

2ACCA

SECOND AFRICA CONGRESS ON
CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE
9th - 12th October 2018 | Johannesburg, South Africa



**Making Climate-Smart Agriculture
Real in Africa with Conservation Agriculture:
Supporting the Malabo Declaration and Agenda 2063**

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Action Statement from Stakeholders of the Second Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture

Background

1. The African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT), in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of South Africa, African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency, Regional Economic Communities, International NGOs, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), European Union (EU), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and various bilateral and multilateral partners, organised and hosted the **Second Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture (2ACCA)** in Johannesburg, South Africa from 9th to 12th October 2018. The Congress was attended by 501 delegates, from 52 countries globally. African countries were represented by 37 countries, of which 4 were from North Africa, 9 from Eastern and Central Africa, 11 from Southern Africa and 9 from Western Africa. The categories of the delegates were government 19%, farmers and farmer organisations 12%, Research institutions and academia 29%, Non-Governmental organisations 24%, Private sector 11%, and Development Partners 5%.
2. The theme of the Congress was “**Making Climate Smart Agriculture Real in Africa with Conservation Agriculture: Supporting the Malabo Declaration and Agenda 2063**”. The main purpose of the Congress was to foster knowledge sharing, learning and building of public, private and civil sectors’ support for the Africa-wide adoption of Conservation Agriculture systems as a basis for Climate Smart Agriculture in the implementation of the Agenda 2063. At the conclusion of the Congress, delegates identified the key take home messages for sharing at respective spheres of influence. These are meant to reach all Conservation Agriculture stakeholders, players and Interest groups including the African Union and its agencies, Regional Economic Communities in Africa, National Governments, Policy Makers, Farmers and Farmer Organisations, Private sector, Development Partners (both bilateral and multilateral), Research Institutions and the academia, Non-Governmental Organisations, and the Media

Introduction

3. **We, the Conservation Agriculture (CA) stakeholders who attended the Second Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture (2ACCA), which met in Johannesburg, South Africa from 9th to 12th October 2018:**
4. Note that discussions and agreed actions at this Congress, were directly building on the OUTCOMES of the First Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture (1ACCA) in March 2014, Lusaka Zambia (<https://tinyurl.com/ydg3rkwc>). This underlines the point that, this is not an event, but a process.
5. Acknowledge that the Congress is inspired by continental development aspirations and development goals as outlined in the African Union's Agenda 2063 and specifically the Malabo declaration on Agriculture Transformation (2014); this is the momentum we are riding on.
6. Underline that CA is not the ultimate goal, but a critical MEANS, hence it is about: CA in the context of economic growth and inclusive development (food, water, incomes, etc.) and CA in the context of global efforts and agreements, including the Paris Climate Agreement, Land and water as well as the Biodiversity Conventions and their related country obligated targets.
7. Recognise that National and Local ownership in the efforts to advance the adoption and practice of CA in Africa is imperative. This is why mainstreaming CA buy-ins into national implementation instruments, including National Development Plans related policies and budget is critical. At Sector level, the instruments include the Agriculture Investment Plans and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and these provides avenue to align to local implementation structures.
8. Underline that “knowledge” is one of the most important resource Africa must have in order to advance and accelerate uptake and spread of CA in both small and largescale farming entities.
9. Recognise that CA is critical in achieving sustainable development and therefore would play a critical role in the efforts to bring agriculture to the fore in the pursuit for wealth creation, creation of job and entrepreneurship opportunities for many of the continent's populations including those in rural areas and sustainable food systems. Appreciates that CA has an immense contribution in halting land degradation, mitigating the negative effects of climate change, improving biodiversity and cushioning vulnerability of people in the advent of climate change.

Statement of Actions

10. In continued resolve to foster and bring to scale the practicing CA, thereby making tangible contributions towards the attainment of Africa's development goals as in Agenda 2063, in general and, specifically, the Malabo Declaration on Agriculture Transformation, including the 25 x 25 target, We, the Congress Participants:
11. **Appeal to Governments and other public institutions, organisations and partner institutions, civil society players as well as private sector, at all levels**, to intensify locally adapted actions aimed at fostering the enabling environment and empowering human capital in scaling up the adoption and practice of CA
12. In this regard, the following is highlighted:
 - a) Continued commitment by public, private, farmers and farmer organisations, Civil Society and development partners to embrace and build on the gains and lessons from implementation of the OUTCOMES of the first Africa Congress on CA
 - b) Stakeholders including the public, civil society and private sectors and development partner institutions (e.g. African Development Bank, FAO, IFAD, World Bank, EU and bilateral and multilateral donors) urged to institute appropriate policies and public-private engagements foster harmonisation and coherence in funding instruments and mechanisms to expand accessible financing available for CA – including CA research, mechanisation as well as acquisition of inputs
 - c) Ensuring heightened efforts to expand access to education and skills development in CA related competencies and knowledge
 - d) Through appropriate training, nurturing and access to information and data, facilitate and support strengthening of sustained capacity at all levels to identify and address risks especially those faced by farmers and rural communities in their efforts to expand CA practice
 - e) Advocate for policies and investment options and mechanisms which give affirmative attention to smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs, especially women and youth, across various national and regional agricultural value chain
 - f) Within the context of strengthening and increasing accessible CA related knowledge and information, urge ACT to even further catalyse expansion and widespread functioning of CA Community of Practice and regional and national level CA forums with intense vertical and horizontal, within and across sectors, communities and nations networking, sharing of experiences and co-creation of knowledge and building knowledge-based social capital
 - g) Recognising that Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (SAM) as an important enabler in accelerating widespread practicing of CA and attainment of the Malabo Declarations' Vision 25 x 25 and the Agenda 2063, urge 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.

13. Reaffirm that the Africa Congress on Conservation Agriculture is an important event with essential value in providing platform for sharing, networking and linking up for potential collaborations. Therefore, urge ACT to continue in mobilising all concerned stakeholders and championing the hosting of the Congress.

The Participants to the 2nd ACCA

Johannesburg, South Africa

12th October 2018
