

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Operationalization of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA) | 5 | UN Discusses Policy Recommendations for Improved Food Systems Amid Recovery from COVID-19 | 7 | Conservation Agriculture is a Tool, Not a Goal |
| 4 | The Road to the 8WCCA: Profitable and Sustainable Farming with Conservation Agriculture: The future of farming | 6 | Zimbabwe urged to accelerate adaptation to climate-smart agriculture to boost economic growth | 8 | Promoting agricultural mechanization: Policy guidelines developed |
| 5 | Soils should have rights too | 6 | Why we must scale up climate-smart agriculture to feed a hungrier world | 8 | "Happy Seeder" saves farmers money over burning straw, new study in India shows |
| | | | | 9 | Events and Opportunities |

Editor's view: Introducing the November - December 2020 CA Alert



Agriculture in African countries is undergoing a fundamental transformation, away from the conventional tillage-based type agriculture, to agroecology-based no-till Conservation Agriculture (CA) systems. It is also transiting from the human muscle-based hand hoe to mechanical power based systems. The combined goal is factoring in the needs of smallholder farmers, youths and women, and attainment of the commercial, environmental and socio-economic sustainability pillars. This is a major concern that defines the core mandate of ACT in its endeavor to lifting people out of poverty and hunger in

the rural areas of Africa. ACT strives to achieve this vision by mainstreaming and institutionalization of CA and sustainable agricultural mechanization (SAM) through its strategic approaches of: Capacity building, Networking and partnerships; Communication and Knowledge and information Management; and Entrepreneurship and Business Development.

The future of agriculture development in Africa needs to be built on the foundation of CA and SAM.

Continued on page 2

New Year Greetings and Appreciation

We take this opportunity to thank you our sponsors, partners and friends for your continued engagement and support within and across ACT in your various capacities and opportunities during the past year. The year 2020 was difficult for ACT and partners given the global outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic that interrupted many activities and livelihoods.

Despite the challenges, ACT managed to accomplish most of its planned activities. This would have not been possible without your support and desires to lift the millions of smallholder farmers out of poverty through sustainable agriculture practices. Your empathic support is sincerely appreciated.

Finally, I take this opportunity to wish you, your families and friends **Happiness and Very Best Wishes of the New Year 2021!**

Eng. Saidi Mkomwa
ACT Executive Secretary

From page 1

Countries and regions where CA is widely adopted are serving as domestic and global 'bread baskets' and maximizing the contribution of agriculture to local and national economic growth and prosperity. Some 50% of the countries in Africa are now seriously promoting Conservation Agriculture, and farmers are responding positively where comprehensive ongoing support can be organized. Empirical and scientific evidence from Africa and other continents show clearly that farmer-led transformation is important but scaling up and for widest benefit sharing, farmers cannot adopt a new paradigm of agriculture on their own. Multi-stakeholder engagement and support to farmers is necessary.

The importance and role of CA in sustainable agricultural growth and economic development has been clearly documented and can, therefore, be considered as the most appropriate entry point in transforming agricultural production in Africa. However, the adoption and spread of CA in Africa has been slow due to the appreciable challenges that must be overcome.

ACT will continue to build new and stronger partnerships, uncover new and more efficient frontiers for serving farmers and other on-the-ground stakeholders while contributing to global and regional alliances to unlock policy and investments support for the spread of Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization across Africa.

ACT acknowledges the various sources, authors, reporters, organizations and practitioners whose articles appear in this November – December 2020 issue, their geodiversity is a clear testimony of the enthusiasm and interest from various organizations, countries, researchers and scientists in Africa towards Conservation Agriculture.

We encourage you to share your CA views and articles capturing the status and extent of adaptation and adoption of CA in any Country in Africa or beyond for sharing with others. Please submit articles, links or views to kim@act-africa.org. Use the **#conservationagriculture**, **#africamechanize** to share links on articles, journals, news on CA and tag us on twitter **@ACTillage**.

Apologies for any cross posting of some articles.

