AFRICAN CONSERVATION TILLAGE NETWORK
Partnering for Economic Growth, Improved Food Security and a Better Environment

Updates & News Alert

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Editor's view: Introducing the May-June 2020 CA Alert

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted many activities in agriculture supply chains and demand. The major vulnerable groups include small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers who might be hindered from working their land, caring for their livestock, or fishing. They also face challenges accessing markets to sell their products or buy essential inputs, or struggle due to higher food prices and limited purchasing power. This situation calls for increased attention to how agriculture is practiced and natural resources are cared for.

Many governments in Africa calls on farmers and agriculture stakeholders to intensify production and to coordinate efforts to ensure timely support to production. Some have developed COVID-19 Protocols and Guidelines to make the necessary adjustments to ensure that the agrifood supply chain contributes to the containment rather than the increase of COVID-19 infections across the region. The sector players need to acknowledge that good nutrition is very important before, during and after an infection. Infections take a toll on the body, more so when these cause fever, as the body needs extra energy and nutrients. Maintaining a healthy diet is very important particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a looming need for agricultural mechanization, using sustainable based techniques such as no-till seeding to increase productivity, reduce public gathering (have less people achieve the same work targets), ensure social distancing, and compensate for induced shortages of labour due restricted movements of migrant labourers occasioned by lockdowns.

This cognisant need for agricultural mechanization to support farming in the COVID 19 period has comes at the time when ACT is prioritising agricultural mechanisation in its strategy for promoting Conservation Agriculture (CA) in Africa. The Conservation Agriculture stakeholders who attended the Second Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture (2ACCA) https://africacacongress.org/, which met in Johannesburg, South Africa 9th to 12th

October 2018, highlighted and recognised that Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (SAM) is an important enabler in accelerating widespread practicing of CA and attainment of the Malabo Declarations' Vision 25 x 25 and the Agenda 2063. It urged ACT to advance appropriate African focused mechanisms and thrives that will largely deliver suitable SAM and support the propagation of self-sustaining development of the agricultural mechanization in Africa. Agricultural mechanisation is also considered a catalyst for rural development as it is an essential agricultural input with the potential to transform rural families' livelihoods by facilitating increased output of higher value products while eliminating the drudgery associated with human muscle-powered agricultural production. Moreover, agricultural mechanization in its broadest sense can contribute significantly to the development of food systems, as it has the potential to render post-harvest, processing and marketing activities and functions more efficient, effective and environmentally friendly. Sustainable mechanization adopts Conservation Agriculture practices to enable agriculture to be productive and profitable for farmers while preserving and enhancing the resource base and the environment. It protects the soil, conserves water, uses less energy, improves input-use efficiency and reduces post-harvest losses

In this issue, we have captured what Argentinian No-Till Farmers Association (AAPRESID) and African Development Bank (AfDB) in promotion of Conservation Agriculture in Ghana and Guinea. The project aims to promote sustainable agricultural systems based on No-Till Farming for soybean and maize crops. Also featured is how smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia have embraced small-scale mechanization thanks to an innovative ACIAR funded CIMMYT-led project; the Farm Mechanization and Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Intensification (FACASI). Since its inception in 2003, the project has helped farmers access and use two-wheel tractors that significantly reduce the time and labour needed to grow, harvest and process their crops. In Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia, the "Agricultural Productivity Program for Southern Africa (APPSA)" is concluding with all smiles over farmers. The CA-based technologies promoted have helped small-scale farmers achieve food security in the face of challenges of poor soils, poor rain and poor yields. According to FAO, today, more than ever, digital agriculture is streamlining efficiency and productivity. But in Africa, many people do not have access to agricultural tools and equipment to improve their yields and reduce heavy labour. These tools, digital and non-digital, need to be available to farmers. Agricultural mechanization and innovation need to be part of the equation.

Also presented in this issue is an infographic to illustrate Soil Biodiversity, the hidden world beneath our feet, which reflects the variability among living organisms including a myriad of organisms not visible with the naked eye. It is a reminder of the World Soil Day 2020 (#WorldSoilDay) and its campaign "Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity" aiming to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the growing challenges in soil management, fighting soil biodiversity loss, increasing soil awareness and encouraging stakeholders around the world to commit to proactively improving soil health.

