AFRICAN CONSERVATION TILLAGE NETWORK
Partnering for Economic Growth, Improved Food Security and a Better Environment

Updates & News Alert

01/02
January-February 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Editor's view: Introducing the January - February CA & SAM Alert

The Heads of States and Government of the African Union meeting in June 2014, in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea adopted the CAADP–Malabo declaration *to accelerate Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.* The commitments include: (a) ending hunger by 2025, (b) double productivity and reduce post-harvest losses by half, (c) halving poverty by 2025, (d) enhancing resilience in livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other shocks, and (e) bringing down child stunting to 10% and underweight to 5% by 2025.

There is consensus amongst all stakeholders, that achieving the CAADP Malabo Declaration compels for a transformation in the *business as usual* farming practices of the last four decades. We cannot expect different results by doing things the same way; where low productivity, high labour and drudgery demands, feminization of agriculture and associated natural resource degradation are on the increase.

Conservation Agriculture is fully aligned to realization of the African Union's 2014 Malabo Declaration Vision 25x25, https://bit.ly/3qqYeZ1, which *aims to support at least 25 million farm households adopt climate smart agriculture by 2025*. Likewise, the African Union's goal *to send the hand hoe to the museum and liberate the African farmer from the backbreaking drudgery of tilling the land by hand* calls for operationalization of the 2018 Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa SAMA Framework. The Framework does also emphasize that mechanization should cover the entire agri-food value chain, including harvesting, post-harvest handling, and processing operations to increase the quality and value of the agricultural production, reduce food losses, incorporate food safety aspects and strengthen farmer-market linkages.

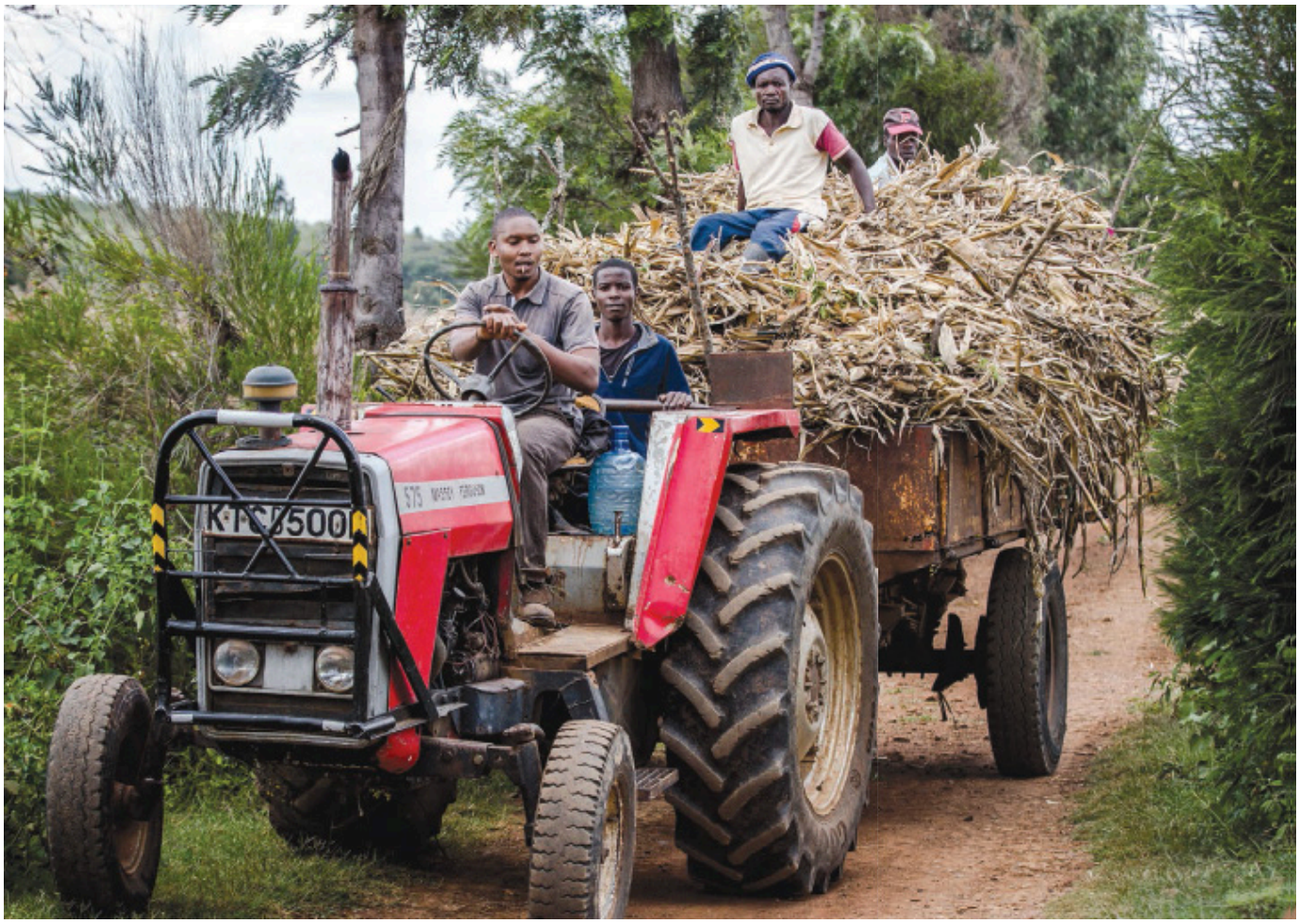
It is against this background that the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) continues to promote and advocate for agricultural transformation and intensification in Africa through adoption of Conservation Agriculture, Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization and other climate smart agriculture (CSA) systems. Most of ACT's programmes and projects are thematically geared towards enhancing economic growth, creation of jobs along the entire agricultural and food systems value chain as well as supporting climate change resilience.

