

**4<sup>th</sup> Regional Forum  
on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific**

- Leading the Way for Climate-Smart Agriculture through Machinery and Practices

23-25 Nov. 2016, Hanoi, Vietnam

**Opening Remarks by Ms. Li Yutong, Incoming Head of CSAM**

Distinguished Dr. Pham Anh Tuan, Director General of the Vietnam Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Post-Harvest Technology (VIAEP);

Distinguished Dr. Katinka Weinberger, OiC of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;

Representatives of CSAM Member Countries;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and privilege to attend and deliver opening remarks to the *4<sup>th</sup> Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific* today. I wish to thank Dr. Katinka Weinberger for the kind invitation before I assume office in CSAM on 28 November 2016. I am happy and honoured to be here with all of you.

Every one of you here has witnessed the notable efforts CSAM made in the past few years to recraft its strategic direction, revive its vitality, re-delineate its project framework, and re-define its partnership strategies and outreaching endeavours. And, a series of innovative and need-oriented projects and activities have been developed and implemented.

The Regional Forum on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and Pacific is one of the flagship activities of CSAM providing a unique

platform to exchange of sound policy options, pursue policy advocacy, and mobilize political commitment in implementing regional actions addressing shared interests and concerns as well as the emerging and critical issues of sustainable agricultural mechanization.

Meanwhile, CSAM is pursuing to ensure the quality and performance of the agricultural machinery produced and traded in the Asia-Pacific region via the *Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM)*, to rally of private sector of agricultural machinery and promote regional trade and investment through the *Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations in Asia and the Pacific (ReCAMA)*, to build regional database on agricultural mechanization, to provide tailored capacity building activities to member countries, and so forth.

The image and influence of the Centre has been significantly enhanced in the community of the agricultural mechanization in the region and beyond. This is evidenced by the active participation and solid contribution of member countries to the Centre's initiatives, and extensive partnership established of the Centre with various key stakeholders in this community. And, it is barely possible without all of your active participation and invaluable contribution.

Built upon the existing achievements, CSAM will carry forward our cause and make best endeavours to design and implement more fit-for-purpose activities facilitating your efforts on achieving sustainable agricultural mechanization contributing to the food security, poverty alleviation, and livelihood improvement in your countries.

CSAM is willing to work with all stakeholders in the region and beyond to inspire innovative thinking and build synergy with government agencies, research institutes, the private sector and NGOs as well as the international and regional development counterparts.

I look forward to working with all of you in this exciting and promising cause in the near future, and appreciate your continued support and contribution in advance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Agriculture is highly exposed to climate change, and contributes to climate change through the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. However, agriculture can also contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and by sequestering carbon while maintaining food production. Sustainable agricultural mechanization is one of the indispensable methods that facilitates the achievement of climate-smart agriculture in the region.

I am fortunate to have chance to meet and learn from you on the feasible way for Climate-Smart Agricultural Mechanization as well as the insights for the Centre's development.

I would like to extend my special thanks to the Vietnam Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Post-Harvest Technology (VIAEP) and Centre of International Cooperation Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of China for their commitment and support to the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Forum of CSAM.

I wish you every success to your deliberations in the coming two days.

Thank you.