CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

(March, 3 – 23, 2010)

Background and Objectives

Conservation agriculture is a concept for agricultural production that strives to achieve profits, sustainable production while concurrently conserving the environment. It is characterized by three principles, namely minimum or zero mechanical soil disturbances, permanent soil cover and diversified crop rotation.

Of late, modern agriculture has come in for considerable flak for causing possibly irretrievable damage to the earth's natural resources, notably soil and water, and for vitiating the environment through harmful greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Conservation agriculture, involving some novel farm practices, is said to be an antidote for most of the ill-effects of intensive farming. For, it aims to not only reduce the damage to natural resources and the environment but actually reverse it. The resource conservation practices conceived for this include minimum or zero tillage, letting crop residues get back into the soil instead of burning them, immaculate land leveling to ensure the even spread of water, and applying only need-based fertiliser and water to crops. The benefits of such practices are many, and somewhat obvious. They protect soil health to enhance its fertility, prevent the environmental pollution caused by burning of crop residues, save on the labour and energy required for repeated land tilling, and reduce the use of water in agriculture, sparing it for other purposes. The biggest advantage is that by letting biological residues get back into the soil, it transforms agriculture from a carbon emitter to a virtual carbon sequester by converting crop land into a carbon sink.

Though the concept of conservation farming is over two decades old, it has begun to be taken seriously only fairly recently, with the untoward consequences of intensive agriculture starting to pose food security and livelihood concerns, and with global warming becoming an urgent concern. It is, therefore, reassuring to note that the area under conservation agriculture is expanding the world over and India has not lagged behind in this field. While conservation agriculture is estimated to have spread globally to over 100 million hectares, in India it is now practiced on about 2 million hectares. Progressive farmers, especially in the irrigated belts, are taking it up because it facilitates higher incomes by cutting costs and raising production. But a greater promotional effort is needed to push conservation agriculture to the rainfed areas, where it can be especially useful.

Objectives:

- To keep abreast among younger scientists of the importance of conservation agriculture.
- To disseminate varied principles of conservation agriculture from the point of better use of resources, reducing environmental pollution etc.,
- To find out ways to improve the efficiency of the use of ever scarcer production resources
- To find an answer to the increasing threats of a changing climate to agricultural production
- To discuss and derive consensus for broader areas of future research which could have more significance for practicing conservation agriculture.

Course outline:

The training course is exclusively on the basis of sustainability of production. Therefore the course content may stem from:

- Concepts and principles involved in conservation agriculture.
- Feasibility of minimum or zero mechanical soil disturbances through agronomic techniques
- Permanent soil cover to protect the soil from adverse effects
- Diversified crop rotation for maintaining soil health
- Role of machineries and equipments for cultivation under minimal tillage.
- Constraints to conservation agric and developing consensus for future research programmes.
- Feasibility of inclusion of allied enterprises such as livestock, poultry etc, for resource recycling

The training to achieve the objectives and course outline will proceed with theme wise delivery of information with practical exposures wherever required by way of showing all the ongoing field experiments on these topics, field observation in farmer's holdings and by making visit to research centers and farms also.

Eligibility and application

Institutes: SAUs and ICAR

Educational Qualification: M.Sc. (Ag.) / M.Sc. (Horti) and ME (Ag.)

Scientists and Faculties of: Agronomy, Soil Science, Crop Physiology, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Seed Technology, Agrl. Microbiology, Plant Protection, Social Sciences, Environmental Science, Horticulture and Agrl. Engineering with cadre ***below the rank of Professor*.**

Age Limit: Below 45 years

- Application on the prescribed format (enclosed) should be sent through their employer.
- The duly filled in application form must reach the Course Director on or before **12.02.2010**

Duration of Training

The training is organized for 21 days from **03-23, March, 2010** (both days inclusive). Participants are expected to arrive latest by evening of 2nd March 2010 and can leave after 5.00 pm on 23rd March, 2010.

Boarding and lodging

The lodging and boarding arrangements for the trainees will be made by the host institute. Participants are requested not to bring any of their family members along with them as it is not possible to provide accommodation for them.

Support facilities

The trainees will have the access to the central Library, TNAU for consultation of technical literature.

About the city and travel

Coimbatore is located near the Western Ghats and the climate during March is pleasant and the temperature varies from 20^0C and 30^0C.

The city is well connected by rail and road. Many city buses ply through TNAU Campus (about 6 km away from city station). The participants are advised to make their return journey reservation in advance. Participants will be paid two-way rail fare of III tier AC travel. However, it is limited to the provisions under TA. Production of original ticket is essential for TA claim. In the absence of tickets, sleeper class train / bus fare will be paid for the shortest route.

Dates to note

Last date of receipt of application	:	**12.02.2010**
Intimation of selection	:	**19.02.2010**
Training period	:	**03.03.2010 - 23.03.2010**

TRAINING PROGRAMME **ON** **CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE**

(March, 03 – 23, 2010)

APPLICATION FORM

1.	Full Name (Block Letters)	:	
2.	Designation	:	
3.	Present employer & address		
4.	Address for Correspondence	:	
	Telegraphic Address	:	
	Telephone	:	Off : Res : Mobile :
	FAX	:	Off :
	E-Mail I.D.	:	
5.	Date of Birth & Age	:	Sex : Male / Female
6.	Experience Teaching &Research	:	
7.	Training (s) undergone during last 2 years (with titles)	:	(1) (2)

8. Academic record

Examination	Subject	Year of Passing	Distinction obtained	University
B.Sc. (Ag.)/ B.Sc (Horti) B.E (Ag.)/				
M.Sc. (Ag.)/ M.Sc (Horti) M.E (Ag.)/				
Ph.D.				

Place:
Date:

Signature of the applicant

Signature of the Sponsoring authority
with office seal

Note:

- More copies of the Proforma can be reproduced, if required. Proforma can be downloaded from TNAU web site (www.tnau.ac.in)
- Advance copy of the application could be sent by E-Mail.

Book Post

To

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TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

TRAINING PROGRAMME
ON

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

(March, 03 – 23, 2010)

Organized by

CENTRE OF ADVANCED FACULTY TRAINING
IN AGRONOMY

Dr. P. Muthukrishnan

Professor and Head
cum
Director (CAFTA)

Dr. M. Mohamed Amanullah
Course Coordinator

Department of Agronomy
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