



Government of Malawi



Ministry of Agriculture & Food
Security

Conservation Agriculture Symposium 2012 Department of Land Resources Conservation

October 17-19, 2012
Malawi

"Resilience of agricultural systems through conservation agriculture"

Final
Call
for
Papers



About the symposium

The Conservation Agriculture (CA) Symposium is a research, development oriented and interdisciplinary conference. It provides a platform for conservation agriculture research and development stakeholders in Malawi to network, share experiences and lesson learning towards enhanced capacity for implementing a CA innovation systems approach that results in biophysical, social, economic, institutional and policy impacts for agricultural and socioeconomic development in Malawi.

The 2012 CA Symposium is jointly organized by the National Task Force on Conservation Agriculture and the Department of Land Resources Conservation - in cooperation with stakeholders and development partners who support the Task Force.

Who should attend?

The CA Symposium invites scientists, students, graduates, farmers, the private sector, development experts, media, funding organizations and their various international partners. Young scientists are particularly encouraged to present their CA research results.

The 2012 symposium theme

"Resilience of agricultural systems through conservation agriculture"

Sustainably producing crops for food and industrial use in the face of land degradation, climate change, population growth and changing labour demography requires innovative production systems that build resilient agricultural systems. Keynote addresses, poster and theatre presentations will be used to facilitate dialogue along three major themes on issues that impact the development and scale up of Conservation Agriculture in Malawi.

Theme 1: Conservation Agriculture and Management in Malawi.

Theme 2: Conservation Agriculture and its Impacts on Rural Livelihood in Malawi.

Theme 3: Institutional Arrangements, Policy and Market in Malawi.

Contributions in form of scientific papers, case studies and posters should specifically be based on work in Malawi that:

- i. Discuss and explore ways of dealing with emerging issues in food and livelihood security and enhance national cooperation with CA as the response pillar;
- ii. Share, document and discuss biophysical, social and economic impacts of current CA investments in food and livelihood security as well as existing opportunities and challenges in Malawi;
- iii. Discuss drivers and enablers for CA in sustaining fragile ecosystems and develop CA as a mechanisms for sustainably using these ecosystems;
- iv. Share and document experiences on CA scale up approaches and impacts and the role of innovation systems in achieving the above objectives
- v. Identify appropriate mechanisms to enhance collaboration and networking for effective engagements among stakeholders towards institutional and policy innovations for CA scale up in Malawi.
- vi. Identify priorities and suggest ways for enhancing human resource development and capacity building for CA in Malawi;
- vii. Identify practical, innovative and integrative funding, investment and market opportunities for CA in Malawi

Symposium output

It is expected that the Symposium will yield the following

outputs:

- i. Information on the biophysical, social and economic impacts of conservation agriculture technologies in Malawi shared and documented;
- ii. Experiences on conservation agriculture scale up approaches and impacts shared and documented; and
- iii. Key areas for research and development and institutional and policy innovations for conservation agriculture scale up identified.

Symposium structure and procedure

The 2012 CA Symposium is organized for three full days. Keynote speakers, oral presentations, guided poster sessions and a number of thematic side events will address major issues of the symposium.

Full papers of original research, case studies, and poster papers must be submitted online until **21 September 2012**.

A panel of the CA Symposium Process Team will decide upon the acceptance of the contributions. The decision for a contribution to be accepted with or without further improvement will be based on content and adherence to specifications.

The Symposium Process Team will allocate the accepted contributions into interdisciplinary sessions. Deadline for submission of revised papers, case studies, and poster papers is **1 October 2012**.

Poster contributions will consist of (1) a poster paper no more than 5 pages in length written in the same structure and specification as a research paper or case study, and (2) a poster with minimum dimensions of A1 size paper (1.2 x 1.0 meters).

Poster presentations by farmers practicing CA are encouraged.

Accepted contributions will be contained in the Symposium Proceedings both in print and in an on-line version.

Symposium location and costs

The 2012 Conservation Agriculture Symposium will be held at **Sun 'n' Sand Holiday Resort, Mangochi**.

The symposium will cover costs of refreshments, lunches, venue and materials for all participants. Full support, including accommodation and travel reimbursement, will be provided to participants presenting papers. Participants not presenting papers will be required to meet their own accommodation and travel costs.

Symposium road map

21 September 2012: Deadline for submission of papers, case studies and poster papers.

1 October 2012: Deadline for submission of revised contributions.

17-19 October, 2012: Hosting symposium.

Contacts

Requests and enquiries on specifications for and submission of research papers, case studies and poster papers should be sent to:

The Secretariat, National Task Force on Conservation Agriculture, Department of Land Resources Conservation, P.O. Box 30192, Lilongwe 3, Tel.: 01 753 049/ 01 755 048,

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