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17th February 2014 IACCA Alert

What is the role of Entrepreneurship in Conservation Agriculture in transforming farming in Africa?

Preparations of the First Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture (IACCA) are in full swing under the able leadership of the Africa-wide International Steering Committee ([Table 1.0](#)).

Be briefed on the update of the organizational developments to date in this alert and purpose to intensively participate.

1. Venue and Logistics



The IACCA will be held at the **INTERCONTINENTAL Hotel**, Haile Selassie Ave, Longacres Lusaka, Zambia.

Tel: +260 211 250000; Fax: +260 211 255035;

Email; info@interconti.com.zm; Website: <http://www.intercontinental.com/hotels/gb/en/lusaka/>.

For details on visa, health and other logistics, refer to the IACCA Information Note ([link 2](#))

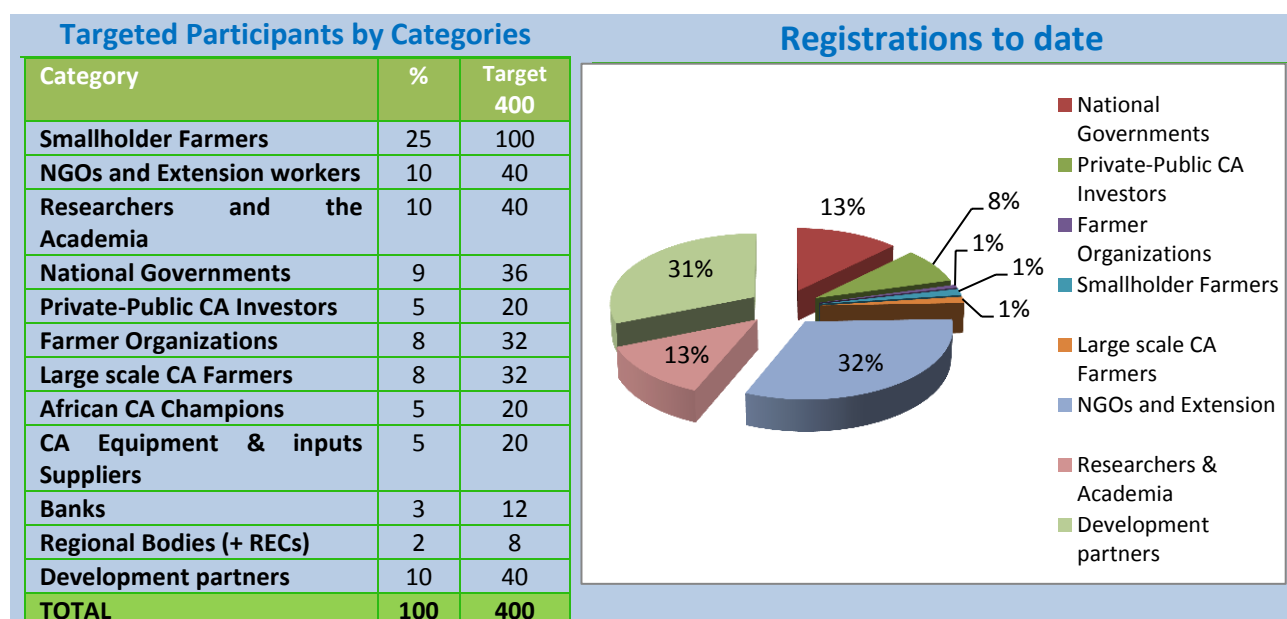
2. The Programme

The IACCA programme ([link 3](#)) reflects the event ambitions and the process to achieve them. Keynote addresses and panel discussions by the experts will set the stage on the challenges confronting Africa and what we should “together” mitigate them. A farmers’ forum aims to bring key issues constraining adoption of profitable CA in different agro-ecological and farming systems of the continent. Aired concerns will form the basis for subsequent presentations and discussions organized under (i) thematic paper and poster

presentations; (ii) field visits to learn from and interact with Researchers; CA farmers (Organic, Smallholder and Large Scale); CA Service Providers; and Agro-Dealers. [Other forums](#) are (iii) CA exhibition booths; (iv) the two side events (*CA with Trees* and *How do we get millions of smallholder farmers adopt CA*); (v) a biosafety session; and the (vi) “so what next” session to discuss on emerging issues and pave the way forward.

3. Participants’ Registrations.

The congress target is 400 participants with farmers (25%) being the majority and targeting sub-regional representation of 25% from Zambia, 25% from Southern Africa; 25% from East Africa, 15% from West and Northern Africa; and 10% from other continents. About 200 participants have registered from 31 countries worldwide and 86% coming from Africa. The Zambian Government and private sector are supporting 100 participants, the majority being farmers who will be registered as a block. This commitment coupled with that of the Steering Committee to sponsor not less than 20 farmers will definitely tilt the tables making the farmers representation exceed 25%.



Warm up!!! Don't miss this fundamental opportunity to participate; you can register for the congress at: <http://www.africacacongress.org/event-registration> and book a booth to showcase what counts on you.

4. International Steering and Other Committees

The multi-disciplinary and pan African International Steering Committee is the overall multi-partner body that coordinates and leads on all policy and key decisions on the Congress. **Martin Bwalya** (NEPAD) is the Chair and **Saidi Mkomwa** (ACT) leads the Secretariat.

