

Alert No. 69 (26 September 2021)

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Conservation Agriculture is an ecological approach to regenerative sustainable agriculture and ecosystem management based on the practical application of context-specific and locally adapted three interlinked principles of: (i) Continuous no or minimum mechanical

soil disturbance (no-till seeding/planting and weeding, and minimum soil disturbance with all other farm operations including harvesting); (ii) permanent maintenance of soil mulch cover (crop biomass, stubble and cover crops); and (iii) diversification of cropping system (economically, environmentally and socially adapted rotations and/or sequences and/or associations involving annuals and/or perennials, including legumes and cover crops). These practices are complemented with other good agricultural production and land management practices. Conservation Agriculture systems are present in all continents, involving rainfed and irrigated systems including annual cropland systems, perennial systems, orchards and plantation systems, agroforestry systems, crop-livestock systems, pasture and rangeland systems, organic production systems and rice-based systems. Conservation Agriculture systems operate regeneratively at multiple levels to harness a range of productivity, economic, environmental and social benefits as well as address local and global concerns related to food and water security, climate change, land degradation, biodiversity and smallholder agricultural development. Conservation Tillage, Reduced Tillage, Low tillage and Minimum Tillage are not Conservation Agriculture, and nor is No-Till on its own (more at: <http://www.fao.org/conservation-agriculture>).

The 2015/16 CA area information available from: [**Global spread of Conservation Agriculture. By A. Kassam et al. International Journal of Environmental Studies. Published Online \(2018\).**](#)

The 2018/19 CA are information available at: [**CA Stat — CA Global \(ca-global.net\)**](#)

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