POSTER

Conservation Agriculture (CA) has to Move On

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Farmers, including organic, are learning how to incorporate un-conventional weed, disease and pest controls with biological agents; non-chemical fertilizers and new bio-inoculants.

With new sustainable technologies the farm sector is increasing food availability & reducing food hazards. Policymakers need to REWARD these eco-social services (PES).

New CA practices need to be identified, quantified and valued at local and national level to instigate PES.

This is the dawn the of innovative biotechnologies, demanding higher skill levels for labour & special consultants.

Innovative inoculants, for nutrient availability & soil disease control.

Field scouting with drones for regular or spot spray at low dosage rates; Controlled traffic farming, less compaction, better yields, less fuel use; Biological controls of pests and diseases, IPM; Mixed cover crops with different functions; innovative inoculants; laser robotics, electric shocks & steam for weed control; Benchmarking of indicators to improve factor efficiency.

sustainable technologies This requires a list of approved technologies and a host organization e.g. FAO, ECAF or other.

Need to widen CA scope to include ALL

The challenge from Regenerative Agriculture (RA) can be resolved by a scientific definition as a CA base with approved add-ons of CA umbrella sustainable technologies.

Rock meal to substitute chemical fertilizers, Precision Agriculture with GPS & variable rate application.

The Farmer Responsibility Index shows ever-reducing chemical hazards.

Policymakers need to take this into account in payments for environmental services (PES)

PES for new technologies with CA/ZT will improve profits & stimulate sustainability.

To the contrary, governments will be responsible for biosphere degradation.

CONCLUSION: The success and longevity, of the ZT/CA movement, will depend on incorporation and promotion of new and sustainable technologies in an umbrella concept – the farmer needs a broader concept for CA. payment of socio-environmental services (PES) is the key (Declaration of Madrid. 2001).