


Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Sixty-ninth session

Bangkok, 25 April-1 May 2013

Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Review of issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of
 the Commission, including the work of the regional
 institutions: Trade and investment**
**Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for
 Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its eighth
 session**
Summary

The United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM) was renamed the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) effective 1 October 2012. The Governing Council of the Centre at its eighth session reviewed its administrative and financial status as well reports on its work in 2012. It endorsed the proposed work plan for 2013 and the report of the CSAM Technical Committee on its eighth session. It also reviewed and adopted the annual report of CSAM, which will be submitted to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session. It endorsed the plan to launch, by the end of 2013, an Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery, and proposed revisions to the statute of the Centre for possible adoption by the Commission at its sixty-ninth session.

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Governing Council and provide the secretariat with guidance for the future work of the Centre.

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* E/ESCAP/69/L.1.

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

Recommendations

1. The Governing Council recommends that the Commission adopt the following revised statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) to reflect the change in name and to renew the mandate of the Centre:

Proposed statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

Establishment

1. The Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (hereinafter referred to as “CSAM” or the “Centre”) was established initially as the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (APCAEM) pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/5 of 22 May 2002; subsequently APCAEM was superseded by the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery (UNAPCAEM), through resolution 61/3, which was adopted by the Commission on 18 May 2005.

2. The membership of CSAM shall be identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as “ESCAP” or “the Commission”).

3. The Centre shall have the status of a subsidiary body of ESCAP.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the Centre are to enhance technical cooperation among the members and associate members of ESCAP as well as other interested Member States of the United Nations, through extensive exchange of information and sharing of knowledge and promotion of research and development and agro-enterprise development in the area of sustainable agricultural mechanization and technology for the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the region.

Functions

5. The Centre will achieve the above objectives through undertaking such functions as:

(a) Assistance in the improvement of agricultural engineering and sustainable agricultural mechanization;

(b) Enhancement of farm mechanization technologies in addressing issues related to subsistence farming for increased food security and poverty reduction and promoting the development of agro-based small and medium-sized enterprise and commercial farming to seize opportunities for increased market access and agro-food trade;

(c) A focus on an agro-based enterprise cluster concept and enterprise development activities to enhance the capabilities of members in identifying potential agricultural commodities in their respective countries on a clustering basis;

(d) Regional cooperation in green agro-technology transfer including through networking of focal point national institutes in CSAM member countries and other relevant institutions;

(e) Setting up an interactive Internet website to allow members full access to information and technology databases, including the sharing of expert systems and decision support systems in financial management of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(f) Promotion for poverty reduction of the technology transfer process from research and development institutes to the agricultural and farm machinery extension systems in member countries;

(g) Assistance in dissemination and exchange of sustainable and commercially successful machinery and related drawings of appropriate tools, machines and equipment;

(h) Technical assistance projects, capacity-building programmes, training workshops and seminars and advisory services on sustainable agricultural mechanization and related food safety standards.

(i) Tapping the resources of developed countries in building the capacity of member countries.

Status and organization

6. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”), a Director, other staff and a Technical Committee.

7. The Centre is located in Beijing.

8. The Centre’s activities shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial and Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Centre shall have a Governing Council consisting of a representative designated by the Government of China and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of ESCAP elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary or his/her representative shall attend meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council, (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his/her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be the majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, where that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chair or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chair shall preside at meetings of the Council. If the Chair is unable to serve for the full term for which he/she has been elected, the Vice-Chair shall act as Chair for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of

work. The Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

17. The Centre shall have a Director and staff, who shall be ESCAP staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of ESCAP for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. The Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of ESCAP as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members and associate members of ESCAP will be invited to propose candidates for the Technical Committee. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary. The Director may also invite governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions to propose experts who would best contribute to Technical Committee discussions on a specific topic.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, with the Director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of the Centre

23. All members and associate members of ESCAP should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of this statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

2. The Governing Council recommends that the proposed Asian and Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery be launched by the end of 2013, and calls for active participation and support of member States and all stakeholders to this region-wide initiative for the promotion of sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific.

3. The Governing Council recommends that CSAM accord priority to the development of sustainable agricultural mechanization strategies and explore further appropriate partnerships for this purpose.

4. The Governing Council recommends that, given the existing financial situation and the renewed mandate of the Centre, a threshold be set for a minimum contribution to CSAM from member States in order to ensure the viability of the Centre and implementation of project activities while leaving flexibility for member States to make voluntary contributions to the Centre within the limit of their respective capacities.

II. Summary of proceedings

A. Agenda item 4

Report on the 2012 activities and financial status of CSAM as of 31 October 2012

5. The Governing Council was informed that, since its seventh session, the following activities had been conducted:

(a) Regional seminar on rice production and mechanization (Sanya, China, 12-13 December 2011);

(b) Assistance with the launch of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2012* (Beijing, 10 May 2012);

(c) Third technical working group and steering committee on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery (Bangkok, 15-16 May 2012);

(d) The second meeting on sustainable agricultural mechanization strategies (Bangkok, Regional Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 17 May 2012);

(e) Workshop for small and medium-sized enterprises on precision farming for enhancing sustainability of rice production, during the Asia-Pacific Business Forum 2012 in collaboration with the Malaysia Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Kuala Lumpur, 15 October 2012);

(f) Third meeting on sustainable agricultural mechanization strategies (Kandy, Sri Lanka, 23 October 2012);

(g) Third technical working group and steering committee on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery (Kandy, Sri Lanka, 24 October 2012);

(h) Eighth session of the Technical Committee of CSAM (Kandy, Sri Lanka, 23-25 October 2012).

