

# Executive Summary

Agricultural mechanization has proved to play an irreplaceable role in increasing agricultural production, productivity and profitability and thereby helps eradicating poverty and hunger and improving farmers' livelihoods in general. However, the development of agricultural mechanization among the Asian-Pacific countries is comparatively low and features with vast disparity. Some countries are currently experiencing a rapid rate of agricultural mechanization; while others lag behind suffer from inappropriate and fragmented approaches to mechanization leading to adverse agricultural production and food security. Participation of governments, researchers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector have been recognized as one of the key factors in promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization.

Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) in collaboration with China's three leading associations in agricultural mechanization, namely, China Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association, China Agricultural Mechanization Association

and China Association of Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers, organized Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific was held on 26-27 October 2013, in Qingdao, China. The forum was supported by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Shandong Changlin Deutz-Fahr Machinery Company LTD.

More than 100 participants from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, The Philippines and Viet Nam, representatives from international organizations, including the FAO, and European Network for Testing of Agricultural Machines (ENTAM) came together, and constructed dialogues on "Public-Private Partnership for Improved Food Security and Rural Livelihoods".

The dialogue was organized into the three sessions with following objectives:

- Regional and Country Strategic Initiatives: dedicating

to knowledge and information sharing on major ongoing strategic initiatives in the region and beyond;

- Country Perspectives Review: providing overviews of the status quo, challenges and prospects of agricultural mechanization in participating countries;
- Public-Private Partnership Dialogue: Opportunities for Regional Cooperation and Business Development: opening dialogues and discussions among the public-sector representatives on opportunities for regional cooperation and trade and investment.

The forum achieved the following outcomes:

- awareness raised among key stakeholders of potentially greater contribution of sustainable agricultural mechanization to food production gains and improvement of rural livelihoods, especially against the backdrop of dynamic social-economic development in the region, including population growth, rapid urbanization, and the need of climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- knowledge and experience sharing on sustainable agricultural mechanization policies, strategies and practices among countries in the region promoted; mutual understanding among countries enhanced, cooperation/business development opportunities among the countries discussed;

- a good foundation laid for CSAM's strategic direction to serve as a regional high-level platform for sustainable agricultural mechanization.

The forum concluded that sustained agricultural production and productivity gains are the most important and likely ways to produce more and better food so as to meet the increasing and ever-changing food demand of this region. In establishing enabling environment for rapid development of agricultural mechanization, stronger public-private partnership and greater scope of regional cooperation, governments, researchers, NGOs, international organizations and the private sector play different and crucial roles. The public sector plays important role in supporting effective functions of the supply chains of mechanization so to achieve its dual goals of agricultural production growth and environmental protection; international organizations' work on establishing multi-lateral cooperation platform for sharing of experience and lesson learnt on sustainable agricultural policy-making among countries, and creating regional network on standard setting for agricultural machinery industry is of great significance. Countries in the region expressed their urgent need to continue seeking opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation, public-private partnership and business development in such a forum in the future.