

Africa Conservation Tillage Network

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE AWARENESS CREATION WORKSHOP NAURA SPRINGS HOTEL ARUSHA TANZANIA ON 3RD AND 4TH OCTOBER 2012



PROCEEDINGS REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

The African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Tanzania organized an information sharing workshop on Conservation Agriculture (CA) that was held at Naura Springs hotel in Arusha on 3rd and 4th October 2012. This two day experience sharing and awareness creation workshop was an open information exchange forum, bringing together national stakeholders engaged in promotion of CA practices. The workshop provided an opportunity for discussion and sharing of information particularly on (i) Experiences and lessons learned in relation to CA programming within Tanzania and the region, including sustainability and evidence of impacts (ii) Challenges, gaps and future opportunities facing CA expansion (iii) Development of a common linkage platform aimed at increasing national stakeholder's collaboration and communication of CA related information and (iv) Appropriate information and innovation network and support models for farmers and stakeholders within value chains in the promotion of CA. The workshop was attended by more than 40 participants from NGOs, government, private sector and international institutions from Tanzania.

The programme for day one involved two sessions - the first session involved introductions, opening and experience sharing through presentations (CA experiences and up scaling initiatives for Africa, Tanzania CA experiences and policy context and stakeholders presentations on CA field experiences) while the second session was on field visit. For day two there were presentations of CA experiences, plans and CA platforms from CA farmers and service providers followed by group work on emerging issues in CA.

2. SESSION I - OPENING, INTRODUCTIONS AND EXPERIENCE SHARING

The session was chaired by Dr. Simon Lugandu who welcomed the participants and shared on the objectives and the process of the workshop. The participants were given a chance to do self introduction and state their expectations from the workshop. Prior to inviting the Guest of Honour to open the workshop the ACT Executive Secretary, Eng. Saidi Mkomwa, gave a welcome remark. He then invited the guest of honour, the Arusha Regional Commissioner who was represented by Arumeru district commissioner Mr Nyarembe Munasa, to officially open the workshop. The guest of honour emphasized on the importance of conservation agriculture in overcoming problems of food insecurity and environmental degradation and the government commitment to supporting CA. He also emphasized on the issues of land use planning which will enable smooth implementation of CA and also avoiding conflicts among the farmer and livestock keepers. The guest of honour pointed out about the need for stakeholders networking for easier dissemination of the CA technology across the country. He congratulated ACT for the initiative of organizing the workshop before declaring that the workshop was officially opened. Then Mr. Munasa had a chance for a group photo with participants and a talk to journalists to convey the message on CA to the media for larger audience consumption.

After the official opening of the workshop, a presentation was delivered by the ACT Executive Secretary, Eng. Saidi Mkomwa on linking the initiatives of conservation agriculture in Africa for food security, adaptation and adoption to climate change. He covered the issue related to Africa's food security challenges, the reasons why Africa is in this predicament, what is and why CA, variations in implemented CA technical packages and CA adoption strategies, successes and failures. Raising global populations was cited as among the main challenges facing Africa which implies the need for more food production to support this booming population. Hunger is also another challenge facing Africa. When Africa is compared with other countries in the world, it has the lowest levels of fertiliser use, area under irrigation and tractors per unit area. Eng Saidi emphasised on the need for good agronomic practices and agroforestry as enhancers to CA. For the case of scaling out CA, Saidi mentioned that there no magical strategies but to mainstreaming CA in national policies: in extension messages and educational curricula,

ensure entrepreneurial CA service provision, use of proper learning approaches (FFS; Exchange visits; Demonstration plots; and Market pull: contract farming (cotton; horticulture). Eng. Saidi also presented on what is ACT and as a regional body its roles in the promotion of CA in Africa.

