

africa|mechanize

ALL ABOUT SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION IN AFRICA

The sustainable agricultural mechanization knowledge management,
information sharing and networking platform

Lessons learned from the 2021 AfricaMechanize Webinar series & planning for 2022

Leçons tirées des webinaires d'AfricaMechanize 2021 et planification pour 2022

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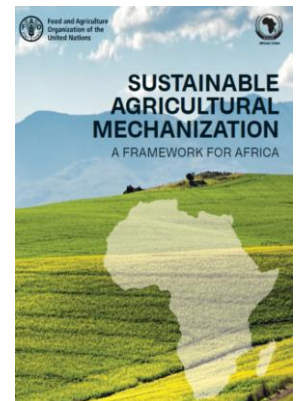
2nd December 2021

AfricaMechanize platform in brief

- **What is AfricaMechanize?**

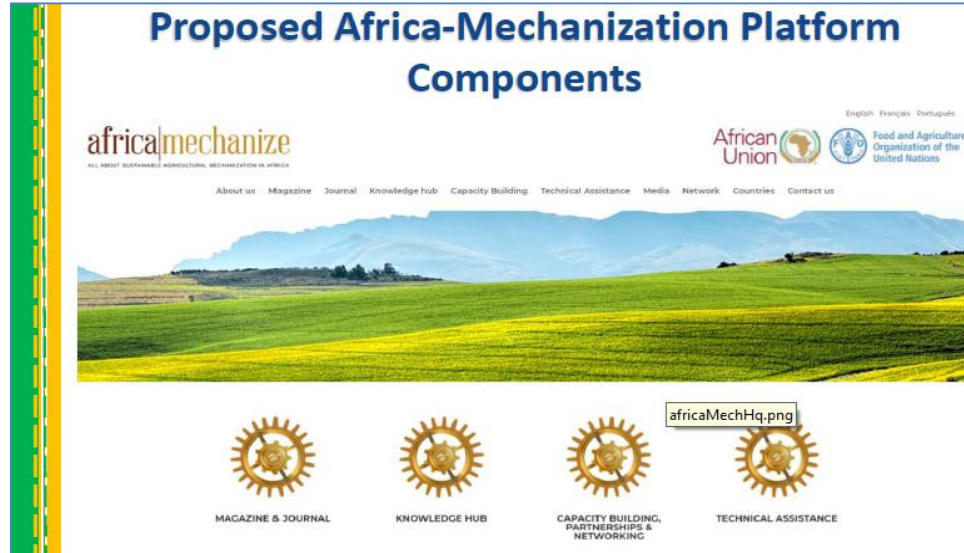
- A Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (SAM) **platform** aiming to enhance knowledge management, information sharing, networking and partnerships in Africa.
- Has been **developed to support** the African Union Commission (AU) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with FAO providing technical support and African Conservation Tillage Network (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 private sector & development partners.
- Welcome to partner with us by contacting the Secretariat at: secretariat@africamechanize.org
 - You can also follow the discussions on twitter using: [#africamechanize](https://twitter.com/africamechanize)

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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; News updates & Events.
- **Capacity building, Networking and Partnership:** E-learning, Centres of Excellence, MSPs Coops, Training Toolbox, CoPs, e-forums & **webinars** 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.

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:

[7 Webinars](#) implemented: with participation of 48 speakers and 1425 participants from 75 Countries



7

Webinars



48

Speakers



1425

Participants



75

Countries

Topics of the Seven Webinars

(Available at: <https://www.africamechanize.org/previous-webinars/?tk=1638276447>)

Webinar 1: Introducing F-SAMA including the AfricaMechanize Platform: *Targeting Heads or Directors of Agricultural Mechanization & Engineering Services (HAMES/DAMES)*

Webinar 2: Operationalization of F-SAMA including the AfricaMechanize Platform. Private and Civil sector promotion of SAM in SSA along entire value chain. Cases of AgLeaseCo, Zambia & Kilimo Trust, East Africa.

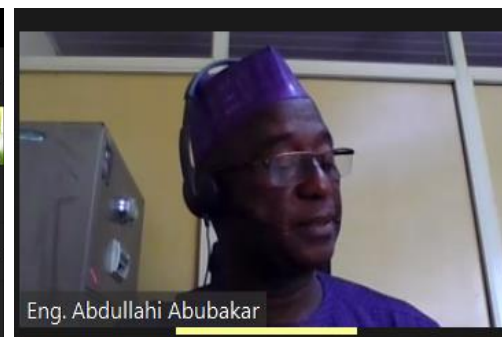
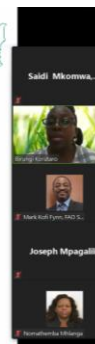
Webinar 3: Different Pathways to Promote, Access and Use of Mechanization in Nigeria and Cameroon.

Webinar 4: Impact of Paradigm Shifts on the Development of Agricultural Mechanization in SSA: A Case Study of Farm Power.



Business Models Used

| Model | Characteristics |
|---|--|
| Public Sector PPP – Cooperative | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Equipment management is a challengeGroup ownership and decision makingUtilisation capacity is very low |
| Private – Large** | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sustainable – target MSF and LSFs, SHF often left out |
| Private - Individual operators | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Efficient, few, limited services offered other than mechanisation |
| Private – Village agripreneurs /agents** (Mostly Youth) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Small equipment, SHF friendly, affordable, huge outreach, provide multiple services (extension, |



Topics of the Seven Webinars continued

(Available on: <https://www.africamechanize.org/previous-webinars/?tk=1638276447>)

Webinar 5: Promoting innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable agricultural mechanization.