Some of the strategic actions taken include supporting operationalization of the Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization: a framework for Africa (SAMA). The Announcement by the African Union Commission and FAO of the schedule of Webinars for 2021 to be conducted through the Africa-Mechanize information platform www.africamechanize.org, is a move in the right direction.

Besides, ACT acknowledges the various sources, authors, reporters, organizations and practitioners whose articles appear in this January–February 2021 issue Their geo-diversity is clear testimony of the enthusiasm and interest from various organizations, countries, researchers and scientists in Africa towards Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization. We encourage you to share your Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization views and articles capturing their status and extent of adaptation and adoption 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.

Joint Actions on 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, the African Union Commission (AUC) and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (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 on the significance of mainstreaming SAM in the overall national and regional agricultural development programmes.

During the fourth quarter of 2020, through the Africa-Mechanize information platform www.africamechanize.org, FAO and the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) in collaboration with AUC-DARBE organized a series of Virtual Discussions with Directors and Heads of Agricultural Mechanization Services, farmer organizations, non-governmental organization, the private sector and other selected stakeholders of SAMA in SSA on key initial activities on operationalization of F-SAMA. The objective here was to create a participatory environment for the establishment of a regional implementation mechanism of F-SAMA as well as facilitate the creation of a Network for Information exchange using the Africa-Mechanize Information Platform.

To sustain the momentum of the continental information exchange through the Webinars initiated in 2020, the next series of Discussions/Webinars under the Africa Mechanize platform for 2021 will be organized around the ten elements of F-SAMA; as an assurance and in compliance to the African Union's long-term vision of agricultural development and food security of the continent and in attaining the Malabo goals. For each of the selected elements, a **Discussion Paper**, providing in-depth analysis of past agricultural mechanization programmatic experience in SSA and elsewhere, will be prepared and presented to stimulate open and objective discussions and debates, so as to tease out accordingly the reasons for success and/or failure. The record of the deliberations will contribute towards the formulation of detailed guidelines, vital in helping member countries design and formulate policies, strategies and action plans for the implementation of F-SAMA. The captured recordings and meeting reports will be synthesized and also shared as Guidelines, Policy briefs, Newsletters and Essays will be shared openly and widely on the Africa-Mechanize information platform in both English and French.

Read more: F-SAMA Webinars Announcement

Conservation Agriculture: Helping small-scale farmers in Zambia build resilience to climate shocks, increase food production and engage in agribusiness for income generation

Patricia Munwela's home was inundated during an unexpected flood, sweeping away her belongings. And just when the floodwater had receded, pests invaded her maize field, destroying her entire crop. The mother of five said flooding is so rare in her village that she can't remember a similar disaster in her lifetime. "We are constantly hit by drought in this area. What should have been a blessing turned into a night-mare," she lamented.

With much of Zambia's rural population dependent on rain-fed agriculture, the negative impacts of weather extremes are felt by all. But with the help of a United Nations-backed project locally known as SCRALA, farming communities are fighting back - building more on-the-ground resilience to climate change - a phenomenon Patricia reckons, has come to stay.