Another presentation was made by Engineer Richard Shetto about policies and conservation agriculture in Tanzania. Eng Shetto covered on global area under CA, main drivers to CA adoption, Tanzania experiences on CA, challenges on CA, policies on CA, what policies to be adopted in CA up scaling and proposed areas for action. Only 0.3% of African continent have adopted conservation agriculture in comparison to Northern America 47.6%. The drivers for adoption of CA vary from one country to another. For example for Brazil the drivers included water erosion; costs of production; herbicides in weed control, for Canada and America prairies they were wind erosion; costs of production; herbicides in weed control, while in Australia it was about drought and costs of production but in Kazakhstan it was about drought; costs of production. The success of CA adoption in America and Australia was due to farmer led initiatives with farmer organizations being instrumental in generating and spreading knowledge which led to government, private and civil sector support. In China, India and Kazakhstan the governments support playing important role. CA adoption in Africa is mainly initiated by donor/government supported projects. A number of policies supporting CA exist in Tanzania, but an integrated approach is needed encompassing all government ministries and other stakeholders (both government, non government and private sector) to come together, share experiences and come up with interventions that are coordinated and focused.

Other experience sharing presentation was done by Dominic Ringo, the Director of RECODA. He presented a paper on effective adoption and diffusion of agricultural technologies, a case study of CA experiences within RIPAT projects. RIPAT projects are sponsored by Rockwool Foundation from Denmark and implemented by RECODA is an economic development intervention. RIPAT is a research and development project which intends to find suitable, low-cost solutions to challenges faced by smallscale farmers. Currently the project has been implemented in four districts i.e. Karatu, Arusha, Meru and Korogwe covering 34 villages and 68 groups. The RIPAT objective is offering proven skills and practices for poverty reduction, food security and environmental conservation to small scale farmers through community mobilization, sensitization, counselling and capacity building to utilize locally available resources and opportunities for livelihoods improvements leading to self-support and reliance. On CA implementation Mr Ringo indicated that at first farmers were reluctant to adopt the techniques but later on they slowly adopted. The steady increase in adoption was due to confidence farmers have built in the project due to increase in vields, reduced cost of production, mindset changes and good relationship which the project has built with the farmers over the ample time (four years) and availability of CA inputs (Chaka hoes). The Key points in promoting agricultural/CA technologies were (i) Provision of a 'basket of options' so that farmers decide what is most appropriate for them and adjust the technologies to local conditions (ii) Full and real ownership of the project by the participants resulted from effective training in group organization and leadership (iii) Assistance provided on the basis of 'help to self-help' to minimize donor dependency syndrome (iv) Effective community mobilization and sensitization including good collaboration and coordination with government authorities at all levels (v) Effective, in-built mechanisms for ensuring that technologies introduced to groups spread to the wider community (vi) Work in groups – not only for cost-effective training, but to promote a sense of togetherness and cooperation that will help to sustain the work (vii) Set project destination and build the 'ves we can spirit' (viii) Create conditions which will necessitate regular group meeting i.e. VSLA, perennial crop acting as income generating activities, local institutions, (ix) Ensure availability and/accessibility of agro-inputs and (x) Create competent and many 'super farmers' for diffusion.

3. SESSION II - FIELD VISITS

3.1 SELIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The participants were briefed by Deogratias Ngotio, the Programme Officer for ACT in Tanzania who also provided the profile for the farmer to be visited. There were two sites visited, Selian Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) and Ekenywa village. At SARI participants were welcome and hosted by Mr. Wilfred Mariki and Ms. Marietha Owenya, who are all researchers at SARI. At the site two organizations brought the CA equipment for display, TFSC and SARI. The equipments target both large scale farmer and small scale farmer. Some of the hand and animal drawn equipments which were displayed by SARI include jab planter, zamwipe, magoye riper, animal drawn direct planter. TFSC also brought the following equipments which were tractor drawn implements, two types of direct planter (two row planter and four row planter), subsoiler and boom sprayer. The major concern from participants was the high cost and affordability of the equipment. However participants were happy with the visit since it was an eye opener for them as they had wanted to know where they could get the CA equipment and at what price. SARI is not the supplier of the implement but a technology transfer organ. TFSC is the supplier of the larger scale CA equipment.