ACT acknowledges the various sources, authors, reporters, organizations and practitioners whose articles appear in this May -June, 2020 issue, their diversity is a clear testimony of the enthusiasm and interest from various organizations, countries, researchers and scientists towards Conservation Agriculture and sustainable agricultural mechanization.

We encourage you to share your Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable agriculture mechanization views and articles capturing the status and extent of adaptation and adoption of Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in any Country in Africa or beyond for sharing with others. Please submit articles, links or views to kim@act-africa.org. Use the *#conservationagriculture, #africamechanize* to share links on articles, journals, news on CA and tag us on twitter *@ACTillage.*

Apologies for any cross posting of some articles.

Proceedings: Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization Hire Service Workshop

If African countries are to achieve zero hunger by 2025 and prosperity as envisioned by the African Union Agenda 2063, a radical transformation in agriculture is needed through increased public and private investments. Investments should focus on the necessary infrastructural and capital investments for the professionalization of small and medium scale farmers, increasing their capacity to supply local and urban markets as well as artisans and small agro-industries.

FAO is supporting the African Union to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization across the continent to boost agricultural production and land and labour productivity with a view to improving the incomes and livelihoods of farmers and feeding a growing and rapidly urbanizing population presently largely dependent on food imports. Around 60 percent of Africa's population earns a living from agriculture and there is great potential to increase the profitability of smallholder farming, reducing postharvest losses, adding value to the products through the transformation of agricultural products. This can provide new job opportunities for youth. At the request of the African Union and FAO member countries, FAO supported the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission to develop the Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization: A Framework for Africa. This framework, the product of a long, Africa-wide consultative process, provides guidance on tackling challenges and promoting greater uptake of sustainable mechanization.

To carry out the framework's recommendations, FAO's Investment Centre and Plant Production and Protection divisions in partnership with the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) jointly organized a regional workshop in Uganda, with participants from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The workshop brought together practitioners, government officials, bankers and representatives of farmer and international financing institutions, to share experiences and knowledge of sustainable mechanization practices along the value chain and explore ways to link good agronomic practices, like Conservation Agriculture, with sustainable mechanization options. The workshops highlighted that finding the right business models is vital and that different models of mechanization service provision exist and can be adapted to different situations. Digital solutions such as mobile phone technologies combined with GPS tractor trackers can be very useful to provide mechanization services. It was further noted that public-private dialogue, including with farmers' organizations, is key to creating an enabling policy environment and building trust.

This work has been carried out in collaboration with the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT), a Pan African non-for-profit organization providing a neutral platform for sharing knowledge, information and experiences on Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization. Both FAO and ACT believe that widespread adoption of Conservation Agriculture contributes significantly to the attainment of agricultural and environmental objectives, namely: empowering farmers and rural communities to manage their resources, sustaining resilience while achieving viable production systems. Read More

Conservation Agriculture feeds people and protects the environment

On June 5, 2020, the world celebrates World Environment Day as COVID-19 continues to cause challenges and restrictions. Existing threats of climate change with the new challenges of a global pandemic adversely affect the agricultural sector, a mainstay of most sub-Saharan African economies. This situation calls for increased attention to how agriculture is practiced and natural resources — such as soil and water — are cared for.

Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe are custodians of these natural resources, yet climate variability of shifting rainfall seasons, El Niño and droughts threaten successful rain-fed farming. Coupled with conventional farming practices such as tillage and deforestation, the soil structure and chemical quality are gradually degrading. Each passing year has resulted in declining yields, food insecurity and increased household vulnerabilities, particularly in drought-prone, low rainfall areas of southern Zimbabwe.

