



World CONGRESS
on Conservation
AGRICULTURE

III World Congress on Conservation Agriculture

Nairobi, Kenya, 3rd to 7th October 2005

Being organized by

The African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT),
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kenya,
Kenya Conservation Tillage Initiative (KCTI)

in association with

New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)

"Linking Production, Livelihoods and Conservation"

Announcement Up-date (March 2005)



Contents	
Part One	Part Two
1. Purpose of the III World Congress on Conservation Agriculture	7. Call for papers and posters
2. Congress aim and objectives	8. The Congress Venue and Accommodation
3. Who can Participate	9. Congress Languages
4. Congress Theme	10. Participant Fees
5. Congress Character and Process	11. Participant Registration
6. Expected Congress Outputs	12. Post-Congress Tours
	13. Congress Organisation

Part One

Third World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (IIIWCCA)

The Organising Committee is delighted to invite all interested stakeholders and organisations to participate in the third World Congress on Conservation Agriculture to be held on October 3-7, 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya.

1. Purpose of the III World Congress on Conservation

- Provide evidence and raise awareness on impact and potential contributions of conservation agriculture to national and global efforts towards the attainment of the millennium goals, especially with regard to food security, poverty alleviation and enhancing natural resource resilience.
- Facilitate interactions among the various schools of thought, disciplines and interest groups in enhancing an integrated and holistic thrust in the development and promotion/application of conservation agriculture (CA) practices

2. Congress aim and objectives

2.1 Aim: Share/Expose experiences and lessons noted worldwide on the role of conservation agriculture in enhancing rural livelihoods in diverse environments. This is expected to contribute to enhancing the promotion/adoption of conservation agriculture (CA) as a production means that concurrently ensures food security, economic benefits and global environmental benefits, including biodiversity and a cleaner environment (carbon sequestration, and international waters).

2.2 Specific Objectives:

2.2.1 Facilitate sharing of information and experiences on:

- i. Impacts of conservation agriculture contributing to the attainment of the millennium goals, especially with regard to:
 - Poverty reduction and Food security,
 - Sustainable natural resource management, and
 - Mitigation of impacts of HIV/Aids
- ii. Sustained adoption of CA, especially in smallholder farming systems
- iii. Key issues in the development and promotion/adoption of CA in both commercial and subsistence farming systems
- iv. Links and roles of CA to other global initiatives (e.g. relevant UN conventions) related to sustainable natural resource management and rural development

2.2.2 Show case policy interventions to support/facilitate adoption of CA and capacitate key players and stakeholders.

2.3 Africa specific objectives:

- i. Identify and articulate a common African thrust on the issues and concerns, including farmers' priorities and strategies for enhanced adoption of CA practices.
- ii. Build technical, policy and political WILL around support for widespread adoption of CA as part of the fight against food insecurity, poverty and stagnation in economic development.
- iii. Enable Africa play its part in global efforts towards the realisation of the millennium goals, in general, and specifically, contribute to the global thrusts for sustainable natural resource use.

3. Participants

All interested players and stakeholders are invited to participate in this Congress. A special invitation is extended to farmers and farmer organisations. Also specially invited are private sector institutions including NGOs.

The Congress expects to bring together a cross section of key stakeholders including agricultural specialists, environmentalists, economists, farmers and farmer organisations, donors, private sector, training institutions, government and non-governmental organisations involved in agriculture and rural development from all continents.

4. Congress Theme: Linking production, livelihood and Conservation

4.1 Sub-themes

- 4.1.1 CA in building communities resilience and ability to provide for own livelihood and development needs
- 4.1.2 CA in mitigating/alleviating effects of social ills such as HIV-Aids, urbanisation and declining interest in farming, especially among the young.
- 4.1.3 Socio-economic, cultural, agro-ecological and technical factors in sustainable adoption of CA
- 4.1.4 Soil life, biodiversity and agriculture
- 4.1.5 Policies and infrastructure support in enhancing CA adoption
- 4.1.6 CA contributing to global environmental quality concerns (carbon sequestration, green-house effect, etc...)
- 4.1.7 Empowering farmers and farmer groups/associations in development and adoption of CA
- 4.1.8 Effective research and dissemination strategies for CA adoption
- 4.1.9 Stakeholder partnership and collaboration, including across sectors and disciplines
- 4.1.10 Information-knowledge management

