Program Summary

• $8.4 Million conservation farming program
• October 2011 through June 2015
• Focus crops: maize, pulses and soybeans
• Full value chain approach from producer to buyer
• Focus in 13 districts in northern Uganda
Core Principles in program design and implementation

- Enter partnerships with Stakeholders
- Voluntary participation from all Participants
- Small Technical Team provides Support
- Training is localized
- Training of Trainers methodology is used
- Act as facilitators to empower businesses
- Partners’ businesses are self-managed
- Local Expertise is left behind
UGANDA CONSERVATION FARMING INITIATIVE PROGRAM INTERVENTIONS

Value Chain

Government Extension

Production

Producer Organization

Marketing Committee

Buyer

Tiller Service Provider (TSP)

Agro-input Supplier

CF Tool Manufacturer

Financial Services
<table>
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<th>Private Sector</th>
<th>Development Partners</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mukwano</td>
<td>Tillers International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASECO Seeds</td>
<td>National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO)</td>
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<td>Balton (U) Ltd</td>
<td>SNV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agro input Companies</td>
<td>Harvest Plus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Government of Uganda</td>
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Conventional practices

- Shifting cultivation
- Ploughing of fields/gardens
- Slashing and burning crop residue
- Deforestation
- Low input use (fertilizers/herbicides/seed)
- Monocropping
Consequences

• Depletion of soil nutrients
• Soil/wind erosion
• Destruction of soil organic matter and soil fauna/flora
• Low yields
• Food insecurity and less incomes for farmers
Conservation Farming

What is conservation farming?

- Minimum soil disturbance
- Crop rotation with leguminous crops
- Permanent organic soil cover

NB: Conservation Farming is a mitigation strategy to climate change – Climate smart
CF Agronomic practices

- Land preparation during dry season
- Correctly spaced permanent planting basins or rip lines
- Spot Weeding
- Use of herbicides in land preparation
- Proper application of fertilizers
- Rational inter-cropping systems
- Rentetion of crop residue
- Use of green manure cover crop
The Conservation Farming ripper, along with a specially designed yoke and skye can be used by oxen to accurately mark the distance between the Conservation Farming rip lines. The ripper attachment is manufactured locally and fits on local beams.
Conservation Farming hoes are 12cm wide as compared to 15cm for conventional hoes. Using the smaller Conservation Farming hoe is essential for ensuring the precise shape and dimension of the basin. It easily penetrates and breaks the hard pan, is light and easy to work with.
CF benefits

- Controls soil/wind erosion
- Nitrogen fixation by legumes enriches soil
- Mulch/ soil cover conserves moisture
- Replenishment of soils through decomposition of organic residue
- Localized fertilizer application reduces production cost & contamination of water sources
- Cheaper type of farming in the long run
- CF increases yield on the same piece of land
- Ensures food security and increases farmers’ incomes hence less deforestation
The chart shows the direct benefit of Conservation Farming (CF) compared to traditional farming. The calculations are based on:

- Crop: Maize
- Average production from 1 acres of land
- Current selling price = 19.61 cents (UGX 500)
- 1USD = 100 cents

Calculation based on:

- 24% increase in yield
- Future: Costs reduce with use of mulch

Quantity produced:
- Traditional = 1,023 Kg
- CF = 1,440 Kg
• Train 1,500 farmers
• Farmers organized in producer organizations (aprx 500)
• 5 sub counties in Hoima and 5 in Kibaale
• Train in already existing training centers
• Community mobilisation using already existing structures
• Training strategy:
  o TOT approach
  o Demonstrations
1. Conduct Baseline Surveys

2. Use results from baseline to Plan

3. Sensitization – Stake Holders

4. Develop focus clusters

5. Select and train lead farmers

6. TOTs train small holder farmers

7. Organize special CF training for;

8. On going support to trained CF farmers

Involving other development Partners (MoA, Private Sector, etc)

Technical back stopping- CLUSA

Adoption
Adoption Strategies to CF Practices

1. Train & provide ongoing technical support to farmers on CF
2. Use TOTs approach provide ongoing technical support and reach more farmers
3. Involve Gov’t extension officers
4. Demo Plots
5. Share research results with stakeholders to ensure optimum yield
6. Yield analysis shared widely
7. Yield analysis shared widely

Conservation farming Adoption
Thank you !!!!