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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Eighty-first session
Bangkok, 21–25 April 2025
Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and issues pertinent to the subsidiary structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: environment and development

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its twentieth session

Note by the secretariat

Pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 72/2, annex, paragraph 16, the secretariat has the honour to transmit to the members and associate members of the Commission the report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its twentieth session, held in Tashkent on 27 November 2024, as well as the relevant financial statements and information on cash contributions received in 2023 and 2024.

* ESCAP/81/1.

Please recycle

Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its twentieth session

I. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. The Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization recognized the importance of sustainable agricultural mechanization to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. The Governing Council commended the Centre on its achievements in 2024 and endorsed the document on the activities and financial status of the Centre in 2024 and workplan for 2025.

3. The Governing Council commended the Centre for undertaking the institutional evaluation and took note of the preliminary findings and recommendations.

4. The Governing Council recommended that member States update and increase their contributions to the Centre to meet the current needs of the region.

5. The Governing Council endorsed the overall direction of the proposed five-year strategic plan of the Centre (2025–2029).

6. The Governing Council suggested that its twenty-first session be held in November 2025, back-to-back with one of the key events of the Centre. The date of the session would be confirmed in due course, following discussions with potential co-organizing partners.

II. Proceedings

A. Activities and financial status of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in 2024 (agenda item 2)

7. The Governing Council had before it the note by the secretariat on the activities and financial status of the Centre in 2024 and workplan for 2025 (CSAM/GC(20)/2).

8. Representatives of the secretariat delivered a presentation on the activities and financial status of the Centre in 2024. A presentation on the initial findings of the institutional evaluation of the Centre was also delivered by the independent evaluator.

9. The Governing Council commended the Centre on its achievements with regard to several of its initiatives, including the application of harmonized testing codes by member States and the progress made in the integrated straw management initiative to address the commonly shared issue of crop residue burning. It encouraged the Centre to continue its cooperation with member States based on those achievements and reiterated its continued support for the activities of the Centre.

10. The Governing Council made suggestions for the draft evaluation report. It suggested that data would need to be included in the report to support the findings highlighting the importance of sustainable agricultural mechanization. It was also suggested that areas of disability inclusion that could be realistically

considered by the Centre be specified in the report, given the context of agricultural mechanization in the region.

11. The Governing Council noted the constraints and challenges faced by the Centre and requested that suggestions be included in the evaluation report on how to address those constraints. It noted that the voluntary contributions of most members had remained the same for several years, regardless of cost fluctuations, and recommended that member States update and increase their contributions to the Centre to meet the current needs of the region.

12. The Governing Council endorsed the part of the document on the activities and financial status of the Centre in 2024 on the basis of the successful completion of the workplan approved by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session.

13. The Governing Council took note of the preliminary findings and recommendations of the evaluation of the Centre, as presented by the independent evaluator.

14. The Governing Council was informed that the full independent evaluation report would be circulated by the secretariat to all Governing Council members by email in December 2024, after which members would have one week to submit comments.

B. Five-year strategic plan of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (2025–2029) (agenda item 3)

15. The Governing Council had before it the note by the secretariat on the five-year strategic plan of the Centre (2025–2029) (CSAM/GC(20)/3).

16. The secretariat presented the five-year strategic plan of the Centre (2025–2029).

17. The Governing Council noted that the strategy for 2020–2024 had guided the Centre in achieving significant results for the promotion of sustainable agricultural mechanization. It also noted that the strategic plan for 2025–2029 provided a strategic framework in line with the development needs of the Asia-Pacific region and was well-suited to successfully support the smallholder farmers in the region. The Governing Council expressed its support for the five priority areas identified in the strategy and recommended a further focus on emerging issues such as automation; the safety and comfort of equipment and machinery; agricultural industrialization as a means of attracting youth to the sector; the mitigation of post-harvest losses; the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; machinery management networks; a performance comparison approach with regard to the development of regional standards; food safety; the efficient use of agrochemical inputs; the fragmentation of farmland; and supporting women’s access to decision-making in agricultural mechanization. It also suggested that the Centre consider revitalizing its technical working groups to facilitate technical discussions on sustainable agricultural mechanization.

18. The Governing Council endorsed the overall direction of the proposed five-year strategic plan of the Centre (2025–2029), recommending the inclusion of emerging issues identified by its members. It noted that the revised version of the strategic plan would be circulated by the secretariat to all Governing Council members by email in December 2024, after which members would have one week to submit comments.

C. Proposed workplan for 2025 (agenda item 4)

19. The Governing Council had before it the note by the secretariat on the activities and financial status of the Centre in 2024 and workplan for 2025 (CSAM/GC(20)/2).

