



## Farming Forward for Climate Change

### A Manifesto for Action by a network of Global Conservation Agriculture organizations

December 2015

Global decision makers need to adopt sensible action plans for sustainable food production in a changing climate. Conservation Agriculture (CA) systems provide an appropriate response with proven technology and farmer support. CA is practiced on about 160 million hectares around the world. It can spread much further with the help of networked farmer organizations willing to integrate their expertise and pragmatic experiences across nations.

#### **Global Issues:**

1. Climate is changing everywhere. Agriculture is dependent upon climate and exposed to climate change.
2. Agriculture needs to adapt and be resilient to a changing climate.
3. Agriculture can also contribute to greenhouse gas emission reductions.
4. A growing population with expectations of a safe and secure food supply produced sustainably.

**Conservation Agriculture** (CA) is an operational and integrated approach of agro-ecology to manage agro-ecosystems for improved and sustained productivity, increased profits and food security while preserving and enhancing the resource base and the environment. CA is characterized by three linked principles:

1. Minimum or no mechanical soil disturbance.
2. Permanent mulch soil cover.
3. Diversification of crop species grown in sequences and/or associations.

CA principles are universally applicable to all agricultural landscapes and land uses with locally adapted practices. CA is compatible with a wide range of agriculture production systems and farm types.

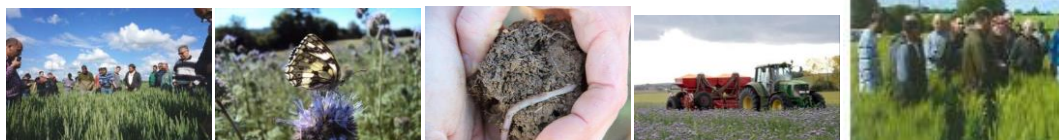
#### **Current situation**

1. Innovative researchers have contributed to CA but many research institutions have lagged behind farmers and the agriculture industry who have pushed forward with on-farm experimentation and development. Researchers are too often constrained with short term projects, inadequate CA equipment, simple system experiments and historic paradigms of knowledge and methodologies.
2. Farmers are an adaptive species. They see opportunities of both better farming systems and the changing paradigms that can allow them to adapt to changing climates – be it gradual changes or extreme weather.
3. Farmers would like to work collaboratively with support from researchers and governments rather than in parallel.

#### **Conservation Agriculture farmer organizations are willing to help:**

1. We are willing to engage synergistic collaborations with all players for sensible solutions.
2. We call policy makers and global world leaders at COP21 to create the conditions to develop global adoption of Conservation Agriculture:
  - use adequate and enabling policies consistent across geographies; preferably adaptive policies
  - include incentive mechanisms for farmers and farmers organizations that align with ecosystem services and Sustainable Development Goals

Contact us! We have ideas and solutions. [globalcanetwork@gmail.com](mailto:globalcanetwork@gmail.com)



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