

# Key informant tool for the enhancement of crop–livestock systems under conservation agriculture (CLCA)

## Towards a sustainable CLCA production system

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# Background

The project “Use of conservation agriculture in crop–livestock systems (CLCA) in the drylands for enhanced water use efficiency, soil fertility and productivity in North East, North Africa (NENA) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries” aims to develop contextually relevant processes for enhancing the broad uptake of conservation agriculture within integrated crop–livestock systems in drylands in and NENA regions (Algeria and Tunisia).

Previous development projects in Tunisia and Algeria revealed that in most cases, adoption of conservation agriculture technologies has led to enhanced and more stable yields. These economic and environmental benefits are a strong argument for greater policy and institutional support to accelerate opportunities for adoption and uptake. Conservation agriculture technologies are not only unknown when it comes to the level of integration between cropping and livestock, but their wide-scale adoption remains a challenge, especially among smallholder farmers in arid areas.

Experiences across North African countries have shown that adoption and dissemination of conservation agriculture require a higher commitment and a change in behavior from all stakeholders. Within this framework, the CLCA project team is conducting interviews with key stakeholders to categorize major challenges to the adoption of CLCA systems, identify practical and affordable solutions to overcome these challenges, and provide guidance and recommendations on what sustained policy and institutional support is needed to help determine priorities for future scaling investments.

## Characteristics of the tool

The overall characteristics of the tool are as follows:

- **Length of the interview:** The interview is 40–60 minutes long.
- **Reason for choosing the interviewee:** You have been identified as an interviewee because of your unique knowledge, expertise, and perspective on the conservation agriculture system and sustainable cropping systems methods.
- **Objective of the questionnaire:** The focus of this interview is on questions related to your perspective on conservation agriculture, and more specifically:
  - Strengths and favorable factors that lead to higher adoption of conservation agriculture.
  - Major problems/constraints and challenges to the adoption of CLCA systems.
  - Most relevant solutions to (five of) the most important problems/challenges for CLCA adoption.
  - Potential contribution to changes that you want to see.
  - Gaps in information about CLCA systems.
- **Questionnaire distribution and flow:**
  - This report will be made available for all stakeholders.
  - You may have more to say for some questions or may choose not to answer a specific question. In both cases, please feel free to state this and respond to the questions to the best of your knowledge.

# TOOL 1: Crop–livestock integration systems under conservation agriculture and key informant interviews at local and regional levels

## Introduction

**Research:** Key informant interviews (regional and local level stakeholders)

**Key informant interviews:** (40–60 minutes each)

**Number of interviewees:** 15–20

**Target:** Regional/local stakeholders who have expertise, knowledge, and broad vision/perspective on the conservation, agriculture, and sustainable cropping systems methods.

## Key informant interview questionnaire (local and regional levels)

1. Please state your name and your position.

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2. What do you understand by the term “conservation agriculture”?

a) 

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b) 

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c) 

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3. What do you understand by “sustainable cropping methods” not falling under conservation agriculture?

a) 

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b) 

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c) 

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4. Please describe how you are involved in the area of conservation agriculture.

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5. What information on conservation agriculture are you most familiar with and/or knowledgeable about?

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6. Which acknowledged information sources do you use to stay informed about conservation agriculture issues and activities?

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7. When was conservation agriculture introduced in your region/location?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What are the main general economic activities in this region/location?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

9. What is the level of understanding in the community about conservation agriculture? How would you rate the level of understanding in the community about conservation agriculture (1 being low level of understanding and 5 being high level of understanding)?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

10. What are the benefits of conservation agriculture at the farmer level (agronomic, environmental, economic)?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

11. What has been the trend of conservation agriculture adoption in your region in the last two decades?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

12. What are the challenges the region/location is facing for practicing conservation agriculture?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

13. Why should farmers adopt conservation agriculture practices?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

14. Why are some farmers in your region not adopting conservation agricultural practices?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

15. What could be the key factors contributing to dis-adoption of conservation agriculture practices?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

16. What solutions do you suggest for these limiting factors/bottlenecks?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

17. Have some farmers abandoned conservation agriculture?

YES ☐ NO ☐

18. If Yes, what do you think could be the reason(s)?

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_

19. In your position how can you influence the adoption and implementation of conservation agriculture practices in the village/location/region and in the country at large?

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

## TOOL 2: Crop–livestock integration systems under conservation agriculture and key informant interviews at national level

### Introduction

**Research:** Key informant interviews (national stakeholders)

**Key informant interviews:** (40–60 minutes each)

**Number of interviewees:** 15–20

**Target:** National stakeholders who have expertise, knowledge, and a broad perspective on the conservation agriculture system.

### Key informant interview questionnaire (national level)

#### *General introduction*

**Question 1:** Please state your name and your position.

**Answer 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2:** Please describe how you are involved in the area of conservation agriculture.

**Answer 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 3:** What aspect of conservation agriculture are you most knowledgeable about?

**Answer 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 4:** What knowledge information sources do you use to stay informed about conservation agriculture issues and activities?

**Answer 4:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Problems, challenges, and solutions

What concerns you most about the wide adoption of the crop–livestock integration system under conservation agriculture? What are the major problems/challenges/solutions and strategies you see ahead? **(Please provide a list of 5 key problems and/or challenges.)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Problem statement (1)

Supporting evidence for this problem (facts):

**Question 1:** Could you provide any further information, explanation or insight to support our understanding of this problem?

**Answer 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2:** What solutions would help to address this problem?

**Answer 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 3:** What strategies/key actions can be used to start or strengthen farmers/community action regarding this problem?

**Answer 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Problem statement (2)

Supporting evidence for this problem (facts):

**Question 1:** Could you provide any further information, explanation or insight to support our understanding of this problem?

**Answer 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2:** What solutions would help to address this problem?

**Answer 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 3:** What strategies/key actions can be used to start or strengthen farmers/community action regarding this problem?

**Answer 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Problem statement (3)

Supporting evidence for this problem (facts):

**Question 1:** Could you provide any further information, explanation or insight to support our understanding of this problem?

**Answer 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2:** What solutions would help to address this problem?

**Answer 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 3:** What strategies/key actions can be used to start or strengthen farmers/community action regarding this problem?

**Answer 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Problem statement (4)**

Supporting evidence for this problem (facts):

**Question 1:** Could you provide any further information, explanation or insight to support our understanding of this problem?

**Answer 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2:** What solutions would help to address this problem?

**Answer 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 3:** What strategies/key actions can be used to start or strengthen farmers/community action regarding this problem?

**Answer 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Problem statement (5)**

Supporting evidence for this problem (facts):

**Question 1:** Could you provide any further information, explanation or insight to support our understanding of this problem?

**Answer 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2:** What solutions would help to address this problem?

**Answer 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 3:** What strategies/key actions can be used to start or strengthen farmers/community action regarding this problem?

**Answer 3:** \_\_\_\_\_



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