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SECOND AFRICA CONGRESS ON CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

9th- 12th October 2018 | Johannesburg, South Africa

ACT

African Conservation Tillage Network

NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
Agence de Planification et de Coordination du NEPAD

Norad

Over the years, Conservation Agriculture (CA) has been spreading steadily and is now adopted in more than 20 countries in Africa as a core production component of climate-smart agriculture (CSA). The current conservative estimate of cropland under CA systems in Africa is about 2.68 M ha, an increase of some 447% since 2008/09. CA is an approach to managing agro-ecosystems for improved and sustained productivity, increased profits and food security while preserving and enhancing the resource base and the environment. It is characterized by three linked principles namely: continuous minimum mechanical soil disturbance, permanent organic soil cover, and diversification of crop species grown in sequences and/or associations.

At a continental scale, Africa has set in place key development agreements with the Agenda 2063 endorsed at the 2013 African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government Summit as the overall development vision and policy framework and 50-year plan for Africa's economic growth and inclusive development. Agenda 2063 is operationalised through a ten-year implementation plan with firm and measurable targets.

Specifically, relevant to the implementation of the Agenda 2063, is the 2014 Lusaka Declaration of the First Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture (1ACCA) which targets 25 million farm households practicing Conservation Agriculture by 2025. Further, the 2014 AU Summit endorsed the Malabo Declaration on agriculture transformation, which makes a specific Conservation Agriculture related commitment through the decision item on “Vision 25x25” (i.e. 25 million farm households practicing Climate-Smart Agriculture by 2025).

The African Conservation Agriculture Network (ACAN) – in collaboration with several partner institutions, stakeholders and interest groups - continues to facilitate knowledge support to expand and accelerate the up-take and integration of CSA practices – i.e. climate-smart ways to farm and contribute to resilient food and agriculture systems. The Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture (ACCA) is an open and inclusive networking-sharing-and-learning platform process catalysing and accelerating the up-take and spread of CA across the continent of Africa.

The 1ACCA held in Lusaka, Zambia in March 2014, released the Lusaka Declaration in line with the Malabo Declaration, AU's Agenda 2063, and the SDGs which agreed on ten resolutions centred on: (i) policy, political commitment and leadership; (ii) private sector engagement; and (iii) training, extension, research and innovation, and knowledge support. Governments, development partners, private sector, farmers, education and training institutions, research institutions, regional economic communities and non-governmental organizations are among the stakeholders called upon for supporting and facilitating the implementation of the resolutions in order to enhance adoption and scaling-up of CA across Africa.

To foster the sharing, learning and building of public, private and civil sector support for CA based CSA development, ACAN is collaborating with the Government of South Africa, African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency, Regional Economic Communities, International NGOs, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), European Union (EU), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the UN and various bilateral and multilateral partners to organise and host the 2nd Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture (2ACCA) with the theme “Making Climate-Smart Agriculture Real in Africa with Conservation Agriculture: Supporting the Malabo Declaration and Agenda 2063”.

Making Climate-Smart Agriculture Real in Africa with Conservation Agriculture: Supporting the Malabo Declaration and Agenda 2063

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES OF CONGRESS

The underling purpose and goal of the 2ACCA initiative is to facilitate diverse and open sharing of experiences and information on CA thereby fostering learning and widespread awareness and interest in the uptake and spread of CA. This includes CA's role in: enhancing sustainable agricultural productivity, strengthening environmental and social resilience, and fostering efforts to provide for food and nutrition security as well as jobs and economic opportunities, especially for rural communities, including youth and women. The 2ACCA initiative provides “neutral space” for networking, collaboration and partnership to support the scaling-up of CA systems as CSA across Africa. The 2ACCA is organized to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Facilitate **interactions and sharing** among various interest groups to enhance an integrated and holistic knowledge base on promoting demand-driven and locally compatible CA systems and practices.
- Examine and highlight lessons on **policy, institutional support and technological interventions** as well as **skills development and information support** in participatory initiatives to accelerate and expand **sustainable uptake** of CA systems and practices.
- **Mainstreaming of CA into continental, regional and national frameworks** towards realization of Africa's commitments to Agenda 2063, SDGs, COP21 Paris Agreement, and COP 22 Marrakech Agreement, including the 4 per Mille and Triple A initiatives.
- Showcase advances in science and technology in **supporting innovations in CA systems and practices** adapted within local agro-ecosystems and their socio-cultural and political economy circumstances.
- Assess recent successes and consider paths forward for **comprehensive capacity and institutional building** of all stakeholders in the food and agriculture supply and value chains across Africa.