The Congress Steering Committee has been supported by four sub-committees. The Technical and Programme Task Team dealing also with the congress scientific papers is led by **Joseph Mureithi** (KARI Kenya) and **Florent Maraax** (CIRAD) is co-chair. **Lewis Hove** (FAO) chairs the Finance and Resource Mobilization sub-committee; while **Joyce MulilaMiti** (FAO) chairs the Communication, Media and Advocacy sub-committee.

The Logistics and Congress Operations sub-Committee is chaired by **Emmanuel Sakala** from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Zambia with **Collins Nkatiko** (CFU) being the co-chair.

Table1.0: Members of the IACCA Steering Committee

Name	Institution
Martin Bwalya - Chair	NEPAD
Saidi Mkomwa	ACT
Edward Chuma	PICO TEAM
Collins Nkatiko	CFU
Michael Jenrich	SAT
Rudo Makunike	NEPAD
M Kanyangarara	COMESA
Timothy Simalenga	CCARDESA
Mohammed El Mourid	ICARDA
Aboubakar Njoya	CORAF/WECARD
Rachid Mrabet	INRA
Florent Maraoux	CIRAD
Fred Kanampiu	CIMMYT
Jeremias Mowo	ICRAF
Lewis Hove	FAO
Josef Kienzle	FAO
Joyce MulilaMitti	FAO-RAF
Arnesen Odd	NORAD
Andrea Bahm	GIZ
Freddie Kwesiga	AfDB
Emmanuel Sakala	MOAL Zambia
Eletina Jere	NAIS
Moses Mwale	ZARI
Raymond Rabeson	FOFIFA
Kalilou Sylla	ROPFA
Ishmael Sunga	SACAU
Joseph Mureithi	KARI
Gilbert Manirakiza	Newmark
Graham Chilimina	NKW
Bashir Jama	AGRA
Oumarou Balarabé	IRAD

5. Technical and Programme Task Team

The condensed papers book is being printed as a handout to congress participants. This follows the successful response to calls for condensed papers and posters. Three reviewers were assigned to each of the submitted papers. The majority of Authors have incorporated comments from reviewers and re-submitted their papers. Some 54 papers will be allowed for oral presentation and poster presentations for a similar number. Space has been allocated to display posters throughout the congress period.

The oral presentations are under the 7 sub-themes namely:

- [i.] **Growing more with less** – the future of sustainable intensification
- [ii.] **Weather proofing agriculture** - the adaption of farming practices to address climate variability and change
- [iii.] **CA for sustained wealth creation** – unlocking barriers to entrepreneurship along the value chains
- [iv.] **Food sovereignty** – integrated CA based systems and family farms
- [v.] **Effective research**, inclusive of socio-economic challenges, and targeting strategies for enhanced CA adoption
- [vi.] **Harnessing the power of collaboration** – networking, partnerships and communities of practice
- [vii.] **Increasing CA adoption** - how innovative technology, approaches, infrastructure support and policies can drive greater adoption of conservation agricultural systems in Africa

The official languages of the IACCA 2014 will be English and French. Instant translation services will be available. Oral presentations, except for invited and keynote speakers, are limited to 15 minutes and an additional 5 minutes for discussion. Guidelines on PowerPoint presentations, session chairs and rapporteurs are being shared with the concerned.

6. Sponsors and Exhibitors

The IACCA is the biggest all-Africa CA event on the continent with an expected attendance of over 400 farmers, policy makers, researchers, investors and industry players from AFRICA and ACROSS the globe. It is an opportunity for YOU too to be visible to **African and Global influencers, consumers and decision-makers** before, during and after the event. The exhibition area is next to the restaurant and poolside offering delegates numerous opportunities to visit the stands before and after all meals. To reserve a booth now, get more information from the Sponsors and Exhibitors prospectus at www.africacacongres.org

With your support, the IACCA organisers can widen the geographical reach and deepen the inclusive participation of unique CA experience groups to the congress. You can contribute by pledging your support using the form available at <http://www.africacacongress.org/sponsorship-packages>

7. Nominate a CA Champion for an Award

Adoption of CA in Africa is partly constrained by the absence of role models, champions doing it well and benefiting from it. We have role models and very good ones too. What is missing is identifying these, recognizing their efforts and contributions, documenting and sharing their successes and challenges. The IACCA is doing exactly that. Be part of the movement by nominating a farmer, a journalist, or policy supporter champion. For more information and guidelines for nomination visit <http://www.africacacongress.org/awards/nominate>

8. Foundation Sponsors

The African Conservation Tillage Network (**ACT**) is organizing the first Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture (IACCA) with the proud support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation (**NORAD**) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (**COMESA**) as Foundation Sponsors.

Exemplary support is being provided by hosts - the Government of the Republic of Zambia in collaboration with several partners including, Conservation Farming Unit (CFU), Golden Valley Agricultural Research Trust, FAO, CIRAD, CIMMYT, the EU and NEPAD.

Platinum sponsors to the event are: FAO; the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research & Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA) and International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). The Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) is a Gold Sponsor.



Norad

