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ALL ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION IN AFRICA - F-SAMA



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Joint Actions on Operationalization of
the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural
Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA)

VIRTUAL WEBINAR No. 12

Date: Thursday, 13th June 2024
Time: 09:00 - 11:00 hrs GMT

Revamping Manufacturing of Agricultural Machinery in Africa

Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (SAM) in Africa is an urgent imperative and an indispensable pillar for attaining the *Malabo Declaration: Zero Hunger Vision by 2025*, Goal 2 of the *Sustainable Development Goals* - and *Agenda 2063*, the *Prosperous Africa We Want*. Doubling agricultural productivity and eliminating hunger and malnutrition in Africa by 2025 will not be realized unless mechanization along the food value chain is accorded utmost priority. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the important role mechanization can play in ensuring continuity of farm operations even during uncommon situations that the world is currently witnessing.

Understanding this situation, the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), through an Africa-wide consultative process, developed the [Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa \(F-SAMA\)](#) in response to the request of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment.

The F-SAMA, which was subsequently launched in Rome on 5th October 2018 during the 26th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), has ten priority elements geared towards informing policy and decision-makers in the Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa, and the wider development community dealing with agricultural development on the significance of mainstreaming SAM in their overall national and regional agricultural development programmes.

AfricaMechanize www.africamechanize.org is a SAM platform aiming to enhance knowledge management, information sharing, networking, and partnerships in Africa. The platform has been developed to support the African Union (AU) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to operationalize the F-SAMA initiative, with FAO providing technical support and the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) providing secretariat functions. The platform was developed following recommendations from the December 2016 stakeholders' consultative meeting co-organized by FAO, World Bank, AGRA, ACT, and others in Nairobi Kenya. The need for an information platform for SAM in Africa is further reinforced in Element 10 of the F-SAMA as one key *option of sustainable institutions for regional cooperation and networking*.

From November 2020 to April 2024, eleven webinars were conducted with Directors of Agricultural

Mechanization and Engineering Services [DAMES] and other stakeholders of SAM in Africa on the ten priority elements of F-SAMA and operationalizing the framework in Africa. The webinars attracted more than 1,760 participants and 70 speakers from over 75 countries globally (45 from Africa). The virtual discussions were conducted through the AfricaMechanize information platform and jointly organized by FAO, AUC, ACT and other key mechanization stakeholders in Africa.

Availability of machinery, equipment, spare parts and other supplies is essential for successful and sustainable agricultural mechanization. Agricultural mechanization includes the development of local industries that produce machinery and implements. Where production is not feasible, local franchise holders must be established and developed to import these goods. The development of supply chains and services should be an integral part of the agricultural mechanization process to ensure a better choice of equipment for particular types of users and uses and to guarantee the availability of spare parts and technical services.

Mechanization is essential to agricultural development and it links agriculture to industrialization. It is therefore fundamental that mechanization be a part of a country's agricultural transformation agenda rather than a stand-alone activity (FAO and UNIDO, 2010; FARA, 2014). The potential role of agriculture in Africa is similar to the role it played in the economic transformation and industrialization of economies in Asia (FAO, 2015). For agriculture-based economies in Africa, its role becomes even more important. Furthermore, if agriculture is linked to manufacturing through mechanization across the value chain, it can lead to the economic transformation of many countries in Africa (AfDB, 2016; ACET, 2017). Industrialization can drive development and alleviate unemployment and poverty by providing decent jobs for large numbers of workers, reduces dependence on imports, saves foreign exchange; and facilitates the supply of parts and services.

Unfortunately, Africa lags behind other continents in industrialization, with only 1.9% of global manufacturing. Africa imports manufactured goods at a 3:1 ratio to manufactured exports, an imbalance that further weakens African economies. It is common practice in Africa, that farmers give away their hard-earned produce by selling it raw and unprocessed, and buy at exorbitant prices value added products which

they could have easily produced themselves if only simple value-adding mechanization was available.

There is no doubt that supporting agricultural mechanization in Africa by supporting local manufacturing is a winning strategy. Yet, questions linger on why the manufacturing capacity of farm power equipment (tractors, power tillers, pumps, threshers, hammer mills, motors etc.) and implements (ploughs, seeders, CA equipment etc.) has been stagnant and its contribution to the gross domestic product on the decline over the years. Above all, questions need to be asked and interrogations made on what needs to be done differently in the context of regional trade, import tariffs, and testing and standards, given the current low demand in many countries in Africa.

The **Objective of Webinar 12** is to initiate collaboration between African countries and the agricultural machinery manufacturing association of India, the Research Centre for Agricultural Mechanization Development of China, and the European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association (CEMA).

The **Expected Outputs** of this webinar include:

- i) **Information sheets** on the key issues discussed to support increased manufacturing.
- ii) **Action plan** for realization of the identified priority interventions – towards development of cooperation agreement.
- iii) **Summary paper of the proceedings of this webinar.**

The estimated 250 **Participants** in Webinar 12 will be drawn mainly from private sector agricultural machinery manufacturers, farmers' organizations, not for profit organizations, Directors of Agricultural Mechanization and Engineering Services [DAMES] from all African countries, representatives of the Regional Economic Communities [RECs], AUC, FAO and ACT.

The Webinar will be held online from **09:00 to 11:00 hrs GMT on Thursday 13th June 2024**, using the Zoom communication tool, in both **English and French**.

Thursday, 13th June 2024 | Time: 09:00 - 11:00 hrs GMT | Time: 11:00 hrs CAT

09:00	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">John Bosco, CEO, East African Business Council (EABC) (tbc).
09:10	Objectives of the Webinar: Facilitator <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mark Fynn, Regional Policy Officer, FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra, Ghana.
09:20	Overview of agricultural machinery trade and manufacturing in Africa: UNIDO <ul style="list-style-type: none">Niels Schulz, Industrial Development Officer, UNIDO, Vienna, Austria China's agricultural mechanization and international cooperation. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prof Minli Yang - College of Engineering, China Agricultural University. Enhancing Africa-India collaboration on machinery manufacturing and supply: Experiences of the Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers' Association (AMMA) - India. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sarbjeet Singh Panesar - General Manager LandForce & Vice President, AMMA – India. Agricultural machinery manufacturing in Africa: Perspectives of the European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association (CEMA) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Jelte Wiersma, Secretary General, CEMA aisbl, Brussels, Belgium
10:20	Plenary discussions including question and answer session
10:45	Concluding Discussions and Way Forward
	Presentation and discussions on the key 3-4 outcomes and proposed way forward actions of Webinar 12
10:55	Closing by Mr Patrice Talla Takoukam, FAO Subregional Coordinator for Southern Africa (SFS) and FAO Representative in Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Eswatini (tbc).

The virtual webinar series is organized by:



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
www.fao.org



The African Union
<https://au.int/>



African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT)
www.act-africa.org

Registration is free but required to participate in this webinar. **Kindly register in advance** at the: [Registration Link](#).

The webinars and discussion forums are being organized by the interim F-SAMA steering committee, comprised of AUC, FAO, and the ACT Network.

For more information, contact:

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