

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

VIRTUAL WEBINAR No. 3

QUESTIONS FROM THE ZOOM Q&A and CHAT WITH ANSWERS FROM THE PRESENTERS

QUESTIONS DIRECTED TO	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Eng. A. ABUBAKAR, Nigeria.	<p><i>Yacouba Kagambega (Burkina Faso):</i> English:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Will the tractors be assembled in Nigeria or imported as finished product tractors? Will the tractors be donated to individuals or cooperatives? Will there be any equipment (e.g. accessories, trailers) to be produced in Nigeria by local craftsmen? <p>French:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tracteurs assemblés au Nigeria ou bien tracteurs produits finis importés. Tracteurs offerts à des particuliers ou à des coopératives. Est ce qu'il y a eu des équipements (accessoires: remorques) qui été produits au Nigeria par des artisans Locaux 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Tractors will be imported in Completely -Knock-Down (CKD) form and will be assembled in Nigeria. Tractors will be off-taken on Hire-Purchase by individuals under a Corporate name or Cooperatives to ensure payment of the loan. There will be local production in the future, but for now, tractors will be accompanied with all accessories and trailers.
	<p><i>Ernestine Umuhoza (Rwanda):</i> Do you have some highlands where you use mechanization in Nigeria?</p>	Yes, we have highlands where we use mechanization such as the Mambila Highlands in Taraba State.
	<p><i>Shangchuan Jiang (FAO):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Can you introduce some digital technology and ICT tools or will they be used in the mechanization service provision in this program? What are the challenges and opportunities of the innovations in agricultural mechanization in Nigeria? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Digital Tools & ICT we intend to use in this include but not limited to the Tracking Device on the Tractor to monitor performance in the field. The Challenges are fluctuation of networks in farms and the opportunity is to enable development of software that can be of high coverage and resilience.
	<p><i>Rose Hogan (Trocaire - Ireland):</i> Thank you, how are women's choices being taken into account?</p>	Women are highly considered particularly in the Processing of Agricultural Products. Most of the Machines to be deployed are

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		Gender friendly and a lot of Women Groups have expressed interest to own Service Centers Type 2 (Processing Service Centers).
	<i>Anthony Taplah (Liberia):</i> Have you tested the technology before upscaling? In addition, what is the sustainability component of the project?	Yes. Currently, there are Private Sector Business people operating the Model and it has proved successful hence, the adoption in a larger scale.
	<i>Yacouba Kagambega (Burkina Faso):</i> English: What about after-sales services, repair services and spare parts that hamper mechanization? French: qu'en est-il des services après-vente, les services de réparation et des pièces de rechange qui handicapent la mécanisation ?	It is part of the agreement that each equipment purchased will come with Engineers from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to assemble, train and have a compliment of Spare Parts for a period of five years.
	<i>Mushanyi Simutowe (Zambia):</i> I know and have heard a lot about the Hello tractor initiative, tractor service model. In this new project, is the model going to be implemented or is there another model in place?	There are so many Models in the country but it will depend on the choice of the Service Center Operator.
	<i>Rose Hogan (Troicare):</i> Thank you, how are women's choices being taken into account in the efforts to develop mechanization in Cameroon or Nigeria?	Women are highly considered particularly in the Processing of Agricultural Products. Most of the Machines to be deployed are Gender friendly and a lot of Women Groups have expressed interest to own Service Centers Type 2 (Processing Service Centers)
	<i>Hourri Fatiha (Morocco):</i> What about the use of No Tillage in Nigeria?	Yes, No Tillage Practice is going on in some areas but is in the minority for now.
	<i>Abraham Mading (South Sudan):</i> Is there any capacity development to be given to farmers' institutions who may own the tractors at the end of the project in order to enhance sustainability of the tractor operation?	In fact, it is a component in the Technology Package to ensure value for money and sustainability of the Project. Every Service Center Operator and their staff will be trained and their capacity developed to be able to manage the Center properly with every sense of responsibility
	<i>Athuman Mahinda (Tanzania):</i> How can other countries follow the same path?	Yes. The country need to engage with the Government of Brazil via correspondence, expressing interest to join the More Food International Programme (MFIP) in other words "Maise Alimentos"
	<i>Stanislaus Chisakuta (Zambia):</i> What criteria are you going to use to select beneficiary farmers?	Looking at the presentation, a list of criteria has been listed for consideration, more can be added to it or reduced depending on the country's disposition to them.
	<i>Bisrat Awoke (Ethiopia):</i>	In fact, the word to watch is Training. Any Service Center Operator has to subject his Staff to be trained. It is mandatory!