With support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative, led by the World Food Programme (WFP), aims to enable vulnerable, smallholder farmers to increase their food security, income and resilience by managing climate-related risks. Building on R4, WFP has just launched the Zambuko Livelihoods Initiative, focusing on social cohesion of communities, improved crop and livestock production and improved access to finance, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) is a partner to implement the project component on appropriate seeds and agricultural practices. Read More

Sustainable production systems based on No-Till farming in Ghana and Guinea led by AAPRESID

The Argentinian No-Till Farmers Association (AAPRESID) is working jointly with the African Development Bank (AfDB) in the "Design, implementation and training skill program of Conservation Agriculture technology package". This program aims to promote sustainable agricultural systems based on No-Till Farming for soybean and maize crops in Ghana and Guinea. The initiative attempts to highlight the value of sustainable agricultural farming systems; encourage the transition from family to commercial agriculture, where agricultural production could be considered a business; and support the development of a young class of future farmers, through demonstration and training.

The project included the design, implementation, and technology transfer for the adaptation of the system. Two Argentinian technicians travelled to each country during the entire agricultural season, where they developed activities for agro-ecological characterization of sites, plot cleaning, levelling and development, planting, balanced crop and soil nutrition, weeds, insects and fungus scouting, integrated pest management, and harvest monitoring, supported by Aapresid network. At the same time, a training and educational program was carried out for local actors with the objective of transfering skills, knowledge and experiences to farmers, students and agronomists either from public or private institution.

"Ghana's project" was held during 2018. In this case, AAPRESID technicians developed soybean and maize crops in four plots working closely with Directors and technicians from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) and local farmers. Also, two Argentinian machinery companies supported the project with a planter and a sprayer. The most recent

"AAPRESID working with AfDB supports promotion of Conservation Agriculture (CA) projects in Africa (Ghana and Guinea)"

experience was held in Guinee in 2019. Tasks consisted of conducting fields demonstration in Kankan, Siguiri, Faranah and Tiro where the climate is tropical, with around 1500 mm of annual rainfall, but concentrated in 6 months. In this environment, AAPRESID technicians developed soybean and maize crops, with the aim of improving local yields, through sustainable agricultural management.

"Mechanization is a system not a technology" said Bisrat Getnet.

Although it is clear that effects of the incorporation of Conservation Agriculture technologies under no-till should be evaluated in the long term, some results from this first experience are worth to mention: performance of maize hybrids exceeded to that of the OPVs and interaction with the locality could be observed; No till meant a saving in machinery costs; The best planting dates for the localities considered under the program would be from the end of May to June for maize and June for soybeans; in a context of delays in the sowing date, no till sowing have shown better yields than sowing under tillage; Both maize and soybean crops could achieve profitable productivity under farming models of technified commercial agriculture.

Due to the current situation regarding COVID-19, Aapresid technicians has found difficulties to provide technical support for the 2020 season. However, efforts are being concentrated on assuring project continuity next season and developing further projects in the future. The early results have proven that this cooperative and multidisciplinary model is the path towards sustainable development. Read More

Healthy Soils for a Healthy World

Photo: © General Mills, Inc.

The article by M. Jill Clapperton, PhD, Principal Scientist and Founder of Rhizoterra Inc, demonstrate that healthy soil is the foundation for creating an agroecosystem that uses nutrients effectively and water efficiently without soil erosion to grow nutrient-dense food. Referring to the food that helps us grow, stay healthy, produce strong offspring and still tastes good. In other words, what is regenerative agriculture? According to her, healthy soil is fundamental to the nutrient density in food, and environmental quality. In this article she summarizes the science which justifies that vitamin D is fundamental to the health of our immune system.

She concludes that while there is no hard evidence that vitamin D has any effect on COVID-19, there is a lot of evidence to show that people with sufficient levels of vitamin D have better overall health, and if they do get sick, they have less severe symptoms, and recover more quickly. It is clear to her that micronutrients including vitamin D are fundamental to the fitness regime of our immune system defence forces. To her, the interaction between vitamin D, gut microflora, fibre intake, and our health reinforces the need to look at systems as a whole. Feeding yourself whole grains and fermented foods for the gut microbes, fruits and vegetables for the minerals, vitamins and enzymes, and adding some physical exercise in the sun can clearly help your immune system to fight a pandemic. Read More

African small-scale mechanization project winds down after strong results

Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe and Ethiopia have embraced small-scale mechanization thanks to an innovative CIMMYT-led project, which is now drawing to a close. Since 2013, the Farm Mechanization and Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Intensification (FACASI) project has helped farmers access and use two-wheel tractors that significantly reduce the time and labor needed to grow, harvest and process their crops. To ensure long-term sustainability, the project and its partners helped support and develop local enterprises which could supply, service and operate the machines, and encouraged the development of supportive government policies. The project was funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), as well as the CGIAR Research Programs on Maize and Wheat.

