# A Road to Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

## - the Experiences of Conservation Tillage in China

Presentation by

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# What is Sustainable Agri Mech?

- To make Sustainable Agriculture MECHANIZED?
- To make Agricultural Mechanization SUSTAINALBE?



# **BOTH ?**

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# **BOTH ?**

# **Conservation Tillage / Agriculture**







### AQUASTAT

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#### 1960-2015

	<b>Conservation agriculture</b> (1000 ha)	area
Argentina	29 181	(2013)
Australia	17 695	(2014)
Azerbaijan	1.3	(2013)
Belgium	0.268	(2013)

FAO is monitoring the global adoption of Conservation Agriculture. The data presented above is the result of an ongoing collaboration between FAO's Conservation Agriculture and AQUASTAT programmes, and presents the latest values available for all countries that report Conservation Agriculture practices. This script automatically displays new data as updates become available and can be considered the most up-to-date repository for global implementation of conservation agriculture. The reported areas comply with the CA <u>definition</u>, with the following quantifying parameters:

# 1. **Minimum Soil Disturbance**: Minin seeding. The disturbed area must be les lower). There should be no periodic till tillage is allowed if the disturbed area is l

 Organic soil cover: Three categor measured immediately after the direct : CA.

3. Crop rotation/association: Rotat repetitive wheat, maize, or rice croppin rotation/association is recorded where produced



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### Agriculture and Consumer **Protection Department Conservation Agriculture**



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#### INTRODUCTION

COVER CROPS

MACHINERY

LIVESTOCK INT.

ECONOMICS

ADOPTION

Advantages and disadvantages of CA

To be widely adopted, all new technology needs to have benefits and advantages that attract a broad group of farmers who understand the differences between what they are doing and what they need. In the case of conservation agriculture these benefits can be grouped as:

- Economic benefits that improve production efficiency.
- Agronomic benefits that improve soil productivity.
- Environmental and social benefits that protect the soil and make agriculture more sustainable.

#### Economic benefits

Three major economic benefits can result from CA adoption:

#### Agronomic benefits

Adopting conservation agriculture leads to imp

#### Environmental benefits:

- · Reduction in soil erosion, and thus of road, costs.
- Improvement of water quality.
- Improvement of air quality.
- Biodiversity increase.
- Carbon sequestration.

## **Economic Benefits**

## **Agronomic Benefits**

## **Environmental Benefits**

# **Experience 1 Government Support**



# **National Programs and Plans**

- The National plan for conservation tillage development.
- The **Sustainable Agriculture** Plan (2015-2020)
- The National Plan for response to **climate change** (2014-2020).

- Conservation tillage extension (2002-)
- National Key research programs (2000-)

Accelerate the modernization of Agriculture with the driving force of reform and innovation 以改革创新为动力 加快推进农业现代化

Conservation tillage is listed as a way to promote sustainable agriculture development

**Premier Li Keqiang** 



- Conservation tillage has been deeply rooted in China.
- Without government support, Conservation tillage is still on the papers
- A Common View: Reform Conventional Tillage, Develop conservation tillage

# **Experience 2** Long Term Effort

- It needs years for CA to show its benefits
- It needs years for government to accept and support CA
- It needs years for farmers to understand, accept and try CA
- It needs years to find whether CA will bring negative effects

Time will prove everything!



After about 3 years, earthworm can be found.





# • With long term experiments, we will have more chances to show the comparison results

# **Published Papers**

- The effect of conservation tillage on crop yield in China. *Frontiers of Agricultural Science Engineering*, 2(2), 179-185.
- The effects of no-tillage with subsoiling on soil properties and maize yield: 12-Year experiment on alkaline soils of Northeast China. *Soil & Tillage Research*, 137,43-49.
- Soil properties and crop yields after 11 years of no tillage farming in wheat-maize cropping system in North China Plain. *Soil & Tillage Research*, 113, 48-54.
- Effects of 10 years conservation tillage on soil properties and productivity in the farming-pastoral ecotone of Inner Mongolia, China. *Soil Use and Management*, 25, 201-209.
- Soil physical properties and infiltration after long-term no-tillage and ploughing on the Chinese Loess Plateau. *New Zealand Journal of Crop and Horticultural Science*, 37, 157-166.
- Soil structure and crop performance after 10 years of controlled traffic and traditional tillage cropping in the dryland Loess Plateau in China. *Soil Science*, 174, 113-119.
- Effects of 11 years of conservation tillage on soil organic matter fractions in wheat monoculture in Loess Plateau of China. *Soil & Tillage Research*, 106, 85-94.
- Soil chemical properties and microbial biomass after 16 years of no-tillage farming on the Loess Plateau, China. *Geoderma*, 144, 502-508.
- Effects of 15 years of conservation tillage on soil structure and productivity of wheat cultivation in northern China. *Australian Journal of Soil Research*, 45, 344-350.

