

Alert No. 13 (7 December 2010)

1. No-Till Farming Systems can be translated into any language

The No-Till Farming Systems that WASWAC had published in 2008 has been translated to Chinese and will be available in the book form very soon. The French edition, translated by Ms Nahid Elbezzaz of Morocco, will also be available soon. If any country wants to translate to any other language, just let WASWAC know and they will cooperate by granting permission without any fee and will furnish original photographs in addition too. The book contains no-tillage experience from about 20 countries. Contact: Dr. Samran Sombatpanit at: sombatpanit@yahoo.com or samran_sombatpanit@yahoo.com

2. Conservation agriculture towards achieving food security in North East India.

Conservation agriculture towards achieving food security in North East India. By P. K. Ghosh, Anup Das, Ritesh Saha, Enboklang Kharkrang, A. K. Tripathi, G. C. Munda and S. V. Ngachan. *Current Science*, Vol. 99, No. 7, 10 October 2010. ([link to the paper](#))

3. Green Manure/Cover Crops and Crop Rotation in Conservation Agriculture on Small Farms

Green Manure/Cover Crops and Crop Rotation in Conservation Agriculture on Small Farms by Miguel Angel Florentin, Marcos Penalva, Ademir Caligari and Rold Derpsch (Translated by Melissa J. McDonald). *Integrated Crop Management* Vol. 12, 2010. This publication is in press and will soon be available on the website: www.fao.org/ag/ca

4. Conservation Agriculture Network for South East Asia (CANESA)

Regional Coordinator of the Conservation Agriculture Network for South East Asia was created in September 2009 comprising six countries (China –Yunnan; Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam). CIRAD is a key partner of the network. Jean-Claude Legoupil (jclegoupil@etllao.com) is the Coordinator of the Network. He is based at the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Projet d'Appui Sectoriel en Agro-Ecologie (PROSA), Vientiane Capital, 01000 Lao, RDP (<http://www.cansea.org.la/cansea/index.php/en/home-topmenu>)

5. Three videos on Conservation Agriculture/DMC in Laos

Hereunder three interesting videos on CA/DMC in Laos, from Lao MAF/ NAFRI-AFD/CIRAD PRONAE Project.

1. FILIERE MAIS A XAYABOURY
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xfvuuh_scv-filiere-mais-a-xayaboury_news
2. POTENTIEL RIZ A XIENG KUHANG
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xfuv7g_scv-au-laos-le-potentiel-riz-a-xieng-kuhang_news
3. AGRICULTURE DE CONSERVATION AU LAOS
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xfwff7_agriculture-de-conservation-au-laos_news

6. Conservation Agriculture in Azerbaijan

FAO is involved in promoting CA in Azerbaijan. In November, CA machinery was demonstrated in Salmanbeyli village of Agjabedi for the first time in the republic. Contact Walter de Oliveira (Walter.DeOliveira@fao.org), CTA, FAO Office in Barda, Azerbaijan. Also, Details, available at: <http://www.today.az/news/business/77258.html>

7. 5th World Congress of Conservation Agriculture incorporating 3rd Farming Systems Design Conference, 26-29th September 2011 Brisbane Australia.

The 5th WCCA website is online at <http://www.wcca2011.org/> Australia, host for the 5th WCCA and 3rd FSD, welcomes scientists and practitioners to Brisbane to discuss current and future developments of sustainable agriculture next year. Conference program options and tours will cater for different interest groups, and take advantage of Brisbane's proximity to intensive, extensive and sub-tropical farming, as well as to world leading research groups and facilities. Next deadline for submitting condensed papers is 15 January 2011.

8. Proceedings of the European Congress on Conservation Agriculture: Towards agro-environmental, climate and energetic sustainability, held in Madrid 4th-7th October 2010

The Spanish Conservation Agriculture Association / Living Soils (AEAC/SV), jointly with the European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAAF) and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) organized the "**European Congress on Conservation Agriculture: Towards agro-environmental, climate and energetic sustainability**" which was held in Madrid, 4th-7th October 2010. Papers and presentations will soon be available at the website: www.eurocongressca.eu

9. Updating CA Data base in AquaStat, FAO

We are updating the CA land area data base displayed in AquaStat (www.fao.org/ag/ca), and we have been contacting our regular sources of information. However, anyone 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 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 pls. 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:** Rotation/association 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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