Operationalization of the Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA)



Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (SAM) in Africa is an urgent matter and an indispensable pillar for attaining the Zero Hunger vision by 2025, as stated in the Malabo Declaration of 2014 – Goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals – and the Prosperous Africa We Want of Agenda 2063. Doubling agricultural productivity and eliminating hunger and malnutrition in Africa by 2025 will not be realized unless mechanization is accorded utmost importance.

Understanding this situation, AUC and FAO, through an Africa-wide consultative process, developed a *Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA)* that was launched in October 2018. It aims to inform policy and decision makers in the Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa, and the wider development community dealing with agricultural development and farmers on the significance of mainstreaming SAM in the overall national, regional and local agricultural development programmes.

Efforts to accelerate mechanization in Africa requires a substantial political and financial commitment. Without long-term

commitment, the prospects for African agriculture and farmers are likely to remain bleak. Therefore, any intervention brought forward need to consider activating this commitment. Directors/ Heads of Agricultural Mechanization & Engineering Services (DAMES/HAMES) and other sector's stakeholders need to be informed and equipped with comparable scientific evidence and business cases to make informed and convincing decisions to move forward the SAM agenda. As has been noted in many findings, a critical problem of agricultural mechanization in SSA is lack of information on successful and/or failed projects on which to draw useful lessons on why they succeeded and/or failed. Such information could be quite useful to DAMES/HAMES and the private sector as they develop their implementation programmes for SAMA.

In this regard, through the Africa-Mechanize information platform, FAO-RAF and ACT in collaboration with AUC-DREA initiated a series of Virtual Discussions (Webinars) with DAMES and other selected stakeholders of SAMA in SSA on key initial activities on Operationalization of F-SAMA. The

objective is to get the full support of DAMES and sector's stakeholders on planned initial activities as well as facilitate the creation of a Network for Information exchange through Africa-Mechanize.

To overcome the language barriers, each Webinar is organized in two sessions. The first is an English-based one covering countries in Eastern and Southern Africa as well as English-speaking countries in West Africa [Ghana; Gambia; Nigeria and Sierra Leone]. The second is for French speaking countries covering Western and Central Africa countries.

Virtual webinar No 1 (English):

Introducing F-SAMA including the Africa-Mechanize Platform

Webinar 1

Topic: Introducing F-SAMA including the Africa-Mechanize Platform

Target Participants: HAMES/DAMES

Date: Tuesday, 17 November 2020

Time: 09:00 – 11:20 am (GMT) Accra, Ghana

Click to view webinar 1

Held on Tuesday, 17th November 2020, 09:00 - 11:30 hrs (GMT), the webinar was designed to introduce F-SAMA and Africamechanize platform to DAMES/ HAMES in Africa Countries. It targeted the Directors and Heads of Agricultural Mechanization Services and was the first in a series, organized to provide an opportunity to create a participatory environment for the establishment of a regional implementation mechanism of F-SAMA. Organized in two sessions, for English based countries and French based countries, the webinar attracted 316 participants from 57 countries with 21 speakers.

The Webinar provided the platform to share information and update on the progress made by member states in operationalizing the framework. In addition to presentations, facilitated discussion and questions and answers sessions was implemented to generate more insights into the issues being discussed. Experts from FAO, AUC, ACT, Directors and Heads of Agricultural Mechanization Services in SSA, and

other mechanization stakeholders, shared their experiences on the importance of mechanization. This included - during and post - COVID-19 and discussion on how to expedite operationalization of the F-SAMA.

