



## **September 2014 – Updates and Hottest Issues**

### **1. Kenya Agricultural Productivity and Agribusiness Program launches “the Kenya Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arid and Semi-Arid lands (KACCAL) Project”**

The National launch of the Kenya Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arid and Semi- arid land (KACCAL) project took place on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) headquarters. KACCAL is supported by the Government of Kenya and the World Bank through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant. This **project aims** at enhancing the resilience of communities and the sustainability of rural livelihoods threatened by climate change in the semi-arid and arid lands of Kenya.

The project is implemented in the **four counties** of *Garissa, Kilifi, Tana River and West Pokot*. The occasion was graced with exhibitions and displays of environmental activities conducted at the community level. The project is implemented through **three project components**:

- Climate information product, policy and advocacy.
- Climate risk management at the county level and
- Community driven initiatives for climate resilience.



**More information:** <http://act-africa.org/news.php?com=68&com2=6&item=222#.VClXi1dvAqI> or <http://www.kapp.go.ke>

### **2. The Inception and Launch of Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture on 24 September 2014 in New York, US.**

*“I firmly believe that every one of us can step and become leaders in combating climate change” Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General.*



The 2014 Climate Summit brought together world leaders, from government, finance, business, and civil society to galvanize and catalyze climate action; it provided a unique opportunity for leaders to champion an ambitious vision, anchored in action that will enable a meaningful global agreement in 2015. It was during this Summit that the Global Alliance for Climate smart Agriculture was officially launched. Notably, there was broad agreement around the urgent need to address the nexus of climate change and agriculture, food security and nutrition. A large number of speakers voiced support for the newly launched Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA), and several urged that it pay close attention to issues of gender, climate justice and human rights, particularly focusing on the needs of smallholders.

However, the inauguration of GACSA’s implications for Africa need to be discussed and comprehend further to established proper and adequate interventions domesticated to Africa. Indeed the expression of dejection to the launch of GACSA by a movement of NGOs supported

by TWIN (<http://www.climatesmartagconcerns.info/rejection-letter.html>) could be driving a different message and hence the need for further conversations.

**More** info +: [United Nations Secretary General’s Climate Summit](#) or  
: <http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/85725/en/>

### 3. Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods

*--- An enhancer of the Lusaka Declaration of the First Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture ---*

During **The 23rd Ordinary Session of the African Union**, under the theme “**2014 Year of Agriculture and Food Security**” the Heads of State and Government adopted a number of key decisions with a view to enhancing the socio-economic and political development of the continent, notably in the areas of education, health, agriculture, trade, women and youth development. Among these decisions was the adoption and ratification of Malabo declaration on accelerated agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods. This is a keen follow-up of and enhancer of the Lusaka Declaration on Conservation Agriculture which marks the adoption of a new CAADP results framework, which recognizes the role of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) in addressing agriculture and climate change challenges.

Notably, the two declarations recognize the need to revitalize and transform agriculture collectively through recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP; target to have 25 million farm households adopt CSA, and committed that hunger will be ended in Africa by 2025.

**More** info +:

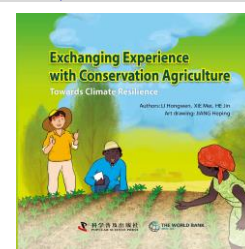
**Lusaka Declaration:** <http://www.africacacongress.org/downloads/declaration-of-the-first-africa-congress-on-conservation-agriculture>

**Malabo Declaration:**  
[http://summits.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Assembly%20AU%20Dec%202017%20-%2020545%20%28XXIII%29%20\\_E.pdf](http://summits.au.int/en/sites/default/files/Assembly%20AU%20Dec%202017%20-%2020545%20%28XXIII%29%20_E.pdf) or <http://tinyurl.com/osj3bod>

### 4. “Exchanging Experiences in Conservation Agriculture, Towards Climate Resilience” cartoon booklet

**Inspiring Resource!!!** This is taking the promotion of Conservation Agriculture a notch higher – using innovative approaches. The authors of the booklet deeply emphasize the need for knowledge and experience sharing globally illustrating ‘South-South knowledge sharing’. Immensely the pertinent issues about CA are well elaborated.

See the updated version at <http://act-africa.org/library.php?com=5&com2=20&com3=38&com4=>



### 5. The African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) -Tanzania wins second prize at the Nanenane Agricultural Exhibitions 2014

*NaneNane*, translated “eight-eight” in Kiswahili, is a public holiday in Tanzania held every year on the eighth day of the eighth month (August 8). It is an event that recognizes the hard work and contribution of farmers to the Tanzanian economy. It is celebrated in seven major zones in the country with large fairs to create a platform for farmers and other stakeholders to interact, share knowledge and communicate business ideas.

During the event, different stakeholders from public, private, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs whose sole business is agriculture get priority for the space to display, educate and sell agricultural related products. Non-agriculture bodies like banks, academia, media and communication companies to link up agricultural activities along the value chain also participate.



