



Australian Government
**Australian Centre for
International Agricultural Research**

End of Project Report

Project: Farm Mechanization and Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Intensification

project number: SC/2012/047

period of report : 1 March 2013 to 28 February 2017

date due: 31 March 2017

date submitted: 22 June 2017

prepared by: Saidi Mkomwa

co-authors/ contributors/ collaborator:

Janet Achora
Weldone Mutai
Patrick Kiplimo

Approved by:

1. Progress summary

The four-year Farm Mechanization and Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Intensification (FACASI) phase I project covered the period 1 March 2013 to 28 February 2017. The project operated in the four countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. The African Conservation Tillage Network (ACT) was responsible for objective four of the project, which aims to '*improve capacity and create awareness of two-wheel tractor (2WT) based technologies in the sub-region, and share knowledge and information with other regions*'.

The FACASI project findings were published in two working papers and two technical bulletins. The working papers' titles were: Business models of two wheel tractors in Southern and Eastern Africa, Agricultural Mechanization and Small Scale Agriculture: case study from Eastern and Southern Africa. The technical bulletins are titled: Delivering appropriate mechanization to smallholders in sub-Saharan Africa: the FACASI experience, and FACASI Lessons Learnt.

The online library, collated working papers and independent documents from project partners is available at <http://facasi.act-africa.org/library.php?com=4>. The library has a rich collection of materials on farm mechanisation and Conservation Agriculture (CA) and is complemented by the physical library at ACT headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. The materials can be accessed in various formats: books, manuals, toolkits, reports, proceedings and videos. The learning resource materials are also available at the virtual FACASI knowledge management portal with the URL <http://facasi.act-africa.org>. Hosted by ACT, the online platform will remain a permanent repository for smallholder farm mechanization and CA resources.

Awareness on 2WT-based technologies was created at various levels and using different communication channels as earlier identified in the communication strategy http://facasi.act-africa.org/file/20140206_facasi_communication_strategy.pdf. The promotional and learning materials informed by research outputs which were produced and shared included newsletters (accessible at <http://goo.gl/YfPKzD>), cartoon book (<https://goo.gl/xPH5vJ>), videos (<http://goo.gl/8iETVv> and <https://youtu.be/togiZfnfsnk>). Other products are the FACASI Dashboard (at <https://goo.gl/rPfPUz>), photo-stories and photo-books (accessible at <http://goo.gl/8iETVv>) portraying the two wheel tractor for CA mechanization through pictures and short clips.

The FACASI project website <http://facasi.act-africa.org/> was also effectively utilised to share online publications of FACASI events, workshops, analysis reports, partner brochures and fliers. The contents were simultaneously shared through 'SlideShare' (www.slideshare.net/FACASI_FARMPower) and social media using the following using the following #tags [#Farmpower](#) [#2WTs](#) [#FACASI](#) as accessible at <http://facasi.act-africa.org/#>.

Detailed Descriptions of Accomplished Activities

Output 4.1: Outputs from the project available to project partners and partly available to the public

4.1.1 Training of Staff to operationalize the FACASI Communication Strategy

A training needs assessment was carried out amongst all ACT staff to determine gaps in capabilities for generating field-based content and being able to communicate it to targeted FACASI stakeholders using different methods. An ICT, photography and communication-based training was conducted for all ACT staff to address identified training needs. A summary of the training is in Appendix 2 and the full report is available.

4.1.2 Publication of project findings in a series of working papers

Technical working paper 1: Business models of two wheel tractors in Southern and Eastern Africa

This working paper (available at <https://goo.gl/t98jeF>) illustrates the broad range of business models for the provision of mechanization of goods and services identified in the four project countries. The models are represented in four analytical groupings: (1) private sector led service provider models (2) farmer group led SP models (3) corporate led service provider models and (4) dealer-manufacturer led supply chain models. The first three categories represent service providers offering custom hire services directly to their farmer clients. The fourth category is broader than the others are and characterizes the linkages between the importer (dealer) and manufacturer and their customers (SPs and farmers) as an integral relationship in the 2WT supply chain.

Technical Working paper 2: Agricultural Mechanization and Small Scale Agriculture: case study from Eastern and Southern Africa.

In the past, the focus of support to small-scale farmers was to increase production and productivity while encouraging the marketing of food surpluses. Although notable gains have occurred, progress has been relatively slow, as efforts have largely focused on incremental improvements rather than transformative change. The paper (available at <https://goo.gl/FqiqLv>) looks at case studies in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya and Ethiopia on agricultural mechanisation from the FACASI project experiences.

