

**Alert No. 20 (13 April 2012)**

- 1. Regional Dialogue on Conservation Agriculture in South Asia. Proceedings and Recommendations.** The Dialogue was organized jointly by APAARI, CIMMYT and ICAR, 1-2 November 2011, New Delhi, India. The [proceedings](#) are available as PDF.
- 2. Aapresid Congress 20th, 8-10 August 2011, Rosario, Argentina.** The next Aapresid Congress (20th) will be held from the 8th to 10th August 2012 in Rosario, Argentina.  
The videos of workshops at the 19th Aapresid Congress held from 17 to 19 August 2011 can be seen at: <http://www.cq.org.ar/videos.asp>  
The videos of the conference at the 2011 Congress can be seen at: <http://www.agrositio.com/videoconferencias/aapresid2011/diferido.asp>
- 3. Third International Conference in South East Asia, Hanoi, 10-15 December 2012.** Attached is the Call for Papers, with more information is available at [www.conservation-agriculture2012.org](http://www.conservation-agriculture2012.org)
- 4. Conservation agriculture in the dry Mediterranean climate.** By Amir Kassam, Theodor Friedrich, Rolf Derpsch, Rabah Lahmar, Rachid Mrabet, Gottlieb Basch, Emilio J. González-Sánchez, Rachid Serraj. Field Crops Res. (2012), doi:10.1016/j.fcr.2012.02.023.
- 5. No-till in northern, western and south-western Europe: A review of problems and opportunities for crop production and the environment.** By B.D. Soane, B.C. Ball, J. Arvidsson, G. Basch, F. Moreno, J. Roger-Estrade, Soil & Tillage Research 118 (2012) 66–87. doi:10.1016/j.still.2011.10.015.
- 6. Conservation agriculture for small holder rainfed farming: Opportunities and constraints of new mechanized seeding systems.** By C. Johansen, M.E. Haque, R.W. Bell, C. Thierfelder, R.J. Esdaile. Field Crops Research (2012), doi:10.1016/j.fcr.2011.11.026.
- 7. Mulch type affects soil biological functioning and crop yield of conservation agriculture systems in a long-term experiment in Madagascar.** By Djibril Djigal, Stéphane Saj, Bodovololona Rabary, Eric Blanchart, Cécile Villenave. Soil & Tillage Research 118: 11–21 (2012). doi:10.1016/j.still.2011.10.008.

8. **Trade-offs between biomass use and soil cover. The case of rice-based cropping system in the Lake Alaotra region of Madagascar.** By K. Naudin, E. Scopel, A. L. H. Andriamandroso, M. Rakotosolof, N. R. S. Andriamarosa Ratsimbazafy, J. N. Rakotozandriny, P. Salgado and K. E. Giller. *Expl Agric.* (2011), doi:10.1017/S001447971100113x.
9. **The adoption of conservation tillage in China.** By Jin He, Hong-Wen Li, Qing-Jie Wang, Huang-Wen Gao, Wen-Ying Li, Xue-Min Zhang, and Milt McGiffen. *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 1195 (2010) E96–E106, doi: 10.1111/j.1749-6632.2009.05402.x
10. **Direct Seeding reduces wheat stress and improves yields.** By Wang, H., Lemke, R., Goddard, T. and Sprout, C. 2007. Tillage and root heat stress in wheat in central Alberta. *Canadian Journal of Soil Science* 87:3-10.
11. **Tillage and root heat stress in wheat in central Alberta.** By H. Wang, R. Lemke, T. Goddard, and C. Sprout, *Can. J. Soil Sci.* 87: 3–10 (2006)
12. **Conservation practices to mitigate and adapt to climate change.** By Jorge A. Delgado, Peter M. Groffman, Mark A. Nearing, Tom Goddard, Don Reicosky, Rattan Lal, Newell R. Kitchen, Charles W. Rice, Dan Towery, and Paul Salon. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*, VOL. 66 (4) (2011) 118A-129A.
13. **Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Crop Intensification in Karatu District, Tanzania.** By Marietha Owenya, Wilfred Mariki, Alastair Stewart, Theodor Friedrich, Josef Kienzle, Amir Kassam, Richard Shetto and Saidi Mkomwa. *Integrated Crop Management Vol. 15* (2012). FAO, Rome.  
This is a case study describing the introduction and pilot scaling of Conservation Agriculture in Northern Tanzania and showing the impacts on production, environment and farmers' livelihoods.
14. **Soil Organic Carbon Accumulation and Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions from Conservation Agriculture: A Literature Review.** By Sandra Corsi, Theodore Friedrich, Amir Kassam, Michele Pisante and Joao de Morães Sà. *Integrated Crops Management Vol. 16* (2012). FAO, Rome.  
This review is a detailed meta analysis of literature on carbon sequestration with the objective to provide greater clarity on the question: Under which conditions agricultural land management systems can sequester carbon? It also provides answers to the reasons for the confusion in understanding that exists regarding the question whether no-till systems can sequester carbon?
15. **Making Sustainable Agriculture Real in CAP 2020: The Role of Conservation Agriculture.** By Gottleib Basch, Amir Kassam, Emilio J. González-Sánchez and Bernhard Streit. *European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAAF)*. Brussels, Belgium.  
This is a guideline for policy-makers involved in the process of reforming the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP).

