

Alert No. 27 (19 January 2013)

1. The next Australian Controlled Traffic Farming Association (ACTFA) conference will be in Toowoomba, Queensland on 25-27 February 2013.

To express your interest and to be kept informed [please click here](#) and complete the brief Expression of Interest form.

Contact: Sally Brown (Email sally.brown@sallybcc.com.au)

On behalf of the ACTFA 2013 Organising Committee

www.conferenceconnections.com.au

2. Frontiers in Conservation Agriculture in South Asia and Beyond. International Workshop, March 26-27, 2013, Hotel Himalaya, Kathmandu, Nepal

Sponsored by The University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), and the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS). Details available at:

http://libird.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=440&Itemid=2

Deadline for paper submission - 31 January, 2013

Send your paper to conferencecaps@gmail.com

Please see the [attached](#) call for papers for more information about the proposal requirements, programme, registration, etc. Feel free to contact chanhalb@hawaii.edu if you have any further questions or need more information.

3. Conference on Conservation Agriculture for Smallholders in Asia and Africa, Bangladesh, 8-13 December 2013

Themes for the conference are – i) Machinery: Design and development of CA-based crop establishment and herbicide spraying machinery, implements, tools for smallholders; ii) Weed management: Suitable weed management options (chemical, mechanical, crop rotation and biological); iii) Soil, water and agronomy; iv) Commercialization: adoption and continuous improvement of CA-based technologies; and v) Policy and institutional framework for the adoption of CA.

For further information and expression of interests: Richard Bell (r.bell@murdoch.edu.au) or Enamul Haque (enamul.haque@ide.bangladesh.org)

4. 6th World Congress of Conservation Agriculture to be held June 22-26, 2014, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

The 6th World Congress of Conservation Agriculture will be held June 22-26, 2014, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. [See the flyer](#) and learn more at www.ctic.org/WCCA

Direct your inquiries to:

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5. **[Maize-based conservation agriculture systems in Malawi: Long-term trends in productivity.](#)**

By Christian Thierfelder, John L. Chisui, Mphatso Gama, Stephanie Cheesman, Zwile D. Jere, W. Trent Bunderson, Neal S. Eash, Leonard Rusinamhodzi. *Field Crops Research* 142 (2013) 47–57.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.fcr.2012.11.010>

6. **[Development of the Conservation Agriculture Equipment Industry in Sub-Saharan Africa.](#)**

By B. G. Sims, C. Thierfelder, J. Kienzle, T. Friedrich, A. Kassam. *American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), Applied Engineering in Agriculture* Vol. 28(6): 813-823 (2012)

The paper was presented at the 5th World CA Congress in Brisbane, and that version (identical text) can be downloaded from [here](#):

ASABE members can get the Applied Engineering in Agriculture version from ASABE.

[http://elibrary.asabe.org/abstract.asp?aid=42472&redir=\[volume=28&issue=6&conf=aeaj&orgconf=aeaj2012\]&redirType=toc_journals.asp&dabs=Y](http://elibrary.asabe.org/abstract.asp?aid=42472&redir=[volume=28&issue=6&conf=aeaj&orgconf=aeaj2012]&redirType=toc_journals.asp&dabs=Y)

7. **[No-Till Farming is a Growing Practice.](#)** By John Horowitz, Robert Ebel and Kohei Ueda. A Report from the Economic Research Service. USDA Economic Information Bulletin Number 70. November 2010.

8. **[2012 Newsletter from Rattan Lal at the Carbon Management and Sequestration Center\(C-MASC\) at Ohio State University.](#)**

http://senr.osu.edu/cmasc/images/Winter_2012_newsletter_web.pdf

9. **[Time to pack away those ploughs.](#)** In: Newsletter for Disaster Risk Reduction, Agriculture and Food Security Volume 2. Issue 2. November 2012.

10. **[Science and Society: Conservation Agriculture.](#)** By Duane Jeffery, Correspondent, Daily Herald. October 24, 2012.

http://www.heraldextra.com/lifestyles/science-and-society-conservation-agriculture/article_fa506e15-3d71-5609-8953-11fd54746818.html

11. **[Ten Truths About Conservation Agriculture and Smallholder Farmers.](#)** By Howard G. Buffet. Sept. 6, 2012 issue of the journal *Nature*.

<http://www.campaignforrealfarming.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Howard-G-Buffer-Nature-September-6-2012.pdf>

- 12. Two Wheel Tractor Newsletter January 2013.** Produced by R. Jeff Esdaile, Agricultural Consultant, Tamworth, New South Wales, Australia (rjesdaile@gmail.com).

13. Up-dated Conservation Agriculture Data Base in AquaStat, FAO

The CA land area data base has been updated based on the feedback received from our regular sources of information and has been posted in AquaStat. The latest figures can be seen at the FAO CA-Website at (<http://www.fao.org/ag/ca/6c.html>).

However, updating of the data base is an ongoing process, and anyone who would like to provide information on the land area under CA systems at the national level is most welcome to do anytime. Ideally, we would appreciate receiving the CA area information at the sub-national level, together with any relevant historical information on adoption, cropping pattern, farm size, agro-ecology, constraints, etc.

For the recording of area under CA, please adhere to the quantification of the CA definition on the FAO-CA website: <http://www.fao.org/ag/ca/6c.html>

1. Minimum Soil Disturbance: Minimum soil disturbance refers to low disturbance no-tillage and direct seeding. The disturbed area must be less than 15 cm wide or less than 25% of the cropped area (whichever is lower). There should be no periodic tillage that disturbs a greater area than the aforementioned limits. Strip tillage is allowed if the disturbed area is less than the set limits.

2. Organic soil cover: Three categories are distinguished: 30-60%, >60-90% and >90% ground cover, measured immediately after the direct seeding operation. Area with less than 30% cover is not considered as CA.

3. Crop rotation/association: Rotations/associations should involve at least 3 different crops. However, repetitive wheat or maize cropping is not an exclusion factor for the purpose of this data collection, but rotation/association is recorded where practiced.

We would further like to stress that the database counts actual land area under annual crops with CA (permanent no-till). Area under perennial crops will be recorded separately. No-till area by crop will not be recorded to avoid double recording of the same land area.

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Moderator

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