Technical bulletins:

Technical Bulletin 1: Delivering appropriate mechanization to smallholders in sub-Saharan Africa: the FACASI experience

This technical bulletin (available at <https://goo.gl/YWcunk>) conceptualizes how the demand for mechanized services has increased amongst smallholders and recognizes that it is only viable to serve smallholders through the hire service provider business models. For agricultural development to occur amongst small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa a more commercial and market-oriented approach to farming is needed and this can be supported by mechanization.

Technical Bulletin 2: Lessons Learnt from FACASI

The technical bulletin “*Designing and implementing small-scale mechanization R&D projects: Lessons from FACASI*” (available at <https://goo.gl/fTzRhA>) draws on the findings of the ACIAR-funded project FACASI project. The project tested and promoted small-mechanization choices based on the use of two-wheel tractors, and commercialized these choices in rural Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe from 1 March 2013 to 28 February 2017. The

process of developing innovations and scaling them up through commercialization goes through four phases: (a) market assessment, (b) partnership creation and research and development, (c) pilot and demonstration, and (d) commercialization. It concludes that when designing a project promoting small-scale mechanization in eastern and southern Africa, four dimensions namely time, flexibility, implementing partners, and international partners are important.

4.1.3 Collation of working papers and independent documents from project partners in the ACT library & of each of the NARS involved

The online library can be accessed at <http://facasi.act-africa.org/library.php?com=4>. The library has a rich collection of materials on farm mechanisation and Conservation Agriculture. The materials are available in various formats including books, manuals, toolkits, reports, proceedings and videos.

Besides the virtual library, ACT does also host the physical library in the form of a resource room at ACT's Nairobi headquarters. The library augments materials in the website portal virtual resource.

4.1.4 Development of a virtual knowledge management hub hosted by ACT (including web portals, intranets, & virtual discussion forums)

The FACASI portal with URL <http://facasi.act-africa.org> is the online repository for the knowledge accumulated during the course of the project in the form of reports, publications, videos, newsletters and briefs. It also hosts a restricted access online space where the project team could hold virtual discussion forums on topical issues of agricultural mechanization and smallholder farming.

Output 4.2: Awareness on 2WT-based technologies created at various levels.

4.2.1 Development and/or strengthening of National CA task force (NCATF)

Participation of FACASI partners in the CA taskforces of Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe has been instrumental in strengthening them and steering their agenda. In Kenya, KENDAT and ACT co-organised with FAO and participated in several significant NCATFs. In Zimbabwe, FACASI was effectively represented in the national CA task force through Sepo Marongwe, member of the national FACASI team and chairperson of the national CA task force. Moreover, Cleopas Rukuni and other members of the FACASI national team also participated in the Zimbabwe CA taskforce. In Tanzania, ACT was also the Secretary to the NCATF, and contributed to organizing several task force meetings including linking its services to the Environment Department in the Vice President's Office. The established CA Task force in Ethiopia could not become effective.

4.2.2 Annual experience sharing for steering committee members, rotating in the four countries

4.2.3 Development and implementation of a training programme (on joint learning and innovation, CA, 2WT, etc.) targeting innovation platforms

4.2.4 Development of promotional and learning materials informed by research outputs

FACASI Newsletters. Six issues of the FACASI newsletter were produced and shared with the FACASI newsletter subscribers as well as the more than 1,000 ACT news alert subscribers. The newsletters and their release dates can be accessed at the below links:

- 2016, Dec - [FACASI December 2016 Newsletter](#)
- 2016, Jun - [FACASI April - June 2016 Newsletter](#)
- 2016, Apr - [FACASI Newsletter Issue 7 January - April 2016](#)
- 2015, Nov - [FACASI NEWSLETTER August-September, 2015 ♦ Issue 6](#)
- 2015, Aug - [FACASI Newsletter April - June 2015 | Issue 5](#)
- 2015, Apr - [Newsletter Issue No. 4. January - March 2015](#)

FACASI Videos. Three FACASI country videos were prepared for Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

The fifteen minutes video clip titled “*Wheat and Maize Production Using Two Wheel Tractors in Ethiopia: a project of Farm Mechanization and Conservation Agriculture*” demonstrates how smallholder farmers and service providers are using the two wheel tractor in Maize and Wheat production in Assela and Hawassa. It is accessible at <https://youtu.be/Q7Ej20NzZ28>.

Titled *Farm Mechanization and Conservation Agriculture*, the thirteen minutes video for **Kenya** focuses on entrepreneurial 2WT service providers in Laikipia and Bungoma Counties. KENDAT, University of Nairobi and ACT present Kenya and Africa overviews of CA and 2WTs. It is accessible at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=togiZfnfsnk>.