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	<p>What about the skill of the service providers who are going to receive the loan and machineries? Is there any skilled operator issue for the selection as a criteria or is there any mandatory training?</p> <p><i>Fayinkeh Mahamadou (Gambia):</i> English: I would like to know if in this mechanization effort you have noticed any negative consequences on family exploitation and deforestation? French: j’aimerais savoir si dans cette mechanization as tu note des conséquences négatif sur les exploitation familial et la déforestation?</p> <p><i>Simon Kefela (Eritrea):</i> In my prospective, the machineries that are imported must be demand driven and it would be a great experience if you share the presentation.</p>	<p>Not at the moment. However, family exploitation will be highly reduced if at all it exists, because the family will be working under a comfort of machinery and not manual labour. Also, the issue of deforestation will be highly controlled as vegetative covers are the ones to be progressively tempered with but the existing lands will be maximally utilized to realize bumper harvest.</p> <p>You are very correct. No Service Operator will be compelled to pick equipment that he/she does not need in his/her area of operation. It will not be imposed on them. Therefore, unless a Service Center Operator choose a particular equipment before it is shipped into the country. I hope the presentation will be shared by the organizers. Thank you for all the questions. I hope I have done justice to them all. I can be reached at; agad2010@gmail.com Thank you.</p>
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<p>Eng. V. FOMBIN, Cameroon.</p>	<p><i>Molengar Ngoundo (Tchad):</i> English: Chad has just adopted a strategy on agricultural mechanization. How do you mobilize resources necessary for operationalization of your mechanization strategy? Your experiences and guidance will be highly appreciated. French: Le Tchad vient de se doter d'une stratégie sur la mécanisation agricole. Comment faire pour disposer des ressources nécessaires à son opérationnalisation? Vos expériences et orientations seront hautement appréciées.</p> <p><i>Ibrahim Ali Mohammed (Ethiopia):</i> I would like to know with regard to the status, annual check-up and certification of Agricultural machineries.</p>	<p>Normally a strategy should be translated into operational projects on different mechanization aspects, and planned such that the state will budget on how to provide funds for such projects to be realized on the field.</p> <p>Certification/standardization of agricultural machinery is still a process in perspective, which I think should be a Sub- Regional venture with support from the FAO and other international experts</p>

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		in the domain. However, there is already a committee for the certification of spraying equipment that sits annually to validate the importation of any such equipment.
	<p><i>Yacouba Kagambega (Burkina Faso):</i> English: Does the government intervene in the importation of agricultural equipment for the benefit of small producers? French: Pour le Cameroun : le gouvernement intervient-il dans l'importation des équipements agricoles au profit des petits producteurs.</p>	Yes. Just as indicated above, some custom taxes are equally exonerated on some agricultural equipment to reduce the price on purchase by smallholder farmers.
	<p><i>Siedouba Georges Ye (Burkina Faso):</i> English. Since 2011, a strategic mechanization plan has existed but you say that its implementation is not effective. So all the actions carried out come from which strategic plan? And why, Cameroon would not switch all mechanization actions into the existing strategic plan? French: Je remercie ingénieur Valentin pour sa présentation très claire sur ce qui est fait au Cameroun. Cependant j'ai une question: Depuis 2011, un plan stratégique de mécanisation existe mais il dit que sa mise en œuvre n'est pas effective. Alors toutes actions réalisées sont issues de quel plan stratégique? Et pourquoi, le Cameroun ne basculerait pas toutes les actions de mécanisation dans le plan stratégique existant?</p>	The strategy was elaborated without an existing Mechanization Policy; hence its operationalization had not been easy. However, the governance of the state oriented the current actions on mechanization. Once the Strategy is reviewed, all actions will be executed as per the said strategic plan.
	<p><i>Tondiré Yabre (Burkina Faso):</i> English: How the government support for the development of agricultural land materializes and how the beneficiaries apply for this land? French: Comment se concrétise l'appui du gouvernement a l'aménagement des terres agricoles et comment les bénéficiaires postulent ces terres</p>	The said land for rehabilitation is on rice cultivation, especially irrigated rice fields in low land areas and planes. This helps to facilitate Rice producers to install their farms in order to carry out their activities conveniently.
	<p><i>Chabi Bienvenu SOUNON (Benin):</i> English: Thank you to Mr. FOMBIN, we would like to have the details on the policy for the acquisition and distribution of agricultural equipment, in particular the financing, the distribution policy, the terms of allocation, etc. French: Merci à Monsieur FOMBIN, nous souhaitons avoir les détails sur la politique d'acquisition et de distribution d'équipements agricoles notamment le financement, la politique de distribution, les modalités d'attribution etc.</p>	Acquisition here is mostly government responsibility and the distribution is with respect to the intensity of activities in the various production basins, well organized Cooperatives, large scale farmers and CIGs depending as well on their business plans.