



Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**Seventy-ninth session**

Bangkok and online, 15–19 May 2023

Item 4 (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 Commission: environment and development**Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its eighteenth session***Summary*

The Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization recognized the importance of gender mainstreaming in efforts to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization in the Asia-Pacific region. It highlighted the growing number of women in the agricultural workforce who faced increasingly hard labour tasks, making gender considerations even more urgent to ensure food sustainability. The Governing Council also highlighted the importance of automation and of precision and smart technologies in agriculture.

The Governing Council commended the Centre for the excellent progress achieved in the implementation of its programmes and activities in 2022. It recommended that the Centre:

- (a) Hold an event dedicated to studying the situation of gender mainstreaming in agricultural mechanization in the region and the contribution of women farmers to agriculture in various countries;
- (b) Continue to promote climate-smart mechanization, including conservation agriculture, and capacity-building for sustainable agricultural mechanization;
- (c) Promote automation and precision and smart technologies in agriculture, including through knowledge-sharing programmes;
- (d) Expand its analytical work in the area of market dynamics of agricultural machinery;
- (e) Expand its partnerships by signing agreements with relevant organizations where possible.

The Governing Council endorsed the report on the Centre's activities and financial status in 2022 and the plan of work for 2023.

* ESCAP/79/1/Rev.2.

I. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

1. The Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization recognized the importance of gender mainstreaming in efforts to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization in the Asia-Pacific region. It highlighted the growing number of women in the agricultural workforce who faced increasingly hard labour tasks, making gender considerations even more urgent to ensure food sustainability.

2. The Governing Council endorsed the report on the Centre's activities and financial status in 2022 and the plan of work for 2023.

3. The Governing Council suggested that its nineteenth session be held in November 2023, immediately after one of the Centre's key events. The date of the session would be confirmed in due course, following discussions with potential co-organizing partners of the Centre's events and depending on any restrictions imposed owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

II. Proceedings

A. Discussion on gender mainstreaming in sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific (agenda item 2)

4. A representative of the Centre gave a presentation on the theme of the discussion.

5. The Governing Council recognized the importance of gender mainstreaming in efforts to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization in the Asia-Pacific region. It highlighted the growing number of women in the agricultural workforce who faced increasingly hard labour tasks, making gender considerations even more urgent to ensure food sustainability.

6. Representatives of Governing Council members shared information on the actions taken in their countries and the results achieved in the areas of gender mainstreaming in agriculture and mechanization, which included increasing the number of women who gained admission to college courses in agricultural engineering and operating centres dedicated to improving technology for women in agriculture.

7. The Governing Council discussed how both women and men farmers could benefit from moving beyond mechanization towards automation and gender-neutral technologies. Shifting the discourse from drudgery reduction to tracking the "comfort index" would promote the use of machinery for women and the agricultural workforce at large.

8. The Governing Council proposed that the Centre hold an event dedicated to studying the situation of gender mainstreaming in agricultural mechanization in the region and the contribution of women farmers to agriculture in various countries.

B. Report on the Centre's activities and financial status in 2022 and discussion of the proposed plan of work for 2023 (agenda items 3 and 4)

9. Representatives of the Centre presented the report on the Centre's activities and financial status in 2022 and the proposed plan of work for 2023.

10. The Governing Council commended the Centre for the excellent progress achieved in the implementation of its programmes and activities in 2022. It recommended that the Centre continue to promote climate-smart mechanization, including conservation agriculture, and capacity-building for sustainable agricultural mechanization.

11. The Governing Council highlighted the importance of automation and of precision and smart technologies in agriculture and recommended that the Centre promote such technologies, including through knowledge-sharing programmes. The Governing Council also recommended that the Centre expand its analytical work in the area of market dynamics of agricultural machinery.

12. The Governing Council suggested that the Centre expand its partnerships by signing agreements with relevant organizations where possible.

13. The Governing Council endorsed the report on the Centre's activities and financial status in 2022 and the plan of work for 2023.