Expected outputs and outcomes

- 2ACCA will contribute to catalysing increased action on the uptake and scaling-up of the CA-based CSA systems and practices, in general, and CA systems in particular across Africa. In this way, the outputs of the 2ACCA are expected to be more than just proceedings, but knowledge and information, policy and institutional advice and guidance, and participatory farmer and community engagement to meet defined goals; i.e. more knowledgeable and informed stakeholder constituencies and institutions to meet Agenda 2063, SDGs, and COP 21 and 22 agreements;

- Specifically, the Congress will, for many, bring out new knowledge and information on CA systems and practices - information/data/experiences and lessons - highlighting issues and circumstances that enhance or hinder effective CA dissemination and uptake in different agro-ecological zones across Africa;

- The Congress will put a spotlight on empirical and scientific CA results and impact in the efforts on agricultural transformation and its consequent impact on livelihoods (poverty alleviation, food security and elimination of hunger) and the environment. CA has demonstrated success in stabilising and/or enhancing agricultural productivity and ecosystem services even in extreme weather conditions and through its ability to sequestrate carbon and reduce emissions of CO2, CH4 and N2O (based on agro-ecological and farming systems conditions) helps to covert agriculture to become part of the solutions to reducing the GHG emissions and mitigating climate change. The outcomes of the Congress are essentially focussed on how to bring the adoption and spread of CA to scale with a critical mass of agricultural land under CA systems and with majority of households practicing CA – at least 25 million households, by 2025.

- For many Congress participants, the networking – formal and informal – will help consolidate or open up new partnerships and alliances including exposing opportunities for possible joint action and collaboration. The Congress will enlighten, invigorate, motivate participants to explore new ways of configuring and disseminating CA information to create new partnerships and discover new models of collaboration to illicit and promote transformational change. It will also bring together information that would help in future formal and informal contacts and liaison/partnership in promoting the adoption and spread of Conservation Agriculture and all the service sectors for the development of sustainable food and agriculture systems.

- In terms of general public awareness and advocacy, the Congress will bring CA information to the public including those who may not be directly connected to CA and climate-smart agriculture, but their interest and actions in their own fields is important to advancing CA uptake and spread.

SUB-THEMES FOR PAPER SUBMISSIONS

- The central role of CA paradigm in **achieving Agenda 2063 goals and SDGs** in Africa for building climate-smart agricultural systems ***(public policies and regional and national commitments, operational strategies for development frameworks and conventions, contextualizing the central role of CA in climate-smart sustainable production and land management, scientific evidence)***

- The critical role of **mobilizing institutional support** from the public, private and civil sectors, and catalysing local and regional CA scientific and technological innovations and practices in overcoming adoption constraints ***(CA technology and innovation systems, development of CA services in supply and value chains, CA farmer organizations and empowerment)***

- **Mainstreaming of CA paradigm** at the institutional and sectorial level and within governments' systems in bringing about the sustainable transformation of agricultural systems in Africa ***(longer-term systemic capacity building for CA management, data management development, quality assurance, policy environment)***

- Enhancing CA related **education and training-learning capacity** and creating an enabling policy environment in support of the "last-mile" institutions and stakeholders to accelerate and expand the uptake of CA systems and practices ***(centres of excellence in education, extension and research for capacity development, capacity for providing CA services including mechanization and other CA services)***

- **Investing across institutions and sectors** for widespread adoption and commercialization of CA systems in Africa ***(financial investments, business enterprise development, public-private partnerships, development incentives, livelihood and socio-economic development, incentives and payments for ecosystem services, risk sharing, insurance, branding and certification).***

- **CA knowledge system management** and information sharing capacity development for impact and achieving Agenda 2063 goals and SDGs in Africa ***(local, national and international networking, communication and partnerships)***

PARTICIPANT CHARGES & REGISTRATION FEES

Each participant is required to pay USD 350 charged for early bird, by 28th February 2018 and USD 400 thereafter (from 1st March 2018). Registration fees will cover conference materials, teas/lunches and field visit costs only.

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION FEES	AMOUNT IN USD
Early Bird fee	$350
Standard fee	$ 400

EXHIBITION BOOTH

Participants who wish to book exhibition booths and spaces are required to pay an additional fee of USD 1,500.

IMPORTANT DATES	
Registration Opens - Online	1st December 2017
Call for submission of extended abstracts	1st December 2017
Deadline of submission for extended abstracts	28th February 2018
Early bird registration deadline	28th February 2018
Deadline for submission of revised papers	30th March 2018
Registration at venue	8th - 9th October 2018
Conference & Field tour	9th -12th October 2018

To register and submit papers visit: www.africacacongress.org

For More information contact the Congress Secretariat:

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