

Closing Remarks for third F-SAMA Webinar

Saidi Mkomwa

Executive Director, African Conservation Tillage Network
(ACT), Nairobi, Kenya

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Appreciation Note

A Thank you Note.

1. The organisers AU, FAO, ACT: for organizing the webinar series and their joint actions in operationalizing F-SAMA;
2. The presenting Countries. Engr Abdullahi Abubakar of Nigeria and Engr Valentine Fombin of Cameroon;
3. The participants. We had nearly 300 registered participants; from 60 countries (34 from Africa); 18% women. The numbers and diversity are indicators of enthusiasm on the agenda;
4. The Translators – for effective and accurate service;
5. Special appreciation to the AUC, for taking the Leadership to operationalize the SAMA, with the technical support of FAO, and Secretarial support of ACT through the Africa-Mechanize Platform.



Reminder on Important Issues to Note

- There are competing paradigms on way forward notwithstanding the SAMA framework. Smallholder vs medium scale farmers, small tractors, food safety & anti chemicals, Conservation Agriculture & SAM. Open dialogue vital.
- The outbreak of global pandemic **COVID-19** has caused adverse impact on the agricultural sector of most African countries and heighten the significance of sustainable agricultural mechanization in our agrifood system.
- The good news is that across Africa, governments, development practitioners and private companies have re-discovered agricultural mechanization as a top priority; this is illustrated by the ongoing efforts and commitment in Nigeria and others.
- Under the leadership of AU and technical support of FAO, **Africa-mechanize** is the F-SAMA knowledge and information sharing and networking platform, poised to catalyze a comprehensive analysis of past SAM experiences, make conclusions of this analysis available to all countries in Africa to inform development of concrete guidelines for a more positive approach to mechanization.



Key Take Home Messages

1. That Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa is **an urgent matter and an indispensable pillar** for attaining the Zero Hunger vision by 2025, as stated in the Malabo Declaration of 2014, Goal 2 of the SDGs, and Agenda 2063 of the Prosperous Africa We Want. Doubling agricultural productivity, eliminating hunger and malnutrition in Africa by 2025 will not be realized unless mechanization is accorded utmost importance.
2. Realization of the F-SAMA calls for African Governments to **build the enabling Environment**; and what we have heard today from Nigeria, and Ghana and Tanzania in the last Webinar is very encouraging.
3. Efforts to realize agricultural mechanization require **substantial (and sustained) political and financial commitment** from governments and the private sector. This is a cardinal requirement.
4. We have to apply SAM along the **entire agrifood chain** – crops and livestock; and the mechanization value chain itself.
5. Adoption of SAMA creates a much needed **future in agriculture for the youth**, as a business that thrives, creating employment for the youths.



Our Call to Action

1. Join the Africa-Mechanize Platform [webinars, website, newsletters, magazine, journal, social media, M&E]. Be part. Share your experiences. Ask what is constraining your work, link to practitioners and experts on SAMA in the continent to share.
2. The upcoming Webinars will be organized differently - based on the individual SAMA Elements. We are approaching some of you to develop discussion papers, others to review, and a few 3-4 to participate as discussants. Consensus to be published in Africa-Mechanize Platform.
3. We are calling upon practitioners and experts to come forward and **volunteer** in preparation of discussion papers, as reviewers, discussants, media & social media “Retweeters”.
4. The Webinars are meant to address real challenges to operationalize the SAMA. Tell us, what are the salient questions that **MUST** be addressed for these elements-based Webinars to be relevant to you?



The Webinar series is organized jointly by :



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



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



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

www.africamechanize.org
Email: secretariat@africamechanize.org
#AfricaMechanize

THANK YOU

