

# africa|mechanize

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)

**HYBRID WEBINAR No. 15 | Date: Thursday, 23rd October 2025 | Time: 12:00 – 14:00 hrs GMT**



## First Webinar to prepare for the Africa Conference on SAM (ACSAM)

### Exploring the Africa Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization: Your Role in Africa's Mechanization Journey

#### Context and Rationale

Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (SAM) is increasingly recognized as a cornerstone for agricultural transformation in Africa and a critical driver of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Kampala Strategy (2026–2035). By integrating mechanization into research and technology transfer, the strategy aims to boost productivity, food security, sustainability, inclusivity, and resilience, modernizing farming and strengthening agri-food systems against future challenges.

In response to the expressed needs of the African Countries' Directors and Heads of Agricultural Mechanization and Engineering Services (HAMES), and inspired by the model of the Asia-Pacific's Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), a UN ESCAP-supported institution based in Beijing, there is growing momentum toward establishing a similar CSAM for Africa. Such a centre could provide a structured platform for policy dialogue, capacity development, technology exchange, data and standards harmonization, and promotion of mechanization solutions adapted to African farming systems.

This momentum will be further advanced at the upcoming Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) [Africa Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization \(ACSAM\)](#), scheduled for November 25–28, 2025, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. FAO, in collaboration with key partners, is organizing the ACSAM as a follow-up to the first-ever Global Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, held in Rome in 2023.

The event will bring together stakeholders to enhance regional collaboration, strengthen institutional arrangements for the successful delivery of mechanization, foster knowledge exchange, and promote sustainable agricultural practices that address the needs of African farmers. By facilitating the implementation of the [Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa \(F-SAMA\)](#) across the continent, the Conference aims to accelerate the region's transition toward more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems. The conference will convene HAMES and stakeholders to deliberate on the future of SAM in Africa, including potential pathways for establishing a CSAM for Africa and strengthening regional cooperation.

The interim steering committee of the HAMES, established on March 31, 2022, had, in particular, after two years of consultations, recommended formalizing the operational guidelines and structures of the Africa HAMES for enhanced networking, collaboration, and information exchange.

The **Objective of this first Webinar** is to create awareness about the objectives and intended outcomes of the upcoming Africa SAM Conference, and to provide a timely platform for exploring what an African CSAM(s) could entail. Most importantly, stakeholders will have the opportunity to articulate what such a Centre(s) would mean **for them and what it must address**. The specific objectives are:

1. **Clarify the concept** of a regional sustainable agricultural mechanization centre or centres for Africa (CSAM(s)), framed and inspired by the AsiaPacific CSAM model.
2. **Engage stakeholders** (policy makers, researchers, private sector, mechanization service providers, NGOs, farmer groups) in defining the envisioned functions, priorities, and benefits of an Africa CSAM(s).
3. **Identify thematic needs**, opportunities, and challenges around mechanization - especially for medium and smallholder farmers, women, youth, and marginalized communities.
4. **Explore potential focus areas**, such as
  - Affordable, appropriate technologies and customhire models,
  - Capacity building and knowledge platforms,
  - Policy harmonization and standards,
  - Digital tools and applications towards smart mechanization,
  - Genderresponsive and youth-inclusive mechanization approaches.
5. **Foster partnerships** and initiate collaborative pathways for the Centre(s)' establishment.

## Expected Outcomes

- a) Lessons learned from experiences, especially regarding the evolution and current work areas of CSAM Asia
- b) A set of priority functions, needs, vision, and expectations for CSAM(s) Africa
- c) A networked community of interested stakeholders ready to jointly develop the concept of CSAM Africa

## Target Audience

The estimated **200 Participants** will be drawn mainly from research, academia, the private sector (including mechanization equipment manufacturers, service providers, fintech for agricultural hardware), farmer organizations and cooperatives, not-for-profit organizations, think tanks, donors, funders, and partners. The five thematic speakers will be drawn from this group. In strategic attendance, intended to capture stakeholder needs for a CSAM(s), will be the HAMES from all African countries, the African Union, regional economic communities (RECs), FAO, UNECA, and the ACT Network.

## Monitoring & Follow-Up

- **Report** documenting discussions, consensus areas, divergent views, and suggested next steps; shared with all attendees within 2 weeks.
- A **virtual suggestions/views page on the AfricaMechanize platform** to continue receiving inputs, moderated discussions, and develop the initiative further.
- **Multi-stakeholder outreach** - including policy influencers and potential funders.

## Logistical & Organizational Details

- **Platform:** AfricaMechanize platform providing webinar settings, including breakout rooms, and Q&A.
- **Language:** English with simultaneous French interpretation.

## Agenda

**Date:** Thursday, 23rd October 2025 **Time:** 12:00 - 14:00 hrs GMT **Time:** 15:00 – 17:00 hrs EAT

15:00	<b>Welcome, objectives of the webinar, and the Africa SAM Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mark Fynn</b>, Regional Policy Officer, FAO-RAF. Moderator</li> <li>• <b>Saidi Mkomwa</b>, Executive Director, ACT Network. Webinar objectives</li> </ul>
15:20	<b>Operational Guidelines and Structures of the HAMES: Updates from the Interim Steering Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rondromalala Andriamady</b>, Director of Mechanization, Madagascar</li> </ul>
15:30	<b>Perspective setting: Learning from the history of Africa's SAM networks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof. Geoffrey Mrema</b>. Sokoine University of Agriculture &amp; Technical Advisor, ACT.</li> </ul>
15:40	<b>Perspective setting: Learning from Asia-Pacific CSAM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Marco Silvestri</b>, Directeur adjoint de l'ESCAP-CSAM.</li> </ul>

15:50	<p><b>Panel Discussion: What Could Africa CSAM Be?</b></p> <p>Panellists from the farmer, research, and private sector stakeholders will share insights. Guided by prompts on: (a) What key roles should an African CSAM adopt? (b) Which services would deliver the most value? (c) How could it operate sustainably?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ishmael Sunga: SACAU - Farmer Federations.</li> <li>• Madrugada Farm, Kenya: Medium-scale CA farming. Farmers.</li> <li>• Nuhu Hatibu: AfriAcademy/iSAMAP - Academia</li> <li>• Baba Diallo: Senegalese Agripreneur</li> </ul>
16:20	<p><b>Interactive Breakout Sessions</b></p> <p>Attendees will be divided into four thematic groups: (i) Farmers, (ii) Researchers and academia, (iii) Private sector, (iv) NGOs &amp; Media. Each group discusses and shares - what the Africa CSAM must deliver for each stakeholder category? And what will each stakeholder contribute?</p>
16:50	<p><b>Reporting Back &amp; Synthesis</b></p> <p>Group rapporteurs summarize discussions. The moderator synthesizes key themes, while presenters note consensus points and divergent perspectives.</p>
17:05	<p><b>Way Forward</b></p> <p>Next steps: Assignment of HAMES representatives (by RECs) as speakers to the CSAM dedicated webinar #16, the outcomes of which will enable informed decisions at the November 2025 Conference.</p>
17:10	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Josef Kienzle</b>, Leader of the SAM Group, NSP of FAO, Rome</li> </ul>

The hybrid in-person and virtual/webinar event series is organized by:



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)



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



African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT)  
[www.act-africa.org](http://www.act-africa.org)

The session will feature short keynote presentations, followed by interactive discussions among participants. **Ensure your views are heard and considered in shaping what a CSAM for Africa should entail by participating in the session.**

**Registration is free but required. Register in advance** for Webinar 15 at: [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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