

**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific****Eightieth session**

Bangkok, 22–26 April 2024

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 nineteenth session***Summary*

At its nineteenth session, held in Shanghai, China, on 30 November 2023, the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization recognized the importance of promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization in order to enhance food security in the Asia-Pacific region. It also recognized that wider adoption of mechanization was key to ensuring food security, improving productivity and enhancing social and economic development. Furthermore, it highlighted the role of the private sector and the importance of adopting suitable mechanization, including the use of climate-smart technologies, in particular post-harvest, in ensuring food sustainability.

The Governing Council commended the Centre for the excellent progress achieved in the implementation of its programmes and activities in 2023. It recommended that the Centre continue its effective work in promoting testing standards for agricultural machinery, including for the promotion of trade; engaging with the private sector through the delivery of technology transfer activities; promoting climate-smart technologies and integrated straw management for the reduction of air pollution; mainstreaming gender considerations and working towards the empowerment of women in and through sustainable agricultural mechanization; and enhancing the capacity of member States. It also requested that the Centre support member States in:

- (a) Collecting data more efficiently in order to improve research, decision-making and policy development;
- (b) Supporting the development of manufacturing sectors through the delivery of technology transfer activities on cross-cutting issues;
- (c) Documenting and sharing success stories among member States;
- (d) Verifying the feasibility and suitability of new technologies, including climate-smart technologies;
- (e) Exploring possibilities for the application of mechanization in the livestock sector.

The Governing Council endorsed the report on the activities and financial status of the Centre in 2023 and the workplan for 2024.

* ESCAP/80/1.

I. Matters brought to the attention of the Commission

1. The Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization recognized the importance of promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization in order to enhance food security in the Asia-Pacific region. It highlighted the role of the private sector and the importance of adopting suitable mechanization, including the use of climate-smart technologies, in particular post-harvest, in ensuring food sustainability.

2. The Governing Council endorsed the report on the activities and financial status of the Centre in 2023 and the workplan for 2024.

3. The Governing Council suggested that its twentieth session be held in November 2024, 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.

II. Proceedings

A. Activities and financial status of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in 2023 and the proposed workplan for 2024 (agenda items 2 and 3)

4. Representatives of the Centre presented the report on the Centre's activities and financial status in 2023 and the proposed workplan for 2024.

5. The Governing Council commended the Centre for the excellent progress achieved in the implementation of its programmes and activities in 2023. It recognized that wider adoption of mechanization was the key to ensuring food security, improving productivity and enhancing social and economic development. In the context of a changing climate scenario, the importance of the adoption of suitable machinery and climate-smart technologies was also highlighted.

6. The Governing Council recommended that the Centre renew its efforts to promote the adoption of machinery through the use of information platforms, aligning the priorities of member States with a results-oriented approach. In particular, the Governing Council requested that the Centre support member States in (a) collecting data more efficiently in order to improve research, decision-making and policy development; (b) supporting the development of manufacturing sectors through the delivery of technology transfer activities on cross-cutting issues; (c) documenting and sharing success stories among member States; (d) verifying the feasibility and suitability of new technologies, including climate-smart technologies; and (e) exploring possibilities for the application of mechanization in the livestock sector.

7. The Governing Council also recommended that the Centre continue its effective work in (a) promoting testing standards for agricultural machinery, including for the promotion of trade; (b) engaging with the private sector through the delivery of technology transfer activities; (c) promoting climate-smart technologies and integrated straw management for the reduction of air pollution; (d) mainstreaming gender considerations and working towards the empowerment of women in and through sustainable agricultural mechanization; and (e) enhancing the capacity of member States in the above-mentioned activities. The Governing Council further recommended that the Centre consider supporting the involvement of university graduates and younger generations in mechanization. It also advised that the Centre continue

to leverage partnerships for the successful delivery of the above recommendations.

8. Furthermore, the Governing Council recommended that the Centre expand its analytical work in the area of market dynamics for agricultural machinery, including by developing market directories for agricultural machinery.