During the webinar, several keynote and thematic presentations were made supported by online discussions. These presentations and webinar recording can be accessed through the links:

- Presentations in English <https://www.africamechanize.org/webinar1-presentations-english/>
- Webinar recording: <https://www.africamechanize.org/webinar1-recording-english/>
- Other downloads: <https://www.africamechanize.org/webinar2-downloads-english/>

Virtual webinar No 2 (English):

Introducing F-SAMA including the Africa-Mechanize Platform

Webinar 2

Topic: Introducing F-SAMA including the Africa-Mechanize Platform

Target Participants: Farmer Organisations, Private Sector and NGOs

Date: Tuesday, 15 December 2020

Time: 09:00 – 11:30 am (GMT) Accra, Ghana

Click to view Webinar 2

Held on Tuesday, 15th December 2020, 09:00 - 11:30 hrs (GMT), the webinar was designed to introduce F-SAMA and Africamechanize platform to Farmers Organizations, Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Africa Countries. It targeted Farmers Organizations, Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and was the second in a series, organized to provide an opportunity to create a participatory environment for the establishment of a regional implementation mechanism of F-SAMA.

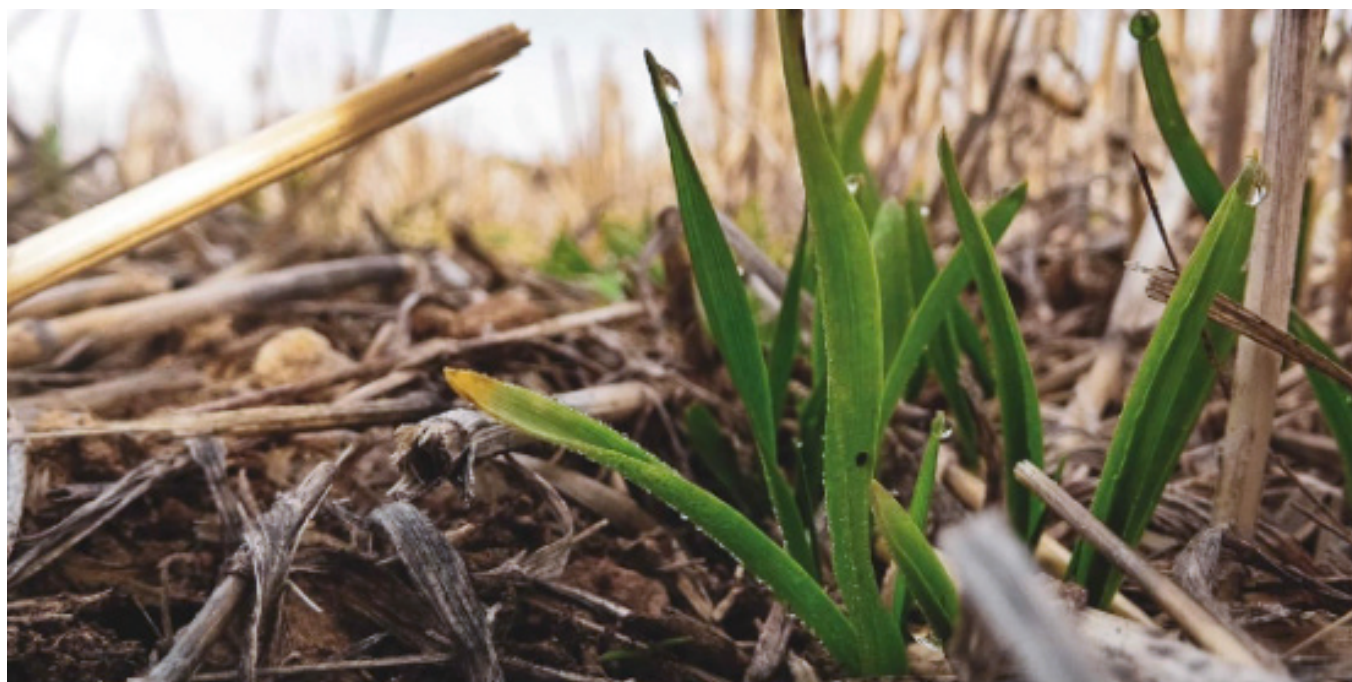
The Webinar provided the platform to share information and update on the progress made by farmers' organizations, private sector and NGOs in operationalizing the framework. In addition to presentations, facilitated discussion and questions and answers sessions was implemented to generate more insights into the issues being discussed. Experts from FAO, AUC, ACT and other mechanization stakeholders shared their experience on the importance of mechanization. Moreover, Participants discussed and shared experience on how to expedite operationalization of the F-SAMA.