Like thousands of other residents of the area – and millions of small-scale farmers across Zambia – Patricia is struggling to cope with increasingly wild weather, including unexpected swings between droughts and floods. She also struggles with pests and crop diseases. That was until a year ago, when a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-led partnership involving FAO and WFP with the Government of Zambia through the Ministry of Agriculture introduced the 'Conservation Agriculture' initiative in her village. With the help of 15 UN Volunteers deployed across the country, the project started teaching small-scale farmers how to produce reliable crops even in unreliable weather.

SCRALA project promotes low-till farming alongside other climate-friendly farming techniques, such as rotating crops, adopting drought-tolerant varieties and using certified seeds with an objective to boost crop yields and food security.

The scheme is part of a $137m funding from the Zambian Government, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and UNDP under the title: Strengthening Climate Resilience of Agricultural Livelihoods in Agro-Ecological Regions I and II in Zambia (SCRALA) project. The project helps 16 particularly climate-vulnerable districts in the country cope better with climate change threats through sustainable growing techniques and better understanding of climate issues Read More

The "Strengthening climate resilience of agricultural livelihoods in Agro-Ecological Regions I and II in Zambia" project supports the Government of Zambia to strengthen the capacity of farmers to plan for climate risks that threaten to derail development gains, promote climate resilient agricultural production and diversification practices to improve food security and income generation, improve access to markets, and foster the commercialization pf climate-resilient agricultural commodities. Photo: UNDP

Impacts of COVID-19 on agriculture: Italy's response

Italy is classified as a high-income country. Italy and FAO work together to pursue the common objectives of reducing poverty and ending hunger and malnutrition worldwide. With 1.1 million farms, Italy has 12.6 million ha of agricultural land and an average farm size of 11 ha. In 2019, Italy confirmed its first position in EU 28 with € 31.9 billion of agricultural value added. Thanks to the rapid technological development that has taken place in recent years, agriculture is experiencing a revolution. The advent of new machines and tools for agriculture, such as satellites, drones, proximal sensors, software and robotics are bringing numerous benefits both in agronomic and economic terms.

The spread of COVID-19 and the measures implemented to limit the infection have deeply impacted all economic sectors in Italy. With many hotels, restaurants, cafés (HoReCa channel) and schools shut for business, food producers have risked to be penalized by excess stock (especially of perishable food) and low liquidity. Pivoting supply toward retail consumers was further complicated by the closure of local markets, changed market demand, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures related to trade. The combination of these effects put a strain on the food system as a whole.

Lockdown measures and border closure also disrupted the usual organization of work and flow of labour, causing risks of seasonal workers' shortages for the spring harvest. Rural tourism was impacted due to the cancellation of all farm stay accommodations.

However, the Italian agro-food chain has demonstrated great resilience to guarantee the supply of food to consumers. During the pandemic, the government took numerous measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on all production activities. These were based on two fundamental principles of ensuring public safety for all citizens and Containing the social and economic impact of COVID-19. In addition to the measures provided to address the financial impact of COVID-19 on all production sectors, the government set up specific schemes for the agro-food sector allocating more than € 1.1 billion.

In Italy, there are different levels of mechanization, from a very basic level which includes the use of traditional mechanization lines, to an advanced level which includes a wide use of smart devices. The promotion of precision agriculture started in 2016, when Italy launched the Agriculture 4.0 program. The new technologies introduced by this program have helped farmers better address challenges brought on by COVID-19. Satellites, drones, sensors assembled on tractors and fixed chambers installed in the field allowed farmers to monitor crop growth remotely and verify field conditions while monitoring interventions in person were not allowed.

The set of collected data fed agronomic models capable of providing farmers with decision support for the optimization of several agricultural practices like fertilization plans, irrigation advice, crop protection models, etc. Read more

Conservation Agriculture mechanisation good for Ghana's future – experts

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has called for an urgent adoption of Conservation Agriculture (CA) mechanisation in Ghana to help the country boost its food production whilst increasing the sector's contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

This follows the continue decline of the agricultural sector's contribution to the GDP from 50 per cent in the 1980s to 18.5 per cent in 2019, owning to increasing land degradation and contamination of the natural environment coupled with the impact of climate change.

