

Alert No. 32 (13 December 2013)

1. Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture (ACCA-1), 18-21 March 2014, Lusaka Zambia. Registration now open

Purpose of the **First African Congress for Conservation Agriculture (1st ACCA)** is to bring together key CA stakeholders, including farmers and their organizations, from the continent to interact and co-own a permanent CA knowledge and information sharing platform that takes into account the needs of farmers and for increased benefits from CA technologies.

Themes:

- i. Growing more with less – the future of sustainable intensification
- ii. Weather proofing agriculture - the adaption of farming practices to address climate variability
- iii. Increasing Conservation Agriculture adoption - how innovative technology and approaches can drive greater adoption of conservation systems around the world

Register at:

<http://act-africa.org/events.php?com=68&com2=67&item=109#.Ud0UPaxp0xF>

For more information: Contact: info@act-africa.org

2. Green Carbon Conference, 1-3 April 2014, Brussels, Belgium

The Conference is jointly organized by the European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAAF), and the French Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (IAD) and promoted by the Life + AGRICARBON project.

The Conference website with further details is: www.greencarbon-ca.eu

3. 6th World Congress of Conservation Agriculture to be held June 22-26, 2014, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

The 6th World Congress of Conservation Agriculture will be held June 22-26, 2014, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Learn more at www.ctic.org/WCCA

The 6th WCCA announces registration is now open at:

<https://www.ctic.org/registration/22/step/0/>

Concurrent session tracks will explore the following areas of conservation agriculture:

Track 1: Growing with less – the future of sustainable intensification

- Track 2: Weatherproofing agriculture – the adaptation of farming practices to address climate variability
- Track 3: Increasing conservation adoption – how innovative technology and approaches can drive greater adoption of conservation systems around the world.

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

Please visit: <http://www.scac2014.org/>

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- 5. Soil carbon stratification affected by long-term tillage and cropping systems in southern Brazil.** By Ademir de Oliveira Ferreira, Telmo Jorge Carneiro Amado, Rodrigo da Silveira Nicoloso, João Carlos de Moraes Sá, Jackson Ernani Fiorin, Daímaris Sulzbach Santos Hansel, Dorothy Menefee. 2013. Soil & Tillage Research 133 (2013) 65–74. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.still.2013.05.011>
- 6. Stratification ratio of organic matter pools influenced by management systems in a weathered Oxisol from a tropical agro-ecoregion in Brazil.** BY C. C. Figueiredo, D. V. S. Resck, M. A. C. Carneiro, M. L. G. Ramos, and J. C. M. Sá. 2013. Soil Research, **51**, 133–141. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/SR12186>
- 7. Soil-Specific Inventories of Landscape Carbon and Nitrogen Stocks under No-Till and Native Vegetation to Estimate Carbon Offset in a Subtropical Ecosystem.** By João Carlos de Moraes Sá, Josiane Burkner dos Santos, Rattan Lal, Anibal de Moraes, Florent Tivet, Marcia Freire Machado Sá, Clever Briedis, Ademir de Oliveira Ferreira, Guilherme Eurich Anderson Farias, Theodor Friedrich. 2013. Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J. 77:2094–2110. DOI:10.2136/sssaj2013.01.0007
- 8. Long-term tillage systems impacts on soil C dynamics, soil resilience and agronomic productivity of a Brazilian Oxisol.** By João Carlos de Moraes Sá, Florent Tivet, Rattan Lal, Clever Briedis, Daiani Cruz Hartman, Juliane Zuffo dos Santos, Josiane Burkner dos Santos. 2013. Soil & Tillage Research 136 (2014) 38–50. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.still.2013.09.010>
- 9. Assessing humification and organic C compounds by laser-induced fluorescence and FTIR spectroscopies under conventional and no-till management in Brazilian Oxisols.** By Florent Tivet, João Carlos de Moraes Sá,

Rattan Lal, Débora Marcondes Bastos Pereira Milori, Clever Briedis, Philippe Letourmy, Luís Antonio Pinheiro, Paulo Rogério Borszowski, Daiani da Cruz Hartman. 2013. *Geoderma* 207-208: 71–81. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.geoderma.2013.05.001>