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# Yields from Herbert Bartz Farm (The first CA farm in Brazil)



## **Experience 3** No Suitable Machineries, No CA Extension



## **Difficult to extend**

# Hand Planter (Li Seeder)



## **Small No till Seeders**









## **No till Seeders for 4 wheels tractor**



### Mainly used in the areas with double crops a year









## Mainly used in the areas with one crop a year

# **Rice transplanting**







## No till Seeders towed by tractors





## **Development of CT in China**



# Without suitable machineries, CA can be only a dream never realized.

A Common View: The Fundamental Way out of Agriculture Lies in Mechanization of Agriculture

# **Experience 4 Understanding CA Principles**





- Minimum Soil Disturbance
  Organic soil cover
- Crop rotation

# **Soil Disturbance?**









# If already Hard Pan





# **Stubble handling**



# **Exposed Seeds**







# **Stubble Chopping**







# Strip No tillage











# Before we have super no till seeders to handle too much stubble, Chopping stubble and minimum tillage can improve sowing quality

# Experience 5 CA range

• Most crops, most area

• Suggest to apply CA from easy crop and area







## **Experience 6** Farmers to Farmers





**Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula** da Silva presents pioneer of no-till and conservation agriculture, **Brazilian farmer Herbert Bartz with** the prestigious Apolônio Salles award and medal at the launch of the Brazilian 2009/2010 National **Agricultural a Livestock plan on 22 June 2009** 

# **CA in Brazil**



FONTE: Federação Brasileira de Plantio Direto na Palha e CONAB, 2012

# It is easier for farmers to accept CA from farmers

# Farmers' cooperative can do much work on CA extension

# **Experience 7 Propaganda**

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## **China Conservation Tillage Website**

# Laws



**Agricultural extension law** 

### **Agricultural Mechanization Promotion Law**

# **Agri Mech Extension System**

- National, Provincial, City, County, Town
- High Level Universities, polytechnic schools, vocational high schools
- NGOs
- Co-ops
- •





### sound truck



**Field school** 



CellPhone



ΤV



### **Farmers School**



# **10 languages versions**

**Exchanging Experience** with Conservation Agriculture LI Hongwen, XIE Mei, HE Jin Art drawing: JIANG Heping Kushuhulikia Uharibifu wa Ardhi, Uhakika wa Chakula na Mabadiliko ya Hali ya Hewa Kubadilishana Uzoefu wa Kilimo nchi za Kusini-kwa-Kusini Echange de connaissances Sud-Sud sur l'agriculture de conservation LI Hongwen, XIE Mei, HE Jin Abordando Degradación de Tierras, Seguridad Alimentaria y Resiliencia Climática Intercambio de Conocimientos Sur-Sur en Agricultura Conservación

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- English
- French
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- Russian
- Thai
- Arabic
- Mongolian
- Bengali



# Constraints

- Traditional mindset;
- Negative effects; opposition voices;
- Lower sowing quality;
- Gap between sustainable agriculture and Farmers' requirement;
- Who Pay for sustainable development?

• • • • •



# **CTRC would like to cooperate** with all who are interested in CA

This wonderful booklet offers hands-on, practical advice for farmers and extension workers interested in using conservation agriculture techniques to boost crop yields, soil quality and water retention. These practices represent some of the many ways we can become more 'climate smart', which is essential if we are to sustainably produce more food on less land to feed our growing planet.

-Juergen Voegele, Senior Director, Agriculture Global Practices, World Bank

Conservation Agriculture: a modern farming practice with ancient Chinese philosophy. – Ke Bingsheng, President, China Agricultural University

Smart use of land resources can turn agriculture around from being part of the problem to being part of the climate change solution.

– Saidi Mkomwa, Executive Secretary, African Conservation Tillage Network

Sharing of experience between practitioners through South-South exchanges is an effective way to learn from mistakes of the past and scale up successes to meet climate change challenges.

– Neeraj Prasad, Manager, Climate Change Knowledge, World Bank







### **Exchanging Experience** with Conservation Agriculture

**Towards Climate Resilience** 



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