Photo 1: Large scale CA implements and Photo 2: Small scale CA implements (ACT, 2012)

3.2 VISIT TO A FARMER FIELD SCHOOL

After the visit at SARI, participants visited Ekenywa village in Arusha district. On arrival the participants were invited by the group with a local song and a welcome remark from Tuamketuamke Farmer Field School group. The Tanzania programme officer, Mr. Deogratias Ngotion facilitated the session initially before Mr. Richard Kipara, a farmer, took over the lead and provide the history of the group. Tuamketuamke group was started in 2007 with 27 members. Currently the group has 24 active members. The objective of the group was promotion of CA for improved livelihood and sustainable environment. The group later decided to start income generating activities/ subprojects which included the Village Community Banks (VICOBA). In group farmers contribute shares on weekly bases to VICOBA, undertake poultry rearing subproject, dairy goat rearing etc. The group members pointed out that each subproject is having a leader. The Tuamketuamke group is led by chairperson, secretary and treasurer. Weekly contribution to VICOBA was challenging to some group members. However it was clear that those who manage to do the contribution do so since they are involved in multiple entrepreneurial activities/petty business within the village, and actually some of them had been trained on entrepreneurship and business management.





Photo 3: Brief history of the group and Photo 4. Entrepreneurship (ACT, 2012)



Photo 5-Left: VICOBA-Saving and credit facility (ACT, 2012)

3.3 VISIT TO A FARMER

Mr. Richard Kipara led the participants together with the FFS group members to visit his nearby farm. The farmer owned 10 acres of farm where he does mixed farming – in door livestock keeping and conservation agriculture. Mr Kipara farm is divided into smaller plots for easier management and application of CA practices. The farmer explained to participants the importance of CA and showed to the participants the impact

which he already observed in his field. He explained the challenges of practicing CA are the existence of free range system in the village. He mentioned how he tries to overcome the challenge had managed to overcome the problem mainly by planting crops stay in the field for relatively longer period. Mr Kipara had also planted some banana plantains and trees in his field. The farmer also managed to diverge the runoff from the main road to his farm. He claimed that the diverted run off diverted helped to provide moisture for longer time which made the crops/plant look healthier.

The participants noted that lablab beans were not doing well as they had been attached with pests. Based on participants experiences the lablab variety which was planted at the field was not favoured by the climate at Ekenywa village. A recommendation was for SARI to collaborate with other stakeholder to find out the cover crops which will fit the situation at Ekenywa village. Also another participant recommend for the Mr. Kipara to plant more trees and Napier grass to control soil erosion caused by runoff or wind. The participants expressed their appreciation to the farmers for accepting to host them. A vote of thanks was provided by Ms. Hanyasi Juma, a farmer from Wanging'ombe district.

4. SESSION III – LESSONS ON FIELD VISITS

Day two started with a recap of the previous day's field visit, the participants started by giving feed back on the field visit - by stating the lessons learnt from the visit and the suggested way forward to enhance the adoption of CA by the farmers and on the issue of CA equipment. The lessons learnt included:

- Farmers were able to articulate the benefits of CA
- Increased productivity was noted by the participants
- Mechanization is important to improve productivity and it saves time
- The need for the government to subsidize the CA equipment for small scale farmers to access and afford to improve productivity.
- CA cannot take place in isolation, other social economic activities should be integrated into CA as a mechanisms for group bonding and earning extra income i.e. VICOBA
- The existence of CA equipment manufacturers in Arusha was an eye opener to participants from other regions
- Subsoiler can help to harvest more water and break the hard pan for easier root penetration
- CA gives strong ground for anchoring the crop hence not seriously affected by the wind
- Benefits of leaving crop residue in the farm is affected by the livestock feeding on the same
- Farmers practicing CA are able to produce even during the dry periods
- Knowledge and awareness on CA should involve soil health aspects
- Few farmers have implemented all CA three principles
- Integration of tree in conservation agriculture is important to overcome the problem of erosion and fuel wood.
- Spiritual activities in farmer groups can increase cohesion and building trust among members

