



AFRICAN CONSERVATION TILLAGE NETWORK



Kenya Network for Dissemination
of Agricultural Technologies

Survey of status, best-bet entry points and business models for scaling-up Kenya's Conservation Agriculture development with special attention to accessible Agricultural Mechanization services.

The African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) is a pan-African body with a mission to enhance agricultural productivity, sustainable land management and environmental conservation through promotion of conservation agriculture (CA) principles and practices in Africa. ACT aims to be a premier network of excellence in promoting sustainable natural resource management for improved livelihoods and wealth creation in Africa and beyond.

ACT has identified strategic focus areas that are necessary and sufficient to address the identified Critical Strategic Issues. The strategic focus and result areas are:

- Strengthening adoption and scaling up of conservation agriculture.
- Improving sustainable land management and climate change resilience in Africa.
- Enhancing capacity building and partnerships relating to conservation Agriculture.
- Improving communication, information and knowledge management on Conservation Agriculture.
- Strengthening entrepreneurship and business development for conservation Agriculture and Network management support functions.

ACT has a special interest in understanding status and defining the best entry point for a new and elaborate thrust in furthering the sustainable scaling up processes of CA in Kenya.

KENDAT is a Kenyan NGO whose purpose is to model innovative, efficient and resilient smallholder agribusiness systems for an evergreen Africa. KENDAT vision is one where Kenyan rural and peri-urban communities sustainably live in food-secure, productive and competitive agri-business systems. KENDAT empowers smallholder farmers to sustainably improve their livelihoods through innovative access to information, technology, means and markets. KENDAT is currently leading a regional project titled Farm Mechanization and Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Intensification (FACASI).

Background:

Whereas:

- Africa needs to produce 50% more food in the next 30 to 40 years,
- Only some 60,000 ha of land are currently under some form of CA in Kenya,

- CA is seen as the answer to sustained food production and environmental preservation in the light of climate-smart agriculture, and government and others have plans to address this matter in various ways,
- 70-80% of farmers are smallholders, needing a fresh look at their participation and access to mechanization for CA services,
- There are national, industrial, institutional, private sector, farmer, NGO and other roles and interventional roles needed for sustained mechanization schemes needed for CA,
- Crop and Livestock integration is a crucial integrated development issue for CA advancement.
- A value chain approach (from farm to market) is needed, in the new-look farm power and mechanization initiatives for advancement of agribusiness,
- Crop enterprises and livestock undertakings need different types of mechanization,
- Local industrial support and eventual advancement towards local manufacture and other aspects of mechanization service provisions are critical,
- CA advancement and Mechanization initiatives are greatly influenced by natural conditions, human capital, financial capacities, gender issues in farming and how farmers are organised, etc.
- Kenya and Africa have much to borrow from Asia and Latin America and Kenya is not much different from other countries of East Africa

ACT and KENDAT are jointly seeking the services of a CA and Mechanization consultant to study the status of CA and Mechanization in the hot-spot adoption areas of CA in Kenya. The study will be guided by the following 3 Terms of Reference.

Objectives:

1. Define the extent to which CA has been adopted in Kenya, status and challenges towards wide-scope and massive adoption by millions of farmers in the next few years.
2. Create a detail understanding of status of mechanization for enhanced CA adoption in terms of technological, industrial and institutional support to access and adoption of appropriate mechanization services by smallholder farmers.
3. Make recommendations regarding best-bet and farmer-typology sensitive business models to use in scaling-up CA among farmers in Kenya.

Terms of Reference (TOR):

1. Build an understanding of plans and aspirations as well as shortcomings of various parties (technical, industrial, institutional etc.) out to support the advancement of CA and mechanization agribusiness from farm to policy level.
2. Estimate the extent of adoption of CA in Kenya in terms of numbers of hectares under some form of CA, extent of institutional, industrial and services status as well as change gained in the last 5 years.

3. Build an understanding of business and other support models based on analysis of CA adoption schemes and who is providing the various contractual or delivery services (information, seed, mechanization, post-harvest and marketing among others) along selected enterprise value chains
4. Highlight the best approaches and next steps necessary for accelerated CA and accessible Mechanization services with a level of detail on who needs to do what towards progressive crop and livestock enterprises built on sustained and systemic agribusiness support to CA advancement.

Qualifications and Experience

This assignment will be conducted preferably by a Lead Consultant and an Assistant, both with adequate exposure to on-farm smallholder Conservation Agriculture and/or Climate Smart Agriculture practice and mechanization initiatives in Kenya. They will need thorough understanding of institutional change and industrial support needed for sustained change in CA advancement in East Africa. Core competencies and experience include but are not limited to:

- a) At least a Master's degree in Agricultural Engineering or other relevant primary Conservation Agriculture field for the lead consultant.
- b) At least 5 years post qualification practical experience in farm-level, industrial and institutional support to advancement of Agricultural Mechanization for CA value Chains.
- c) Experience in Business Models for profitable and sustained agribusiness performance and access to inputs (including mechanization) by resource-poor farmers.
- d) Proven communications and reporting skills.
- e) Fluency in written and spoken English language is essential.

Expected Outputs

The Consultant is expected to provide the following outputs:

- a) Inception report including outline of the approach, methodology and work plan with timelines and indicative all-inclusive budget.
- b) Submit mid-term progress, end of term and revised final consultancy reports to ACT/KENDAT as guided by this TOR, Engagement Contract and the assignment leadership.

Procedure for Submission of proposal

Proposals are invited from suitably qualified consultancy teams to reach ACT/KENDAT by midnight on **Wednesday 16th October, 2013**. Proposals should clearly indicate how the consultancy team fits the qualifications and experience, and how the terms of reference will be achieved, including budget estimates. All technical information queries regarding the project proposals and resume (CV) of consultancy team should be addressed by email to the focal points of this Assignment: **Both - Mr. Saidi Mkomwa (saidi.mkomwa@act-africa.org) & Dr Pascal Kaumbutho (pkaumbutho@kendat.org).**

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted within a week after the deadline.