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Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda

Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Commission, including the work of the ESCAP regional institutions: Trade and investment

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery on its seventh session

Summary

At its seventh session, the Governing Council of UNAPCAEM reviewed the reports of the Centre on its work in 2011 and on the Centre's administrative and financial status. It endorsed the proposed work plan for 2012-2013 and the report of the Technical Committee of UNAPCAEM on its seventh session, held in Bali, Indonesia, on 27 and 28 October 2011. It endorsed the establishment of an Asia-Pacific network for the testing of agricultural machinery and welcomed the efforts of UNAPCAEM to forge a strategic partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on advancing agricultural mechanization, initially through the development of agriculture mechanization strategies. It proposed that Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization be the new name of the Centre.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Commission or brought to its attention

Recommendations

1. There is preliminary agreement of the Governing Council to change the name of the Centre. The proposed new name of the Centre should include agricultural mechanization, since it covers the whole value chain of agricultural production. In this regard, the Governing Council proposes that “Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization” become the new name of the Centre subject to further consultation of Governing Council representatives with their respective governments.

2. The Governing Council agrees with the Technical Committee proposal that an Asia-Pacific network for the testing of agricultural machinery should become a flagship programme of UNAPCAEM.

II. Summary of proceedings

A. Report on the 2011 activities of UNAPCAEM and financial status as of December 2011 (agenda item 4)

3. The Governing Council was informed that, in 2011, the following activities had been conducted:

(a) A training on rice post-harvest and harvesting technology and a policy workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Myanmar;

(b) Tailored training programmes on high-yield rice and rice production technologies in Myanmar, Nepal and Bangladesh;

(c) Expert group meeting on an Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery (Bangkok, 26 July);

(d) Regional training workshop on rice post-harvest technology in cooperation with the Asian Institute of Technology (Bangkok);

(e) Publication of a study on the development of agricultural machinery in the Asia-Pacific region;¹

(f) Contributed to an occasional paper entitled “Working together to tackle climate change: The Government of China and United Nations system” in collaboration with the office of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in China;

(g) The publication of a training manual on rice post-harvest and harvesting technology;²

(h) Partnered with the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) and the Subregional Office for East and Northeast Asia to develop a joint project concept note entitled “Strengthening the technology transfer capacity of SMEs in the agro-industrial sector to facilitate their integration with regional and global value chains”;

(i) Assistance with the launch of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2011* and the *Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2011* in Beijing;

(j) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Round Table on Agricultural Mechanization in Asia (Bangkok, 8-9 December);

(k) Regional Seminar on Rice Production and Mechanization (Sanya, China, 11-12 December).

¹ Available on the UNAPCAEM website at www.unapcaem.org/publication/Pub_AM2010.htm.

² See www.unapcaem.org/slides/pubmm2011.asp.

4. The Governing Council commended UNAPCAEM for its achievements in 2011, particularly projects in the areas of rice production, post-harvest technology and agricultural mechanization. It congratulated the Centre for the extensive participation of member countries and the regional impact that the projects had generated. It agreed with Centre's identification of new project areas designed to highlight its specific areas of expertise, such as the production of a flagship publication on agricultural mechanization and the creation of an agricultural mechanization database. It emphasized the importance of and expressed support for the establishment of an Asia-Pacific network for the testing of agricultural machinery. It welcomed the encouraging step undertaken by the Centre to collaborate with FAO and other regional institutions and suggested that links be forged with companies manufacturing agricultural machinery in order to strengthen the mobilization of technological and financial resources.

5. The Governing Council identified challenges facing the Centre, such as a constant shift of focus and diversification of programmes and a lack of timely communication with line ministries/agencies of member countries for resource mobilization. It suggested that collaboration with FAO and other regional institutions was an effective way to attract resources, and that the Centre should align its activities with current issues, such as climate change, food security and safety, and poverty reduction so as to generate the interest of member countries. It also suggested that strategies be developed for resource mobilization to suit the needs of countries at varying development levels. It proposed that participation at agricultural machinery expositions should be considered in order to improve the profile of the Centre.

6. The representative of the Programme Management Division of ESCAP briefed the Governing Council on the new resource mobilization strategy of ESCAP, which involved creating strategic partnerships against the backdrop of dwindling international development assistance as a result of the ongoing global financial crisis.

B. Report of the Technical Committee on its seventh session (agenda item 5)

7. The Governing Council had before it the report of the Technical Committee on its seventh session, which had been held in Bali, Indonesia, on 27 and 28 October 2011. The Governing Council endorsed the report.

C. Consideration of a draft plan for a process to establish an Asian and Pacific network for the testing of agricultural machinery (agenda item 6)

8. With a view to avoiding possible setbacks in the early stages of the network, and in order to solicit support and communicate the liabilities of various stakeholders in the process and the benefits that the network would generate, the Governing Council stressed the need to identify drivers to spearhead the process and launch publicity campaigns in member countries. It agreed that the establishment of the network should be pursued and suggested some changes to the template for the research report on the network.

9. The Governing Council welcomed Thailand as a member of the technical working group on the network. It noted that Thailand would work with other members on the related research report.