During the webinar, several keynote and thematic presentations were made supported by online discussions. These presentations and webinar recording can be accessed through the links:

- Presentations in English <https://www.africamechanize.org/webinar2-presentations-english/>
- Other downloads: <https://www.africamechanize.org/webinar2-downloads-english/>



The Road to the 8WCCA: Profitable and Sustainable Farming with Conservation Agriculture: The future of farming



The 8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (8WCCA) provides you with the unique opportunity to shape the future of “Profitable and Sustainable Farming with Conservation Agriculture”. Conservation Agriculture (CA) is acknowledged to be a sustainable system of agricultural intensification which improves soil health and thus, will be a key element to ensure the production of food and other agricultural products, while providing additional ecosystem services, even under the threatening scenarios involving the consequences of climate change and larger world population. During the three days of the Congress, manifold topics will be discussed in depth in plenary sessions, panel discussions, parallel sessions and poster sessions, with the objective to promote a wider adoption of CA worldwide.

On the fourth day you will have the possibility to engage in meaningful conversations with farmers and practitioners from the agriculture sector worldwide by participating in the Field Day in the Bernese Lakeland. The Congress will be held during 21-24 June 2021 in Zollikofen/Bern, Switzerland. More information about the congress is available on <https://8wcca.org/>

In preparation to the 8WCCA, The European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAF), in collaboration with the 8WCCA Organizing Committee and

under the patronage of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), organized a series of a series of online webinars and regional discussions to increase awareness of the concepts and practices for Conservation Agriculture (CA). These events were designed to highlight the 8WCCA theme and sub-themes. The webinars included:

- **8 October 2020:** Profitable and Sustainable Farming with Conservation Agriculture: The future of Farming – Prof. Gottlieb Basch, President of the European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAF)- <https://8wcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/1st-Webinar-Main-Theme-Announcement.pdf>
- **22 October 2020:** Successful experiences and learnings from CA worldwide - Prof. Amir Kassam, University of Reading, UK. - <https://8wcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2nd-Webinar-Sub-Theme-1-announcement.pdf>
- **5 November 2020:** Farm and ecosystem level benefits of CA systems to farmers, society and environment - Dr. Don Reicosky, retired Soil Scientist from the USDA-ARS, University of Minnesota, USA.- <https://8wcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/3rd-Webinar-Sub-Theme-2-announcement.pdf>
- **19 November 2020:** Mainstreaming of CA with national policy and institutional support and for global governance to support national and international needs and commitments – Mr. Tom Goddard, retired Senior Policy Advisor, Alberta, Canada - https://8wcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/4th-Webinar-Sub-Theme-3-Announcement_FINAL.pdf
- **16 December 2020:** Promoting CA-based knowledge and innovation systems and information sharing and communication – Eng. Saidi Mkomwa, Executive Director, African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) - <https://8wcca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/5th-Webinar-Sub-Theme-4-announcement.pdf>
- **10th December 2020.** Sub-Saharan Africa regional roundtable meeting. The round-table discussion meeting was moderated by Prof. Gottlieb Basch and the discussions was facilitated by a SWOT analysis which focused on the main theme and four sub-themes of the 8WCCA. The thematic scope and sub-themes of the 8WCCA programme are described at <https://8wcca.org/congress-theme/>

Soils should have rights too



A pioneer in soil research and Conservation Agriculture, Dr. Rattan Lal paved the way in one of FAO's key areas of work

Growing up on a small farm in India, Dr. Rattan Lal experienced much of the hardship faced by today's smallholder farmers. His family didn't have running water or electricity, but he explains, "We never missed it because that was the way everybody lived."

As a farmer, his father struggled with irrigation challenges and the related

issue of saline soil, both of which Lal later realized could be remedied by improving drainage of the land. But it wasn't until after years of studying that he began to understand and teach the world about the fundamental role of soil.

