

Side Event 2 - Agricultural Mechanization and Irrigation Systems

Background/objective

Day by day, demand for water resources is increasing significantly because of global warming and growing world population. In this point, importance of irrigation systems and agricultural mechanization is increasing. The main aim of irrigation systems and agricultural mechanization is to increase productivity and efficiency in agriculture. Even if agriculture system is vital for all continents, Africa is a special case due to lack of adequate technology. Large scale irrigation systems are not common in Africa. In order to transform small-scale irrigation systems to large-scale irrigation systems the need for financial resources is quite high. For instance, only 4 percent of the cropland is under irrigation in Africa. It is one of the main obstacles to food security and production all over the African continent. To extend irrigation systems in the continent, investment and existence of experts are the key elements.

Besides irrigation systems, agricultural mechanization is also crucial for agriculture all over the world. It is necessary to realize all kinds of agricultural production and value adding to agricultural products. Mainly, agricultural mechanization is composed of 3 components which are people, resources of energy and machines. It is an important tool when you aim to increase your productivity. In this sense, people should be trained so as to provide increases in productivity.

Turkey has good practices for agricultural mechanism and irrigation systems. The main advantage of Turkey is that Turkey has the great historical background of agricultural mechanization and irrigation systems. In fact, Turkey follows Mesopotamia tradition in the agriculture with regard to irrigation systems. Most importantly, Turkey has a huge capacity to establish irrigation systems for rural areas. Nearly, Turkey can use irrigation in 66% in its economically irrigable land. This statistical data is higher than average of the world. In other words, Turkey is successful country in terms of spreading irrigation techniques to all over the country. Moreover, Turkey has good expertise in two areas that are greenhouse cultivation and some agricultural products like tea. For this reason, in Turkey, effects of climate do not ruin the agricultural products easily. Furthermore, Turkey has established 5 Stars Irrigation Projects in 2012. Agricultural mechanization is also common in Turkey. Like irrigation systems, use of agricultural mechanism is quite high. In most of the subsectors agricultural mechanization already exists in Turkey. Apart from that, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural irrigation equipment can be produced by the Turkish agricultural industry sufficiently. Turkey has the expertise in agricultural mechanization and irrigation systems so Turkey and Africa can cooperate with each in these fields.

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Turkey has organized international training on sustainable management of soil and water resources, plant nutrition and soil management, agricultural irrigation, agricultural mechanization and information technologies, watershed hydrology and soil conservation. Experts from some of the African countries participate in those trainings every year. In agricultural production, irrigation should not be an input. Instead of this, production should take place depending upon natural rainfall. Irrigation water also should be used carefully. Experts should conduct irrigation-productivity analysis in order to save the limited water.

Target participants: All participants

Key messages

A. To mention of importance of irrigation systems.

- Turkey has an important experience about irrigation systems so it capable to increase economic growth, economic development, technology and adoption in agriculture.

B. To discuss significance of agricultural mechanization.

- Turkey is the rich country in terms of agricultural mechanism. Therefore, it supplies African countries if they suffer from lack of agricultural mechanization.

Provisional Agenda
28 April 2017
Moderator: tbd

Welcoming remarks

African Union Representative

Presentation on the Usage of Agricultural
mechanization and irrigation systems in
Africa

Importance of support of Turkey and its
experience.

Possible agreement and cooperation

Discussion

Language: The Side Event will be interpreted in English and French.