MOFA, Ghana in collaboration with the FAO has called for an urgent adoption of Conservation Agriculture (CA) mechanization in Ghana to help the country boost its food production whilst increasing the sector's contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

CA seeks to minimize soil disturbance for proper environment for seed germination and seedling establishment (reduced or no tillage) in order to preserve soil structure, improve soil health, reduce runoff, limit the extent of erosion and promote certain economic and environmental benefits.

Speaking at the opening session of a two-day **conference of experts and practitioners** on status and progress of CA mechanization in Ghana in Accra on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, the Deputy Director and Head of Environment and Climate Change Unit of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), Mr Kingsley Amoakoh, said, "Mechanization plays a critical role in adoption and practice of CA, particularly in the area of land preparation and management." He added that the ability to carry out field activities such as land preparation and planting with minimum soil disturbance depends on the availability and design of appropriate equipment. For him, minimum soil disturbance is one of the key pillars in CA and provides numerous benefits such as enhancing soil structure, reducing vulnerability of soil to erosion, leading to increased availability of soil nutrients for plant uptake. Read More

Scaling-Up Conservation Agriculture in East Africa Project

Conservation agriculture (CA) has proven effective at restoring soil health, improving the capture and use of rainfall, increasing crop yields and farm profitability, and contributing to climate resilience.

This was a five-year programme leveraging a triangular cooperation approach to enable smallholder farmers in Ethiopia, Kenya and United Republic of Tanzania to practice conservation agriculture. One-third of the agricultural land in Ethiopia, Kenya and United Republic of Tanzania is severely degraded. Food insecurity is already high among smallholder farmers practising rainfed agriculture and is expected to increase as rainfall becomes more erratic. Conservation agriculture (CA) has proven effective at restoring soil health, improving the capture and use of rainfall, increasing crop yields and farm profitability, and contributing to climate resilience. CA has been promoted in East Africa to varying degrees by civil society organizations, governments and agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Africa Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) among others and there is an opportunity for more extension work to increase adoption by farmers, as well as coordination work with multiple actors to bring about policy change at the national level.

This project, implemented by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank with the financial support of Global Affairs Canada, aims to scale up conservation agriculture among male and female smallholder farmers in East Africa. Traditional practices of subsistence agriculture are characterized by low use of inputs, high vulnerability to soil deterioration, and increasingly variable climatic conditions. Conservation agriculture focuses on enhancing soil fertility, improving moisture retention, and reducing soil erosion and tillage through environmentally responsible agricultural practices. The project therefore improves the food security and livelihoods of smallholder farmers while encouraging sustainability, strengthening the empowerment of women, and reducing financial barriers. Activities within the project provide an effective way to address Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, particularly target 2.4, which focuses on sustainable food production systems and climate-resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production. The project's triangular approach is also beneficial to the realization of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals) because it strengthens the means of implementation through a more inclusive and dynamic partnership.

The project includes a partnership with the African Conservation Tillage Network, a regional entity that works across the three recipient countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and United Republic of Tanzania) to create supportive policy and programme environments for conservation agriculture by engaging local, regional and national government officials. The Network serves as a pivotal partner, providing expertise on culturally relevant policy engagement in the region. It has not only engaged successfully with governments in conservation agriculture, but more importantly, has highlighted concerns and insights of farmers, further boosting the need for policy changes. The Network's leadership and management brought fruitful and unexpected results in terms of realizing significant progress on the project's policy objectives. Learn More

Climate resilient agriculture systems: The way ahead

Climate change can reduce agricultural income by 15-25 per cent; it is high time that rationale of climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) is valued and implemented more rigorously. Following are crucial to address the climate change and achieve sustainable development goals (SDG) in India:

- Adaptation of appropriate mitigation technologies such as the cultivation of tolerant breeds to overcome the climate stress

Water and nutrient management for efficient productivity and resource utilization

- Agro-advisories for timely crop monitoring
- Conservation agricultural practices to build soil organic carbon and to build congenial environment for plant growth, manure management

Climate resilient agriculture practices can help reduce hunger and poverty in the face of climate change

Keeping these challenges in view, the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture, and Farmers Welfare and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has taken several proactive policies that are being implemented at the village level. Climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) is an approach that includes sustainably using existing natural resources through crop and livestock production systems to achieve long-term higher productivity and farm incomes under climate variabilities. This practice reduces hunger and poverty in the face of climate change for forthcoming generations. CRA practices can alter the current situation and sustain agricultural production from the local to the global level, especially in a sustainable manner. Improved access and utilization of technology, transparent trade regimes, increased use of resources conservation technologies, an increased adaptation of crops and livestock to climatic stress are the outcomes from climate-resilient practices.