10. **Soil organic carbon fraction losses upon continuous plow-based tillage and its restoration by diverse biomass-C inputs under no-till in sub-tropical and tropical regions of Brazil.** Florent Tivet, João Carlos de Moraes Sá, Rattan Lal, Paulo Rogério Borszowski, Clever Briedis, Josiane Bürkner dos Santos, Márcia Freire Machado Sá, Daiani da Cruz Hartman, Guilherme Eurich, Anderson Farias, Serge Bouzinac, Lucien Séguy. 2013. *Geoderma* 209–210 (2013) 214–225. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.geoderma.2013.06.008>
11. **Carbon depletion by plowing and its restoration by no-till cropping systems in oxisols of subtropical and tropical agro-ecoregions in Brazil.** By João Carlos de Moraes Sá, Lucien Séguy, Florent Tivet, Rattan Lal, Serge Bouzinac, Paulo Rogério Borszowski, Clever Briedis, Josiane Burkner dos Santos, Daiani da Cruz Hartman, Clayton Giani Bertoloni⁶, Jadir Rosa, Theodor Friedrich. 2013. *Land Degrad. Develop.* DOI: 10.1002/ldr.2218
12. **Climate-smart landscapes: opportunities and challenges for integrating adaptation and mitigation in tropical agriculture.** By Celia A. Harvey, Mario Chaco´n, Camila I. Donatti, Eva Garen, Lee Hannah, Angela Andrade, Lucio Bede, Douglas Brown, Alicia Calle, Julian Chara´, Christopher Clement, Elizabeth Gray, Minh Ha Hoang, Peter Minang, AnaMar´ia Rodr´iguez, Christina Seeberg-Elverfeldt, Bambi Semroc, Seth Shames, Sean Smukler, Eduardo Somarriba, Emmanuel Torquebiau, Jacob van Etten & Eva Wollenberg. 2013. *Conservation Letters* **00**: 1–14. doi: 10.1111/conl.12066
13. **Intensification of Conservation Agriculture systems for increased livestock feed and maize production in Zimbabwe.** By W. Mupangwa & C. Thierfelder. 2013. *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14735903.2013.859836>
14. **Aggregate C depletion by plowing and its restoration by diverse biomass-C inputs under no-till in sub-tropical and tropical regions of Brazil.** By Florent Tivet, Joaõ Carlos de Moraes Sa´, Rattan Lal, Clever Briedis, Paulo Roge´rio Borszowski, Josiane Bu`rkner dos Santos, Anderson Farias, Guilherme Eurich, Daiani da Cruz Hartman, Mario Nadolny Junior, Serge Bouzinac, Lucien Se´guy. 2013. *Soil & Tillage Research* 126: 203–218. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.still.2012.09.004>
15. **Conservation Agriculture in African mixed crop-livestock systems: Expanding the niche.** By Frédéric Baudron, Moti Jaleta, Oriama Okitoi, Asheber Tegegn. *Agriculture. Ecosystems and Environment*. 2013. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2013.08.020>

- 16. Effect of Conservation Agriculture on maize yield in the semi-arid areas of Zimbabwe.** By J. Nyamangara, K. Nyengerai, E. N. Masvya, R. Tirivavi, N. Mashingaidze, W. Mupangwe, J. Dimes, L. Hove and S. Twomlow. 2013. *Expl Agric.*: page 1 of 19. doi:10.1017/S0014479713000562
- 17. Smallholders' Minimum Tillage Planter Adoption in Bangladesh: A successful case of private sector involvement for technology commercialization.** By Md. Enamul Haque, Rahman SN, Bell RW. Proceedings paper: 1st CIGR Inter-regional Conference on Land and Water Challenges - "Water, Environment and Agriculture: Challenges for sustainable development", Bari, Italy, 2013
- 18. Designing intensive crop sequences for Conservation Agriculture using mechanized planters on two wheel tractors.** By Md. Enamul Haque, Richard Bell, Wendy Vance, Nur Nobu Mia. 2013. 4th International Symposium for Farming Systems Design. 19-22 August 2013, Lanzouh, China.
- 19. The Emissions Gap Report 2013.** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi.
- 20. Food Security and Agriculture Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Practice.** Newsletter for DRR, Agriculture and Food Security Partners. Volume 2, Issue 3. From March to October 2013. FAO Sub-Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office for Southern Africa (FAO REOSA).
- 21. 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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