The suggestions for improvement were:

- Development of CA equipment should be increased to fit the various activities to both small scale farmer and large scale farmers
- Get the government to provide incentives to farmers so that they can get access to affordable CA equipment
- Link CA adopters farmers to financial institutions or the government to provide soft credits
- Agents of change should intensify promotion of soil cover
- Policy makers should visit the large scale farmers to learn what is happening there
- Encourage production of CA equipment by the private sectors e.g. Nandra
- Use of bylaws to overcome the problem of livestock-cover crop conflict
- Compilation and publishing of more case studies
- Research needed on small scale farmers on desirable cover crops
- Planting of trees in woodlots, along contour bunds or field boundaries needs to be encouraged for
 provision of tree products and more importantly as wind-breakers to reduce tear of banana leaves;
 evapotranspiration, and soil moisture conservation

4. SESSION IV - PRESENTATION BY LIMAS

Lindi and Mtwara Agribusiness Support Project (LIMAS) is a project funded by the governments of Tanzania and Finland and implemented by NIRAS in Liwale and Newala Districts in Lindi and Mtwara regions respectively. The project was inititated in 2011 and will be concluded in 2014. The LIMAS activities under way include:

- Agribusiness support, business plans, contract schemes, market linkages, etc.
- Conservation Agriculture through district extension service 9 EO in Liwale and 28 in Newala
- VICOBA saving groups 63 groups
- Village Land Certificate and Land Use Plans for 24 villages around Angai Forest

In 2011/12 the following specific activities were implemented by LIMAS

- Worked with 917 farmers 52% women
- Trained extension officers who trained lead farmers from each group
- Inputs for 1 acre CA demonstration plots with close to 50 ha in total
- Translated CA Manual from Conservation Farming Unit, Zambia
- Facilitation skills training to 56 Extension Officers
- Farmers field days during time of planting and weeding
- Competition among farmer groups with external jury 14 winning groups out of 95 groups
- Competition among extension officers with external jury 3 winners
- Demonstrations and lead farmers participation in Nane Nane show
- Refresher training linkage to input suppliers

CA results from first season

CROP	CONVENTIONAL (Kg/ha)	CA (Kg/ha)
Maize	704	1,438
Pigeon pea	539	961
Cowpea	296	741

Conventional yields was baseline data from the farmers getting involved in CA. Break even for investment in input in maize was at 1,500 Kg/ha, although 3,000 Kg/ha was recommended by LIMAS when considering the risk of investment. The other crops grown include sesame, green gram and sunflower.

Lessons learned were:

- The use of inputs gave the results the first year
- Understanding the importance of weeding is difficult
- Record keeping among farmers is a challenge
- The competition for best practices was a great incentive the first year
- Use of short term varieties can promote a second crop in a season

5. SESSION V - EXPERIENCES FROM FARMERS

The session was guided by Hamisi Dulla, the Knowledge and Information Manager for ACT. It involved four farmers who shared their experience.

Mr. Thomas Loronyo shared his experience with CA including the benefits and challenges. Some of the benefits which he highlighted were the controlled soil erosion, built an improved house, bought an improved livestock got knowledge on environmental care and soil management. He also trained other farmers. He receives stakeholders across the country and trains them on conservation agriculture and environmental conservation. Some of the challenges he highlighted were about: control of weeds for the

first year of starting CA, free range livestock keeping, inaccessibility and high costs of CA equipments and lack of CA government experts.