D. Consideration of a proposal for changing the name of UNAPCAEM (agenda item 7)

10. There was preliminary agreement within the Governing Council that the name of the Centre should be changed. The proposed new name of the Centre should include the term “agricultural mechanization” since that term covered the whole value chain of agricultural production. The new name should also reflect vision, focus, actions, activities and impact. A proposal was made to change the name to “Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization” subject to further consultations between Governing Council representatives and their respective governments. The Council agreed that the proposal to change the name of the Centre would be submitted to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session, in May 2012, for adoption.

E. Discussion of the proposed work plan for 2012, the programme of work for 2012-2013 and resource mobilization issues for 2011-2013 related to the capacity development project document (agenda item 8)

11. The Governing Council was informed that, in 2012, the work of UNAPCAEM would be driven by the programmatic approach introduced by ESCAP for the period 2011-2013 and spearheaded by the Trade and Investment Division, the backstopping division for UNAPCAEM within ESCAP and by the Programme Management Division. The technical assistance programmes of UNAPCAEM would be aligned with the umbrella project “Creating an enabling environment for competitive, sustainable and inclusive enterprises” with a focus on enhancing the competitiveness of agro-based enterprises, including the transfer of environmentally sound agro-technologies.

12. In 2012, capacity development initiatives of UNAPCAEM would focus primarily on the following areas: (a) the Asia-Pacific network for the testing of agricultural machinery; (b) post-harvest technology; (c) anti-desertification and land degradation; and (d) rural alternative energy.

13. A recurrent flagship publication on the status of agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific would be prepared to highlight the focus of UNAPCAEM in spearheading sustainable agricultural mechanization strategies in the Asia-Pacific region. Efforts would also be initiated to establish an Asia-Pacific database on agricultural mechanization.

F. Review of the draft annual report of UNAPCAEM to the Commission (agenda item 9)

14. The Governing Council adopted the report of UNAPCAEM for submission to the Commission at its sixty-eighth session.

G. Agreement on the date and venue of the eighth session of the UNAPCAEM Governing Council (agenda item 10)

15. The Governing Council agreed that a final decision would be made after consultations with member countries.

H. Other matters (agenda item 11)

16. No other matters were discussed.

I. Adoption of the report (agenda item 12)

17. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 6 December 2011.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

18. The seventh session of the Governing Council of UNAPCAEM was held in Bangkok on 6 December 2011.

19. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP addressed the Governing Council at the opening of the session. In her remarks, she emphasized the impact of climate change on agricultural production and food security in the Asia-Pacific region and called for regional cooperation and agricultural technology innovations. She stated that the value of UNAPCAEM lay in bridging the gap between policy and performance and in promoting the transfer of sustainable agricultural technologies, sharing and disseminating good agricultural technologies and mechanization. She stressed that a name change would revitalize UNAPCAEM, adding that the new name should reflect the position of UNAPCAEM as a regional platform for promoting environmentally sustainable agricultural mechanization and agri-business development with a new and clear mandate.

20. Ms. Sirilak Suwanrangsi, Director of the Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, delivered remarks on behalf of the Government of Thailand. She praised UNAPCAEM for its efforts in fighting hunger and poverty over the years and acknowledged the valuable role of the Centre in advancing innovative agricultural engineering as a knowledge hub in the region. She echoed the Executive Secretary's appeal to change the name of the Centre in order to attract financial resources and promote sustainable agricultural technologies in the region.

21. The Director of the Trade and Investment Division of ESCAP stressed that UNAPCAEM, in order to increase its appeal to member countries, should develop a brand name by producing flagship publications and undertaking projects with tangible results.

B. Attendance

22. The session was attended by representatives of the following members: Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Malaysia; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

C. Election of officers

23. The Governing Council elected the following officers:

Chair:	Ms. Sirilak Suwanrangi (Thailand)
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Astu Unadi (Indonesia)

D. Agenda

24. 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 2011 activities of UNAPCAEM and financial status as of December 2011.
5. Report of the seventh session of the UNAPCAEM Technical Committee.
6. Consideration of a draft plan for a process to establish an Asian and Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery.
7. Consideration of a proposal for changing the name of UNAPCAEM.
8. Discussion of the proposed work plan for 2012, the programme of work for 2012-2013 and resource mobilization issues for 2011-2013 related to the capacity development project document.
9. Review of the draft annual report of UNAPCAEM to the Commission.
10. Agreement on the date and venue of the eighth session of the Council.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.

Annex**List of documents**

Symbol	Title	Agenda item
N/A	Provisional and annotated provisional agenda	3
N/A	Tentative programme	3
N/A	Provisional list of participants	2
N/A	Background note: Annex of motivation for the establishment of an Asia-Pacific network for the testing of agricultural machinery	6
N/A	Research report template	6
N/A	Report of the seventh session of the Technical Committee of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery	4, 5
N/A	Information for participants	
N/A	Discussion paper: Justifying a new name for UNAPCAEM	7
N/A	Work report in 2011 and Work plan for 2012	8
