Concept Note

Seminar on Building Smallholder Farmers’ Resilience under Climate Change through Value Chain Management

“Innovation in mind and Innovation indeed”

18-20 September 2017, Kunming, China
Organized jointly by WFP China and ESCAP-CSAM

I. Background note

It is widely understood that climate change poses one of the most severe challenges to humankind. The international community has recognized that South-South Cooperation (SSC) is becoming an integral component of, and an effective approach to, international cooperation for climate-resilience and low-emission development.

In the context of the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a high-level forum organized in Marrakech on 14 November 2016\(^1\) was attended by officials, experts and stakeholders to discuss how enhancing South-South Cooperation can improve the capacity of developing countries to address climate change. The Forum strengthened the momentum, promoted new partnerships, and further deepened collaboration among developing countries on climate-resilience.

The Forum viewed China’s programme of **South-South Cooperation Fund**\(^2\) on climate change as a key contribution towards expanding the capacities of more developing countries to engage in such collaboration. China’s other significant contributions towards regional and global transition to a low-carbon trajectory in context of joining the International Solar Alliance and support to African countries have also been recognized.

The United Nations has already launched the SCPI (Southern Climate Partnership Incubator) to initiate, facilitate, and support partnerships that will help developing countries address climate change and assist to match the needs of developing countries with counterparts willing and able to meet them.

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\(^1\)http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/11/high-level-forum-on-south-south-cooperation-on-climate-change/

\(^2\)http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-10/15/c_134716775.htm
In the overall context of promoting agricultural modernization and building the resilience of smallholders to climate change, sustainable agricultural mechanization also has a critical role to play. The 4th Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific organized by the Centre of Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP-CSAM) in November 2016 in Hanoi, Vietnam, with participants from 16 countries and relevant institutions, highlighted the role of agricultural mechanization in promoting Climate Smart Agriculture. This role needs to be further strengthened as part of efforts in the area of South South Cooperation for building smallholders’ resilience.

II. Rationale

Being fully aware of the encouraging outcomes of the High-Level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change, and keeping in view the well-recognized contribution of China and its generous support to advance South-South Cooperation and bring together action on sustainable development, the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter referred to as ESCAP-CSAM) and the World Food Programme China Office (hereinafter referred to as WFP China) are determined to further expand mutual SSC engagement on climate change. Under the four thematic priority areas of WFP China’s Centre of Excellence on South-South Cooperation engagement and ESCAP-CSAM’s endeavour to support member States in achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and promotion of SSC cooperation as part of the Centre’s Mid-Term Development Strategy for 2017-2019, resilience building for small holders to gain better capacity against climate change through climate-smart agriculture, mitigation and adaptation measures has been identified as a focus in terms of providing best practices and solutions for the areas especially vulnerable to climate change risks and the impact of global warming. Promotion of sustainable agricultural mechanization is another key focus area, given its important role to ease hard labour, relieve labour shortages, improve productivity and timeliness of agricultural operations, improve the efficiency of use of resources, enhance market access and contribute to mitigating climate related hazards.

Upon recognizing China’s contributions in relevant areas and the country’s commitments to fight hunger both at home and abroad, ESCAP-CSAM and the WFP China Office will cooperate with the Chinese government and national technical partners to share China’s experience with other developing countries by facilitating knowledge sharing at the institutional level. This will include mechanisms such as study-tours, training, and knowledge sharing platforms.

Given the significant wealth of experience with South-South partners and institutions, and the fact that sharing best practices and lessons learned can play a significant role in enabling the effectiveness of scaling up actions, ESCAP-CSAM in alliance with WFP China will organize a seminar on addressing climate change and food security to bring together management personnel and technical staff and researchers from relevant institutes and agencies from
countries aiming to improve food and nutrition security while facing challenges of climate change.

III. Objectives

This Seminar with the theme on Building Smallholder Farmers’ Resilience under Climate Change through Value Chain Management will facilitate an exchange of good practices in national policy and strategy development, innovative institutional arrangements, capacity development for better management, and partnership building, to amplify the impacts of South-South Cooperation in the context of implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Participants sponsored by CSAM will present approaches, rationale, challenges and achievements in supporting food security in the context of climate change, with specific reference to the role of sustainable agricultural mechanization. In addition to the exchange of concrete best practices, the Seminar will facilitate discussion about new initiatives for further mainstreaming the goal of attainment of food security through agricultural modernization, strengthening of value chains, and rural development.

The overall objectives of the Seminar will be to:

- review national policy and strategy developments for building smallholders’ resilience and combating climate change
- share practical experience, innovative technological solutions, lessons learnt and best practices in climate mitigation and adaptation;
- identify and discuss the constraints/challenges for possible solutions;
- promote effective partnership and collaboration towards joint delivery initiatives for building resilience of smallholder farmers through value chain management.

IV. Expected Result

The results from the Seminar will be integrated into the ongoing activities of WFP and CSAM and will subsequently be used as a basis for programmatic fine-tuning, reorientation and preparation for an action plan for the future.

V. Participants

The Seminar will bring together around 40-50 delegates including government officials, researchers and stakeholders from China and other developing countries.

WFP China Office shall extend invitations to Cameroon, Senegal, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Zimbabwe while CSAM shall extend invitations to Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Pakistan. (targeted countries to be further confirmed).
VI. Provisional Agenda

The event (comprising of one and a half day meeting discussion and one day field trip) will be organized to cover the following subjects (including with particular reference to the domain of sustainable agricultural mechanization):

- **Session 1 - Policy System and Enabling Environment**: Introduction to and discussion of best practices in supporting an enabling national policy environment, and strengthening linkages with resilience building under climate change.
- **Session 2 - Best Practices and Knowledge sharing**: Introduction and discussion of best practices and lessons learned in knowledge sharing and management.
- **Session 3 - Case Studies**: Introduction and exchange of project experiences and innovative technology solutions and their adoption, for better addressing climate change challenges, particularly through peer learning and scaling-up.
- **Session 4 - Country Presentations and Discussion**: Discussion on challenges and constraints in developing countries for implementing climate-smart practices through value chain development, and innovative initiatives for capacity development and resilience building to identify the way forward for an action plan (2018-2019)
- **Technical visit** to the solar-driven irrigation scheme in Yuxi, Yunnan Province

VII. Organization and Budget

ESCAP-CSAM and WFP China Office will jointly organize the Seminar by providing the conference room, coffee breaks, work meals, accommodation for a one and a half day meeting discussion and transportation for the field visit as well as support for airfare for participants from abroad.

The event will be supported by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Commission of Reform and Development of China.