The **Tanzania** video seeks feedback of the FACASI Tanzania project team, of the farm mechanisation equipment fabricators, input dealers, service providers and farmers of Mbulu and Arumeru Districts of Manyara and Arusha Regions respectively. The video is available at <http://facasi.act-africa.org/videos.php?com=23&item=106&vid=121#.WVFIPmiGPIU>.

Photo books and photo stories. Photo books are collections of photos with captions and descriptions, usually presented as a pdf. Photo stories comprise of video clips and photos connected to form a mechanised 2WT CA story usually with a narrative voice over. FACASI produced three photo books and four photo stories whose titles and access links are provided below:

Photo books:

- **Zimbabwe.** *Revitalising smallholder agriculture in Zimbabwe: CA using two wheel tractors.* http://facasi.act-africa.org/image/Photo%20story%20Zimbabwe_final.pdf; <https://goo.gl/uKMfCQ>.
- **Ethiopia.** *Two-wheel tractors & Conservation Agriculture for Sustainable Intensification in Ethiopia.* <https://goo.gl/QYXPPP>
- **FACASI.** *Powering smallholder agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa: How 2-wheel tractors increase farm power among smallholders.* <https://goo.gl/xfMVEh>.

Photo stories/Video clips:

- **Zimbabwe.** *Revitalising smallholder agriculture in Zimbabwe: CA using two wheel tractors.* <http://facasi.act-africa.org/videos.php?com=23&item=104&vid=115#.WVFILm2iGPIU> <https://youtu.be/MZ1G7yX0kj0>
- **Ethiopia.** <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9smYhAGvSxbatZxRGg3YUJJQms/view>
- **Kenya.** <http://facasi.act-africa.org/videos.php?com=23&item=99&vid=106#.WB96bsmoOSg>
- **FACASI.** *Powering smallholder agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa.* <http://facasi.act-africa.org/videos.php?com=23&item=89&vid=94#.WVFMLmiGPIU>

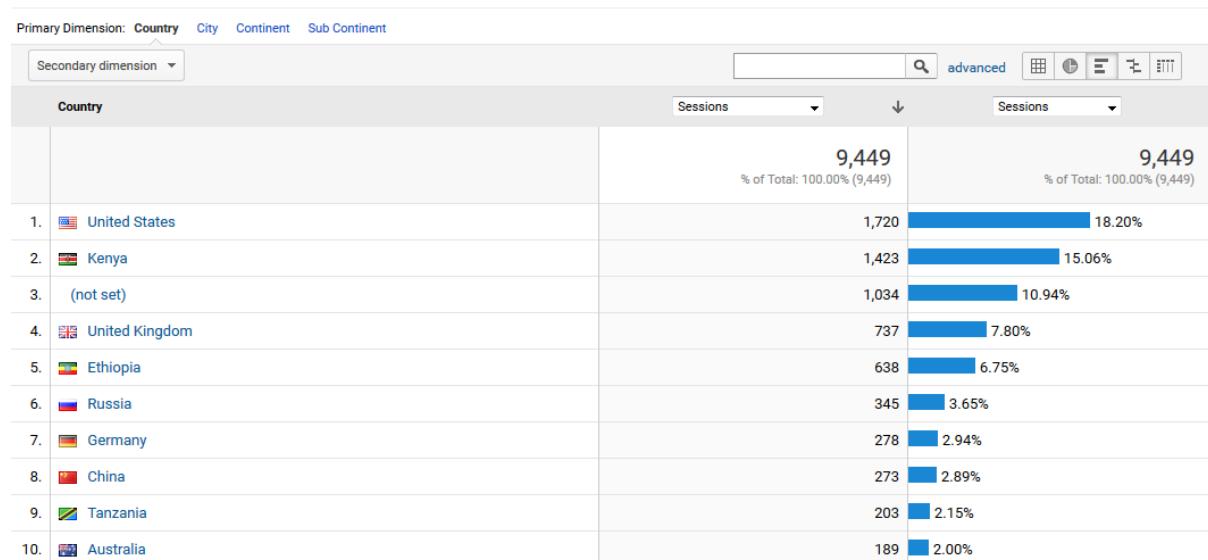
FACASI Dashboard: The dashboard (at <https://goo.gl/rPfPUz>) presents a quick visual perspective of trends in the adoption of 2WT mechanization and services provision in the FACASI project.