From its inception, FACASI went beyond simply providing machinery to farmers, and instead envisioned mechanization as a way out of poverty. "Mechanization is a system, not only a technology," said Bisrat Getnet, the project's national coordinator in Ethiopia and director of the Agricultural Engineering Research Department at the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research. "Mechanization needs infrastructure such as roads, fuel stations, spare part dealerships, maintenance centers, training centers and appropriate policies. This project assessed which measures are needed to sustain a new technology and addressed these with direct interventions," he explained.

The FACASI project worked to introduce and develop new small-scale machines, including two-wheel tractors, small shellers and threshers, and small pumps, in African rural settings, collaborating with local engineers, farmers and manufacturers. This included adapting a range of attachments that could be used to mechanize on-farm tasks such as planting, harvesting, transporting and shelling. In parallel, the project developed local business opportunities around the supply, maintenance and use of the machines, to ensure that users could access affordable services and equipment in their communities. Read More

All smiles for farmers in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia as APPSA concludes the project

APPSA was a six-year project supported by the World Bank to promote a regional approach to agricultural technology generation and dissemination in three SADC countries, namely Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia.

Based in Chinguluwe Area, in Salima District, Malawi, this 37-year-old woman worked directly with APPSA research and extension agents to help champion the demonstration of technology in agriculture in her community. Dzimbiri participated in farmer field trials for Conservation Agriculture (CA) and maize-legume intercropping for three consecutive years. She is part of the 41 300 lead farmers in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia who have participated in this project. "*Munda woyala mapesi mumakhala tchile lochepa…timangozulira* (the plot under CA had very few weeds which only require hand weeding because the growth of weeds is suppressed by the ground cover)," said Dzimbiri.

> *"Maize crop from CA plot grew faster and bigger than from the conventional maize plot"*

She said CA has helped small-scale farmers with the opportunity to achieve food security in the face of challenges of poor soils, poor rain and poor yields. Dzimbiri testified that her maize crop from CA plot grew faster and bigger than from the conventional maize plot.

The technologies that have been promoted by APPSA over the past six years aimed at improving the farming practices in the region inspired Dzimbiri to scale up her farming project. Read More

Conservation Agriculture can boost maize yields

Maize farmers who aim to practice no-tillage or conservation agriculture on their farms will benefit from considerably higher yields during dry seasons since these farming methods allow them to plant crops considerably closer together. So says Dr. Stephano Haarhoff, who received his doctorate in agronomy at Stellenbosch University (SU). His research was conducted under supervision of Dr Pieter Swanepoel and Prof Nick Kotzé from the (SU) Department of Agronomy.

In his research, he investigated the influence of plant population (the number of plants per unit area) and row spacing on rainfed maize production in no-tillage- and Conservation Agriculture systems in North West and the eastern Free State. He believes, however, that some of the principles highlighted could also be considered by irrigation farmers. Further, His research shows that large-scale soil erosion in production regions with high rainfall, like KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and the eastern Free State, can be combatted using cover crops, crop rotation and the management of sufficient crop residues. Read More

Getting down to the nuts and bolts – a push for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization in Africa

Today, more than ever, digital agriculture is streamlining efficiency and productivity. But in Africa, many people do not have access to agricultural tools and equipment to improve their yields and reduce heavy labour. These tools, digital and non-digital, need to be available to farmers.

"Agricultural mechanization and innovation need to be part of the equation," says Josef Kienzle, an agricultural engineer and leader of FAO's mechanization task team.

FAO is supporting the African Union to promote sustainable agricultural mechanization across the continent to boost agricultural productivity and production with a view to ending hunger in Africa by 2025 and feeding a growing and rapidly urbanizing population. Around 60 percent of Africa's population earns a living from agriculture, but the sector is failing to reach its potential. Sustainable mechanization – from simple hand tools to more sophisticated and motorized equipment – not only can improve productivity along the agrifood value chain but also reduce harvest and post-harvest losses. It can ease the burden of hard physical work, reduce labour shortages and improve the productivity and timeliness of agricultural operations. And it can lead to better market access by improving food quality and safety, added value, logistics and transportation.