**16. Conservation Agriculture Research Study 2011.** Irish Aid and Concern Universal.

A study was jointly commissioned by Concern Universal and the Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security to assess the appropriateness and viability of Conservation Agriculture as a technological approach to increasing the agricultural production of smallholder vulnerable households in Malawi. The aim of the study is to inform policy and practice and stimulate discussions and critical thinking amongst government, donors and development practitioners.

**17. Conservation Agriculture to Boost Food Security.** The Zimbabwe Herald, 2 March 2012. – Conservation Agriculture in the News.

Government of Zimbabwe with support from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Common Market for East and Southern Africa has launched the Conservation Agriculture Up-scaling Framework for Zimbabwe. The framework seeks to map the most effective way of promoting the technology to boost food security and well being of local farmers.

**18. Two wheel tractor newsletter March 2012.** By R J. (Jeff) Esdaile, Australia

The Newsletter highlights new developments on small direct seed drills and planters for single axle tractors.

**19. Up-dated CA Data Base in AquaStat, FAO.**

The CA land area data base has been updated based on the feedback received from our regular sources of information and has been posted in AquaStat. The latest figures can be seen at the FAO CA-Website at (<http://www.fao.org/ag/ca/6c.html>).

However, updating of the data base is an ongoing process, and anyone who would like to provide information on the land area under CA systems at the national level is most welcome to do anytime. Ideally, we would appreciate receiving the CA area information at the sub-national level, together with any relevant historical information on adoption, cropping pattern, farm size, agro-ecology, constraints, etc.

For the recording of area under CA, please adhere to the quantification of the CA definition on the FAO-CA website: <http://www.fao.org/ag/ca/6c.html>

**1. Minimum Soil Disturbance:** Minimum soil disturbance refers to low disturbance no-tillage and direct seeding. The disturbed area must be less than 15 cm wide or less than 25% of the cropped area (whichever is lower). There should be no periodic tillage that disturbs a greater area than the aforementioned limits. Strip tillage is allowed if the disturbed area is less than the set limits.

**2. Organic soil cover:** Three categories are distinguished: 30-60%, >60-90% and >90% ground cover, measured immediately after the direct seeding operation. Area with less than 30% cover is not considered as CA.

**3. Crop rotation/association:** Rotations/associations should involve at least 3 different crops. However, repetitive wheat or maize cropping is not an exclusion factor for the purpose of this data collection, but rotation/association is recorded where practiced.

**We would further like** to stress that the database counts actual land area under annual crops with CA (permanent no-till). Area under perennial crops will be recorded separately. No-till area by crop will not be recorded to avoid double recording of the same land area.

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