

Alert No. 36 (13 October 2014)

1. Agroecology for Africa ∅ AfA 2014, International Conference on Agroecology and Sustainability of Tropical Rainfed Cropping Systems, 03-04 November 2014, Antananarivo, Madagascar.

Conference Themes: The conference seeks to improve both scientific and practical understanding of how agroecology is best integrated in the management of tropical rainfed agriculture for sustainability by African small-scale farmers. Specific themes include:

- 1- Exploring options for sustainable ecological processes and the development of the (agro) biodiversity of rainfed cropping systems.*
- 2- Identifying bottlenecks and opportunities for implementation of Agroecology.*
- 3- Building capacity in climate-smart agriculture through agroecology*

More information at: <http://www.cirad.mg/conference/AFA-2014/>

2. Regional Conference on Conservation Agriculture for Smallholders in Asia and Africa, Bangladesh, 7-11 December 2014.

Conference themes:

- (i) Machinery: Design and development of CA-based crop establishment and herbicides spraying machinery, implements, tools for smallholders.
- (ii) Weed management: Suitable weed management options (chemical, mechanical, crop rotation and biological).
- (iii) Soil, water and agronomy.
- (iv) Commercialization adoption and continuous improvement of CA-based technologies.
- (v) Policy and institutional framework for the adoption of CA.

For more information, visit: <http://www.scac2014.org/>

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**3. Short- to medium-term impact of Conservation Agriculture on yield variability of upland rice in the semi-arid tropics of Nigeria
By Burelle et al. Experimental Agriculture. 2014
(doi:10.1017/S0014479714000155)**

4. No-tillage permanent bed planting and controlled traffic in a maize-cotton irrigated system under Mediterranean conditions: Effects on soil compaction, crop performance and carbon sequestration. By Cid et al. European J Agron 61:24-34 (2014)

5. [DSSAT modelling of Conservation Agriculture maize response to climate change in Malawi. By Ngwira et al. Soil & Tillage Research 143: 85-94 \(2014\)](#)
6. [Conservation Agriculture and ecosystem services: An overview. By Palm et al. Agric Ecosys & Env 187:87-105 \(2014\)](#)
7. [Soil Security: Solving the Global Soil Crisis. By Koch et al. Global Policy \(2013\)](#)
8. [Soil carbon research and global environmental challenges. By Hartemink et al. PeerJ Preprints \(2014\)](#)
(<http://dx.doi.org/10.7287/peerj.preprints.366v1>)
9. [Conservation Agriculture in an irrigated cotton-wheat system of the western Indo-Gangetic Plains: Crop and water productivity and economic profitability. By Das et al. Field Crops Research 158: 124-33 \(2014\)](#)
10. [Nutrient Management and Use Efficiency in Wheat Systems of South Asia. By Jat et al. Advances in Agronomy 125 \(2014\)](#)
11. [On-farm economic and environmental impact of zero-tillage wheat: a case of north-west India. By Aryal et al. Exp Agric \(2014\)](#)
(<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S001447971400012X>)
12. [Development of small/medium size no-till and minimum-till seeders in Asia: A review. By He Jin et al. Int J Agric & Biol Eng 7\(4\):1-12 \(2014\)](#)
13. [Seven years of Conservation Agriculture in a rice-wheat rotation of Eastern Gangetic Plains of South Asia: Yield trends and economic profitability. By Jat et al. Field Crops Research \(2014\)](#)
14. [Dpn n foupo! Fwbnvburph Dpotfswburpo Bhsjdvmsf bps !tn bmscale farmers in Sub-Saharan B qsjb boe !tpvui B tjbà kz B oe fsttpo !fulm! Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment 187: 1-10 \(2014\)](#)
15. [Farmers in Southern Africa Reap Benefits of Conservation Agriculture. CIMMYT Informa No. 1893, June 2014. \(Item 5\)](#)
16. [Limited potential of no-till agriculture for climate change mitigation. By Powlson et al. Nature Climate Change Perspective \(2014\)](#)

17. [Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook. FAO \(2013\)](#)
18. [A monitoring and evaluation report of the Conservation Agriculture Project \(CAP1\) in Zambia. By Aune et al. Noragric Report No. 68 \(2012\)](#)
19. [Conservation Agriculture Cartoon Book by Li Hongwen et al. Popular Science Press and the World Bank \(2014\).](#)
20. [Adapting to climate change through land and water management in Eastern Africa: Results of Pilot Projects in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania](#)
21. [1stAfrica Congress on Conservation Agriculture. Book of Condensed Papers. 18-21 March 2014. African Conservation Tillage \(ACT\)](#)
22. [Cover crop spring review: Return to Litchfield. Practical Farm Ideas May-August 2014. Soil and Cover Cropping International \(www.farmideas.co.uk\)](#)
23. **Up-dating Conservation Agriculture Data Base in AquaStat, FAO**

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

We are updating the CA land area data base displayed in AquaStat (www.fao.org/ag/ca), and are contacting our regular sources of information in the next few weeks. However, anyone else who would like to provide information on the land area under CA systems at the national level would be most welcome.

Ideally, we would appreciate receiving from you the CA area information at the sub-national level (by state, province or region), together with any relevant historical information on adoption (such as when was CA introduced; duration under CA – x ha under 3 yrs, y ha between 3 and 6 yrs, z ha more than 6 yrs), cropping pattern, farm size, agro-ecology, constraints, etc.

For the recording purpose please adhere to the reference 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 for seeding 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. Area under strip tillage can be included only if the disturbed area is less than the above set limits.

2. *Maintenance of organic soil cover*: Three categories are distinguished: 30-60%, >60-90% and >90% ground cover, measured immediately after the direct seeding/planting operation. For this data base, area with less than 30% cover is not considered as being under CA.

3. Crop rotation/association: Rotation/association should involve at least 3 different crops. However, repetitive wheat or maize or rice cropping that meets requirements 1 and 2 above 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). No-till area by crop will not be recorded to avoid double recording of the same land area.

Area under perennial crop systems including orchards and permanent pastures will be recorded separately. If there is CA land area under perennial crop systems in the country, please include the information as separate categories at the sub-national level (by state, province or region), together with any relevant historical information on adoption (such as when was CA introduced; duration under CA – x ha under 3 yrs, y ha between 3 to 6 yrs, z ha more than 6 yrs), cropping pattern, farm size, agro-ecology, constraints, etc.

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Sustainable Crop Production Intensification

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