FACASI Website statistics and Geographical reach March 2013– March 2017



The FACASI website by viewership since March 2013 – March 2017 has recorded a total of 9,449 sessions, 19,177 page views and 6,427 new users. The four year period has witnessed 68.02% new sessions. This is indicative of a vibrant and well-managed portal with new and variety of content being uploaded. FACASI project in itself is unique as it advocates use of two-wheel tractors, which has attracted attention and viewership.

Geographical reach. The geographical reach is analyzed by compiling the statistics of the first five countries reached in a month. During this period, the highest geographical reach was United States, Kenya, United Kingdom, Ethiopia, Russia and Germany.



2. Achievement against activities and outputs/milestones

Objective 4: To improve capacity and create awareness of 2WT-based technologies in the sub-region, and share knowledge and information with other regions.

| No. | Activity | Outputs/ milestones | Completion date | Comments | |
|-------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| Output 4.2 | | Awareness on 2WT based Technologies created at various levels | | | |
| Activity 4.1.1 | Training of ACT staff to operationalize the FACASI Communication Strategy | Training conducted; and staff operationalize the communication strategy effectively | | ICT, photography and communication capacity development was undertaken to ACT staff through an in-house four days' training. This, in turn, enabled the staff to support the project partners in development of the communication products. | |
| Activity 4.1.2 | Publication of project findings in a series of working papers, in printed and electronic format | Working Papers, available electronically on the web portals and as hard copies in the library | TAN: Dec 2014, Dec 2015, Dec 2016; KEN: Aug 2014, Feb 2016, Aug 2015, Feb 2016, Aug 2016, Feb 2017; ETH: May 2015, May 2016, Feb 2017; ZIM: Oct 2015, Oct 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Two working papers 1 and 2 completed and available online 2) Two technical bulletins completed and available online | |
| Activity 4.1.3 | Collation of working papers and independent documents from project partners in the ACT library and of each of the NARS involved | Enhanced access to theme/client targeted information and new knowledge in classified hard copy monographs and other materials | May 2013- Dec 2016 | ACT library is stocked with materials and documents on farm mechanization and Conservation Agriculture. | |
| Activity 4.1.4 | Development of a virtual knowledge management hub hosted by ACT (including web portals, intranets, and virtual discussion forums) | Permanent virtual knowledge sharing platform on 2WTbased technologies | Jun 2014 | The FACASI portal http://facasi.act-africa.org online platform has provision for holding virtual discussions, is a repository for farm mechanizations and Conservation Agriculture materials. | |
| Output 4.2 | Awareness on 2 WT-based technologies created at various levels. | | | | |

| No. | Activity | Outputs/ milestones | Completion date | Comments | |
|----------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| Activity 4.2.2 | Development of promotional and learning materials informed by research outputs targeting farmers and extension agents | Fact sheets, technical bulletins, training materials etc. | TAN: Dec 2014, Dec 2015, Dec 2016; KEN: Aug 2014, Feb 2016, Aug 2015, Feb 2016, Aug 2016, Feb 2017; ETH: May 2015, May 2016, Feb 2017; ZIM: Oct 2015, Oct 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two scientific working papers and two technical bulletins were developed and shared. Three photo books for Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and the project overall were produced and shared Four photo story books for Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia and the project were produced and shared Three project videos for Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania were produced and widely shared Nine issues of the FACASI Newsletters at (https://tinyurl.com/kd5tw75) were published and circulated The FACASI dashboard (at https://goo.gl/rPfPUz) presents and overview of the FACASI project trends. FACASI Cartoon book at https://goo.gl/xPH5vJ FACASI has developed hard copies of learning materials, including brochures and fliers, available at https://tinyurl.com/mxbqbnz. FACASI market analysis, policy, meeting, study tour and other reports are available at http://facasi.act-africa.org/library.php?com=4&com2=12&com3=11&com4= | |
| Activity 4.2.5 | Twice yearly farmer field days conducted in each site | Field day reports | TAN: Jan 2014, Apr 2014, | | |
| | | | KEN: Oct 2015 | | |
| | | | ETH: June 2015 Aug 2015 | | |
| | | | ZIM: Nov 2014, Jan 2015 | | |