Most countries have been facing crises due to disasters and conflicts; food security, however, is adversely affected by inadequate food stocks, basic food price fluctuations, high demand for agro-fuels, and abrupt weather changes. Read More

Plate 1:Egon Zunckel (seen here on a wheat land), together with his sons, Tyson and Carl, continually search for methods to improve the production of their wheat and other crops to ensure a sustainable operation.

Irrigated wheat: Conservation farming improves water usage and yield

South Africa's water scarcity and the necessity to import well over one million tons of wheat annually mean that the country's winter wheat growers increasingly have to optimize their water-use efficiencies. KwaZulu-Natal farmer Egon Zunckel spoke to Lloyd Phillips about his family's own efforts to achieve higher wheat yield from less water. Egon Zunckel and his sons, Tyson and Carl, have been implementing conservation agriculture practices, especially no-till, on their farm's commercial mixed grains operation since 1996.

Yet they continue researching and experimenting with ways to improve on the delicate balancing act of increasing crop yields profitably while using natural resources, such as water, ever more sustainably.

The Zunckels' 2 150ha farm, Rustenburg, lies 15km north-west of Bergville in KwaZulu-Natal. The family produces irrigated winter wheat on about 120ha in rotation with both irrigated and dryland summer crops, typically comprising two-thirds yellow maize and one-third soya bean.

South Africa's largest wheat-producing region, the Western Cape, receives the bulk of its annual rainfall in autumn and winter, the growing season. By contrast, most of Rustenburg's 50-year average annual rainfall of 850mm falls in spring and summer. This makes it essential to irrigate winter wheat crops strategically.

Zunckel says that before they introduced no-till, the farm's predominantly Avalon-type arable soils had been prone to capping, poor moisture infiltration, and high water run-off and associated soil erosion. Learn More

Agriculture recovery in motion

ZIMBABWE is an agrarian economy and has huge potential to produce enough for its people and surplus that can be exported to generate foreign currency. However, there is a puzzling divergence between increasing food requirements as a result of population growth and observed inadequate food production and insufficient productivity. This is posing a significant threat on national food security and is imposing unnecessary pressure on the fiscus as the country's food import requirements increases.

Such an untenable situation has necessitated the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Rural Resettlement to develop the Agriculture Recovery Plan (2020 – 2023) to engender the envisaged agricultural transformation agenda aimed at six outcomes: food security, import substitution, diversified exports, value addition, employment, and improved incomes and standards of living of people. The Agriculture Recovery Plan is aligned to the First Five Year National Development Strategy (NDS1).

The Agriculture Recovery Plan was endorsed by Cabinet and launched by His Excellency, the President, Cde Dr E.D Mnangagwa in line with his Vision 2030 of empowering Zimbabwe and propelling all citizens into an upper middle-income status by 2030. The surest inclusive approach where no one is left behind can only be achieved through enhanced agricultural transformation. This will put the economy in good stead to usher stimulus into the rest of the economic sectors. The immediate target is to reverse the continued decline in food production more importantly in all agricultural value chains including the grains and oilseeds sector for household, national food and nutrition security. The best and smartest export is 'not to import' what you can competitively locally produce, hence the import substitution drive. The Agriculture Recovery Plan is being implemented in a space where the Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation Strategy broadly spells out the roadmap of ensuring that the agriculture sector achieves over US$8.2 billion Gross Agriculture Production Value by 2023. Read More

Conservation agriculture: How Romanian farmers can help protect the environment and gain from it

Romanian farmers who are interested in creating a better climate context for future generations can also get financial benefits from this activity by getting better crops and selling carbon certificates on the international markets. By adapting their tillage and cultivation techniques and making the transition to conservation agriculture, farmers can earn an additional EUR 45-105 euro/ha/year, by capturing in the soil 3-7 tons of CO2e/ha/year, according to Commoditrader, a digital trading platform for agricultural commodities, which helps farmers get additional revenues by selling carbon certificates on the international market.

French-born Arnaud Perrein, vice-president of the Romanian Corn Producers Association with 28 years' experience in the Romanian agriculture industry, has adopted a set of measures that contribute to the improvement of his cultivated soil, so that it is more productive and profitable.

