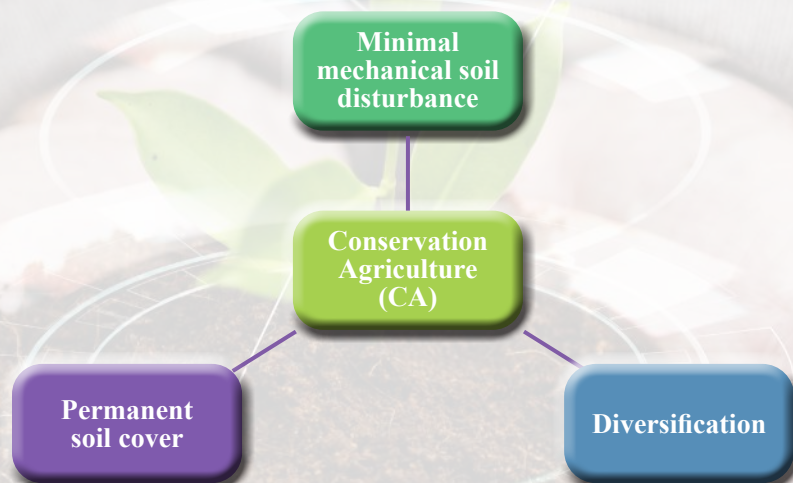


# CLIMATE SMART SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE TRAINING 2023

22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

VENUE: Protea Hotel  
Kimberly, Northern Cape



**BACKGROUND:** South Africa has a dynamic and active group of farmers, agricultural researchers and extension workers testing and promoting the use of (Conservation Agriculture) CA principles with farmers being at the centre of innovation. Sustainable farming is critical for rural development and global food security, but it is threatened by intensive agriculture and climate change. Conservation agriculture (CA) is a sustainable farming system developed in response to intensive agriculture, environmental degradation, and climate change caused by traditional agriculture systems.

Tillage agriculture has led to wide-spread soil and ecosystem degradation globally, and more particularly in the developing regions. This is especially so in Africa where traditional agricultural practices have become unsustainable due to severe exploitation of natural resources with negative impacts on the environment. In addition, agriculture in Africa today faces major challenges including increased costs, climate change effects and a need for more sustainable production intensification methods. Climate change and land degradation necessitate a more sound and sustainable farming production paradigm that is both environmentally sustainable and economically profitable without compromising yield and productivity. Conservation (no-tillage) agriculture has emerged as a major alternative sustainable agriculture practice in Africa and has spread to many African countries in the past decade as more development and research has enabled its extension and uptake.

Conservation Agriculture is seen as an ideal system for sustainable and climate-smart agricultural intensification, through which farmers can attain higher levels of productivity and profitability while improving soil health and the environment. Agrifood systems requires systemic solutions bundling climate-smart, regenerative and profitable innovations. CA is a relatively new introduction with low level of adoption.

CA practices aid in mitigating the effects of climate change on farms and also reduce the use of machinery and chemicals in the fields. All of this contributes to the farmers' environmental sustainability. As a result, implementing CA practices on farms is critical not only for the sustainable management of agricultural land but also for the overall sustainability of the farming system. The Training Course on Conservation Agriculture shall offer unique capacity development opportunity to enhance participants knowledge and skills in the use of new CA tools and techniques.

CA is a climate-smart agricultural intensification approach resulting in greater productivity and profitability. While taking care of soil health and the environment, these regenerative principles and practices lead to sustainable and economically viable agriculture that improves the potential for food security.

**PURPOSE:** To achieve sustainable, resilient & profitable agriculture by examining the latest CA strategies.

**EXPECTED OUTPUT:** Train participants with enhanced knowledge and skills in the use of new CA tools and techniques. At the end of the training participants WILL

- DISCOVER strategies on how to identify, explain and share to other members of the sector the environmental, and socio-economic problems farmers face and cause in the fields of farming.
- BE able to explain and share to members of their farming communities the concept, principles, and practices (examples) of CA and applications.
- MASTER and share practices to the farming communities the environmental, and socio-economic impacts and benefits of Conservation Agriculture, especially on soil health.
- ENHANCE farmers and other stake holders on how to design and implement strategies to the problems in sustainable use of soil and water in farming.
- DEVELOP the know-how on how to plan and facilitate on-farm and/or community-based projects and processes in the development/or adaptation, and monitoring of CA technologies.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

- Enhance awareness and understanding of the environmental and socio-economic problems farmers face and cause.
- Enhance awareness and understanding of the principles of Conservation Agriculture as the new way of farming and solving problems faced.
- To present, describe and discuss practical examples in the application of CA principles in different socioeconomic and agro-ecological environments.
- To present, describe and discuss environmental, and socio-economic impacts and benefits of Conservation Agriculture, especially on soil health.
- To present and discuss with the participants appropriate approaches and methodologies for enhanced implementation, facilitation, and adoption of CA.
- To strengthen the awareness and intentions of the participants to implement monitoring and evaluation and facilitate learning of CA by support staff and farmers.