6. The Governing Council commended the work of CSAM, the former head of the Centre and his team and congratulated the new head of CSAM on the assumption of his duties. It expressed the hope that the work of CSAM would be elevated to a new level and that its full potential would be brought out. The Governing Council approved the work report of CSAM for 2012 and agreed with the renewed mandate of CSAM to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization and green agro-technology transfer in the Asia-Pacific region.

7. With regard to substantive projects of the Centre, the Governing Council agreed that sustainable agricultural mechanization strategies and the Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery would be mutually reinforcing and become long-term flagship projects of the Centre. The Council called for more in-depth discussions on strategies to promote sustainable agricultural development, and small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises. It agreed that a multistage approach should be adopted to implement the Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery in view of its complexity. The Council requested the Centre to engage policymakers of member States through timely and effective communication in order to solicit both financial and technical support for the Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery. It also called for delivery of more demand-driven and tailored capacity-building activities by the Centre through collaboration with the designated national institutes of member States and emphasized that the Centre should conduct more extensive outreach activities in order to raise its profile and rally wide support for its activities. It called for more information exchange, sharing of best practices and transfer of green agro-technologies, and promotion of rural enterprise development.

B. Agenda item 5

Report of the Technical Committee of CASM on its eighth session

8. The eighth session of the Technical Committee of CSAM was held in Kandy, Sri Lanka, from 23 to 25 October 2012. The Governing Council endorsed the report of the Technical Committee.

C. Agenda item 6
Updates on the establishment of the Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery

9. The Governing Council was briefed on progress in establishing the Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery and on the work plan to launch the network by the end of 2013. The Centre would launch a publicity campaign involving a series of activities to engage stakeholders, with a particular focus on policymakers in member States, and the private sector in order to generate technical and financial support for the operation of the network. The proposed activities would include a round table of policymakers on the Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery, a joint exhibition on agricultural mechanization with FAO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Network for Testing of Agricultural Machines, and issuance of related publicity materials. The Council agreed that the sixty-ninth session of the Commission would provide a good platform for the Centre to communicate information on its programme of activities to high-level government representatives, and that the Centre should leverage the available resources to generate a larger regional impact.

D. Agenda item 7
Consideration of revisions to the statute of CSAM and a new domain name

10. The Governing Council adopted in principle revisions to the statute of CSAM, subject to final approval by the Commission, to reflect the change in the Centre's name and its renewed mandate. The Council considered choices available for the new domain name of the Centre and suggested that further consultations on an appropriate domain name for the Centre be held with the relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat.

E. Agenda item 8
Discussion of the proposed work plan for 2013 and resource mobilization issues for 2013-2014

11. The Governing Council approved the work plan for 2013. It agreed that, given the existing financial situation and the renewed mandate of the Centre, there was a need to set a threshold for the minimum level of contributions from member States to CSAM in order to ensure the viability of the Centre and the implementation of project activities while leaving enough flexibility for member States to make voluntary contributions to the Centre within the limit of their capacity to do so. It agreed that a draft letter be prepared by CSAM on recommendations for making financial contributions and that it be circulated among Council members for approval before submission to member States.

12. The representative of the Programme Planning and Partnerships Division of ESCAP briefed the Governing Council on the new resource mobilization strategy of ESCAP, and described resource mobilization activities to be conducted by ESCAP in 2013. The Council called for a more results-oriented and effective resource mobilization strategy to be developed by the Centre, with a focus on the private sector in the area of agricultural machinery in the light of the new mandate of the Centre.

F. Agenda item 9
Review of the draft annual report of CSAM to be submitted to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session

13. The Governing Council approved the draft annual report of CSAM for the submission to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session.

G. Agenda item 10
Agreement on the date and venue of the ninth session of the Governing Council of CSAM

14. The Governing Council agreed in principle that its ninth session would be held in Bangkok on 18 November 2013 subject to final consultations with member States.

H. Agenda item 11
Other matters

15. No other matters were discussed.

I. Agenda item 12
Adoption of the report

16. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 13 December 2012.

III. Organization of the session

A. Opening, duration and organization

17. The eighth session of the Governing Council of CSAM was held in Bangkok on 13 December 2012.

18. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP addressed the Governing Council at the opening of the session.

19. Ms. Narumol Sanguanvong, Director, Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, delivered remarks.

20. An opening statement was also made by the Director of the Trade and Investment Division of ESCAP.

B. Attendance

21. The session was attended by representatives of the following members: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; Indonesia; Sri Lanka; and Thailand. Although India, Pakistan and Viet Nam were not represented, a quorum was achieved.

C. Election of officers

22. The Governing Council elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Chinthaka P. Balasooriya (Sri Lanka)
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Chan Saruth (Cambodia)

D. Adoption of the agenda

23. 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 2012 activities and financial status of CSAM as of 31 October 2012.
 5. Report of the Technical Committee of CSAM on its eighth session.
 6. Updates on the establishment of the Asian and Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery.
 7. Consideration of revisions to the statute of CSAM and a new domain name.
 8. Discussion of the proposed work plan for 2013 and resource mobilization issues for 2013-2014.
 9. Review of the draft annual report of CSAM to be submitted to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session.
 10. Agreement on the date and venue of the ninth session of the Governing Council of CSAM.
 11. Other matters.
 12. Adoption of the report.

Annex**List of documents**

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N/A	Eighth Governing Council agenda and annotated agenda	3
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N/A	Report of the Technical Committee of CSAM on its eighth session	5
N/A	Revised statute of the Centre	7
N/A	Work report for 2012 and work plan for 2013	4, 8
