



AFRICAN CONSERVATION TILLAGE NETWORK

Partnering for improved food security, a better environment and regional development

March 2013 – Updates and Hottest Issues

1. Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture (ACCA), 2014

‘Africa prepares for the 6th World Congress in CA’

ACT, the pan-African network of conservation agriculture (CA) stakeholders, is pioneering the coming together of practitioners in the continent through the Africa Conservation Agriculture Congress (ACCA) – this time with a difference! It will bring together and broker, together with partners, private sector investors (including small and medium farmers) with individual farmers, farmer’s organizations and cooperatives. Policy makers, scientists and the media will participate, however in advisory role capacity to facilitate reaching service provision along the whole value chain revolving around CA. ACCA is aiming at expanding the focus in promotion of conservation agriculture initiatives in Africa. The congress will encourage CA practitioners and researchers to address new research questions that will move the CA agenda beyond crop productivity and the catchment level to the wider global agricultural systems.



Venue: Lusaka Zambia)

Dates: 18 – 21st March 2014

Organizers: ACT, FAO, CIMMYT and AU-NEPAD

in partnership with COMESA, NORAD, CIRAD and the EU.

For more information, contact: info@act-africa.org

2. Press Release: Ouagadougou Policy Debate: “Addressing Food Insecurity in Africa: Africa Can Feed Itself”

The African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT), with partners, organized the debate on 26th February 2013 in Ouagadougou Burkina Faso to analyse hindering factors, identify on-going initiatives, explore contributions of stakeholders and pathways that could elevate Africa’s a food security status forever. This international policy debate on Whether Africa Can Feed Itself, *attended by seventy participants including politicians, farmers, rural development practitioners, academia, and scientists*, concluded that Africa can indeed and must feed itself. The six panellists, including the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of Burkina Faso, Honourable Mahama Zoungrana, summed it up that this is only possible by developing and implementing elaborate, adequate and

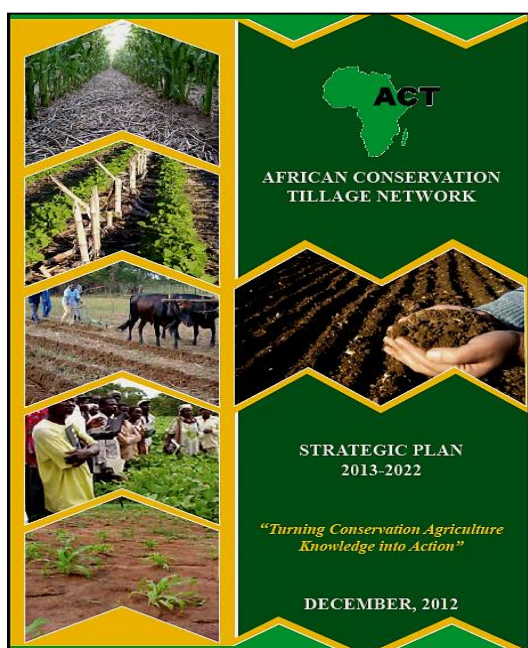
comprehensive policies and programs that ensure sustainable growth in the agricultural sector. That there is need for a more urgent campaign to change the way farming is done in Africa; and the Green Revolution for Africa will be centred on Conservation Agriculture.

More Info; Contact info@act-africa.org

2. ACT Strategic Plan 2013 – 2022

‘Turning Conservation Agriculture Knowledge into Actions’

Good news!! ACT Strategic Plan 2012-2022 is finally approved for launching by the ACT’s Board in its fifth meeting held at Maasai Lodge, Nairobi Kenya, 14-16th February 2013.



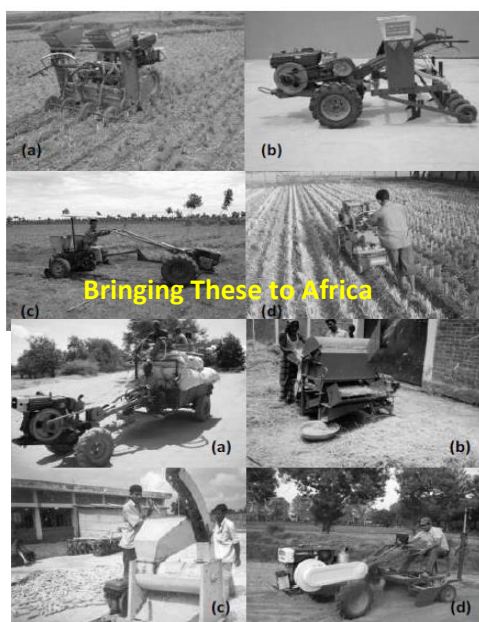
This robust **Strategic Plan** is aimed at positioning the Network strategically as a key driver in Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Land Management in Africa. It has been developed within the context and in conformity with new and evolving institutional and policy reforms while taking advantage of current and emerging opportunities to enhance the Network’s capacity to be proactive. The development of the Strategic Plan has been guided by the various strategic thrusts and initiatives in agriculture, natural resources, environment and climate change in the region.