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**COURSE DURATION: 2 FULL DAYS OF INTENSIVE AND PRACTICAL TRAINING ON HOW TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT AN EFFECTIVE CA STRATEGY INTO YOUR AGRIBUSINESS**

### **TRAINING SCHEDULE:**

#### **DAY ONE**

##### **START @08:30**

- Introduction and participant expectations
- Problem analysis of participants
- What are the problems farmers face and cause?
- Global and local data.
- Introduction to the concept of Conservation Agriculture
- Introduction to the CA Principles and practices (Global and local examples)
- Understanding the impacts of CA systems, soil health and soil conservation, climate change mitigation & adaptation
- Theoretical presentation on CA Equipment and various tractions, hand, animal traction: tractor-drawn systems

##### **END 16:30**

#### **DAY TWO**

##### **START @08:30**

- Weed management in CA
- Chemical weed control
- Integrated soil fertility management
- A basic intro into livestock integration in CA systems and veld management (grazing) systems
- Appropriate approaches and methodologies for enhanced implementation, facilitation, and adoption the Farmer Field School approach
- Monitoring and Evaluation of CA programs
- Participatory visioning and Action Plans by participants
- Group presentations on conceptualization of their CA visions and plans
- Workshop Evaluation Report
- CERTIFICATES HANDED OUT BY ASSET RESEARCH

##### **END @ 16:30**

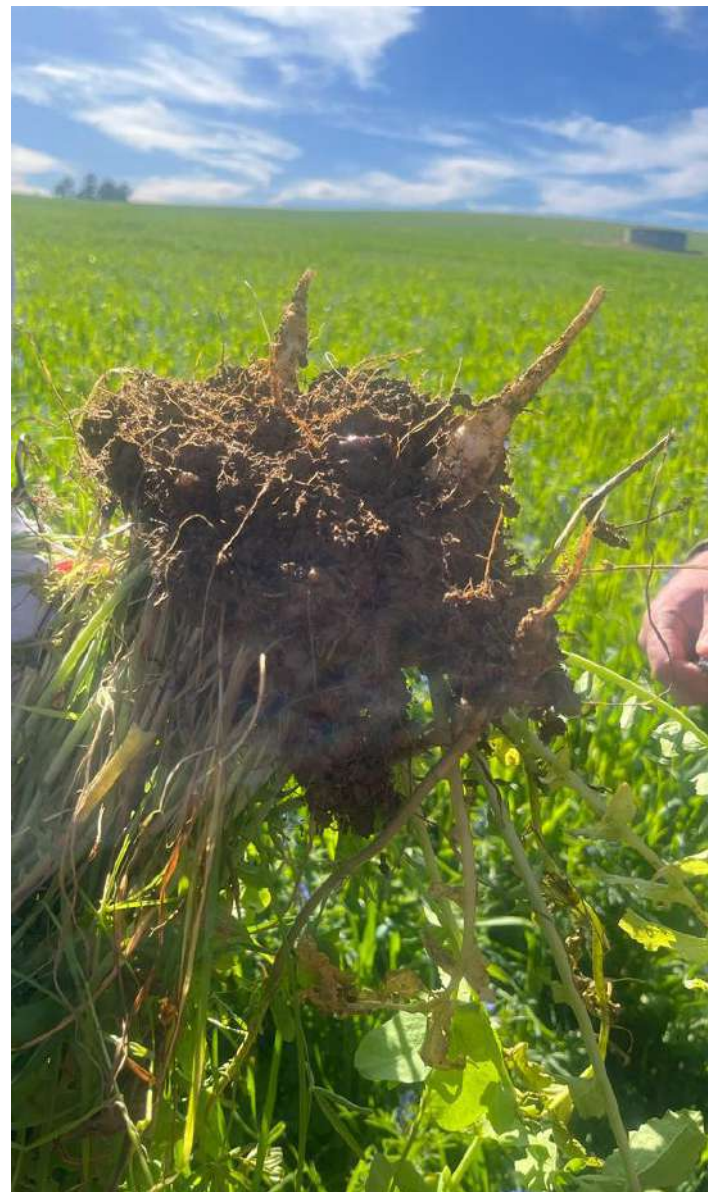
## **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

- Extension Officers
- Conservation Agriculturists
- Professional Scientist/Scientific Technicians (Horticulturist/Crop Protection/Agronomist/Soil)
- Analytics services in Agriculture
- Tvet Agricultural Colleges/Universities (Campus Managers,Hods and Lecturers)
- Small-holder farmers/Emerging farmers

**Trainer Profile:** Dr Hendrik Smith, Conservation Agriculture facilitator, ASSET Research



Hendrik Smith started his career in 1993 as soil scientist at the South African Agricultural Research Council (ARC). Since 1997 he was involved in a number of Landcare projects in the ARC for almost 15 years, primarily working on Conservation Agriculture (CA) among smallholders in SA. In 2006 he completed his PhD in Sustainable Agriculture, University of Free State, developing a model to research and adapt CA with farmers. From 2006 to 2012 he was programme manager at the ARC. Since 2013 he was appointed as the CA Facilitator (in Grain SA) with the responsibility to research and develop CA among commercial and smallholder grain producers in South Africa; this programme is supported by The Maize Trust, and currently implemented under ASSET Research.



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# CLIMATE SMART SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

22<sup>ND</sup> AND 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 - PROTEA HOTEL KIMBERLY, NORTHERN CAPE

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### DELEGATE ATTENDANCE FORM

Title	Delegate Name & Surname	Position	Email	Phone

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- or any cancellations received in less than 7 working days before the date of the event, the full fee will be payable and no refunds or credit notes will be
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- **Registration fees above EXCLUDES the following entitlements:** Travel costs and accommodation.

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