C. Date and venue of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council (agenda item 5)

14. The Governing Council suggested that its nineteenth session be held in November 2023, immediately after one of the Centre's key events. The date of the session would be confirmed in due course, following discussions with potential co-organizing partners of the Centre's events and depending on any restrictions imposed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

D. Other matters (agenda item 6)

15. No other matters were brought to the attention of the Governing Council.

E. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its eighteenth session (agenda item 7)

16. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 9 December 2022.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

17. The eighteenth session of the Governing Council was held in Beijing and online on 9 December 2022.

18. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) delivered remarks through a video message. She recalled that, at the United Nations Food Systems Summit, held in 2021, it had been reiterated that achieving all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals relied to some degree on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems. Thus, food systems needed to be transformed, especially given the backdrop of complex shocks and challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the current food crisis. She recognized that sustainable agricultural mechanization was vital for addressing the challenges facing agriculture in the region and thanked the Government of China, the Centre's

host country, for its voluntary financial contributions and providing office space for the Centre. She also thanked other members of the Governing Council for their voluntary financial contributions to the Centre.

B. Attendance

19. The session was attended by representatives of all nine members of the Governing Council: Bangladesh; Cambodia; China; India; Malaysia; Pakistan; Sri Lanka; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

20. Representatives of the Agriculture Machinery Centre of Bhutan and the Rural Development Administration of the Republic of Korea attended the session as observers.

21. In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of ESCAP, the Chair and Vice-Chair examined the credentials of all the representatives and found them to be in order.

C. Election of officers

22. The Governing Council elected the following officers:

Chair: Mr. Azman bin Hamzah (Malaysia)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Shyam Narayan Jha (India)

D. Agenda

23. The Governing Council adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements;
 - (b) Election of officers;
 - (c) Adoption of the agenda.
2. Discussion on gender mainstreaming in sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific.
3. Report on the Centre's activities and financial status in 2022.
4. Discussion of the proposed plan of work for 2023.
5. Date and venue of the nineteenth session of the Governing Council.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its eighteenth session.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
	Report on the activities and financial status in 2022 and the plan of work for 2023	3 and 4
ESCAP/CSAM/GC/2022/1	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its eighteenth session	
<i>Limited series</i>		
ESCAP/CSAM/GC/2022/L.1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
<i>Information series</i>		
	Gender mainstreaming in sustainable agricultural mechanization in Asia and the Pacific	2

Annex II

**Financial statement of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural
Mechanization for the year ended 31 December 2022**
(United States dollars)

<i>Income</i>	
Contributions	1 813 480
Interest income	28 976
Gain on exchange	–
Total income	1 842 456
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>	(1 659 100)
Net income over expenditure	183 356
Fund balance as at 1 January 2022	5 199 674
Fund transfer from/to grants	–
Fund balance as at 31 December 2022	5 383 030

Annex III

Financial statement of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization for the year ended 31 December 2022, by project component

(United States dollars)

	<i>Joint contributions: capacity-development project</i>	<i>Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery: cooperation project with Japan (phase II)</i>	<i>Enabling Sustainable and Climate-smart Agriculture in Cambodia, Indonesia and Nepal through Mechanization Solutions for Integrated Management of Straw Residue and Air Pollution Monitoring</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Income</i>				
Contributions	1 813 480	–	–	1 813 480
Interest income	27 765	724	487	28 976
Gain on exchange	–	–	–	–
Total income	1 841 245	724	487	1 842 456
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>				
	(1 507 829)	(37 855)	(113 416)	(1 659 100)
Net income over expenditure	333 416	(37 131)	(112 929)	183 356
Fund balance as at 1 January 2022	4 923 552	150 793	125 329	5 199 674
Fund transfer from/to grants	–	–	–	–
Fund balance as at 31 December 2022	5 256 968	113 662	12 400	5 383 030

Annex IV

**Contributions to the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural
Mechanization received for the years ended 31 December 2021 and
31 December 2022**
(United States dollars)

<i>Country/area</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2021</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2022</i>
Bangladesh	–	3 000
Cambodia	2 000	4 000
China	1 700 000	1 700 000
Fiji	–	–
India	–	15 000
Indonesia	–	30 000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	–	–
Japan	–	–
Mongolia	–	–
Nepal	–	–
Pakistan	4 980	4 980
Papua New Guinea	–	–
Philippines	60 000	30 000
Republic of Korea	10 000	10 000
Sri Lanka	5 000	–
Thailand	15 000	13 500
Viet Nam	6 000	3 000
Total	1 802 980	1 813 480