

**Alert No. 21 (22 May 2012)**

- 1. The 9<sup>th</sup> Conservation Agriculture Conference organized by Agro-Soyuz will be held from 19-22 June 2012 in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine**

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- 2. The 20<sup>th</sup> Aapresid Congress will be held from 8-10 August 2012, Rosario, Argentina**

For more information visit the congress site at <http://www.20si.org.ar/>

- 3. International Conference to mark 20 years of work on CA in China, 25-27 October 2012 at Linfen, Shanxi**

2012 is the 20th year of work on Conservation Agriculture in the People's Republic of China. Conservation Tillage Research Centre, Ministry of Agriculture (CTRC), China Agricultural University (CAU), the Shanxi Agricultural Mechanization Bureau (SAMB), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Chinese Society of Agricultural Engineering (CSAE) will organize an international conference from 25-27 October 2012 at Linfen, Shanxi, China, to mark 20 years of work on CA in China. The announcement for the Conference and Call for Papers is attached and more details can be found at: [http://www.cn-ct.net/donet/english/En\\_index.aspx](http://www.cn-ct.net/donet/english/En_index.aspx) (or <http://www.cn-ct.net/>)

- 4. Third International Agronomy Congress on “Agriculture Diversification, Climate Change Management and Livelihoods”, at New Delhi during November 26–30, 2012**

The Indian Society of Agronomy in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), American Society of Agronomy (ASA) and Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi shall be organizing the Third International Agronomy Congress on “*Agriculture Diversification, Climate Change Management and Livelihoods*”, at New Delhi during November 26–30, 2012. The first & Second circular of the Congress are available on Indian Society of Agronomy (ISA) website: [www.isa-india.in](http://www.isa-india.in). (Copy of the second circular is attached for ready reference). The theme of the Congress will be addressed through 10 symposia, of which one pertains to “**Best management practices with conservation agriculture**”

- 5. Third International Conference on Conservation Agriculture in South East Asia, Hanoi, 10-15 December 2012.**

[CIRAD](#) and [NOMAFSI](#) as part of the Conservation Agriculture Network for Southeast Asia ([CANSEA](#)) and the [University of Queensland](#) are delighted to invite scientists, development and extension workers, policy-makers, and graduate / post-graduate students to attend and contribute to the 3rd International Conference on Conservation Agriculture in Southeast Asia which will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 10th-15th December 2012. Conference title is: "**Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Upland Livelihood : Innovations for, with and by Farmers to Adapt to Local and Global Changes**". Attached is the Call for Papers, with more information is available at [www.conservation-agriculture2012.org](http://www.conservation-agriculture2012.org)

6. **A Special Issue of Field Crops Research on Conservation Agriculture in Dry Areas. Field Crops Research Volume 132:1-214 (June 2012). Edited by Rachid Serraj and Kadambot H.M. Siddique. [Volume 132](#)**
7. **On heretics and God's blanket salesmen: [Contested claims for Conservation Agriculture and politics of its promotion in African smallholder farming](#). By J. A. Andersson and K. E. Giller. In: Sumberg, J. And Thompson, J. (eds.) [Contested Agronomy: Agriculture Research in a Changing World](#). Earthscan, London**
8. **Effects of No-Till on Yields as Influenced by Crop and Environmental Factors. By Dustin K. Toliver, James A. Larson, Roland K. Roberts, Burton C. English, Daniel G. De La Torre Ugarte, and Tristram O. West. [Agronomy Journal](#), Volume 104, Issue 2 (2012)**
9. **Meta-analysis on atmospheric carbon capture in Spain through the use of conservation agriculture. By E.J. González-Sánchez, R. Ordóñez-Fernández, R. Carbonell-Bojollo, O. Veroz-González, J.A. Gil-Ribes. [Soil & Tillage Research](#) 122: 52–60 (2012)**
10. **The principles of conservation agriculture. By Kenneth Sayre and Bram Govaerts, [Physiological Breeding I: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Improve Crop Adaptation: Providing a basis for the development of sustainable cropping systems](#)**
11. **Making Conservation Agriculture ever green. By Denis Garrity. [5<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Conservation Agriculture, Brisbane, Australia, September 2011](#)**
12. **Carbon Sequestration in Agricultural Soils. Economic and Sector Work Report No.63795-GLB, Agriculture and Rural Development Department, The World Bank, Washington DC (2012)**

The objective of this report is to improve the knowledge base that informs investment decisions in land management technologies that purposefully sequester soil carbon. The findings reported are based on three exercises. The first was a review of soil carbon dynamics and assessment methods and a meta-analysis of soil carbon sequestration rates in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The second exercise was to apply an ecosystem simulation modeling technique to predict future carbon storage in global cropland soils. The third consisted of a series of estimations of marginal abatement costs and trade-offs to assess the cost-effectiveness of deploying the land management technologies for climate-smart agriculture. The results reported in this document complement a number of related

publications, including empirical lessons from recent project examples and policy briefs that were used as inputs at the Durban Climate Change Conference in November 2011.

### **13. Climate-smart smallholder agriculture: What's different? IFAD Occasional Paper 3. IFAD, Rome (2012)**

There is a growing consensus that climate change is transforming the context for rural development, changing physical and socio-economic landscapes and making smallholder development more expensive. But there is less consensus on how smallholder agriculture practices should change as a result. The question is often asked: what really is different about 'climate-smart' smallholder agriculture that goes beyond regular best practice in development? [This article suggests three major changes.](#)

### **14. Conservation agriculture: opportunities for intensified farming and environmental conservation in dry areas. Research to Action 2, ICARDA (2012)**

[This report](#) presents a synthesis of research and trials with smallholder farmers in dryland systems; benefits and constraints to adoption based on farmer experiences and potential for uptake in Iraq, Syria, Morocco and Tunisia. It is designed to help policy makers and development partners appreciate the issues and evaluate how conservation agriculture can contribute to rural development and food security goals, paving the way for its adoption as a national agricultural strategy.

### **15. CIMMYT INFORMA No. 1791, April 20-27, 2012. MELISA: Mechanization for SIMLESA**

During 10-13 April 2012, more than 50 participants from 12 countries in eastern and southern Africa took part in a workshop organized by the CIMMYT global conservation agriculture program to re-explore the issue and help develop a proposal for the project "[Mechanization, entrepreneurship, and conservation agriculture to leverage sustainable intensification in eastern and southern Africa](#)" (MELISA), which will build upon the ACIAR-funded project SIMLESA. The group included agronomists, socioeconomists, agricultural engineers, and private sector representatives.

### **16. Up-dated Conservation Agriculture 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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