Ms. Hanyasi Juma and Ramla Mstafa from Wangingombe districts also shared their experiences. They only started CA in 2010, and for the first year they had already observed big change in production. They pointed out that there was an increased crop yields and from planting cover crops they were able to get more food and vegetables especially during dry season. They added that farmers from neighbouring villages have started visiting them for advice on CA farming system. Ramla requested the government to put more emphasis in training of government extension officers and lead farmers as the way to disseminate the technology to wider audience. After the presentations from the farmers, the participants got chance to ask some questions.



Photo 6: Ramla mstafa (Njombe) sharing her experience and Photo 7: Richard Kipara sharring his experience – Arusha (ACT, 2012)

6. SESSION VI - EMERGING ISSUES

The session was facilitated by Dominic Ringo and Catherine Mazungu from RECODA. Emerging issues for discussion were structured around the following themes:

- CA policy and government engagement
- CA requirement manufacturing
- CA research and extension
- Regional programming and CA platforms

Participants were divided into groups, each tackling one theme. The group work had to highlights what is ought to be done, by whom, at what time and with what resources.



Photo 8: CA policy and Government engagement and Photo 9: CA research and extension (ACT, 2012)

6.1 CA POLICY AND GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT (GROUP 1)

- Develop guidelines for CA
- Land use plan, local government and NGOs should be involved, village land certificates should be ensured
- Enforce local bylaws
- By laws about free range grazing should be enforced (encourage planting fodder as the security of the field and animal feeds)
- Include CA in the curriculum i.e. FFS approach should be included for extension agents, department of training ministry of education, secondary school
- Increased funding for Research and development, subsidized inputs and machinery (For local producer)
- Also the following should be involved, ministry of finance, ministry of trade, ministry of agriculture and TAMISEMI.

6.2 CA EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING (GROUP 2)

To establish the demand for CA equipment

- To link users to manufacturers by involving middle man
- Advertisement through TV, Nanenane (Farmers Days) shows, Radio, newspapers, agriculture shows etc

Government Policy

- Subsidized cost for CA implements and exemption from tax
- Provision of soft loans, SACCOS and VSL groups

To support the CA equipment service providers

- Credit for CA equipments
- Training for CA equipments

- Entrepreneurship training/business skills
- Tax exemption on implements
- Stimulate local manufacturers
- Tax break for raw materials
- Emphasize on quality and support to complying to standards

6.3 CA RESEARCH AND EXTENSION (GROUP 3)

No	ISSUE	what	By whom	Time	Resource
1.	Determine soil conditions, nutrients and live mulch.	Take soil sample testing	FAO, Gvt	Before season	
2.	Review disseminated technologies/practices (research)	Repackage technologies for discussion, Develop techniques and gap filling	RAO,EO, framers, and private sector		Budget
3	Knowledge cap on CA (All stakeholders) including extension	Sensitization on CA, training to EO's, incorporate CA into curriculum, strengthen WARDs, FFS establishment, CA demon plots and use super farmers	Government, private sector etc.	ASAP	Budget

6.4 REGIONAL PROGRAMMING AND CA PLATFORMS (GROUP 4)

	What to be done about it	By whom	Time frame	Resources
1	Conduct study on structure and systems for CA programming and platforms establishment, including all stakeholders	ACT ACT		Finance and HR-contribution from all stakeholders
3	Hold discussion with MVIWATA, HQ about collaboration in CA Establish inventory for CA stakeholders in Tanzania (Regions)	Institutions currently implementing CA in the Regions		
4	Form and develop regional CA steering committees from NGO Farmers, Research groups, Institutions, Local Gvt relevant departments and develop local steering committee	Stakeholders implementing CA		

7. SESSION VII - WAY FORWARD

Some actions were proposed by Dr Simon Lugandu, as a way forward for the objects of the workshop.

