PROJECT NOTIFICATION

Reference No.: 448

Date of Issue	9 August 2024
Project Code	24-CP-56-GE-WSP-A
Title	Workshop on Benchmarking of Agrimechanization Models to Enhance Agricultural Productivity
Timing	11 November 2024–14 November 2024
Hosting Country(ies)	Pakistan
Venue City(ies)	Lahore
Modality	Face-to-face
Implementing Organization(s)	National Productivity Organization, Pakistan
Participating Country(ies)	All Member Countries
Overseas Participants	19
Local Participants	6
Closing Date	13 September 2024
Remarks	Not Applicable

Objectives	Understand benchmarking models of agricultural mechanization; learn from the best practices; establish sound plans suiting local conditions; and enhance agricultural productivity through appropriate mechanization models.
Rationale	The APO Agricultural Transformation Framework was established to propel growth through a holistic approach to building the capacity of member economies to adopt modern technologies and best practices for farm-level transformation. Mechanization has been identified as a key factor for improving productivity through automation of agricultural processes and complementing labor. This workshop will focus on benchmarking of agrimechanization models to enhance agricultural productivity in APO members based on local conditions.
Background	According to the UN FAO (2023), agricultural mechanization is needed to make agrifood systems more sustainable from economic and social aspects, such as labor productivity, poverty reduction, food security, and health and well-being. Machinery is indispensable for modern farming. As human labor has moved from agriculture to other sectors, agricultural workers have been replaced with machinery. Such equipment reduces the time needed for farm management and enables scaling up of operations, thus increasing agricultural productivity. However, the effectiveness of agricultural machinery differs by country and region among APO members. For example, labor-saving machines are not very effective for economies with low labor costs, while sophisticated machines like agrirobots are preferred despite their high costs due to the labor shortage. Therefore, benchmarking is necessary to promote the adoption of appropriate mechanization models. As a continuing effort after the 2023 workshop, the focus in 2024 will be on assessment criteria to guide participants in applying suitable mechanization in their respective country.
Topics	Concept of agrimechanization and its benchmarking; Ensuring safety in agrimachine operation; Benchmarking models of agrimechanization; Assessment criteria for mechanization such as economic viability, environmental impact, and social impact; Prioritizing mechanization in crop selection, farm size, and resource availability; Implementation strategies; and Monitoring and evaluation.
Outcome	Enhanced understanding and knowledge of assessment and decision flows in prioritizing and planning mechanization in overall agricultural production schemes.
Qualifications	Government officials, policymakers, leaders of farmers' associations and farm machinery SMEs, academics, and consultants working on agricultural machinery and mechanized farming.

Please refer to the implementation procedures circulated with this document for further details.

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