

Remarks by Dr. Yutong Li, Head of CSAM

ReCAMA Workshop on Trade Procedures and Practices for Agricultural Machinery

27 Oct. 2021, Wednesday
14:15-15:45 Beijing time (GMT+8)

Distinguished Mr. Yuan Tongbao, Mr. Henry Haryanto and Ms. Dares Kittiyopas,

Dear friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning / Good afternoon!

On behalf of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP-CSAM), it is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the ReCAMA Workshop on Trade Procedures and Practices for Agricultural Machinery.

The Regional Council of Agricultural Machinery Associations in Asia and the Pacific (ReCAMA) is a flagship project of CSAM with the aim to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization in the region through strengthening the capacity of national agricultural machinery associations, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and information, and enhancing collaboration and closer business connections among national associations and their members. As of date, ReCAMA has 21 member associations from 15 countries in the region.

One of the main contributions of ReCAMA has been to promote trade and investment in the agricultural machinery sector in the Asia-Pacific region. As per a survey CSAM conducted in 2020, ReCAMA has encouraged or facilitated business opportunities worth around USD30 million among members since its establishment in 2014 through various activities including targeted trainings and study tours, business matching events, demand-driven publications, and so forth. As most of you are aware, ReCAMA was also cited by the United Nations Office for South South Cooperation as a good practice in the third volume of its global publication titled 'Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development' in September 2020.

Furthermore, two editions of case studies on trade and investment policies for agricultural machinery in 9 countries have been completed in addition to a publication on the market dynamics of agricultural machinery in 4 countries. In continuation of these efforts, I am pleased to announce today the launch of another ReCAMA publication, the *2nd Edition of 'Trade and Investment Policies on Mechanization of*

Agriculture – Case Studies of Selected Member Countries of ReCAMA'. This has been compiled through the contribution of our own network members. We will circulate the download link of the publication in due course.

The online workshop being organized today reiterates ReCAMA's ongoing efforts to support its stakeholders. It comes in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic when international travel and face-to-face interactions continue to be restricted. The theme of the workshop - trade procedures and practices for agricultural machinery - is needs based and especially important in view of the delays and disruptions in imports and exports due to the pandemic situation. As you are aware, the bulk of the countries in the region are importers of machinery which makes them vulnerable to such disruptions. Accordingly, the objectives of today's workshop are:

- 1) To increase awareness about key procedures and practices relating to trade of agricultural machinery in countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 2) To identify information gaps relating to import and export procedures of agricultural machinery and explore ways to address them.
- 3) To provide exposure to a range of new agricultural machinery and equipment (via a 'Digital Show').

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the co-organizers of this workshop, the China Agricultural Machinery Distribution Association (CAMDA), Association of Indonesian Agriculture Machinery and the Thai Society of Agricultural Engineering for their strong support and active contribution to make this event possible.

Looking ahead, CSAM hopes to move forward together with all its partners and stakeholders towards our common goal to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization and support attainment of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals in this region.

Thank you.