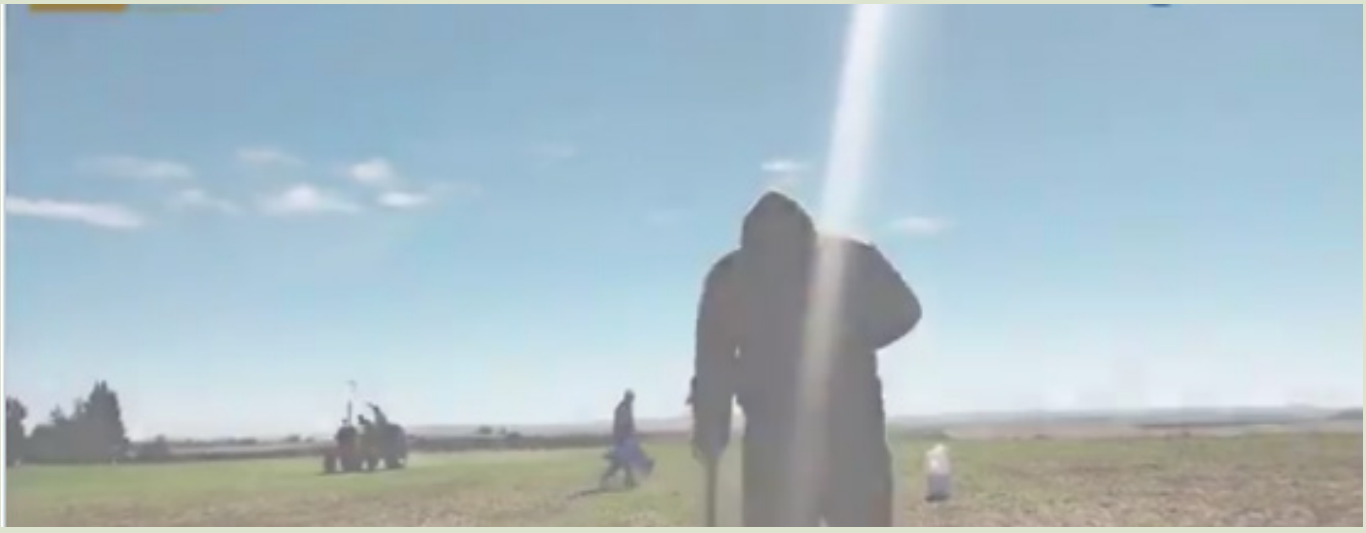
Using conservation agriculture, he cultivates 4,000 hectares of land at Sopema Farm in Ialomita county, in Romania's most fertile region. "Currently we only plough 200 ha of the 4,000 we cultivate. We decided to make the transition from traditional to conservation agriculture primarily out of personal beliefs, because we want to leave something good behind for future generations and then because, personally, I am open to experimenting, losing or gaining through agriculture I practice," says Arnaud Perrein.

Romania is seventh biggest agricultural producer in EU but its potential is underused. On the surfaces he works he has hard and clay soil, worked deep, which forced him to do less tillage. However, he also has areas with very light, sandy lands, where he encounters problems due to wind erosion. This forced him to change the way he is farming, adopting new techniques.

"We do conservation agriculture, we evolve on all sides - spraying, paying attention to the fertilizers used and the cultivated varieties, we leave the land as little uncovered between two crops and then we get a complete result of several measures taken. We expect these actions to lead to positive results in the medium and long term. Every year we have better and better productions and we are even better, we earn more per hectare. We hope that the green crops we have will help us in time to develop the qualities of the soil and to cultivate these lands more easily."

Conservation agriculture is based on five essential principles: crop rotation, reduction of soil disturbances, optimal distribution of residues, green fields throughout the year, and optimized fertility. Crops become more drought tolerant and absorb rainwater more efficiently, which contributes to better nutrient storage and improved soil quality. Read More

Conserve Terra: Towards Conservation Agriculture in the Mediterranean Area



Strategic #tillage is a key factor in increasing the efficacy and productivity of #Conservation Agriculture systems. Check this great video from our partner West Maroc to learn how we assess this. Watch the video.

