

Potential Opportunities for Investment in Conservation Agriculture in Southern Africa

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Theme:
Building a Resilient Future in Africa
through Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable
Mechanization

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Introduction

- ❖ The 3 principles of CA should be practiced simultaneously in addition to other GAPs for optimal results (FAO, 2015).
- ❖ Major impediment to CA practice in Southern Africa is limited access to finance by SHF, which limits access to no-till farm equipment and key inputs such as herbicides.
- ❖ Smallholder farming systems display a low propensity to invest in improved agricultural technologies (Kassie, 2009; Makate, 2016).
- ❖ Commissioned by FAOSFS, FANRPAN undertook this study with the objectives to:
 - (i) identify potential investment opportunities that National Conservation Agriculture Task Forces (NCATFs) could harness;
 - (ii) facilitate dialogue with key stakeholders to create awareness on these investment opportunities.



Methodology

- ◆ FANRPAN Regional Office and Nodal Institutions in the 10 study countries (Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe) worked with both National and FAO CA focal persons to convene national multistakeholder dialogues (Feb 2021 – Mar 2022).
- ◆ Study used both face-to-face and virtual stakeholder consultations.
- ◆ The national CA Focal Persons assisted with identifying key stakeholders, coordinating and facilitating consultations, and provided information on CA national policies/strategies
- ◆ Methodology included qualitative data collection methods: desktop reviews, questionnaires, interviews, FGDs and case studies.
- ◆ Study findings from 10 countries were validated and summarised in a synthesis report.



National CA Taskforce, Madagascar ©FAO

Methodology

The FANRPAN Regional Secretariat convened Regional CA Dialogue to:

- ❖ share the findings of the synthesis report
receive feedback from key regional stakeholders (incl. NCATFs and CARWG)
- ❖ use feedback to finalize the regional synthesis report
- ❖ draft a policy brief



Results

Study found that the following shortcomings constitute important entry points or opportunities for investment in CA in southern Africa:

- ❖ ***Need for enabling environment for private sector engagement and investment in CA*** - Consider de-risking CA investment e.g. blended finance, ag insurance, tax rebates, reduction of import duties etc
- ❖ ***Programme support*** - Investment in CA programme support services (incl. CA extension) to mitigate the premature cessation and abandonment of CA practices by farmers.
- ❖ ***Region-specific CA needs*** – Investment in local production and supply CA equipment and input for CA + GAPs

Results

Access to credit facilities – Investment in well-tailored credit facilities to promote the conversion to CA

Socio-economic upliftment and gender parity - invest in the empowerment of women farmers through removal of gendered barriers, including limited access to land, machinery, inputs and credit facilities.

Development and strengthening of input-output markets: Enabling env't for private sector to run supply chains incorporating input and machinery supply, and mechanization hire services.

RESULTS

Multitude of national (domestic public and private sector), regional, and international investment opportunities that NCATFs could harness for CA scale up

- ❖ As per CAADP, African governments to allocate at least 10% of national budgets to agric and rural dev't
- ❖ Budget for CA promotion in NAIPs e.g. Zambia and Eswatini
- ❖ Leverage private sector finance and engagement via strong PPPs

The study found that most Southern African countries are being supported by:

IFAD: promotion of climate-resilient technologies that increase agric productivity

The World Bank: Development of Climate-Smart Agriculture Investment Plans (CSAIPs)

Others: The Adaptation Fund, AfDB, GCF, EU, and the GEF, etc

Conclusion

- ❖ Scaling up of CA at national and regional levels requires not only robust policies, but significant investment as well.
- ❖ Opportunities abound for PP partnership and investment in CA
- ❖ Budget for CA in NAIPs and related investment plans/programmes (policy advocacy)
- ❖ De-risk investment in CA to attract private sector
- ❖ To access financing e.g. GCF, the capacity for programme design in Southern African countries needs to be strengthened



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Thank you!