This **ten-year Strategic Plan** has outlined clear strategic results and strategic thematic areas of focus that can only be realized through sound implementation plans. To **operationalize** the Strategic Plan, therefore, the Network has developed the first detailed Operational Plan covering the period **2013-2017**.

The February 2013 full-board meeting was attended by all Directors namely Dr Joseph Mureithi (Kenya); Richard Shetto (Tanzania); Edward Chuma (Zimbabwe); Danson Kamau (Kenya); Dr Frank Place; Martin Bwalya; Enny Namalambo (Namibia); and Prof Pablo Tittonnell (The Netherlands) under the able leadership of Reynolds Shula (Zambia).

For more information, contact: info@act-africa.org

3. Farm Mechanization & Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Intensification (FACASI) Project Launch.



The need for sustainable intensification in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is widely recognized. Although a lot of emphasis is being placed in current Research for Development work on increasing the efficiency with which land, water and nutrients are being used, farm power appears to be a 'forgotten resource'. Undoubtedly, sustainable intensification in SSA will require an improvement of the farm power balance through increased power supply - via improved access to mechanization - and/or reduced power demand via energy saving technologies such as conservation agriculture (CA). ***This fundamentally informs the development, approval and launch of CIMMYT implemented ACIAR funded FACASI project at the project inception workshop held in Arusha Tanzania, 25-30th March, 2013.***

The **overall goal** of the project is to improve access to mechanization, reduce labour drudgery, and minimize biomass trade-offs in Eastern and Southern Africa, through accelerated delivery and adoption of 2WT-based technologies by smallholders.

The inception workshop attended by close to 40 participants from 12 countries was officially opened by Dr Lucas M Mugendi on behalf of the Director for Research and Development, MOA Tanzania. It was graced by Dr John Dixon, Cropping Systems and Economics program of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR); and Ms Mellissa Woods, Director of the Australian International Food Security Centre (AIFSC).

For more information, contact Frédéric Baudron at: F.Baudron@cgiar.org



4. Launch - Conservation Agriculture for Climate Change (CA4CC) Adaptation and Mitigation Project

'Africa must adapt to climate change!' A statement that informs the launch of the NORAD funded CA4CC adaptation and mitigation project at SG Resort, Arusha, Tanzania from 21-23rd March, 2013.

The *overall objective* of CA4CC project is to strengthen knowledge support systems to support policy formulation, decision making and learning to stimulate increased and sustained adoption of CA in addressing the effects of climate change impacts. This will be done by implementing the following **Main Activities:** (a) *strengthening functioning of CA for climate change knowledge support networks*

at national and regional levels; (b) adaptation and increased exposure of smallholder men and women farmers to CA for climate change technologies and practices; (c) empowerment of smallholder agriculture producers and practitioners to effectively participate in national and regional policy processes related to CA-climate change.

The Inception Workshop was attended by amongst others the Centres of Excellence partners from Gwebi College Zimbabwe; Yei Training Center of South Sudan; KARI Naivasha Kenya; and the Southern Highlands Agricultural Research Institute Uyolet Tanzania. The meeting reviewed, discussed and agreed upon the following: (i) project rationale and deliverables; (ii) CA4CC implementation plan; (iii) major adjustments to project log frame; (iv) the project financing and financial management requirements; (v) M&E framework; (vi) Communication strategy and plan; and (vii) the project way forward.

5. Upcoming CA Events

- Transforming Rural Livelihoods in Africa: How can land and water management contribute to enhanced food security and address climate change adaptation and mitigation? Nakuru, Kenya 20-25 October 2013. The Soil Science Society of East Africa (SSSEA) in collaboration with African Soil Science Society (ASSS) are organizing the above named conference.

For further information: Barrack Okoba (okoba2000@yahoo.com).

- 6th World Congress of Conservation Agriculture to be held June 22-26, 2014, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada Learn more at www.ctic.org/WCCA . Direct your inquiries to: Karen A. Scanlon; Conservation Technology Information Center; Tel: [765-494-2238](tel:765-494-2238); Email: scanlon@ctic.org

..... *AND for much more visit our websites* www.act-africa.org/newsroom

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