20. Representatives of the secretariat delivered a presentation on the proposed workplan for 2025.

21. The Governing Council encouraged the Centre to continue its positive work on sustainable agricultural mechanization for poverty alleviation and rural development to support the region. It highlighted the importance of mechanization, both in harvesting and post-harvesting, to reduce food loss, in particular post-harvest loss. It recommended that the Centre continue working on crop residue management, developing its pilot projects into a larger long-term programme aimed at bringing about behavioural change, with the inclusion of digital solutions and climate-smart perspectives. Additional areas of focus should include the role of mechanization in agricultural value chains, the increased safety and comfort of equipment and machinery and support for food security. The Centre was encouraged to explore opportunities to engage with member States in South-West Asia and the Pacific.

22. The Governing Council endorsed the Centre's proposed workplan for 2025.

D. Date and venue of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council (agenda item 5)

23. The Governing Council recommended that its twenty-first session be held in November 2025, back-to-back with one of the key events of the Centre. The date of the session would be confirmed in due course, following discussions with potential co-organizing partners.

E. Other matters (agenda item 6)

24. A representative of the secretariat informed the members of the Governing Council that the election or re-election of members would take place during the eighty-first session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, to be held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 21 to 25 April 2025. The members of the Governing Council would serve for a three-year term.

F. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its twentieth session (agenda item 7)

25. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 27 November 2024.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

26. The twentieth session of the Governing Council was held in Tashkent on 27 November 2024.

27. The Executive Secretary delivered remarks through a video message. In her remarks, she highlighted that sustainable agricultural mechanization could

lead to the transformation of agricultural value chains and help to solidify the role of the agricultural sector as a driving force for poverty eradication, shared prosperity and a healthy planet.

B. Attendance

28. The session was attended by representatives of the nine members of the Governing Council: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. In addition, representatives of Bhutan, Indonesia, the Philippines, the United States of America and Uzbekistan attended as observers.

29. Representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations also attended as observers.

C. Election of officers

30. The Governing Council elected the following officers:

Chair:	Mr. Anuchit Chamsing (Thailand)
Vice-Chair:	Ms. Mst. Zohra Khatoon (Bangladesh)

D. Agenda

31. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
   - (a) Opening addresses;
   - (b) Election of officers;
   - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Activities and financial status of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in 2024.
3. Five-year strategic plan of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (2025–2029).
4. Proposed workplan for 2025.
5. Date and venue of the twenty-first session of the Governing Council.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its twentieth session.

Annex I

List of documents

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
General series		
CSAM/GC(20)/1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
CSAM/GC(20)/2	Activities and financial status of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in 2024 and workplan for 2025	2 and 4
CSAM/GC(20)/3	Five-year strategic plan of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (2025–2029)	3
CSAM/GC(20)/4	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its twentieth session	

Annex II

Financial statement of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization for the year ended 31 December 2024
(United States dollars)

Income	
Contributions	1 765 000
Interest income	280 606
Gain on exchange	11
Total income	**2 045 617**
Less: Expenditure	(2 253 985)
Net income over expenditure	**(208 368)**
Fund balance as at 1 January 2024	5 483 077
Fund transfer from/to grants	193 544
Fund balance as at 31 December 2024	**5 468 253**

Annex III

Financial statement of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization for the year ended 31 December 2024, by project component
(United States dollars)

	Joint contributions – capacity-development project	*Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery: cooperation project with Japan (phase II)*	*Strengthening mechanization-based solutions for climate-smart crop residue management in Cambodia, Indonesia and Nepal*	*Total*
Income				
Contributions	1 765 000	–	–	1 765 000
Interest income	275 540	–	5 066	280 606
Gain on exchange	–	11	–	11
Total income	**2 040 540**	**11**	**5 066**	**2 045 617**
Less: Expenditure	(2 058 730)	(17 202)	(178 053)	(2 253 985)
Net income over expenditure	**(18 190)**	**(17 191)**	**(172 987)**	**(208 368)**
Fund balance as at 1 January 2024	5 465 886	17 191	–	5 483 077
Fund transfer from/to grants	–	–	193 544[a]	193 544
Fund balance as at 31 December 2024	**5 447 696**	–	**20 557**	**5 468 253**

[a] Funding provided by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Annex IV

Contributions to the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization received for the years ended 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2024
(United States dollars)

Country/Area	*Year ended 31 December 2023*	*Year ended 31 December 2024*
Bangladesh	3 000	3 000
Cambodia	2 000	–
China	1 628 000	1 680 000
Fiji	–	–
India	29 608	–
Indonesia	30 000	30 000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	–	–
Japan	–	–
Mongolia	–	–
Nepal	–	–
Pakistan	–	–
Papua New Guinea	–	–
Philippines	30 000	30 000
Republic of Korea	10 000	10 000
Sri Lanka	–	–
Thailand	13 000	12 000
Viet Nam	–	–
Total	**1 745 608**	**1 765 000**