

Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM)

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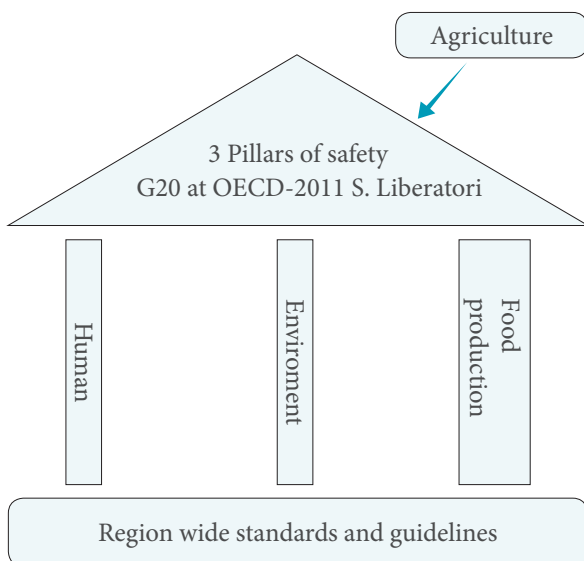
Dr. Sandro Liberatori is the General Director of ENAMA (Italian Body for Agricultural Mechanization and Engineering). ENAMA is acting for the Ministry of Agriculture and its Members as a certification body in the field of agricultural engineering. Sandro is actively involved in international co-operation in OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) as past Chair of the Tractor Codes and National Designated Authority of Italy; in ENTAM (European Network for testing Agricultural Machines) and in UN-ESCAP/CSAM offering his experience in the development of the ANTAM Network. He has more than 140 publications at national and international level and more than 90 presentations at national and international conferences. In 2004 he received the Banhazi commemorative medal, the highest Hungarian tribute of respect awarded for foreign scientists acting in agricultural engineering by the Scientific Council of MGI (Hungarian Institute of Agricultural Engineering). He is Member of many Governing Bodies and Committees at national and international level. Sandro is also involved in voluntary work for non profit associations.

Governments adopted development agenda for inclusive and resilient growth. The agriculture development will reflect the key priorities of the development agenda, including sustaining inclusive growth, sustainable development & resilience, and regional cooperation & connectivity.

Nowadays, the world agriculture is the primary sector of the economy. The agricultural output in 2011 all over the world is USD 4.249.237 billions, accounting

for 6.2% of the world GDP. Chemicals are widely used in agriculture and agriculture has close relation to the environment. In addition, agriculture work is one of the most hazardous occupations.

Agriculture, itself implies three pillars of safety respectively on human, environment, and food production. And region wide standards and guidelines could help to ensure these safeties.



The creation of an Asia-Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural machinery has the Organization for Economic and Development (OECD) and the European Network for Testing of Agricultural Machines (ENTAM) as examples currently in operation. Both institutions have offered strong support for the establishment of such a network in the region. Taking up this challenge, the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture Mechanization (UN-CSAM), one of five regional institutes under the umbrella of the United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), has promoted the establishment of an Asia-Pacific network for testing agricultural machinery and farm implements, more commonly referred to as ANTAM. ANTAM will facilitate the trade and use of agricultural machines and implements fulfilling common requirements of safety (operator, environment, and food production) and performance.

A system based on standardization, testing/verification and certification is the frame for development and trade offering benefits to all stakeholders. For governments, it implies less social cost, less environmental cost, and more food quality

and security. Higher quality and more exports, less responsibilities, and fair competition could be expected for manufactures. And farmers could be benefited from the higher quality of production, less injuries, and reduced cost.

To make ANTAM more effective, the following issues need to be discussed and addressed:

- Common basis for standards and guidelines; ENAMA has provided two crop protection testing methodologies as a first step.
- Common policies for agricultural mechanization; and
- Step by step policy/deadlines until ANTAM could be operated as ENTAM.

The existing networks on agricultural machinery include OECD Tractor Codes Certification and ENTAM European Network for Testing Agricultural Machines could be good reference for ANTAM. The OECD tractor Codes involve 34 Member Countries and 32 Testing Stations. OECD codes exemplify the standardization, testing, and certification system under the umbrella of an intergovernmental organization.

ENTAM is an agreement between different countries. On the platform, countries develop common activities in the field of agricultural and forestry engineering; develop common activities and documents with the aim to develop testing activities for the mutual recognition of test and test reports in the field of agricultural and forestry engineering; develop common research projects; promote the exchange of information among the institutions; and keep contacts with other National, International, public and private Institutions.