Small-scale farmers cannot always afford to buy agricultural machinery. Thus, being able to rent mechanization services to prepare land for early planting or for on-time harvesting is key. Mobile phone technologies combined with GPS tractor trackers have become new business models. The TroTro Tractor Limited, for example, is a powerful platform that connects farmers and tractor operators, helping to improve accountability and reduce the loss and misuse of equipment. It operates in Ghana and Zimbabwe and soon in Kenya.

At the request of the African Union and FAO Member Countries, FAO developed the Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization: A Framework for Africa with the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission. The comprehensive framework, the product of a long, Africa-wide consultative process, provides guidance on tackling challenges and promoting greater uptake of sustainable mechanization.

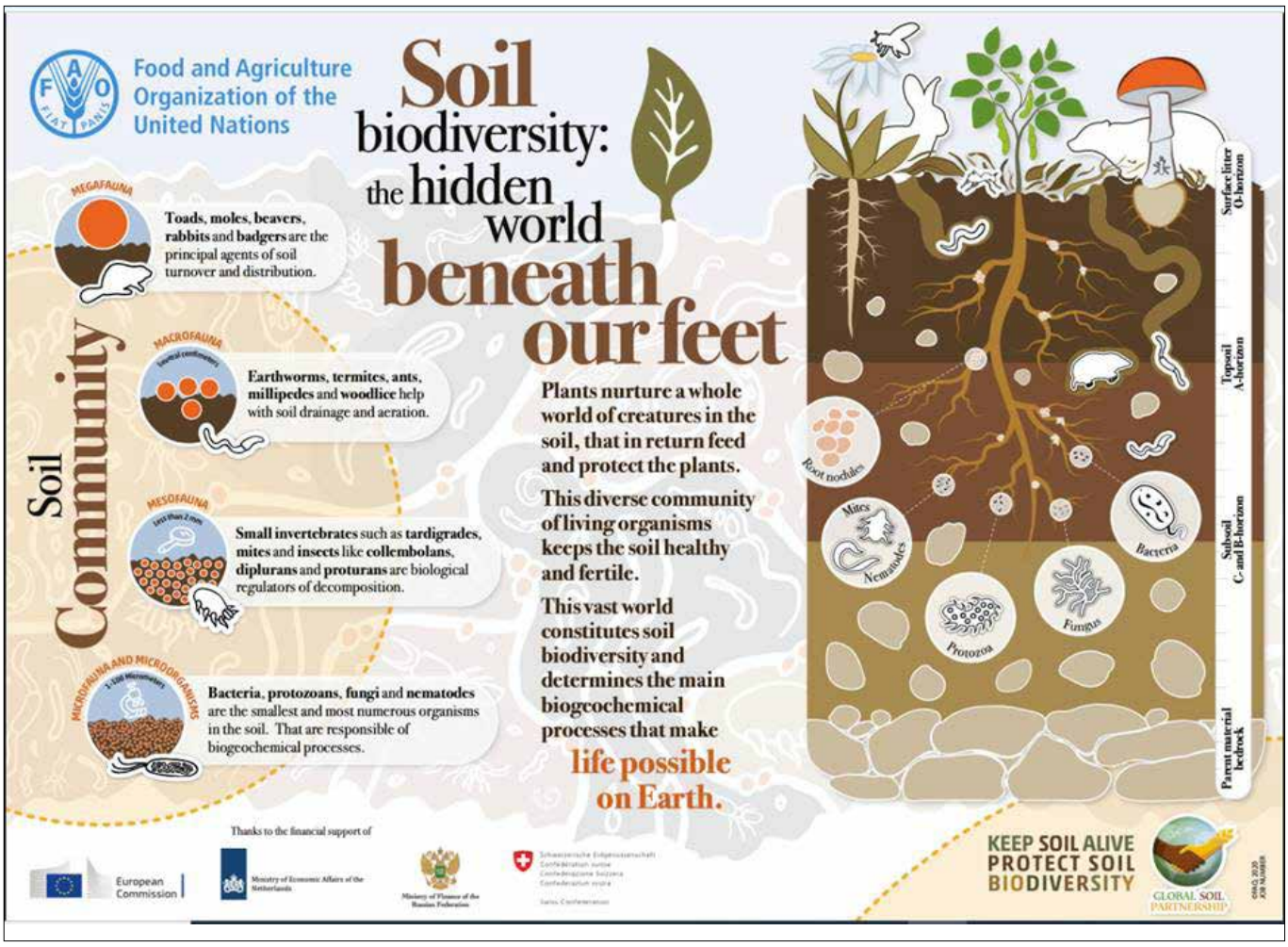
To carry out the framework's recommendations, FAO's Investment Centre and Plant Production and Protection Division jointly organized regional workshops in Côte d'Ivoire (with around 30 representatives from Benin, Senegal, Morocco, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire), and in Uganda (with more than 60 representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Ghana, Uganda). The workshops brought together practitioners, government officials, farmer organization representatives and bankers to share experiences and knowledge. They looked at the need to link good agronomic practices, like Conservation Agriculture, with sustainable mechanization options. Read More

