

APPENDIX 1

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM IAE/GTZ CONTILL PROJECT ON FIELD APPLICATIONS OF CONSERVATION TILLAGE SYSTEMS

At the last meeting of the Soil and Water Resources Committee of the NRB, the Chairman asked if members of the Contill Project could recommend to the Board circumstances where each conservation tillage is most likely to apply. Below are the recommendations from the team.

The recommendations should be considered as preliminary as the research is not yet complete.

A. **NO-TILL TIED-RIDGING - Planting on the ridge**

1. Zones I to IV.
2. Applicable to both small and large-scale farms.
3. All cultivatable soils in Zones I to IV but excluding very sandy soils in Zone IV.
4. Particular on wet lands and where residues are not available for ripping into residues.

Present extension emphasis is to promote method in small-scale farming areas.

B. **RIP INTO RESIDUES, TINE PLANTING AND DIRECT DRILLING**

1. Zones I to V.
2. Only where sufficient residues are available to give more than 30% ground cover.
3. On well drained soils, or on poorly drained soils where surface drainage provided e.g. the ridge and furrow (camber bed) system.
4. Capping soils may initially require inter-row rippings or mechanical cultivations to minimise capping effects until soil structure has improved.

Present extension emphasis is to promote method on commercial farms.

C. **OTHERS**

1. Ripping, Drag Harrowing, Potholing and Badza Holing Out into bare soil (i.e. less than 30% residue cover) cannot be recommended at the moment due to lack of evidence that they are sustainable.