RECAP ON ANTAM

Presented by Ms. Al Yuxin, Programme Officer

1st Annual Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM)
16-19 September 2014, Beijing, China
2006, Seoul, Roundtable of Agricultural Manufacturers Associations, ANTAM proposed;
16 October 2009, Los Baños, the Philippines, EGM on ANTAM, shared feasibility study on ANTAM;
26 July 2011, BKK, EGM, establishment of TWG and SC, desk top survey;
27 Oct. 2011, Bali, 7th TC, priority areas (two tiers ), and research paper template;
15-16 May 2012, BKK, country presentations on priority areas, letter to governments;
Designation of focal points for ANTAM by member countries, 16 countries/region of ESCAP;
Development of draft terms of reference and action plan of ANTAM in close consultation with ad hoc members of the TWG and the SC;
Final revisions made at the 9th TC of CSAM on 17-18 Oct. 2013 in Bhopal India;
Adoption of ToR and launch of ANTAM at a regional policymakers’ forum in BKK on 18 November 2013.
Described focal points for ANTAM from member countries of ESCAP as of September 2014 (16): Armenia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, France, Hong Kong/China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Russia, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Viet Nam.

Ad Hoc members of the Technical Working Group of ANTAM as of September 2014 (17): Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam.

Ad Hoc members of the Steering Committee as of September 2014: CSAM, ENAMA/ENTAM, FAO, OECD and UNIDO.
Expected outputs of the 1st ANTAM meeting:

1. Operational structure of ANTAM, including election of the Technical Working Group and the Steering Committee, Chair, Vice Chair and Lead Testing Station/Focal Point for ANTAM 2014-2015 is set up;
2. Functions and responsibilities of the TWG and Lead Testing Station/Focal Point are decided;
3. Annual work plan of ANTAM 2014-2015 is reviewed and adopted;
4. Agreement in principle on the financial arrangement of ANTAM is reached;
5. Modalities of partnership/collaboration with stakeholders are considered;
6. Terms of Reference of ANTAM is reviewed and amended where appropriate as a result of the discussion, i.e. coordinating centre and its role;
7. Decisions in principle on how to move forward in formulating test codes and procedures for knapsack sprayers are reached;
8. Modalities of partnership and collaboration with international organizations and agencies are reviewed.
Functions and responsibilities of the TWG:

According to the ToR of ANTAM: “The Technical Working Group (TWG) is composed of technical experts in the field of agricultural machinery testing from member States, and shall provide technical guidance for the implementation of ANTAM activities. Participating members of the Network will be invited to nominate members of the TWG for a three-year term of office.”

The TWG serves as a primary technical advisory body of ANTAM, and is mandated to work with the Chairperson on technical issues, engage in substantive work of formulating, reviewing and revising test codes and standards and etc.;

The TWG will work closely with the SC and focal points in member countries.

Sub-TWG will be established where necessary to engage in designated piece of technical work.
Functions and responsibilities of the Lead Focal Point/Testing Station:

According to the ToR of ANTAM: “The Focal Point/Testing Station refers to the designated national focal point for ANTAM represented by the Chairperson elected at the annual meeting. It will serve a term of one year during the tenure of the elected Chairperson. It will work closely with the Secretariat to coordinate, assist the implementation of ANTAM work programmes, and facilitate the organization of the annual meeting.”

Discussions on the detailed functions and responsibilities of the Lead Focal Point/Testing Station is required.
According to the ToR, “CSAM will finance and provide support to the daily operation of the Secretariat. The Secretariat will also seek extra-budgetary resources, including financial and in-kind contributions from participating members of ANTAM to fund substantive activities of the Network.”

In order to sustain the operation of the ANTAM, particularly through the initial stage, a minimum amount of secured funding is required. A preliminary agreement on the financial arrangement for ANTAM is needed. A reasonable, flexible funding mechanism in light of national conditions of member countries needs to be considered.
Thank you