5. Congress Character and Process

The Organising Committee hopes to realise a Congress that will, both in content and process:

- i. Be attractive and worth-the-while not just to CA “faithfuls”, but other players and interest groups/organisations that may be important for CA development and promotion/adoption.
- ii. Be interactive, allowing active participation and discussions, e.g. thematic working groups, open space (videos, theatre, demonstrations and or training materials).
- iii. Have significant and active representation of farmers and policy/decision makers from across all the continents
- iv. Bring out new knowledge on CA and agriculture, in general; i.e. the outputs of the congress are expected to be more than just proceedings, but knowledge that can be used.
- v. More than just a celebration of CA, show case proven and sustainable adoption of CA, its effects on soil quality and impact on peoples’ livelihoods, and highlight eventual challenges with CA application.

The Congress process shall be characterise by:

- i. Plenary Sessions
- ii. Case Studies & special working groups
- iii. Field Visits
- iv. Poster/video sessions
- v. Open time and information kiosks
- vi. Special Farmers’ Session
- vii. Post-Congress excursions
- viii. Special meetings interest group meetings, e.g. meeting of policy makers (see Registration Form)

Information Kiosks and Poster Sessions

Purpose:

- Providing room for different organisations, especially smaller NGOs, farmer associations, private companies, publishes, etc. to present themselves and their work related to CA

Method:

- Organisations can apply for a booth, where they can expose materials, photos, and posters.
- The best booths obtain a prize, public handing over of prizes for different criteria.

All Congress sessions and activities will be arranged and facilitated in a manner that will allow optimal sharing of experiences across sectors, disciplines, even more so, across continents.

6. Expected Congress Outputs

- i. Information/data/experiences and lessons highlighting issues and circumstances that (i) enhance, (ii) hinder effective CA dissemination and adoption
- ii. Increased awareness and interest in conservation agriculture even among those not directly interested and working in agriculture
- iii. Statement highlighting principle issues and areas of concern in widespread promotion/ adoption of CA worldwide
- iv. Congress Participants motivated to play their role in the development and promotion of sustainable natural resource management linked to high yields
- v. Information that would help in future formal and informal contacts and liaison/partnership in promotions conservation agriculture.

Farmers' forum:

Purpose

- allow farmer to farmer interaction at cross continental level (smallholder farmers)
- bring out focused farmers' perspectives on CA issues to the rest of the congress

Participants

- 50 international 10-20 South America, 10 Asia
- 10 Europe
- 50 Africa farmers – across Africa
- Focus on smallholder (commercial/semi-commercial) farmers

Programme

- Half day discussion session
- Special farmers' Field Trip

Outputs of Farmer forum

- Farmer-to-farmer links for possible future interaction
- Farmers' statement outlining key priority issues and concerns on CA development and adoption/promotion

An end-of-Congress statement outlining key issues and desires/recommendations shall be processed and presented to (among others):

- Nepad Secretariat for conveyance to Heads of States and government.
- Relevant national/international, regional organisations across continents.
- Relevant Government ministries and departments

Part Two

7. Call for Abstracts (papers and posters)

7.1 Introduction

The Congress is essentially a forum, providing opportunity for all interested to share and learn about conservation agriculture issues, programmes and activities. In this regard, the Congress Organising Committee invites all interested persons/institutions to submit inputs to the Congress content.

Within the framework of the Congress themes, we invite submissions in any of the following forms:

- i. **Papers** (scientific or other papers on advances in conservation agriculture)
- ii. **Special case studies** addressing specific elements in CA adoption and its impacts (There will be a special publication that will document all case studies that will be accepted).
- iii. **Posters** (highlighting/showing case experiences in CA adoption/impact or new information on CA)

Please, also note that the Congress programme will have space and time for:

- i. Video shows
- ii. Information Kiosks

Therefore, those interested in showing short CA related videos or would like to manage an information kiosk (where you can display and/or distribute publications, etc... and also get participants to learn more about your institution/programme), please indicate so as you complete the registration form (attached).

7.2 Instructions for submissions of Abstracts for both papers and posters

Abstracts of not more than 300 words should be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (or other compatible format) on or before 10th November 2004 either as a file on a 3.5" computer diskette or as an email attachment to the Congress Secretariat, No. 9, Balmoral Road, Borrowdale, Harare. Fax: +263-4-885596; Email: actnetwork@africaonline.co.zw

Complete and immediately return the attached registration form and accordingly indicate your preference/s, also indicating the title/s of your paper/poster.

