the head of UNAPCAEM and emphasized that the frequent change in the head of the Centre undermined the development of the Centre and resulted in a lack of strategic vision and consistency in the work programme of the Centre. Council members asked ESCAP to take effective measures to recruit a capable head in a timely manner.

**E. Review of draft annual report of UNAPCAEM to the Commission
(Agenda item 9)**

29. The Governing Council reviewed the draft report of UNAPCAEM to the sixty-sixth session of the Commission and suggested that corresponding revisions be made on the basis of the deliberations of the Governing Council and the evolving situation before the convening of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission in May 2010.

**F. Date and venue of the sixth session of the Governing Council of UNAPCAEM
(Agenda item 10)**

30. Noting that it had been decided that the sixth Technical Committee would be held in Malaysia in November 2010, the Governing Council proposed that the sixth session of the Council be held in December 2010. Cambodia would explore the possibility of hosting the session and requested the secretariat to provide detailed information on the requirements for the organization of the meeting, including logistical support needed.

**G. Other matters
(Agenda item 11)**

31. A member of the Governing Council proposed that field visits to agricultural industries, research institutions or project sites be arranged as part of the Governing Council meetings in future in order to provide opportunities for information dissemination and knowledge-sharing.

**H. Adoption of the report
(Agenda item 12)**

32. The Governing Council adopted the report on its fifth session on 15 December 2009.

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