Soil Biodiversity, the hidden world beneath our Feet

Soil biodiversity reflects the variability among living organisms including a myriad of organisms not visible with the naked eye. These diverse organisms interact with one another and with the various plants and animals in the ecosystem forming a complex web of biological activity. This therefore means that soil biodiversity is a complex ecosystem which is highly evolving and sophisticated. It processes organic waste into soil. It filters and cleans much of the water we drink and the air we breathe by retaining dust and pathogens. It plays a large role in how much carbon dioxide is in the atmosphere. Soil, with all of its organic matter, is second to the oceans as the largest carbon repository on the planet. Annual ploughing, erosion and other mismanagement releases carbon in the form of carbon dioxide, and exacerbates climate change.

World Soil Day 2020 (#WorldSoilDay) and its campaign "*Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity*" aims to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the growing challenges in soil management, fighting soil biodiversity loss, increasing soil awareness and encouraging governments, organizations, communities and individuals around the world to commit to proactively improving soil health.

The infographic below illustration the significant of well-maintained soil biodiversity and the interactions to relates to the ecosystem. Read More



Climate Mitigation Potential of Regenerative Agriculture is significant!

In a recent World Resources Institute (WRI) blog post entitled "Regenerative Agriculture: Good for Soil Health, but Limited Potential to Mitigate Climate Change", Ranganathan *et al.,* (2020), dismiss the potential for regenerative agriculture to contribute to the "large scale emission reductions" and CO_2 removal needed to hold global warming below the 2°C threshold in the Paris Accords. We believe their blog post merits comment and critique. Given the severity of the climate change challenge and the urgent need to decarbonize the global economy, while also actively drawing down CO_2 concentrations in the atmosphere, all viable options are needed to help solve the problem. We believe that the science is clear that regenerative agriculture can in fact contribute significant emission reductions and CO_2 removal, as well as improve soil health. Unfortunately, we believe the WRI post confuses rather than clarifies the scientific and policy issues concerning the role and potential of regenerative agriculture to contribute to climate change mitigation.

First, the WRI piece poorly characterized the practices and principles comprising the suite of conservation management practices that are often referred to as "regenerative agriculture". These principles are widely understood to include: 1) maintaining (to the degree possible) continuous vegetation cover on the soil, 2) reducing soil disturbance, 3) increasing the amount and diversity of organic residues returned to the soil and 4) maximizing nutrient and water use efficiency by plants. Broadly these attributes are designed to more closely mimic native (e.g. prairie) ecosystems which we know maintain much higher soil C stocks than conventional annual croplands. In general, these practices work to increase soil C by increasing the amount of C added back into the soil and reducing the relative C loss rates via soil respiration and erosion. For annual cropland, these practices include reduced tillage/ no-till and cover crops (as mentioned by WRI), more diverse crop rotations with higher frequency of perennial crops, but also grassed waterways and buffer strips, agroforestry (e.g., hedgerows, windbreaks), integrated livestock management with improved grazing management, and conversion of marginal lands (poorly suited to annual cropping) to perennial grasses and trees. Read More

