



# CA - SARD



CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE FOR  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT



- ABOUT CA-SARD
- THE OBJECTIVE
- CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE
- THE APPROACH
- GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE
- ACTIVITIES
- COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIPS



Promoting Growth and  
Improved food Security





## ABOUT CA-SARD

Conservation Agriculture for SARD is an FAO project funded by the German Trust Fund. The project started in 2004 and is currently on its 2<sup>nd</sup> phase which ends in 2010. Ministries of agriculture from Kenya and Tanzania, KARI (Kenya Agricultural Research Institute), SARI (Selian Agricultural Research Institute), ACT (African Conservation Tillage Network) and FAO (Food & Agriculture Organization) are the key implementers of the project.

Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Agriculture in Rural Development is a Project focused in contributing to the promotion of growth and improved food security in Kenya and Tanzania through the scaling up of conservation agriculture (CA) as a sustainable land management (SLM) option.

## THE OBJECTIVE

Agriculture and rural development are sustainable when they are environmentally sound, technically appropriate, economically viable, socially acceptable and able to adapt to changing circumstances and conditions. The project has highlighted Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) as a principal strategic objective.

## CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

Conservation Agriculture (CA) is a concept for resource-saving agricultural crop production that strives to achieve acceptable profits together with high and sustained production levels while concurrently conserving the environment. CA is based on enhancing natural biological processes above and below the ground. Interventions such as mechanical soil tillage are reduced to an absolute minimum, and the use of external inputs such as agrochemicals and nutrients of mineral or organic origin are applied at an optimum level and in a

way and quantity that does not interfere with, or disrupt, the biological processes. CA is characterized by three principles which are linked to each other, namely:

1. Continuous minimum mechanical soil disturbance.
2. Permanent organic soil cover.
3. Diversified crop rotations in the case of annual crops or plant associations in case of perennial crops.

## THE APPROACH

The project uses farmer field school (FFS) methodology as a tool for introducing the CA concept to smallholder farmers. The FFS groups consist of between 25 and 30 members coming together to share experiences in a learning process that revolves around the farmer's plot. Under this methodology, farmers are trained and then implement their learning over two seasons. At the end they 'graduate' with a certificate, qualifying them to initiate other FFSs.

## SCALING UP OF CA TECHNOLOGIES:

Through an increase in the numbers of Sustainable Land Management Conservation Agriculture farmer field schools, the Project has expanded the adoption of profitable CA practices by smallholder farmers in the two East African countries. To facilitate the scaling out process the Project has enhanced the supply and availability of CA equipment for farmers by stimulating private sector participation in the manufacture, retailing and hiring of appropriate equipment. The Project has facilitated a close collaboration with the Brazilian manufacturing and supply chain sectors. Sustainable Land Management-Conservation Agriculture knowledge and information has been concentrated and disseminated throughout the African continent by the Project's regional counterpart the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT).

CA-SARD Giving Voice to women in Farmer field schools



CA-SARD Introducing new Labour Reduction Techniques.



Competitive yields is one pre-requisite to have CA message disseminated.







## COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

FAO implements the CA-SARD project through ACT and in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives in the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Ministry of Agriculture in Kenya. Direct implementation responsibilities lie on Selian Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) in Arusha, Tanzania and the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) in Nairobi-Kenya

The project also benefits from synergistic links with IFAD funded project in West Africa. The SCAP project is implemented within the ACT's regional framework, which it brings CA experiences from the rest of Africa, and has been used as the conduit for new knowledge emanating from SCAP to be globally available. The SCAP project (which also includes partnerships with ICRAF, CIRAD and AFD) encompasses much of the CA-SARD II holistic approach with farmer groups being the bedrock on which SLM practices are built, the SCAP project combines community-led R&D and adaptation of CA technologies with an aggressive programme of knowledge sharing. Linkage of CA-SARD project with SCAP is mutually beneficial and greatly increases access to Conservation Agriculture knowledge on a pan-African scale.



## ACTIVITIES

The CA-SARD project is implemented through Farmer Field School (FFS) approach. Emphasis of the approach is on dissemination and increased adoption of CA technologies, the “heart” of the project strategy is that of mobilizing and stimulating communities into self-motivating collective responsibility and actions through the formation and support of FFS groups the approach has brought greater and long-term empowerment of rural communities in CA adoption and Natural Resource Management. Therefore, the project has pursued actively the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach. Key adjustment has been made to the approach to ensure compatibility with conservation agriculture aspects. The approach included active on-farm, farm-led experimentation as a key component to an innovation chain that has encouraged and facilitated farmers to innovate and adapt practices suitable and feasible in their circumstances.



