



**Summary Report on Co-host of the 4th Meeting of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) 25-28 June 2018, Penang, Malaysia**

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The 4th Meeting of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) of the Asian and Pacific Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery (ANTAM) under Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) was held on 25-28 June 2018 in Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Agricultural and Food Engineering Technical Division (AFETD) of the Institution of Engineers of Malaysia (IEM) and with the support of the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry (MOA) of Malaysia.

15 of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and The Pacific (ESCAP) member countries i.e. Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam attended the meeting. Moreover, members of the Advisory Panel of ANTAM, i.e. ENAMA/ENTAM (Italian National Agency for Agricultural Mechanization/ European Network for Testing of Agricultural Machinery) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations sent representatives. In addition, representatives from the CSAM led initiative Regional Council for Agricultural Machinery Associations (ReCAMA) attended the meeting as observers. Specifically, from the All-India Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers Association (AMMA-India).

The objective of the ANTAM meeting is to further develop and improve ANTAM testing code and related test reports. The outcome of the TWGs Meeting will be submitted to the 5<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of ANTAM for review and adoption. The workshop on Data-informed Policymaking will be part of CSAM's project titled "Regional Database of Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Asia and the Pacific" and its objective is to promote recognition of the value data-informed policymaking as well as to assess the status of availability of data at the national level through country presentations.

Ir. Vasan Mariappan Chairman of the Agricultural and Food Engineering Technical Division of The Institution of Engineers Malaysia delivered welcome remarks. In his opening remarks, Mr. Anshuman Varma, Programme Officer, CSAM, emphasized the important role of the Technical Working Groups members in sharing best practices applied in the region to be added and integrated in the ANTAM standards along with international practices.

Ms. Camilla Stelitano, Project Coordinator, CSAM, presented the overall work of ANTAM, the work plan for 2018 and the objectives of the meeting. A second presentation highlighted common issues among the three Codes and proposed possible solutions to be considered by the three Technical Working Groups. Among other issues, the presentation underlined the need to define a common structure across the three Codes, the need to include tolerances and common measurement units for all machines etc.

The Technical Working Groups on Power Tillers, Powered Knapsack Misters-Cum-Dusters and Paddy Transplanters conducted negotiations in three parallel meetings during June 25, 26 and 27, 2018.

On June 27, 2018 during the closing plenary section, Dr. Surendra Singh, Technical Consultant, CSAM, presented a comparative study of the results of the round robin tests held in 2017.

Dr. Champat Raj Mehta, Chair of the TWG on Power Tillers, Dr. Hafiz Sultan Mahmood, Chair of the TWG on Powered Knapsack Misters-Cum-Dusters and Dr. Surendrakumar Allimuthu, Chair of the TWG on Paddy Transplanters, presented the work of their respective groups by highlighting the most important changes made to the Codes in 2018.

Mr. Anshuman Varma, Programme Officer, CSAM, and Mr. Zolkafli Aris, Director; Engineering Research Center, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), distributed certificates to all officially appointed TWGs members.

In his closing remarks Mr. Anshuman Varma, highlighted the valuable work of the TWGs members and underlined the importance of moving forward in the ANTAM process and work towards operationalizing the network.

On the morning of May 28, 2018 MARDI facilitated a field visit to their Rice Centre of Excellence (RiCE) in Seberang Perai, Penang, Malaysia. During the visit, the participants observed the testing facilities and a seed bank while a demonstration on the use of GPS technologies to level the rice field was conducted by MARDI's personnel.



Technical Working Groups (TWGs) Meeting



Group photo from the expert from the Asia-Pacific Region



Participants visited the Rice Centre of Excellence (RiCE) of the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) to foster knowledge exchange on best practices in the region



Testing facilities and a seed bank conducted by MARDI's personnel