Please note that the Organiser encourage more papers and posters presenting applied case studies. Acceptable papers/poster will be published (cd) for wider distribution. Some of the submitted papers will be selected for oral presentation during the Congress.

There will be over 300 spaces for presentation of posters.

Papers/Posters should be prepared in either English or French. Abstracts for French papers must also be prepared and submitted in English and *vice versa*.

Those, whose abstracts will be accepted, will by 6th April 2005 receive confirmation and further instructions on preparation and submission of full posters/papers/expanded summaries.

7.3 Important dates and deadlines:

Notification of abstract acceptance	31 st March - 6th April 2005
Submission of full papers	30 th June 2005

8. The Congress Venue and Accommodation

The Congress will take place at the Safari Park Hotel, in Nairobi, Kenya; located some 15 – 20 minutes drive from Nairobi City Centre on the Thika Road.

There is a wide range of hotel accommodation in Nairobi. Contact the Congress Secretariat for details or visit the Congress website www.act.org.zw or www.fao.org/act-network (click on IIIWCCA).

9. **Language:** English and French (with simultaneous translation).

10. Participant Fees

Description	Fee	
	Pre-registration (i.e. before 31st August 2005)	Registration (i.e. as from 1st Sept. 2005)
Participant	300	350
Accompanying Person	150	200
Participants based in East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda)	250	250

Contact the Congress Secretariat (actnetwork@africaonline.co.zw) for details on pre-congress payments.

11. **Participant Registration:** Please, register by completing and sending to the Congress Secretariat (actnetwork@africaonline.co.zw; Fax: +263-4-885596) the attached form. The Form can also be downloaded from the Congress website. From the website, it is also possible to register on-line.

12. **Post-Congress Tour:** Congress participants will also have chance to participate in post-Congress Tours. Two post-congress tours will be available to:

- i. Northern Tanzania
- ii. Eastern Kenya, or
- iii. Western Kenya
- iv. Northern Kenya

Additional to giving chance to participants to see and interact with farmers on the applications of CA farming practices, the tours will offer participants lifetime experiences with the rich tourist experiences of Kenya and northern Tanzania (Ngorongoro crater, Lake Manyara and remember, you could be lucky to view the Kilimanjaro mountain from Arusha).

- 13. Organisation:** The Congress is being organized by a multi-partner team coordinated by the African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT). Key partners in the organising team include FAO, GTZ, RELMA-ICRAF, CIRAD, CIMMYT, SADC, NEPAD, KCTI and CAAPAS.

The Congress Organising Committee

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Edward Chuma (Chairperson) 2. Martin Bwalya (Executive Secretary) 3. Timothy Simalenga, University of Venda, S. Africa 4. Pascal Kaumbutho, KENDAT, 5. Soren Damgaard-Larsen, ICRAF-RELMA, 6. Kurt Steiner, GTZ 7. Gospel Omanyia, ICRISAT 8. Mrabet Rachid 9. Frank Place, ICRAF 10. Jane Wamuongo (KARI) 11. Hottensiah Mwangi (KARI) 12. Charles Mwanda (MoA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Keogile Molapong/Jean-Claude Legoupil, SADC 14. Torsten Andersson, Sida 15. David Lawrence-Brown, Private 16. John Ashburner, FAO 17. Joseph Kienzle, FAO 18. Adolf Nyaki, MoA, Tanzania 19. Reynolds Shula, ASP, Zambia 20. Shiribwa Mwamzali, MoA, Kenya 21. Bernard Triomphe, CIRAD 22. Qureish Noordin (ICRAF) 23. Nuhu Hatibu (SWMnet)
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15. International Advisory Committee

The committee is composed of distinguished persons offering various advice and support in the preparations for the 3rd World Congress on Conservation Agriculture. The members represent a wide variation in professional experience from the various continents and agroecological circumstances.

For further information, Please contact the Congress Secretariat at:

IIWCCA Secretariat
No. 9, Balmoral Road, Borrowdale
Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: +263-4-882107; Fax: +263-4-885596

Email: actnetwork@africaonline.co.zw

Website: www.act.org.zw or www.fao.org/act-network

Contact Person: Martin Bwalya