In fact, a Nobel Peace Prize* and a [World Food Prize](#) later, Lal has changed the way we view sustainable

soil management and has trodden new ground in what we now call Conservation Agriculture (CA), an approach that can play a huge role in restoring the world's neglected soils, capturing carbon and combating food insecurity.

At its core, CA minimizes soil disturbance (which means reducing tilling), provides permanent soil cover and diversifies crop production, all of which can contribute to enhancing biodiversity, reducing water use and improving soil health.

Conservation Agriculture plays an important part in how FAO supports small-scale farmers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The benefits of this approach are numerous, from increased yields and reduced costs for farmers to healthier soils and greater carbon sequestration. Lal came to understand all of this and has since endeavoured to spread the word.

[Read More](#)

UN Discusses Policy Recommendations for Improved Food Systems Amid Recovery from COVID-19

The UN Country Team in China gathered with its partners to discuss policies and actions to address the complexity and importance of food systems, in particular amid the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 11 December, a Policy Dialogue titled 'China's Experience in Strengthening Food Systems amid the Response to COVID-19' took place at the UN Compound in Beijing. Under the auspices of the Resident Coordinator, nine UN entities coordinated by ESCAP's Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) invited partners from central and local government, academia, private sector, and think tanks, for a reflection on how to address the fragility of food systems that has been highlighted across the world by the pandemic.

Mr. Li Jinxiang, State Chief Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, pointed out that China coordinated the prevention and control of the epidemic while making

efforts to ensure the stable production and supply of grain and agricultural products. He also said that China is willing to work with other countries to promote agricultural cooperation, especially South-South cooperation, to a wider range and deeper level under the framework of the United Nations.

Given the particular situation of China, where the recovery from the pandemic's impacts started remarkably early, the focus of the UN Country Team has also shifted from immediate response to the design of recovery interventions that 'build back better', establishing better conditions for ending poverty and accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

For this purpose, "the whole agricultural value chain – from production to processing and retail – must be put back on a sustainable track and rejuvenated" said Ms. Amakobe Sande, interim UN Resident Coordinator in China, adding that "we must maintain essential food and nutrition services ensuring no one is

left behind and that vulnerable segments of the agricultural workforce, elderly workers and women farmers have the capacities and access to solutions such as agricultural machinery and ICT-enabled distribution platforms."

Much of the attention this year has been focused on health protection as well as the pandemic's socio-economic impacts and on inclusive recovery, and the dialogue highlighted how these are closely linked to food systems, which also encompass the need to protect ecosystems, biodiversity and heritage agriculture. The event identified recommendations on how to restore robust and resilient food systems, ensure food security for the most vulnerable, and protect ecosystems and food systems. These are meant to be the stepping stone for the work of the United Nations in China towards the global Food Systems Summit in 2021. [Read More](#)

Zimbabwe urged to accelerate adaptation to climate-smart agriculture to boost economic growth



Zimbabwe has been urged to accelerate adaptation to climate-smart agriculture in order to boost economic growth. Speaking at a webinar on Investment Priorities for Climate-Smart Agriculture in Zimbabwe on Wednesday, World Bank country manager for Zimbabwe Mukami Kariuki said climate change is one of the major challenges impacting agriculture production in Zimbabwe.

“Without effective adaptation, the impacts of climate change on the sector could cause a massive reduction in agricultural production and significant damage to Zimbabwe’s economy at large,” said Kariuki. She said climate-smart agricultural investments and policy actions are central to building a resilient agricultural sector.

Agriculture is the mainstay of Zimbabwe’s economy, contributing up to 18 percent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product. The sector provides employment and income to more than 60 percent of the country’s population, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization.

To help the country with adaptation, the World Bank has provided technical support to the Zimbabwe government to develop a Climate Smart Agriculture Investment Plan and a Public Expenditure Review on Agriculture.

