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ALL ABOUT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION IN AFRICA

Data is Oxygen: AfricaMechanize platform and its role in information dissemination on F-SAMA

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Presented to 9WCCA Session 6 special session



Date: 23rd July 2024

Data: The Engine of Change

Oxygen is essential for life on Earth.

- ✓ Oxygen is also essential for the survival of many other organisms.

Data serves as the engine that propels agriculture based innovations and development.

- ✓ *Decision making in agriculture rely on Data based Evidence*

❑ **Learning from the Best** – only possible through access to **Data/Information**

- ✓ *By providing farmers with **information** of best practices, access to data on weather patterns, soil conditions, and crop yields, they get empowered and make informed decisions.*
- ✓ With **data**, farmers can make **strategic choices** that align with sustainable practices

❑ **Reliable data** can support resource allocation optimization

- ✓ *Efficient use water and fertilizer – can lead to improved agricultural efficiency and productivity.*

Data: The Engine of Change (Cont')

“Agricultural growth cannot occur without new innovations that can increase both the **land and labor** productivity of small-scale farmers in poor rural communities”

Innovation cannot occur without the **creation, accumulation, sharing, and use of knowledge**”

Data in agriculture

Soil Data

Farm Inputs

Crops Requirements

Weather Data

Yields Data

Markets Data

Mechanization Data

Data!!!

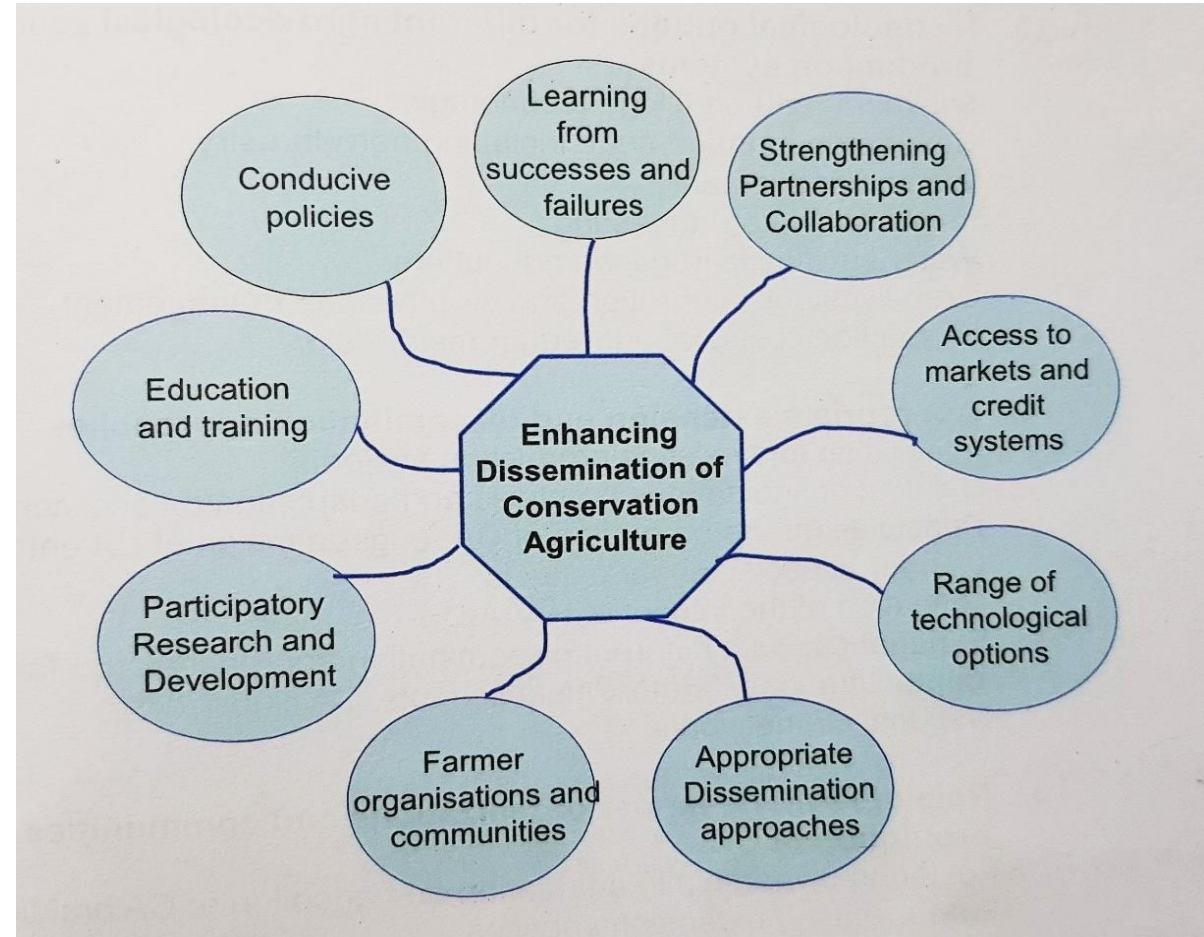
3ACCA Resolutions:

