



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE *in* SOUTHERN AFRICA



Building partnerships
for climate resilience

BACKGROUND

Southern Africa is warming at twice the global rate and with rainfall patterns growing increasingly unpredictable, floods and droughts are becoming more common. This means livelihoods are being threatened and in 2019 almost **42 million people in the region were food insecure**.

Through the Malabo Declaration, African heads of state declared that **25 million farmers should adopt climate resilient production systems by 2025** to protect their food and nutrition security and livelihoods.

By adopting **Conservation Agriculture** farmers will become more resilient but for this to happen all players must work together.

THE PROJECT

Strengthening coordination, scaling up and governance of Conservation Agriculture in Southern Africa (SUCASA)

Working together to bring food and nutrition security to Southern Africa's farmers

WHY CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE?

In many contexts Conservation Agriculture (CA) can help farmers to increase their productivity, develop resilience to climate change and become more food and nutrition secure.



Increased yields CA produces yields that are comparable with modern intensive agriculture and tend to increase over time.



Labour savings By not tilling the soil, farmers can save up to 40% of their time.



Reduced costs In the long-term, production costs, investment costs and machinery maintenance costs are lower compared with conventional agriculture.

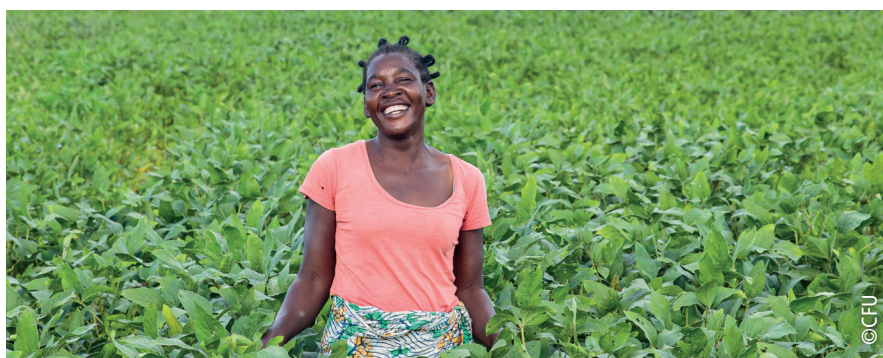


Healthy soils CA helps to retain water, replenish groundwater resources and reduce soil erosion.



Carbon sequestration By not tilling the land, more CO² is kept in the soils.

Owing to the benefits of CA, the majority of countries in Southern Africa and multiple organisations – from United Nations agencies and international and local NGOs to other development partners – are now promoting its adoption.





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OBJECTIVES

By working more closely together, we will all be better placed to share knowledge, avoid duplications and ultimately help farmers to adopt CA practices.

We will scale up **Conservation Agriculture** by:

- Strengthening platforms throughout the region to encourage collaboration between all partners
- Documenting and sharing CA knowledge products and best practices with key stakeholders
- Supporting the National Conservation Agriculture Taskforces and the Conservation Agriculture Regional Working Group to promote CA to decision makers and stimulate investment

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

By working more closely with partners, ultimately vulnerable male and female smallholder farmers, including youth, will become more resilient to the risks posed by climate change.



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SUCCESS STORIES



William

"Even in difficult times you get a good harvest and earn well: when there's a drought, water is retained and when there is a flood the water is able to drain."



Hellen

"Ploughing with animals used to take five days but ripping my field now takes two hours. Since I changed to conservation farming, I no longer worry about weeding. I have time to take care of my family, to run a business and I even have time to bake!"



Grace

"We have left the old way of farming behind and now we only use conservation farming. We have bought cows, we have built a house, we have a borehole and we have installed electricity."

Courtesy of our partners at the Conservation Farming Unit (CFU)

In promoting Conservation Agriculture in Southern Africa, FAO is working in close partnership with **AUDA-NEPAD, SADC, COMESA, CCARDESA, ACT, CFU, CIMMYT, FANRPAN, Foundations for Farming, IITA, SACAU, Total Land Care & WWF.** We invite other stakeholders to join us.

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