

Conservation Agriculture Defined

Conservation Agriculture is an ecosystem approach to regenerative sustainable agriculture and land management based on the practical application of context-specific and locally adapted three interlinked principles of:

- (i) Continuous no or minimum mechanical soil disturbance (no-till seeding/planting and weeding, and minimum soil disturbance with all other farm operations including harvesting);*
- (ii) Permanent maintenance of soil much cover (crop biomass, stubble and cover crops);*
- (iii) Diversification of cropping system (economically, environmentally and socially adapted rotations and/or sequences and/or associations involving annuals and perennials, including legumes and cover crops), along with other complementary good agricultural production and land management practices.*

Conservation Agriculture systems are present in all continents, involving rainfed and irrigated systems including annual cropland systems, perennial systems, orchards and plantation systems, agroforestry systems, crop-livestock systems, pasture and rangeland systems, organic production systems and rice-based systems. Conservation Tillage and Minimum Tillage are not Conservation Agriculture, and nor is No-Till on its own (more at: www.fao.org/ag/ca).

Global CA-CoP CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE for sustainable agriculture and land management. Moderator Amir Kassam.