CA-SARD Linking African & Brazilian  
CA equipment Manufacturers

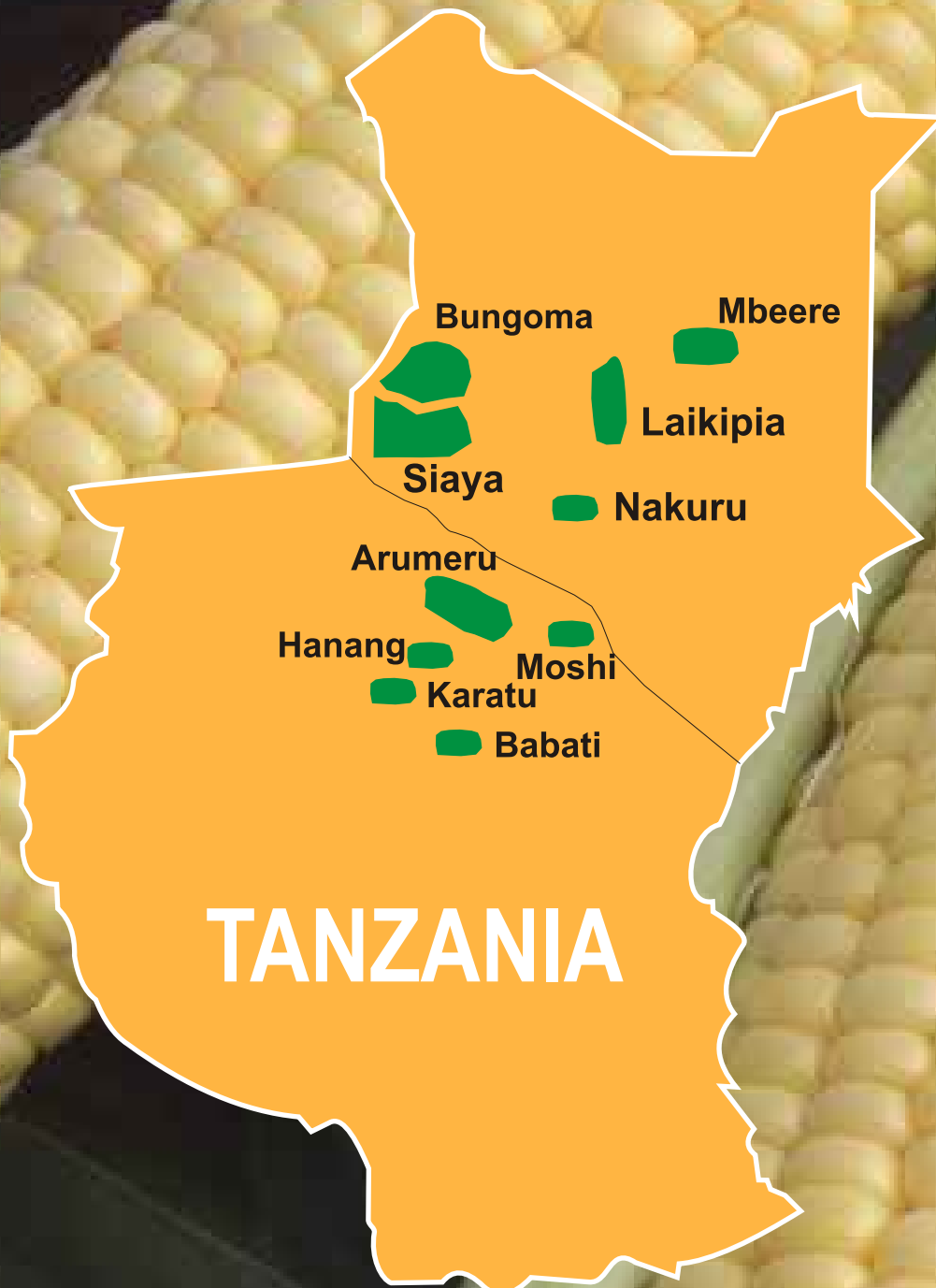


CA For Improved Crop Yields





# CA - SARD



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
P.O BOX 10375 - 00100 Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254 20 2725788 / 2725369  
Email: [FAO-KE@fao.org](mailto:FAO-KE@fao.org)  
Web: [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

African Conservation Tillage Network  
P.O BOX 10375 - 00100 Nairobi Kenya  
Tel: +254 20 4444252  
Fax: +254 20 4451391  
Email: [info@act-africa.org](mailto:info@act-africa.org)  
Web: [www@act-africa.org](http://www@act-africa.org)