Countries must set, verify, monitor, and report targets for CA and SAM areas for 2030 to cover areas for CA-based annual and perennial systems;

What promotes CA & SAM adoption?

What roles for Data and Information?

❑ The **NINE Cornerstones and Issues** for enhancing the adoption of CA & SAM are interlinked and require a systematic and holistic **framework** for capturing, synthesizing, analysing and making available information to various users.

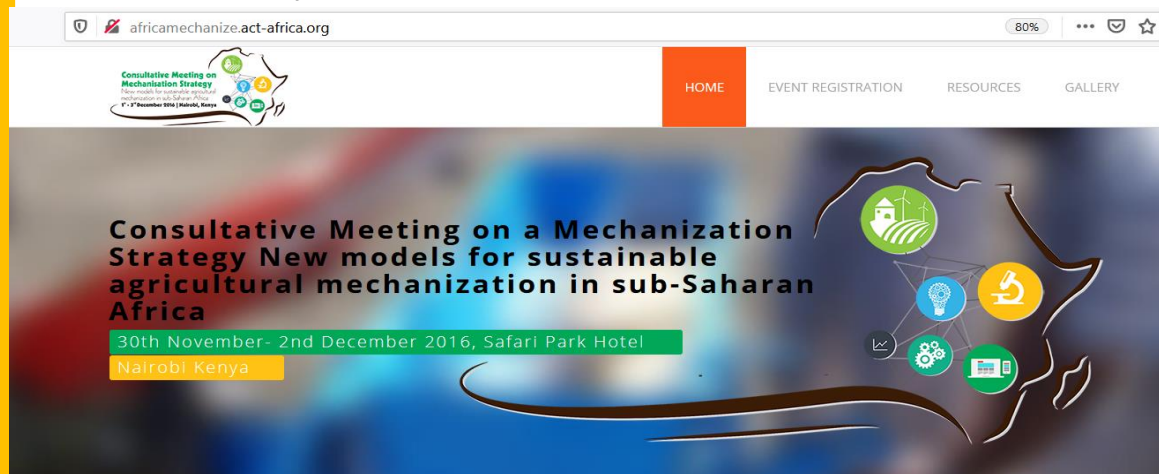


Rely on DATA

The limiting factors and challenges relate more to access to relevant **DATA, knowledge and information**

Genesis of The Africa-Mechanize Platform

The need for such platform was first proposed in the deWilde 1967 study sponsored by the World Bank



Organized by:
FAO, WB, AGRA, ACT, UNIDO, CEMA, Agrivolution,
FEDER UNACOMA, AfricaRice, LKDF & AU

Consensus on need for formation of a virtual SAM knowledge exchange platform. ACT was asked to initiate.



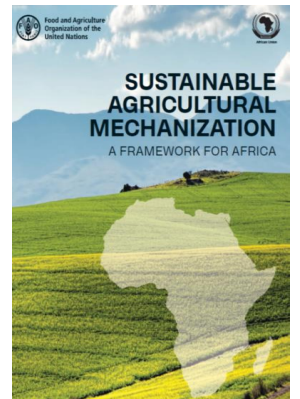
Knowledge and information management has been identified as key driver in the operationalization of the F-SAMA as underscored in element 10 on regional partnerships and networking. This has led to the development of the **Africa-Mechanize Platform.**

AfricaMechanize platform: A Hub for All

What is AfricaMechanize?

