

## Panel Discussion on Smart Mechanization for Shifting Agricultural Demographics

*Integrating new technologies into agricultural mechanization  
to address the changing demographics of the agriculture workforce*

**Towards inclusive smart mechanization: *Perspectives  
from the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable  
Rural Development***

**Irish  
Baguilat**

Coordinator for Sustainable Agriculture and Women Farmers' Ageda, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development



## ASIAN FARMERS' ASSOCIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Empowering small scale women and men farmers in Asia



**15 million farmer members**

Regional network of **24**  
national farmers  
associations/  
organizations

15 million farmer members  
in 16 countries in  
Southeast Asia  
South Asia, East Asia, and  
Central Asia

# Collective Action on Inclusive Digital Transformation of Agriculture in Asia-Pacific (2022-2023)

## Profile

- Thirty-five percent of those who participated in the survey were women
- Forty-six percent are 41-60 years old, 18 percent are 36-40 years old, 26 percent are 15-35 years old, 10% are 61 years and above
- Fifty-four percent live close (<1 km) to their farms
- Fifty-five percent own less than 1 hectare
- Forty-five percent are doing lowland farming, 30 percent are doing upland farming, 42 percent are practicing integrated farming, 37 percent are growing fruits and vegetables, and only 4 percent are doing monocropping
- Twenty-nine have been farming for 5-10 years, 28 percent for 11-20 years
- Forty-seven percent achieved secondary education, 19 percent achieved primary education
- Eight percent are not associated with any farmers' organizations
- Fifty-two percent get information related to agricultural production and digital technologies from training and group activities



## Summary of findings

- **Access** - digital divide persists
- **Relevance** - technologies are not fit for purpose, misaligned business models, unclear impact at the farm level
- **Capacity** - limited digital skills and adoption
- **Governance** - risks to farmers' rights and sustainability
- Strong interest but conditional adoption



Rural Development  
Administration



**CSAM**  
Centre for Sustainable  
Agricultural Mechanization

# Recommendations

- ✓ Develop farmer-centered digital agriculture (smart mechanization) policies
- ✓ Invest in rural digital infrastructure
- ✓ Improve accessibility and affordability of technologies
- ✓ Build digital literacy and capacity
- ✓ Promote co-design and farmer participation
- ✓ Strengthen farmer organizations and cooperatives
- ✓ Ensure data protection and farmer rights
- ✓ Support context-appropriate innovation
- ✓ Align digital agriculture/ smart mechanization with sustainability goals



Rural Development  
Administration



CSAM  
Centre for Sustainable  
Agricultural Mechanization



**Thank you**

x

Follow us



unescap



united-nations-escap



unitednationsescap



united-nations-escap