9. The Governing Council endorsed the report on the Centre's activities and financial status in 2023 and the workplan for 2024.

B. Date and venue of the twentieth session of the Governing Council (agenda item 4)

10. The Governing Council suggested that its twentieth session be held in November 2024, 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.

C. Other matters (agenda item 5)

11. One member recommended that communication among Governing Council members be facilitated further, possibly through the use of social media.

D. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its nineteenth session (agenda item 6)

12. The Governing Council adopted the present report on 30 November 2023.

III. Organization

A. Opening, duration and organization of the session

13. The nineteenth session of the Governing Council was held in Shanghai, China, on 30 November 2023.

14. The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific delivered remarks through a video message. She highlighted that sustainable agricultural mechanization helped smallholder farmers and led to the improvement of food production, both in terms of quality and quantity. She recognized that the integration of new technologies in agriculture not only enhanced the efficiency and precision of farming practices but also opened new avenues for data-driven solutions, empowering farmers with real-time information and fostering informed choices on crop management and resource utilization, and she remarked that the effectiveness of sustainable mechanization practices, even if paired with digital applications, hinged on the active involvement and empowerment of women. She thanked the Government of China, the Centre's host country, both for its voluntary financial contributions and for 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

15. 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.

16. Representatives of the Department of Agriculture of Bhutan, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Nepal, the Rural Development Administration of the Republic of Korea and the Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture Mechanization of Uzbekistan attended the session as observers.

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

C. Election of officers

18. The Governing Council elected the following officers:

Chair: Ms. Malathy Parasuraman (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Anuchit Chamsing (Thailand)

D. Agenda

19. 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 2023.
3. Proposed workplan for 2024.
4. Date and venue of the twentieth session of the Governing Council.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the Governing Council on its nineteenth session.

Annex I

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>General series</i>		
ESCAP/CSAM/GC(19)/1	Annotated provisional agenda	1 (c)
ESCAP/CSAM/GC(19)/2	Report of the Governing Council of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization on its nineteenth session	
	Report on the activities and financial status of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in 2023 and the workplan for 2024	2 and 3

Annex II

**Financial statement of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural
Mechanization for the year ended 31 December 2023**
(United States dollars)

<i>Income</i>	
Contributions	1 745 608
Interest income	226 573
Gain on exchange	–
Total income	1 972 181
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>	(1 852 803)
Net income over expenditure	119 378
Fund balance as at 1 January 2023	5 383 030
Fund transfer from/to grants	(19 331)
Fund balance as at 31 December 2023	5 483 077

Annex III

**Financial statement of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization for the year ended 31 December 2023,
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	1 745 608	—	—	1 745 608
Interest income	222 280	4 293	—	226 573
Gain on exchange	—	—	—	—
Total income	1 967 888	4 293	—	1 972 181
<i>Less: Expenditure</i>				
	(1 758 970)	(100 764)	6 931	(1 852 803)
Net income over expenditure	208 918	(96 471)	6 931	119 378
Fund balance as at 1 January 2023	5 256 968	113 662	12 400	5 383 030
Fund transfer from/to grants	—	—	(19 331)	(19 331)
Fund balance as at 31 December 2023	5 465 886	17 191	—	5 483 077

Annex IV

**Contributions to the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural
Mechanization received for the years ended 31 December 2022 and
31 December 2023**
(United States dollars)

<i>Country/area</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2022</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December 2023</i>
Bangladesh	3 000	3 000
Cambodia	4 000	2 000
China	1 700 000	1 628 000
Fiji	–	–
India	15 000	29 608
Indonesia	30 000	30 000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	–	–
Japan	–	–
Mongolia	–	–
Nepal	–	–
Pakistan	4 980	–
Papua New Guinea	–	–
Philippines	30 000	30 000
Republic of Korea	10 000	10 000
Sri Lanka	–	–
Thailand	13 500	13 000
Viet Nam	3 000	–
Total	1 813 480	1 745 608