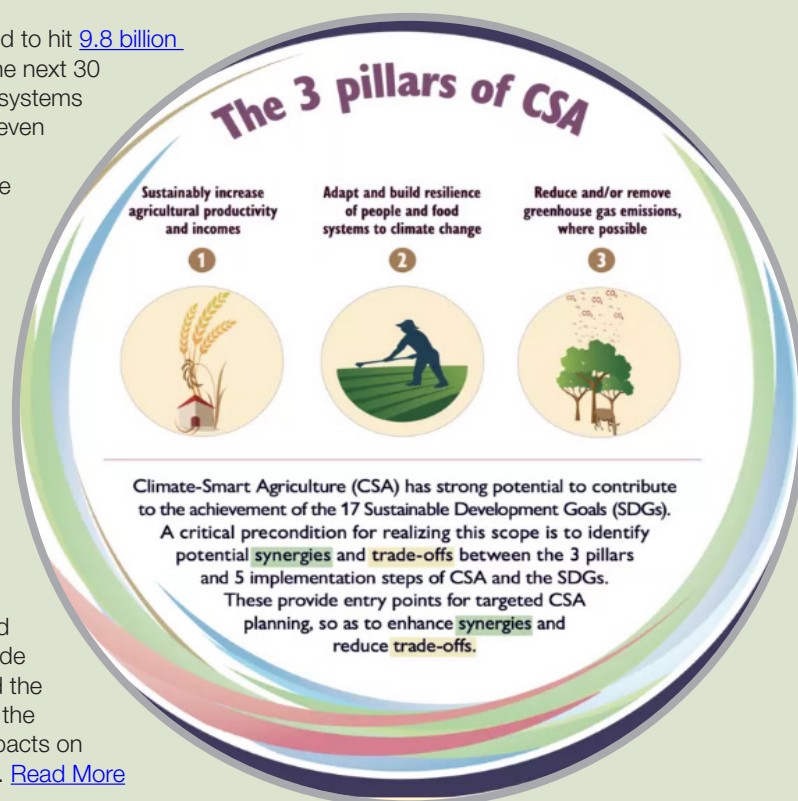
Speaking at the same event, Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement Minister Anxious Masuka said Zimbabwe is already pursuing a selection of climate-smart agriculture adaptations through Pfumvudza which includes conservation agriculture practices such as zero tillage, crop rotation and mulching. [Read More](#)

Why we must scale up climate-smart agriculture to feed a hungrier world

With the world’s population estimated to hit [9.8 billion by 2050](#) – a 2 billion increase over the next 30 years – our current food production systems face an enormous challenge, made even more daunting by climate change. Experts say agriculture must increase its output by a startling 50% in the next 30 years – while *halving* its carbon footprint.

To address the world’s ballooning food needs in the midst of a worsening climate crisis, we must dramatically scale up climate-smart agriculture (CSA), an approach to food production that can improve productivity, increase resilience to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

And it’s possible. As we have learned from implementation for over a decade in Africa and at the farm level around the world, localized CSA practices have the potential for far-reaching positive impacts on the global food system when scaled. [Read More](#)



Conservation Agriculture is a Tool, Not a Goal

The importance of a resilient food and agriculture system is being discussed around the world, but what exactly does “resilience” mean? For farmers, it means the toughness to deal with difficult problems as well as the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances—and always to remember that the purpose of agriculture is to produce safe and healthy food.

The COVID-19 pandemic certainly has demanded resilience from farmers. Yet the essentials of their job have remained the same. They still go into the fields, plant our crops, help them sprout,

protect them from threats, and harvest them for food. And they do this while restoring the environment and being profitable if we want to be farmers in the long term.

Instead, we make it by tending to the soil from which all things grow. Every farmer knows the vital importance of soil, but our dependence on it is more than merely agricultural. It's also deeply human. That's why there's an etymological connection between “human” and “humus”—the name of our earthly species and the name we use to describe the richest soil.

Last week we acknowledged the link by celebrating [World Soil Day](#), which seeks to call attention to how the health of soil improves human wellbeing.

