

Adopted by the 9th ANTAM Annual Meeting on 28 February 2023

**Summary Report
9th Annual Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery
(ANTAM)**

MARDI Selangor, Malaysia, 27 February – 1 March 2023

1. The 9th Annual Meeting of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) was held on 27 February – 1 March 2023 at the headquarters of the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), who co-organized the event with the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
2. 17 ANTAM participating countries, namely Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; France; India (online); Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Nepal; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Russian Federation (online); Sri Lanka; Thailand; Türkiye (online); and Viet Nam attended the meeting, along with the Technical Reference Unit and members of the advisory board FAO and OECD.
3. On 27 February, Dato' Dr. Mohamad Zabawi bin Abdul Ghani Director General, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute, opened the meeting with welcome remarks. Dr. Yutong Li, Head of CSAM, also delivered welcoming remarks. Dr. Azman bin Hamzah, in his role as ANTAM Chair, opened the Meeting. The Meeting elected the Republic of Korea as new Chair for 2023, and Nepal as Vice-Chair.
4. The first day of the Meeting was dedicated to a review of the ANTAM activities in 2022, followed by a detailed review of the work of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs). The Chairs of the TWGs delivered presentations. The Meeting adopted the Codes 001-2022; 002-2022; and 003-2022. The Meeting commended the work carried out for the initial drafting of Codes for Combine Harvesters and Mini Tillers, recommending the continuation of the TWG consultations for their finalization.
5. On 28 February, the Meeting reviewed the preliminary findings of the Feasibility Study for the Establishment of a Mutual Recognition System, presented by the ANTAM Technical Reference Unit (TRU). The Meeting was also informed of the recommendations of a 'High-Level Policy Dialogue on Trade Facilitation through International Standards and Mutual Recognition of Agricultural Machinery Testing' held

alongside the ESCAP Committee on Trade, Investment, Enterprise, and Business Innovation on 21-22 February 2023. The Meeting endorsed the suggestion to convene a Working Group on the Mutual Recognition System involving authorities in charge of standards. Member countries informed the Meeting of their national authorities, including those that would be most likely to be considered for becoming National Designated Authorities in an ANTAM mutual recognition system.

6. The secretariat reiterated the call for member countries to participate in the round robin tests, even if only for certain items under each Code. The secretariat also highlighted the need for National Focal Points to engage closely with the CSAM to support the appointment of National Designated Authorities and identify next steps towards the accreditation of testing stations. It was highlighted that video tutorials of ANTAM test items could be conducted on this occasion.
7. The Meeting was presented with the work plan of ANTAM for 2023, including tentatively a hybrid in-person/online meeting of the TWGs to discuss on common test items and review the Quality Manual and a regional training focusing on safety testing. The Meeting agreed to reviewing the Codes for updates every two years, with two Codes being reviewed in odd years and the other two in even years.
8. The Meeting also agreed on the secretariat pursuing the endorsement of a three-year mandate for ANTAM National Focal Points, mainly through their respective governments and Permanent Representatives to ESCAP. The Meeting re-elected the ANTAM Technical Reference Unit, Dr. Sandro Liberatori, for another three-year term. The meeting noted the suggestion of OECD to invite to ANTAM events the national and international farmers and manufacturers' associations as observers.
9. It was agreed that the 10th Annual Meeting of ANTAM would be held in the last quarter of 2023, possibly November, hosted by the Republic of Korea if travel restrictions permit. Exact time and venue of the meetings will be finalized after further consultation with ANTAM focal points.
10. This summary report was unanimously adopted by the meeting together with the work plan for 2023.