

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP

As part of the Combined Congress of the Crop, Soil, Horticultural, and Weed Science Societies of South Africa a Conservation Agriculture Workshop will be conducted.

DATE: 23 January 2019

TIME: 07:00 – 13:30

VENUE: University of the Free State, Bloemfontein

AIM, OBJECTIVES AND STRUCTURE

The theme of the Workshop is “*Conservation Agriculture (CA)*”. The aim of the Workshop is to share and exchange experiences and lessons in different types and fields of conservation agriculture in order to identify research and development gaps that need to be addressed.

The broad objectives of the Workshop are to:

- Facilitate sharing of information and experiences, focusing on lessons learned with regard to the contribution of CA to sustainable production and improved food security,
- Identify key issues in the development, promotion and adoption of CA in commercial and subsistence farming,
- Involve a wide range of representatives from across the CA community of practices in South Africa in the collective discussion of key challenges faced within CA practice.
- Link challenges to underlying knowledge gaps and plan collaborative approaches to best address these gaps in future, in the form of concept notes that might be the basis of future research proposals.
- Promote networking and improve dissemination of existing and new knowledge in order to support the scaling-up of CA in South Africa

WORKSHOP STRUCTURE

The structure of the workshop will be as indicated in the attached programme:

Prof M.C. Laker will be the overall workshop facilitator and will facilitate (chair) all sessions, except the breakaway groups.

There will be a general introductory session with an overall introductory paper.

The introductory session will be followed by a session in which the Workshop theme and objectives will be addressed through introductory papers on seven thematic sub-themes as indicated in the programme.

This will be followed by deliberations by breakaway groups around five themes as indicated in the programme. Each breakaway group will have a facilitator and rapporteur, appointed beforehand by the workshop organisers. The rapporteurs will do the feedback from the breakaway groups during the report back and final deliberation session.

It is envisaged that the introductory papers and final conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop will be published as a special issue of the South African Journal for Plant and Soil. This workshop will be registered with SACNASP and attendees would be able to claim CPD points.

REGISTRATION

Visit the Combined Congress 2019 webpage (www.combinedcongress.org.za) to register for the Workshop. For those interested in only attending the Workshop it is possible to only register for the Workshop on the webpage. Following the following steps to register for the Workshop:

- Select “create invoice”
- Complete required information
- Register for Workshop only.

For any enquiries contact Mrs Nancy Nortje at 083 389 0543 or nancynortje@icloud.com

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PROGRAMME

Facilitator: Prof MC Laker

07:00-07:30 Registration of participants not attending Combined Congress

07:30-08:05 OPENING SESSION

07:30-07:35 Opening and welcome

Prof M Laker

07:35-07:45 Aims and procedure of workshop

Dr C Botha

07:45-08:05 Introduction to conservation agriculture

Dr J Strauss

08:05-10:10 INTRODUCTORY PAPERS

08:05-08:25 No-till conservation agriculture (CA) in rainfed annual crop production

Dr H Smith

08:25-08:45 CA systems other than no-till in rainfed annual crop production

Prof R v Antwerpen

08:45-09:05 Conservation agriculture in orchards and vineyards

Dr P Raath

09:05-09:25 Conservation agriculture in irrigated agriculture

Dr W de Clerq

09:25-09:45 Soil fertility management in conservation agriculture

Dr G Nortjé

09:45-10:00 Importance of detailed soil surveys in conservation agriculture

Prof E Verster

10:00-10:15 Responsible weed control in conservation agriculture

Dr Elbe Hugo

10:15-10:40 TEA/COFFEE

10:40-11:50 BREAK AWAY GROUPS

Group 1 No-till conservation agriculture in rainfed annual crop production

Group 2 CA systems other than no-till in rainfed annual crop production

Group 3 Conservation agriculture in orchards and vineyards

Group 4 Conservation agriculture under irrigation

Group 5 Soil fertility management in conservation agriculture

11:50-12:40 REPORT BACK FROM BREAK AWAY GROUPS ON CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11:50-12:00 Group 1

12:00-12:10 Group 2

12:10-12:20 Group 3

12:20-12:30 Group 4

12:30-12:40 Group 5

12:40-13:20 DELIBERATIONS ON FEEDBACK FROM BREAK AWAY GROUPS AND FORMULATION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WORKSHOP

13:20-13:30 CLOSURE