

Conservation Agriculture as a Sustainable Intensification Strategy to Increase System Resilience and Productivity

Christian Thierfelder¹, Blessing Mhlanga¹ & Adam Komarek²

¹CIMMYT, Zimbabwe, P. O. Box MP 163, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe

²IFPRI, Washington, DC, USA

Corresponding author: c.thierfelder@cgiar.org

INTRODUCTION



Low productivity in Zambia and Malawi due to:

- Declining soil fertility & organic matter resources
- Erratic climatic conditions (drought, heat stress)
- Low input use

Conservation Agriculture as possible solution:

- Minimum soil disturbance
- Soil cover with organic material
- Crop diversification

METHODS



Our strategy:

- Participatory action research in living labs across Zambia and Malawi on sustainable intensification
- Analysis of longer term benefits
- Understanding the adaptive capacity of Conservation Agriculture

RESULTS

More resilient cropping systems