One of our most basic duties is to fight soil erosion. Every time one of us touches the ground, we threaten to take something away from it. That's especially true in traditional farming and its massive disruption of ploughing, which prepares the ground for seeds and kills harmful weeds. This act of violence can wound the soil, removing moisture and nutrients. [Learn More](#)



Promoting agricultural mechanization: Policy guidelines developed

Consequently, a draft of the Ghana Agricultural Engineering Policy and Strategy document has been formulated to guide the agricultural mechanization development to help improve productivity and ensure food security. Agricultural mechanization involves the processes to improve farm labour output via agricultural machinery usage with other supporting tools throughout the production and marketing process.

At a policy dialogue in Accra on agriculture mechanization, the Director of the Agricultural Engineering Services Directorate (AESD), of MOFA, Mr Amatus Deyang, said, “The medium-term approaches include building local capacity for agricultural machinery fabrication and prototype development, encourage local assemble of agricultural machinery, promote renewable energy technologies in agriculture and promote mechanization extension via rural technology information systems.”

Sustainable mechanization Mr Deyang outlined some notable actions being taken by the AESD to advance sustainable agricultural mechanization.

These include facilitating the establishment of 176 AMSECs, the development of human capacity in agricultural machinery management, operations and maintenance to ensure proper use and reduction in machinery breakdown (over 1,200 tractor operators across the country since 2018) and the nationwide construction of warehouses for proper storage of farm produce and reduction in post-harvest losses. [Learn More](#)

“Happy Seeder” saves farmers money over burning straw, new study in India shows



Compared to conventional tillage practices, sowing wheat directly into just-harvested rice fields without burning or removing straw or other residues will not only reduce pollution in New Delhi and other parts of northern India, but will save over \$130 per hectare in farmer expenses, lessen irrigation needs by as much as 25%, and allow early planting of wheat to avoid yield-reducing heat stress, according to a new study published in the [International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability](#).

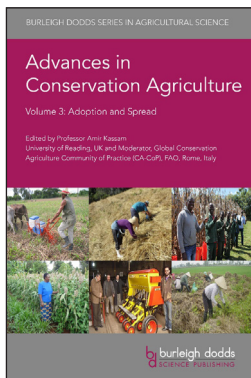
Authors conclude that no-till, no-burn practices can cut severe pollution in northern India and that they merit strong policy support, including enforcement of bans on burning straw.

The practice requires use of a tractor-mounted implement that opens grooves in the soil, drops in wheat seed and fertilizer, and covers the seeded row, all in one pass. This contrasts with the typical method for planting wheat after rice, which involves first burning rice residues, followed by multiple tractor passes to plough, harrow, plank, and sow, according to Harminder S. Sidhu,

principal research engineer at the Borlaug Institute for South Asia ([BISA](#)) and a co-author of the study.

“There are already some 11,000 of these specialized no-till implements, known as the Happy Seeder, in operation across northern India,” said Sidhu, who with other researchers helped develop, test and refine the implement over 15 years. “In addition to sowing, the Happy Seeder shreds and clears rice residues from the seeder path and deposits them back onto the seeded row as a protective mulch.” Covering some 13.5 million hectares, the Indo-Gangetic Plain stretches across Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan and constitutes South Asia’s breadbasket. In India, the north-western state of Punjab alone produces nearly a third of the country’s rice and wheat.

Some 2.5 million farmers in northern India practice rice-wheat cropping and most burn their rice straw — an estimated 23 million tons of it — after rice harvest, to clear fields for sowing wheat. Straw removal and burning degrades soil fertility and creates a noxious cloud that affects the livelihoods and health of millions in cities and villages downwind. Air pollution is the second leading contributor to disease in India, and studies attribute some 66,000 deaths yearly to breathing in airborne nano-particles produced by agricultural burning. [Learn More](#)



Advances in Conservation Agriculture Volume 3: Adoption and Spread

With growing scientific concern around the limitations of tillage-based agriculture, coupled with

the sector's need to contribute to being more sustainable, the development and adoption of alternative farming techniques has never been more important. Conservation Agriculture (CA) is emerging as a key alternative. The foundations of CA are built upon the use of no-till techniques and the use of rotations and cover crops to optimize different aspects of soil and crop health and resilience.