Deogratius Ngotio, ACT Program officer- Tanzania receiving the winning trophy

Notably, the participation of ACT-Tanzania in this year's event, exhibiting conservation agriculture practices, received recognition and was ranked second best among the 18 NGOs who took part in the event: <http://act-africa.org/news>

## 6. Conservation Agriculture Technology for Improved Agricultural Productivity and Sustainable Land Management-Training KAPSLM Project catchment areas Service providers (ToTs)

**The Kenya Agricultural Productivity and Sustainable Land Management Project (KAPSLMP)** is a Kenya Government Project supported by the World Bank through a Global Environment Facility (GEF) grant and implemented in 9 Counties under Kikuyu - Kinale, Taita - Taveta and Cherangani hills Catchment areas (127 Micro-catchments). It is responsive to the limited success in the country's efforts to address land degradation. The main objective of Project is to facilitate agricultural producers in the three catchments areas to adopt environmentally sound land management practices without reducing their incomes. The three catchments are important water towers but facing challenges of high soil erosion and land degradation; factors that are closely linked to high poverty levels.



It is under this background that African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) was engaged to facilitate and train services providers (TOT) on Conservation Agriculture for **the three catchments areas (Taita-Taveta; Cherangany Hills and Kinale-Kikuyu catchment areas)**. Based on the reconnaissance done before the trainings, CA has great potential in the region as it can control rampant erosion, and enhance biodiversity regeneration. It can also increase farmers' resilience to adapt and mitigate effects of climate change. The objective of the training



was to enhance understanding of the principles of resource-saving and sustainable agricultural technologies as the new way to farm; to provide practical knowledge and skills in the application of sustainable agriculture practices for different socioeconomic and agro-ecological environments in Kenya's water towers and enable Service Providers to respond competently to sustainability and productivity needs of farmers.

**More info+:** <http://act-africa.org/news.php?com=68&com2=6&item=221> or

KAPSLM: <http://www.kapp.go.ke/projects/kapslm.html#>

## 7. FACASI Newsletters – June and September, 2014 Release

**Farm Mechanization & Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Intensification (FACASI)** is a project centered on accelerating the adoption of CA in Eastern and Southern Africa through the promotion of mechanized CA technologies. FACASI is a four year project which started in 2013 and implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. The overall goal of the project is to improve farm power balance, 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 project so far has released **two newsletters** issues:



The **first** June release highlighted the background, justification and initial steps taken by the project. The **second** (September) release captured new developments, including the Business Modelling training conducted at Adama, Ethiopia from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2014. The training aimed at equipping the newly recruited CIMMYT national agribusiness development officers as well as the National Agriculture Research System officers involved in the FACASI project - from the four countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe - with practical skills in market development and business modelling.



For info and Download: <http://facasi.act-africa.org/library.php?com=4&com2=12&com3=13&com4=>

## 8. Upcoming Events

### [A] International conference on Agroecology for Africa – AfA 2014, November 03 – 07, 2014, Antananarivo – Madagascar

The conference intends to focus on the agroecology in friendly rainfed farming systems for sustainability in Africa and analyze agro-ecological technologies, innovation processes and innovative cropping systems as well as land management strategies benefiting small-scale agriculture in Africa. It attempts to look back to what has been achieved up to now, sharing real practical experiences and identifying the best practices, innovation processes and diffusion methods with farmers.

**Theme:** The conference seeks to improve both scientific and practical understanding of how agroecology can be better integrated in the management of tropical rainfed agriculture for sustainability by African small-scale farmers.

To **register**, visit <http://www.cirad.mg/conference/AfA-2014/registration/> and for inquiries contact [afa-2014@ird.fr](mailto:afa-2014@ird.fr)

### [B] The International conference on Conservation Agriculture (CA) for Smallholders in Asia and Africa, 7-12 December, 2014, Mymensingh, Bangladesh.

Purpose to attend this [International conference on Conservation Agriculture \(CA\) for Smallholders in Asia and Africa](#) that brings together practitioners currently working towards the development and uptake of CA for smallholder farmers to present the current status of CA for smallholders, establish linkages among collaborators working on CA for smallholders and to chart a course for future developments that can help smallholder farmers find CA an attractive option. Much has already being learnt about CA for smallholders across Asia and Africa; hence this Conference provides a high level platform that enhances CA knowledge and information sharing.

Themes:

- i) **Machinery:** Design and development of CA-based crop establishment and herbicides spraying machinery, implements, tools for smallholders;
- ii) **Weed management:** Suitable weed management options (chemical, mechanical, crop rotation and biological);
- iii) **Soil, water and agronomy;**
- iv) **Commercialization** adoption and continuous improvement of CA-based technologies; and
- v) **Policy** and institutional framework for the adoption of CA.

To **Register**, visit: <http://www.scac2014.org/Registration.aspx#.VCUW11dvAqI>

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