Questions & Answers: COVID-19 pandemic – impact on food and agriculture

Both lives and livelihoods are at risk from this pandemic. Though in some countries the spread of the pandemic has been slowing down and cases are decreasing, in others, COVID-19 is resurging or continuing to spread quickly. This is still a global problem calling for a global response. We know that it will eventually retreat, but we don't know how fast this will happen. We also know that this shock is somewhat unusual as it affects significant elements of both food supply and demand. We risk a looming food crisis unless measures are taken fast to **protect the most vulnerable, keep global food supply chains alive** and mitigate the pandemic's impacts across the food system.

Some 820 million people around the world are experiencing hunger – consuming an insufficient amount of calories (dietary energy) for a normal, active life for a long period (2018, latest data available). Hunger (or chronic undernourishment) impacts everyone negatively, but it is particularly damaging on children's growth and development, its effects are irreversible and carry long-term implications for our future and sustainable development.

According to an **FAO analysis** (24 April), in the absence of timely and effective policies, millions more are likely to join the ranks of the hungry as a result of the COVID-19-triggered recession. That number will vary according to the severity of economic contractions, ranging from 14.4 million to 38.2 million, or even 80.3 million more hungry people should there be a contraction of 2, 5 or 10 percentage points, respectively, in all 101 net food-importing countries' GDP growth. If this happens, it could lead to a longer-term setback to global Zero Hunger efforts. We would be faced not with a food crisis of a few months, but a crisis with potentially serious consequences in the long run.

At the same time, at the end of 2019, 135 million people across 55 countries and territories were estimated to be experiencing crisis levels of acute food insecurity (situations in which a sudden crisis or a shock leads to food insecurity levels so extreme that people's lives or livelihoods are in immediate danger) according to the 2020 Global Food Crises report released in April. This means they were coping with Crisis or Emergency or Catastrophe levels of food insecurity, as measured on the IPC integrated food security classification scale. More than half (73 million) of the 135 million people facing crisis levels of acute food insecurity live in Africa; 43 million live in the Middle East and Asia; 18.5 million live in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Get more question and answers on the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on the link Q&A and/or Read More

Events and Opportunities

Mechanization Hire Service Provision Training Courses in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia – July to September 2020

ACT jointly with FAO and the country partners who participated in the December 2019 Regional Workshop in Uganda are organizing in-country trainings for mechanisation hire service provision. The courses will be held in in the July to September 2020 period. Some 15-18 service providers from each country will be trained on hire services founded on Conservation Agriculture as a business and eventually networked with each other and also with clients, information and machinery service providers. Training will be offered online and complimented with practicals observing social distancing.

For more information, contact: Weldone Mutai weldone.mutai@act-africa.org

The 8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (8WCCA), POSTPONED to June 21st to 24th, 2021 in Zollikofen, Bern, Switzerland 2021

On behalf of the International Organizing Committee, it is a pleasure to confirm the new dates and arrangements for the 8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (8WCCA). They are as follows:

(a). The Congress will be held from June 21st to 24th, 2021 in Zollikofen, Bern, Switzerland,

(b). The indoor sessions during the first three days will take place at the INFORAMA Rtti in Zollikofen and at the School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Science HAFL, close to the Swiss capital of Bern, Switzerland. The two locations offer a variety of Conference Rooms of different sizes. Besides, there is a set of field tests at INFORAMA, including the long-term trial "Oberacker".

(c). The Field Day will be held on the fourth day of the Congress and will follow the same structure and arrangements as planned initially. It will take place at the estate "Witzwil" only 40 minutes away from Bern.

8WCCA
8th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture
Bern, Switzerland
POSTPONED to 2021

(d). The 8WCCA programme outline remains the same.

(e). Abstracts which have been accepted will be processed as foreseen unless for those authors who wish to withdraw their submissions. For this, all authors will be contacted soon by email to confirm their intention to either maintain or withdraw their abstracts.

For more information, **Download the Announcement**

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Norad

ACT acknowledges the partnership and financial support provided by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) towards Promotion of Conservation Agriculture in Africa