Advances in Conservation Agriculture Volume 3: Adoption and Spread provides an authoritative review from an array of international experts on the adoption of CA principles in different regions around the world. The final volume in this collection reviews the effectiveness of CA in differing contexts (e.g. in drier conditions where water conservation is important or in areas with poor soil) and refers to the wealth of research and experiential evidence currently available.

Edited by Professor Amir Kassam, University of Reading, UK, *Advances in Conservation Agriculture Volume 3:*

Adoption and Spread will be a standard reference for those interested in adopting CA principles, including crop scientists researching low-input and organic agriculture, soil scientists, national organizations responsible for improving agricultural practices and sustainability, as well as farmers.

Key features

- Summarizes current research on the adoption of CA principles in different regions around the world
- Highlights the emergence of Conservation Agriculture (CA) as a key alternative to tillage-based agriculture
- Reviews the challenges of effective implementation of CA in different contexts (e.g. drier conditions, poor soil quality) [Learn More](#).

Events and Opportunities

2021 Monthly Webinar Series for Operationalization of the F-SAMA

Through the Africa-Mechanize information platform www.africamechanize.org, FAO-RAF and ACT in collaboration with AUC-DREA have planned for a series of Virtual Discussions with SAMA stakeholders in SSA on key activities on Operationalization of F-SAMA throughout 2021.

With the successful launch and conduct of the 2020 first and second Webinar involving Directors/Heads of Agricultural Mechanization & Engineering Services from six countries, the private sector and civil society, the organisers have planned for monthly Webinars starting from February 2021.

These Webinars under the Africa Mechanize platform will be organized around the ten elements of F-SAMA. A Discussion Paper will be prepared for the selected SAMA Element to provide an in-depth analysis of past agricultural mechanization programmatic experience in SSA and elsewhere through it stimulate open and objective discussion and debate as to tease out the reasons for success and/or failure.

Visit the www.africamechanize.org for updates and schedules of the 2021 Webinars.

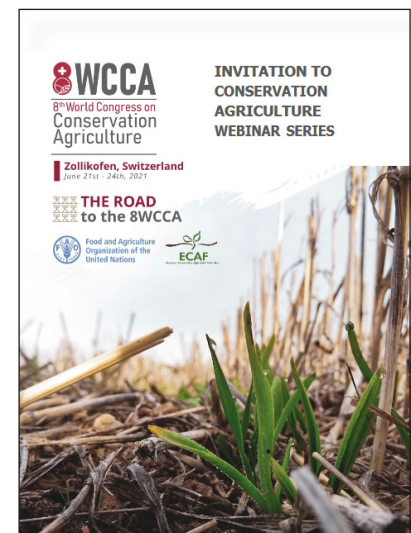
The 8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (8WCCA), POSTPONED to June 21st to 24th, 2021 in Zollikofen, Bern, Switzerland 2021

8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture
Bern, Switzerland
June 29th-July 2nd, 2020

The 8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (8WCCA) is jointly organized by the European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAAF), and its member in Switzerland, Swiss No-till (SNT), with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT). It will be held in Bern, Switzerland, from 21-24 June 2021.

The **theme** of the Congress is: **The Future of Farming: Profitable and Sustainable Farming with Conservation Agriculture**

Conservation Agriculture is a farming system that promotes minimum soil disturbance (i.e. no tillage),



maintenance of a permanent soil cover, and diversification of plant species. It enhances biodiversity and natural biological processes above and below the ground surface, which contribute to increased water and nutrient use efficiency and to improved and sustained crop production <http://www.fao.org/conservation-agriculture/en/>

Find out more on this link [8WCCA](http://www.fao.org/conservation-agriculture/en/)

For more information, please contact: **Executive Secretary | African Conservation Tillage Network**
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