AFRICAN CONSERVATION TILLAGE NETWORK
Partnering for improved food security, a better environment and regional development

April 2015 Issue: Updates and News Alert

1. High level Ethiopian delegation on Sustainable Land Management tour to Conservation Agriculture and Climate Smart Agriculture best practices in Kenya and Tanzania.

Hosted by the African Conservation Tillage Network in Kenya and Tanzania, a high level Ethiopian delegation had a week-long study tour to Kenya and Tanzania to study best practices on Conservation Agriculture (CA) and the wider Climate Smart Agricultural initiatives. The tour sites included visits to large scale CA farmers, small scale CA farmers, CA service providers and Community Conservation Initiatives to learn and share experiences on best practices in the region.



SLMP Team at ACT Office

The Ethiopian Sustainable Land Management Program is one of the flagship programs under Ministry of Agriculture working on the judicious utilization and protection of crucial natural resources like soil, water and vegetation and effective reversal of their degradation. The then Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and development allies developed, in the year 2010, the Ethiopian Sustainable Land Management Investment Framework (ESIF). The aim was providing a comprehensive framework under which all stakeholders and actors in Sustainable Land Management could collaborate effectively. The team was led by Melaku Tadesse, Deputy Programme Manager, GIZ|SLM Programme and Habtamu Hailu, National Coordinator SLMP.

For more: http://www.act-africa.org/news.php?com=68&com2=6&item=278#.VUceFtKqqko; and about the ESLM program can be accessed at http://www.slmethiopia.info.et

2. Climate Information Network Stakeholder Action Planning Workshop convened in Kigali, Rwanda

The Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development (PREPARED) program a five year program (2012-2017) supported by the US Agency for International Development's East Africa Regional Mission (USAID/EA) convened the Climate Information Network workshop in Kigali Rwanda from 20th to 21st April 2015. The PREPARED project addresses existing institutional and technical gaps in the EAC secretariat by building the capacity of the EAC Climate Change Coordination Unit (CCCU). The overall objective of the EAC CCU is to provide technical and coordination support including monitoring and evaluation of climate change programs and projects in accordance with the EAC Climate Change policy strategy and Master Plan.

The Planning workshop



Workshop Participants following the plenary activities

The planning workshop brought together key climate information service providers as well as national and regional data and information management institutions within the Eastern Africa region to discuss and plan for a regional climate information Network, as well as explore opportunities for improvement and integration of existing climate information user interfaces into a regional system.

The workshop objectives included, assessing the current situation of climate Information in the EAC region, a review and discussion of the climate information users and service providers survey results, a discussion on the study sectoral "use cases" to facilitate dialogue and analysis, achieve a consensus on a set of strategies to improve and integrate……

For more: http://www.act-africa.org/news.php?com=68&com2=6&item=277#.VUceE9Kqqko; but full report of this assessment survey will be shared by @PREPARED_EA

3. 'Sustainable intensification' revisited: Then and now

A brief snapshot into a paper giving the history of and controversy surrounding the term, "Sustainable Intensification"


Briefing

Food and agriculture

Keywords: Agriculture, food security, food systems, sustainability

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Issue date March 2015

Policy pointers

Sustainable intensification revisited

Give at least equal weighting to sustainability

Sustainable intensification is receiving growing attention as a way to address the challenge of feeding an increasingly populous and

Sustainable intensification: then and now: According to this briefing, the term sustainable intensification was originally coined in the 1990s in the context of smallholder agriculture in the developing world particularly Africa, where productivity was predominantly low and degradation of natural resources a major concern. The original conception placed equal emphasis on sustainability and intensification. Sustainability was seen as a prerequisite for intensification given the degraded state of many agricultural lands. Moreover, livelihoods were accorded a central place.

Recently, several high-level reports and many major institutions both public and private have endorsed sustainable intensification as a mainstream concept. But whereas the early work took a decidedly pro-smallholder stance, sustainable intensification is now being treated as a global framework for agricultural production. The use of sustainable intensification in current debates is based upon three fundamental assumptions about agricultural production systems in the 21st century.….

For more details: http://www.act-africa.org/news.php?com=68&com2=6&item=276#.VUceEtKqqko; but the full article can be downloaded as a pdf at http://pubs.iied.org/17283IIED

4. A reality check on research in Agriculture

"An experienced farmer contesting academic research results on CA"

'A reality check on research in Agriculture' is an article published in Farm Journal, February 2015 by Howard G. Buffett.

