



# ANTAM WORK PLAN 2017

*Presented by*

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1. The present work plan is subject to review and guidance by focal points of ANTAM at the 3rd Annual Meeting of ANTAM in Negombo, Sri Lanka on December 8-10, 2016.
  
2. In support of the establishment of a fully functioning mutual recognition system, the objective of ANTAM 2017 work plan is to pave the way toward the identification of rules and regulations to officially accredit ANTAM testing stations and provide member states with relevant and effective testing standards. The network will work toward achieving the following strategic objectives: i. Development of criteria and technical requirements for ANTAM accredited testing stations; ii. Formulation of capacity building strategies for Asia Pacific testing stations; iii. Revision of the current ANTAM Codes and enlargement of the number of agricultural machineries covered by ANTAM standards; iv. Resource mobilization.

## (i) Development of Criteria and Technical Requirements for ANTAM Accredited Testing Stations

3. ANTAM accredited testing stations will have the authority to perform the Codes and send the test results for approval to the Secretariat. It is therefore essential to identify the necessary technical requirements for accreditation as official ANTAM testing station.
4. In 2017 the Secretariat will develop a manual to guide participating countries in the construction and monitoring of the quality of testing facilities. The manual will include a list of rules and technical requirements for any testing station that wishes to be accredited as ANTAM officially designated testing station.
5. The manual will be presented for adoption at the 4th ANTAM Annual Meeting in 2017.

## (ii) Capacity Building for Asia Pacific Testing Stations

6. The ANTAM Secretariat will focus on the development of a capacity building strategy to assist member countries in the construction of modern facilities.
7. To reflect both technical requirements of the ANTAM Code and the reality of testing stations in the region, the ANTAM Secretariat will conduct up to two field visits in selected countries and launch a survey on the status of existing testing facilities to assess the number of participating countries able to perform ANTAM Codes 001-20016 and 002-2016.

8. For member countries that wish to be selected for this activity, the Secretariat will circulate a template for application by the end of 2016. Focal points are expected to provide a full application form, by no later than February 28, 2017, specifying:
  - Detailed information of any system for testing already in existence.
  - Indication as of the activity of qualified testing staff.
  - Detailed list of testing equipment together with technical specification of such equipment. The list should show each equipment available to complete each compulsory test.
  - Overview of governments support in the development of agricultural mechanization and the possibility of obtaining findings to develop testing facilities.
9. Past experience on standardization shows that even if the correct equipment is utilized to perform testing Codes, the results by member countries in the test reports present diverging values. In order to have a sense of the discrepancies in utilized equipment and interpretation of ANTAM methodologies, the Secretariat will launch a round robin test[1] and will compare results provided by participating testing stations.

10. Member countries that wish to participate in this activity can provide a full application specifying:

- Detailed information of any system for testing already in existence.
- Curriculum vitae of the testing staff selected to implement ANTAM Codes.
- Detailed list of testing equipment together with technical specification of such equipment. The list should show each equipment available to complete each compulsory test.

The Secretariat will circulate a template for application by the end of 2016. The application form should be received by the ANTAM Secretariat not later than March 31, 2017. The results of the round robin test should be received by the Secretariat by August, 31 2017. The ANTAM Secretariat will provide the equipment to be tested, but all other costs will be borne by the participating country.

11. One regional training to instruct testing engineers on the requirements of standardized testing equipment will be organized in China in September, 2017.

### **(iii) Revision and Enlargement the Agricultural Machineries Covered by ANTAM Standards**

12. In January 2017, the Secretariat will work in collaboration with focal points to review the composition of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs).
13. Given the progressive approach adopted to develop the ANTAM Codes and the need to represent member countries agricultural needs, the Secretariat will continue to refine and update the current standards on Power Tillers and Misters- Cum- Dusters.
14. The TWG on Power Tillers will need approximately 6 rounds of negotiations to work on the possibility to add an optional high ambient test and other features. Negotiations will be resumed in the beginning of March 2017.

15. The TWG on Knapsack Misters- Cum- Dusters will held approximately 5 rounds of negotiations to work on acceptance limits and the test report. Negotiations are expected to start in late March 2017.
16. The current draft of ANTAM Codes on Transplanters will be revised and presented for adoption at the 4th ANTAM Annual Meeting in December 2017. The TWG will hold at least 7 rounds of technical negotiations. The Secretariat will look into the possibility of holding a negotiation meeting in which TWG members will be able to experiment different testing methods to be selected.
17. To address the request of member countries on enlarging the number of machineries covered by the ANTAM Codes, the Secretariat plans to conduct one background study on the current methods used in the region to test Combined Harvesters.

#### (iv) Resource mobilization

18. CSAM hosts the ANTAM Secretariat. Unlike other international standards organizations, CSAM does not charge a membership fee. CSAM attempts to sponsor participation of TWGs members and focal points from developing countries to ANTAM meetings. Given the limited funding available, in 2017 the Secretariat will work closely with focal points to increase political and financial support from member countries and strategize on acceptable proposals regarding the financial sustainability of the network.
19. The 3rd Meeting of ANTAM TWGs will be held in May 2017, while the 4th Annual Meeting of ANTAM will be held in the latter half of 2017. The time and venue will be decided after consultation with member countries.