

# CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE: AN OVERVIEW

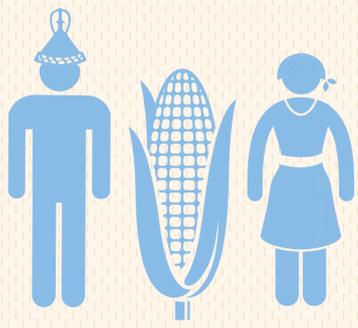


## CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE: FOOD SECURITY IN LESOTHO FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

Adapting our farming system to ensure a sustainable future  
We must protect the environment that feeds us. We must protect our families.

While we have produced food crops through conventional tillage for many years, this has come at great cost to our environment and soil productivity with negative impact on our households' food security. Conservation agriculture offers us the best opportunity for climate change adaptation.

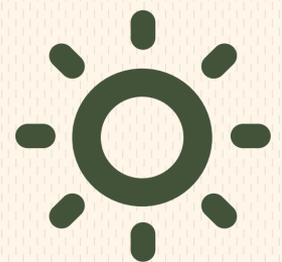
### Climate Change Adaptation: why is it urgent?



Adapt to unpredictable and erratic rainfall.  
Reduce incidents of crop failures.  
Improve food security.  
Reduce poverty.

### Climate Change Consequences

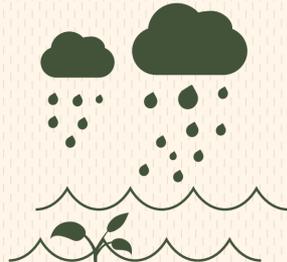
Weather has become more unpredictable, less regular.



Extreme temperatures



Intense drought



Frequent flooding



Delay of first rains



Greater impact of frost

### How do we adapt to Climate Change?



Conservation Agriculture  
(e.g. Likoti)



Install water-harvesting  
tanks and drip  
irrigation systems



Crop diversification



Homestead vegetable  
cultivation  
(e.g. Keyhole gardening)



Match planting times with  
the choice of your crops,  
to coincide with first rains

### Conservation Agriculture & Climate Change Adaptation

Conservation Agriculture (CA) is one of the best adaptation techniques in Lesotho context and it is accessible to all.  
The principles of CA are:

**1** minimum soil disturbance.

**2** permanent soil cover: crop residue or live mulch.

**3** crop rotation and/or intercropping.



We need to change our current practices so we can produce more quantity and quality food while improving the soil in our fields.

### Conventional Tillage



Increased erosion of the fields and low yields with higher costs:



Food Insecurity



### Conservation Agriculture



manual



mechanical

Improves the soil condition and the production gets better and better, year after year, with lower costs:



Food Security



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[www.fao.org/emergencies/results/en/?keywords=conservation%20agriculture](http://www.fao.org/emergencies/results/en/?keywords=conservation%20agriculture)

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