ConServeTerra is a PRIMA (prima-med.org/) funded Research and Innovation project tackling the constraints to greater Conservation Agriculture (CA) adoption in the Mediterranean area. ConServeTerra will directly target rarely addressed adoption constraints of CA systems and develop applicable and adoptable systems. One example of such adoption constraint is the human dimension of soil degradation, which is rooted in the socio-economic, political, cultural and mental environment. ConServeTerra is designed with the premise that main constraints hampering wider adoption of CA across the Mediterranean region are associated with mental and cultural attitudes, as well as social determinants towards soil and its management. Read more

Events and Opportunities

ACIAR SDIP Webinar Series: commercialization of smallholder's Conservation Agriculture-based planters in Bangladesh: Lessons learnt

Conservation Agriculture (CA) delivers multiple benefits for crop cultivation, and is becoming increasingly popular worldwide. However, CA is not a single ready-made and simple technology that can be adopted everywhere without necessary farm-level refinement. CA practitioners may need to incorporate changes in practices, and build experience over several years to fully learn how to optimize the technology for a particular crop or farm. Getting the implementation of CA right is critical in resource limited, intensively cropped and rice-based smallholder farms. This webinar is a reflection of two decades of research into CA performance, farmers' adoption and service providers' feedback on CA practices in rainfed and irrigated systems in intensively managed farming systems in Bangladesh.

Lessons will be presented that will be useful for a range of stakeholders who are interested in promoting CA, including extensionists, researchers, teachers, students and policy planners. They can help support the implementation of CA in smallholder regions where food security, soil health and livelihoods are an issue, and to contribute to mitigation of global warming. Learn More Register Here

Framework for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa (F-SAMA) Webinars Announcement

To sustain the momentum of the continental information exchange through the Webinars initiated in 2020 (as contained in the https://www.africamechanize.org/webinar-portal/), the next series of Discussions/Webinars under the Africa Mechanize platform for 2021 will be organized around the ten elements of F-SAMA; as an assurance and in compliance to the African Union's long-term vision of agricultural development and food security of the continent and in attaining the Malabo goals. These webinars and discussion forums are being organized by the African Union (https://au.int/), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (www.fao.org) and African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) (www.act-africa.org).

For more information schedule webinars and registration, visit the site https://www.africamechanize.org/

European Agricultural Machinery Industry Virtual Summit 2021

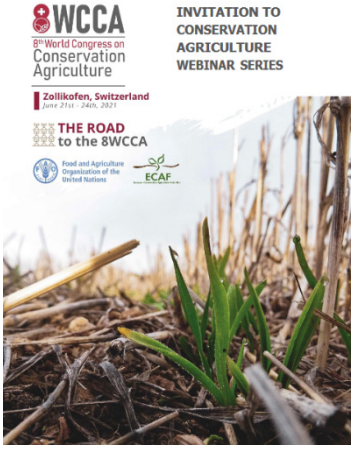
The **European Agricultural Machinery Industry** presents its **Virtual #CEMA-Summit** 2021 on **Seeding the Future of Sustainable Farming:** *Advanced Farm Machines & solutions to deliver on the European Green Deal* on 14**th of April 2021.**

The CEMASummit 2021 will be the forum to strike a balance, assess progress and connect technology with the challenges EU agriculture faces today on the aspirations for tomorrow. Farmers, ag machinery business leaders, EU decision-makers and various stakeholders will meet virtually to discuss:

- Are EU targets to move into more sustainable farming practices aligned with current realities?
- What is the role of farm machinery technology in delivering more sustainable agriculture?
- Are technology and digital farming tools the key to success?
- Are European policies setting the right mechanisms to invest in a sound transition?
- Is the new CAP designed to keep a united agri-food sector in Europe?

More information about the summit is available on the link Read more. You can also register here

The 8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (8WCCA), scheduled for June 21st to 24th, 2021 in Zollikofen, Bern, Switzerland2021



The Organizing Committee invites you with great pleasure to the 8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (8WCCA) (https://8wcca.org/, which will be held as a virtual meeting in Bern, Switzerland from 21st – 25th June 2021. The theme of the Congress is: ***The Future of Farming: Profitable and Sustainable Farming with Conservation Agriculture***. The online in-door Congress will be held from June 21st to 23rd, 2021 in 'Bern', Switzerland. A two-day programme of Field Days on June 24th and 25th will be organized to allow for a broad and safe participation of all interested participants. The Field Days will take place at the estate 'Witzwil', about 40 minutes away from Bern.

The 8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture provides you with the unique opportunity to shape the future of "Profitable and Sustainable Farming with Conservation Agriculture". 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.

More and updated information about the congress are available on the 5th Announcement

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

ACT acknowledges the partnership and financial support provided by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) towards Promotion of Conservation Agriculture in Africa