

Workshop Concept Note
Global South-South Development Expo 2022
Thematic Solution Forum 6: on Scaling up Conservation Agriculture to Accelerate
Agrifood Systems Transformation in the Global South

Background:

South-South Cooperation (SSC) has increasingly been recognized as one of the most efficient and effective means of exchanging technical know-how and experiences among countries of the South. When a resource partner enters cooperation among countries of the South, it is referred to as South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), which FAO has been promoting in its latest Plan of Action (2022-2025). More recently, cooperation among countries of the South has significantly evolved from a narrow to a more comprehensive definition. The UN and other multilateral development partners have increased their focus on SSTC as an important complementary modality to bridge the technological gap in support of sustainable development and eradication of poverty and hunger. In 2004 the United Nations General Assembly adopted SSC as a terminology to define a broader concept covering political, technical, cultural and economic cooperation fully reflecting the needs and aspirations of cooperating countries within the context of global common goods, with eradication of hunger chief among them.

In line with FAO's corporate Strategic Framework (2022-2031), which is fully aligned with the SDG framework, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (RAP) has identified conservation agriculture (CA) as an important set of technologies and practices in support of agri-food system transformation. CA is a farming system for crop intensification while preserving and enhancing the resource base and the environment. CA has been proven to be one of the most appropriate and sustainable options to increase productivity, income and food security in the region. Extensive application and demonstration of CA has provided evidence of its comparative strength and advantages in the world, including in the Asia-Pacific region. Nevertheless, CA adoption in the region remains limited. Inadequate availability of appropriate machinery and equipment is one of the critical constraints for promoting CA in the region in addition to critical enabling environment to facilitate agri-food system transformation.

The Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) is one of the regional institutions of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and is guided by the vision to achieve production gains, improved rural livelihood and poverty alleviation through sustainable agricultural mechanization for a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable Asia and the Pacific. CSAM is contributing to SSTC efforts in the region by providing a collaboration and exchange platform to member States and other stakeholders in the area of sustainable agricultural mechanization, including CA.

Against this background, FAO and CSAM are jointly organizing a workshop to highlight key aspects of CA and latest CA developments in the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop is being organized as a thematic solution forum of the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD-

Expo) with a view to promote knowledge sharing on CA practices and solutions amongst partners. The workshop will also highlight the potential of SSTC in establishing a network of CA professionals and practitioners as well as facilitating the exchange of technical knowhow, policies and practices within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region.

Objectives:

The workshop aims to promote the adoption and upscaling of CA to accelerate agrifood systems transformation in Asia and the Pacific. Specific objectives are to:

- 1) Highlight key developments in CA policies, technologies and its status in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 2) Showcase and exchange of technical knowhow and experiences in CA:
 - a. Mongolia-China under the SSC framework facilitated by FAO
 - b. CSAM - Sustainable agricultural mechanization for Conservation Agriculture amongst global South; and
 - c. Australian government
- 3) Highlight the potential for SSC/SSTC in facilitating technical knowhow and policy experiences among countries of the South.

Date and time: 13 September 2022; 10:30 – 11:45

Venue: Hybrid, UN-ESCAP Meeting Room – A.

Tentative Agenda:

| TIME | ACTIVITY | SPEAKERS |
|----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 8 mins | Opening Session | <p>Host: Mr. Aziz Arya, Regional Policy and Program Officer, SSTC Focal Point, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP)</p> <p>Opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP ● Mr. Takayuki Hagiwara, Regional Program Leader, FAO RAP |
| 8 mins | Keynote Presentation | <p>Scaling up Conservation Agriculture to accelerate agrifood systems transformation in Global South</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Zhou Bo, Agricultural Officer, FAO RAP</p> |
| 18 mins | Case Presentations (6 mins/case) | <p>Presentation 1: Enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability through SSTC between China and Mongolia, Speaker: Mr. Jambaltseren, the State secretary for Ministry of Food Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI)</p> |

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| | | <p>Presentation2: Sustainable agricultural mechanization for Conservation Agriculture amongst global South</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Anshuman Varma, Deputy Head/Program Officer, ESCAP-CSAM</p> <p>Presentation 3: Transitioning research collaboration with China: future opportunities for trilateral cooperation in conservation agriculture</p> <p>Speaker: Mr. Peter Horne, General Manager, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research</p> |
| 35 mins | Roundtable Discussion | <p>Moderator: Ms. Katinka Weinberger, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Panel Discussion:</p> <p>Key areas of discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The role of CA in agrifood system transformation towards more resilient and inclusive agrifood system. ii. Challenges and opportunities to adapt CA at scale – the enabling environment (policies, institutions, technical knowhow) required to upscale CA. iii. The role of SSTC in upscaling CA in the Asia-Pacific region. <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Jiaoqun Shi, Special Advisor for SSTC, FAO RAP ● Mr. Li Hongwen (Prof. of China Agricultural University (CAU) and Co-chair of Conservation Agriculture Alliance for Asia-Pacific (CAAAP), academic representative) ● Mr. Saruth Chan, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia ● Mr. Mushtaq Gill, Executive Director, South Asian Conservation Agriculture Network (SACAN) <p>Q& A: Open for Audience</p> <p>Wrap up:</p> |
| 6 mins | Closing Ceremony | <p>Final Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Li Yutong, Head, ESCAP-CSAM (Virtual participation) ● Mr. Ye Anping, Director of PST, FAO |

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| | | Group Photo and Case Study Launch |
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