- A Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (SAM) **platform** aiming to enhance knowledge management, information sharing, networking and partnerships in Africa.
- Has been **developed to support** operationalization of the AUC and FAO F-SAMA, with FAO providing technical support and ACT providing secretariat functions.
- Is **focused** on contributing to the **operationalization** of all elements of F-SAMA given the cross-cutting nature of knowledge management.
- It is an **open**, all-inclusive, **not-for profit** neutral platform addressing the SAM and developmental **interests of all AU Member States** with support of the public & private sectors & development partners.

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Knowledge & Information Management

“Knowledge sharing through formal and informal regional mechanisms is crucial in the implementation of sustainable agricultural mechanization in Africa.”

Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization: A framework for Africa Pg77



**Knowledge
is of
limited
value
unless it is
shared.**

AfricaMechanize Platform in Brief

Components of AfricaMechanize: The platform has the following components:



- 1 Knowledge Hub
- 2 Capacity building, Partnerships & Networking
- 3 Magazine & Journal
- 4 Technical Assistance

- **Knowledge Hub:** Features: E-resources; Contribution to knowledge; e-forums & **webinars**, News updates.
- **Capacity building, Networking and Partnership:** E-learning, Centres of Excellence, MSPs Coops, Training Toolbox, CoPs, and knowledge sharing events and study tours.
- **Magazine and journal:** Inform stakeholders on current trends and innovations within the industry.
- **Technical Assistance:** Harness African and external expertise for strengthening institutional, organizational and technical capacities of stakeholders on SAM.

Therefore, this is a public information tool to inform, educate and bring forward emerging issues pertaining SAM along the value chain in Africa.

Component: AfricaMechanize Webinars Series

Rationale:

The critical problem of agricultural mechanization in SSA is **lack of records**, and **objective and balanced analysis** of past experiences (successful and/or failed programmes) to draw useful **lessons to inform policy and planning**.

Objective:

The Webinar series are organized to provide an opportunity to key SAM stakeholders, from public and private sectors, to share knowledge, experiences & lessons learnt, discuss challenges, and propose innovative solutions and models in operationalization of F-SAMA.

Achievements:

12 Webinars implemented: with participation of 72 speakers and over 1701 participants from 75 Countries

12	72	1701	75
Webinars	Speakers	Participants	Countries

Component: AfricaMechanize Webinars Series

- An **organizing committee** has been put in place to steering successful knowledge & information sharing on the F-SAMA webinar series
- The organizing committee is composed of AUC for the leadership; FAO for technical and financial support; and ACT for the secretariat services.
- The joint actions of the organizing committee have kept the AfricaMechanize platform operational.



Component: Capacity building, Networking & Partnerships

One of the initiatives under **Capacity building** is the Mechanized Service Provision Training Programme. The pilot project was supported by FAO and implemented by ACT and partners in 20 countries.

On Networking, webinar 9 (31 March 2022) facilitated establishment of **Interim Steering Committee of the DAMES & HAMES** – to champion establishment of operational structures for implementation of the F-SAMA at Sub-Regional and Regional Levels.

Challenges and Opportunities

While the potential of the platform is immense, there are challenges to address:

- ❑ Ensuring data quality, privacy, and security is crucial.
- ❑ Building trust with farmers and fostering widespread adoption requires strategic efforts.
- ❑ Ensuring the platform's long-term sustainability and scalability is essential.
- ❑ Collaborating with government, private sector, and non-governmental organizations can amplify the AfricaMechanize platform's impact.

Call to Action - Breathe in the Possibilities

- ❑ The virtual agricultural mechanization platform represents a promising future for African agriculture.
- ❑ By empowering farmers with data and connecting stakeholders, we can transform livelihoods, build resilient agricultural ecosystems, and drive sustainable development.
- ❑ This is a **call to action for collaboration and innovation** to realize the full potential of the AfricaMechanize platform. **The Vision is to make AfricaMechanize platform – A MAJOR Reference Point for SAM in Africa. Data, Information, balanced and synthesised knowledge, ME& Learnings.**

Call to Action -Breathe in the Possibilities

- ❑ Inform stakeholders on current trends and innovations within the industry.
- ❑ Encourage networking among different players - farmers (women & youth), policy makers, manufacturers and dealers, mechanized service providers etc.

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Mechanization
Africa is Not Limited

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The Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization Knowledge Management, Information Sharing and Networking Platform

We thank you for listening

Welcome to partner with us by contacting the Secretariat

www.africamechanize.org

Email: secretariat@africamechanize.org

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