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.
- **Reduced costs** In the long-term, production costs, investment costs and machinery maintenance costs are lower compared with conventional agriculture.
- **Labour savings** By not tilling the soil, farmers can save up to 40% of their time.
- **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.

**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.

**Futurechap**
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)

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.

CONTACT

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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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