

**CAPSA**

Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture

communiqué

## CAPSA to evolve as an independent inter-governmental organization

The fourteenth session of CAPSA Governing Council marked a critical change in CAPSA's institutional future. The session held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 13 December 2017 concluded with a decision by the member countries to transition into an independent intergovernmental organization outside of the UN system.

Attended by nine of its member countries, namely Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand and also by Nepal and JIRCAS as observers, The Governing Council adopted the report on the Centre's activities, accomplishments, and financial status since its thirteenth session and agreed to take steps for the transformation of CAPSA from a subsidiary body of ESCAP into a new intergovernmental organization by 30 June 2018.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) states since its establishment 26 years ago, CAPSA's mandate has evolved from a research centre on pulses, grains and tuber crops to an institute serving member countries on issue of sustainable agriculture within a broader context of sustainable development in our region. Now, CAPSA will further evolve from a regional institute of ESCAP to a stand-alone fully member state driven entity outside of the UN that signifies the maturity of CAPSA as an institution.

Mr. Sahat Pasaribu of the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture, who chaired the Session announced the readiness of the Indonesian Government to lead and support the transition of CAPSA to a new organization. This readiness was followed by other Council members, except Fiji, by confirming their continued commitment to serve as Governing Council members through the transition process, continuing to provide annual financial as well as in kind contributions, including the secondment of professional officers.

[Full text of adopted recommendations and decisions](#)