Mr. Buffett a Conservation agriculture farmer shares his views on the missing link in research and practice. He is a farmer in Nebraska, Illinois, Arizona and South Africa for a number of years and has been practicing conservation agriculture practices for over 22 years. According to him, there is a serious disconnect between the research in agriculture and the practical realities of farming that undermine how agricultural policy is developed…….....



Get the full copy of the article on: http://www.thehowardgbuffettfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/February-2015_Farm-Journal.pdf

5. The FACASI project holds a Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management workshop

Two years into the project, there was a need to reassess the ongoing change, the FACASI project was bringing into the communities and to deliberate on the expected changes. To do this, a review into the M & E indicators was necessary. The M & E results would also make it possible to develop targeted knowledge products for the different stakeholder groups. This workshop was held from the 27th-30th April 2015, at Nanyuki, one of the FACASI Kenya sites. At this site, testing and demonstration of the different two wheel tractor prototype CA seeders and other attachments is carried out.



Participants at the M & E and Knowledge Management workshop

The workshop brought together all four country implementing teams from Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe to discuss and forge a way forward on how the expected change of introducing the two wheel tractors in conservation agriculture based on context specific business models would impact on service delivery and adoption.

For more, about the workshop and FACASI project, visited the link http://facasi.act-africa.org/news.php?com=14&item=81#.VUcnrdKqqko and the site http://facasi.act-africa.org/index.php?com=1

6. Upcoming Events

a). The inauguration of Pan-African Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (PAACSA)

The inaugural session of the Pan-African Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture (PAACSA) is planned to take place at Capital Hotel and Spa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13th -15th May, 2015, Organized by the NEPAD Agency in conjunction with the African Union Commission, the Pan African Alliance will be spearheading implementation of the African Union Vision to reach 25 million farm households practicing CSA by 2025 (Vision 25x25). This is an integral part of CAADP and relates to attaining the Productivity, Food Security, Prosperity and resilience goals as articulated in CAADP's 2015-25 Results Framework - endorsed at the Malabo AU Summit (June 2014). African Union member states, the African Union Commission, NEPAD Agency and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and partners are elaborating and implementing strategies and programmes to support implementation of CSA activities in Africa.

Theme: Fostering Alignment and Harmonization in the CSA Efforts in Africa

For more info: http://www.nepad.org/climatechangeandsustainabledevelopment/launch-pan-african-alliance-and-platform-climate-change

b). 3rd Brazil in East Africa Expo 2015



The 3rd Brazil in East Africa Expo 2015 will be held from June 3rd to 5th 2015 at Safari Park Hotel. The event target over 150 Brazilian companies to display their innovative products, share solutions that have been tested and proved for many years in Brazilian and Latin America market

Theme: Joining Opportunities.

More Info: For further information for this could be access through the link: http://www.tech360s.com/index.php

c). International Soil Conference on Sustainable Uses of Soil in Harmony with Food Security on 18-20 August 2015 at Cha Am, Thailand



Land Development Department (LDD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Thailand, in collaboration with International Union of Soil Sciences, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Institut de recherché pour le development, Asian Development Bank, Soil and Fertilizer Society of Thailand, Soil and Water Conservation Society of Thailand and Kasetsart University organize and will host the International Soil Conference on Sustainable Uses of Soil in Harmony with Food Security on **18-21 August, 2015** at The Regent Cha Am Beach Resort Phetchaburi, Thailand.

This conference is a part of activities to celebrate the International Year of Soils (IYS2015) as declared by the United Nations.

Conference Themes includes: 1) Soil information for supporting sustainable uses and management; 2) Integrated soil management and conservation for food security; 3) Role of soil ecology in relation to climate change and food security; 4) Innovative techniques and tools for soil resources inventories and appropriate management; and 5) Public participation, networking and policy implementation on land management

For more information about the conference and importance dates:

- ☞ http://www.act-africa.org/events.php?com=67&item=251#.VUcUw9Kqqko
- ☞ http://www.apaari.org/events/isc2015.html
- ☞ congress webpage: http://www.ldd.go.th/WEB_ISC2015/Index.html

Attention!!!: Note the new important dates' changes

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Eng. Saidi Mkomwa
Executive Secretary
African Conservation Tillage Network
Conservation Agriculture for Improved Livelihoods and a Better Environment
KARI NARL Compound, Waiyaki Way
P.O. Box 10375-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
Email: saidi.mkomwa@act-africa.org
Web: www.act-africa.org
Tel: +254 20 8076064; +254 710 122 251
Cell: +254 712 252 549