No	Agenda	When?
1.	ACT membership	As soon as possible
	- Join ACT	
	- Contribute to knowledge base	
	- Strengthen database	
2.	Sharing and awareness creation workshops on (CA)	Periodically
3.	Inventory of stakeholders in CA	As soon as possible
	This CA workshop	
	Participants will be requested to share other actors	
4.	Sharing and dissemination of best practices	Quarterly
5.	Capacity building	Annually
	Local CA training	As per needs
	 International CA Training 	
	 Request from partners on CA 	
6.	Communities of Practices	On going
	Academia and researchers	
	 Farmer organizations 	
	 CA equipment manufacturers & suppliers 	
	Youth; Women	
	ACT to - Provide leadership – formation and function	
7.	Share scientific information generated through projects	On going
	ABACO project	On Website (<u>www.act-</u>
	• CA SARD	africa.org)
	• CAWT	
8.	Emerging issues	As per recommendations
9.	Monitoring and Evaluation	On going
	Information	
	Reports	
10.	Partnerships/ collaborative efforts – development of proposals,	
	concepts etc	<u> </u>

8. CLOSING REMARKS

Closing remarks were given by the ACT Executive Secretary, Eng Saidi Mkomwa who thanked all participants for attending the workshop and ACT Tanzania for organizing the event. Then, Eng. Mark Lyimo, the Acting Director of mechanization from MoA, thanked ACT for organizing the event. He also appreciated participation of all stakeholders from different organisations and institutions including farmers. Raphael Laizer, from FAO, indicated his satisfaction about the objective and deliverables of the workshop. He mentioned readiness of FAO to continue supporting such events, as situation permits. Lastly Kinsey from ECHO, on behalf of all participants thanked ACT for organizing the workshop. He commended that the workshop was important for dissemination of CA technology. Finally Dr Simon thanked all those who were involved in making the workshop a success notably the participants, hotel administration, and workshop administrative personnel.

9. ANNEXES

9.1 WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

DATE AND EVE	NT	RESPONSIBILITY			
Arrival of Delegat	es and Travel to the venue - 2 nd October 2012	All participants			
Day I - 3rd Octobe	Day I - 3 rd October 2012				
07:30-08.15	Breakfast and Registration	All participants			
08:15- 08:30	Workshop introductions, objectives, expectations	Simon Lugandu			
	and process				
08:30- 09:15	Welcome Remarks	Saidi Mkomwa			
09:15- 09:30	Opening Remarks	Guest of Honour (MAFC)			
09.30-10.00	Presentation of the CA experiences and up	Saidi Mkomwa			
	scaling initiatives for Africa				
10.00-10.30	Tea/Coffee break	All			
10.30-11.00	Tanzania CA experiences and policy context	Richard Shetto			
11.00-11.45	Brief presentations of (other country) CA	Dominic Ringo			
	Experiences				
11.45-12.15	Discussion & intro to Field visits	Deogratias Ngotio			
12.15 - 13.15	Lunch break	All			
13.15-18.00	Field visits	Deogratias Ngotio			
Day II - 4th Octob	oer 2012				
08:00- 08:30	Registration	All participants			
08:30- 09:00	Recap and Discussion on field trip observations	Simon Lugandu			
09:00-09:45	Presentations of CA experiences, plans and CA	Hamisi Dulla			
	platforms – CA farmers and service providers				
09:45-10:30	Open discussion	Hamisi Dulla			
10:30- 10:45	Emerging issues - Introduction to group work	Dominic Ringo/RECODA			
10:45-11.45	Group work on emerging issues:	Dominic Ringo/RECODA			
	- CA policy and Government engagement				
	- CA equipment manufacturing				
	- CA Research and Extension				
	- Regional programming and CA platforms				
11.45 – 12.30	Presentation of group work findings & thematic	Dominic Ringo/RECODA			
	discussions				
12:30-13:30	Lunch Break	All			
13:30- 15:00	Way forward	Simon Lugandu			
15.00-15.30	Closing Remarks by ACT, FAO, government and	Saidi Mkomwa			
	UN/donor representatives	MAFC			
<u> </u>		Partners representative			
15.30	Departure	All			

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