Webinar 6: Joint Actions on Operationalization of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA): Experience from Senegal and South Africa

Webinar 7: Enhancing social sustainability and the roles of women and youth in agricultural mechanization in Africa.



A. Brève introduction sur l'agriculture et la mécanisation au Sénégal



Enhancing role of private sectors and cooperatives

| Agriculture Development Bank Limited Nepal: | Civil Bank (private commercial bank): | National Cooperative Federation of Nepal: |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial services to individual farmer, machinery entrepreneur, traders and processors;Credit for all types of agric. machineries;Targeting more to overseas returnees both youth and women;Credit for agric. machinery workshop (repair & maintenance);Collaboration with local governments and academic institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Credit for commercial agriculture and livestock up to Npr. 50 millions;Women entrepreneurship up to 1.5 millions;Educated youth self-employment program up to 700,000;Returnee migrant's support scheme up to 1.5 millions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cooperative farming;Cooperative Bank;Cooperative Business;Commodity specific cooperative business etc. |



Some lessons learnt from the Seven Webinars

1. Knowledge and information in SAM are important resources required for effective mobilization and utilization of investments, policy formulation and implementation of SAM programmes. There is, thus, need for a platform like AfricaMechanize to support sharing of knowledge and information on SAM in operationalization of F-SAMA.
2. SAM in Africa is an urgent matter and most African countries need to develop inclusive SAM along the value chain, especially supporting smallholders and SMEs to achieve sustainable production intensification, enhanced post-harvest management and reduction of food loss and waste. The DAMES in all countries in SSA need to be strengthened to coordinate the implementation of SAM projects/programs at the national level.
3. The Webinar series have indicated existing knowledge gaps among African Countries and lack of proper collaborations, networking and partnerships in advancing SAM.

Some lessons learnt from the Seven Webinars

4. “The consideration of **sustainability goes beyond environmental sustainability** to include commercial and socio-economic sustainability” (Mrema, 2021), W4.
5. **SAM contributes to increase the cropped area and productivity** along the value chain (efficiency of farm operations, timeliness, quality of products and marketing operations) and to control the losses
6. SAM contributes to **enabling the transition of farmers from subsistence to commercial** agrifood systems by producing a surplus, and increase farm income.
7. The prerequisite for any sustainability is the **adoption of technological innovations and good practices**.
8. Sustainability through the strengthening of all the value chain: economical environment, PPP, promotion of good practices, CA in particular.

Lessons learnt from the Seven Webinars continued

9. On the other hand, there is evidence of existence of innovative solutions deserving to be shared throughout Africa to inform of investment programmes in SAMA (P-SAMA).
10. SAM stakeholders (including **DAMES**) need to have data and scientific evidence to support long-term visioning and operationalization of F-SAMA. The AfricaMechanize platform has and continues to provide an opportunity to accomplish this with the DAMES taking the driving seat to steer the platform.
11. There is need to build on the successes of the Webinars series to enhance countries' collaborations and implementation of F-SAMA. There is need to move **analysis and studies** on SAM beyond the national level and look into sub-regional and continental level in areas where economies of scale and scope dictate so.

Some success stories

- Good experiences of introducing ICT tools in mechanization hire services have been reported
- Innovative experiences in financing SAM have also has been shared using the AfricaMecanize platform
- Examples of improving the involvement of women in mechanization as a form of sustainability
- Formal studies have been initiated to document case studies on directions for investments in SAM.

There are still challenges to overcome

- There are still many challenges to overcome across all 10 Elements of F-SAMA
- There is need to develop country or value-chain contextualized problem and solution trees to inform development of investment programmes.
- Documentation and sharing of innovations and best practices from within Africa as presented by the AfricaMechanize platform offers solutions

Funding Alternatives

- What comes to mind when thinking about financing? **Sustainability**, Access and Training...
- Good examples of innovative financing mechanisms that have taken into account the requirements and constraints of both donors and farmers (own or share mode, management of risk, insurance, farmer contribution...).
- Funded programmes are needed to build on, catalyse and capitalize on the interest generated from the F-SAMA AfricaMechanize Webinar series
- Intervention support should target national, sub-regional and regional levels with a view to operationalization of all 10 Elements of the F-SAMA.
- F-SAMA funding opportunities need a mutual agreements between public and private sectors and mutual cooperation coordinated at sub-regional and regional levels by AUC & member countries (P-SAMA)

Planned AfricaMechanize Activities for 2022

- To be developed according to the outcomes/roadmap of the 8th webinar resolutions
- AfricaMechanize organogram to be developed to include **strategic contributions and participation of the DAMES** and **defined roles of all stakeholders**. This is in addition to the current partnership of the AfricaMechanize Platform composed of AUC, FAO and ACT.
- **Core functions of the AfricaMechanize Platform** (knowledge hub, magazine and journal, capacity building, partnership & networking, technical assistance, monitoring & evaluation and learning) **to continue** depending on attained partnerships and resources.

Acknowledgements

- AUC for the leadership; FAO – for the technical and financial support; and ACT for the secretariat services – the joint actions of which has kept the AfricaMechanize platform operational.
- The organizing committee – for the invaluable “behind the scenes” support.



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

We thank you for listening

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