3. Project Outcomes and Impacts

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Summary FACASI Video products

| Category | Number | Format | Link |
|--|--------|------------------------------|---|
| Newsletters | 9 | pdf mpeg/video pdf | https://tinyurl.com/kd5tw75 |
| Videos | 4 | | https://goo.gl/t5f33d |
| Brochures | 6 | | https://tinyurl.com/mxbqbnz |
| TECHNICAL REPORTS AND MATERIALS | | | |
| Minutes | 3 | pdf | https://tinyurl.com/klt8t4x |
| Scientific Papers | 2 | | https://goo.gl/R3jggd |
| Technical Bulletin | 1 | | https://goo.gl/db8ST3 |
| FACASI DASHBOARD | | | |
| Facasi Dashboard | 1 | Google Spreadsheet Dashboard | |
| REPORTS | | | |
| Financial Products | 4 | pdf | https://goo.gl/rGm4tH |
| Guidelines | 2 | | https://goo.gl/I5qlpK |
| Market Analysis Report | 4 | | https://goo.gl/HMgPyk |
| Policy Reports | 4 | | https://goo.gl/fOJQ66 |
| Protocols | 1 | | https://goo.gl/NKA7Go |
| Study Tour Reports | 9 | | https://goo.gl/ejegbx |

The sections below give an indicative of the various category communication products developed and material items attached to each

Guidelines »

- 2016, Jan - [GUIDELINE FOR 2WT BASED FARM MACHINERY HIRING SERVICES](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [A CHECK LIST FOR GENDER INTEGRATION FOR FACASI PROJECT](#) - Annexes 2015, English

Scientific Papers »

- 2016, Jul - [Business Models of Two Wheel Tractors in Southern and Eastern Africa](#) - Scientific Papers, English
FACASI: Technical Working Paper 1- July 2016
- 2015, Sep - [Powering smallholder agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa](#) - Scientific Papers, English

Financial Products»

- 2016, Jan - [FINANCIAL PRODUCTS FOR FARMERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS REPORT. ETHIOPIA](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [FINANCIAL PRODUCTS FOR FARMERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS REPORT.ZIMBABWE](#) - Annexes 2015, English

- 2016, Jan - [FINANCIAL PRODUCTS TO SUPPORT SMALL HOLDER MECHANIZATION IN THE FACASI COUNTRIES OF SUB SAHARAN AFRICA](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [FINANCIAL PRODUCTS FOR FARMERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS REPORT TANZANIA](#) - Annexes 2015, English

Minutes »

- 2016, Jan - [MINUTES OF FACASI SERVICE PROVIDERS MEETING,ZMBABWE, SEPTEMBER 2015](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [FACASI /SERVICE PROVIDER MEETING \(GAMANYA-KASOKO\) 17/08/15](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [MINUTES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING, UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE, SEPTEMBER 2015](#) - Annexes 2015, English

Newsletters »

- 2016, Dec - [FACASI December 2016 Newsletter](#) - Newsletters, English
- 2016, Jun - [FACASI April - June 2016 Newsletter](#) - Newsletters, English
- 2016, Apr - [FACASI Newsletter Issue 7 January - April 2016](#) - Newsletters, English
- 2015, Nov - [FACASI NEWSLETTER August-September, 2015 ♦ Issue 6](#) - Annexes 2015
- 2015, Aug - [FACASI Newsletter April - June 2015 | Issue 5](#) - Newsletters, English
- 2015, Apr - [Newsletter Issue No. 4. January - March 2015](#) - Newsletters, English
- 2014, Dec - [FACASI Newsletter Issue 3 December 2014](#) - Newsletters, English
- 2014, Sep - [FACASI Newsletter Issue 2. September](#) - Newsletters, English
- 2014, May - [FACASI Newsletter Issue 1, 2014](#) - Resources, English

Market Analysis Reports»

- 2015, Jan - [MARKET ANALYSIS FOR SMALL MECHANIZATION TANZANIA](#) - Resources
- 2015, Jan - [MARKET ANALYSIS FOR SMALL MECHANIZATION- Zimbabwe](#) - Resources
- 2015, Jan - [MARKET ANALYSIS FOR SMALL MECHANIZATION- KENYA](#) - Resources, English
- 2015, Jan - [MARKET ANALYSIS FOR SMALL MECHANIZATION ETHIOPIA](#) - Resources

Policy Reports »

- 2016, Jan - [REVIEW WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL POLICY EFFECTS ON THE EXPANSION OF SMALLHOLDER MECHANIZATION, UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE, 2015](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [REVIEW OF NATIONAL POLICIES AFFECTING THE SPREAD OF SMALL MECHANIZATION IN TANZANIA](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [A REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION POLICY IN ETHIOPIA: DRIVERS AND CONSTRAINTS](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [REVIEW OF NATIONAL POLICIES AFFECTING THE SPREAD OF SMALL MECHANIZATION IN RURAL KENYA](#) - Annexes 2015, English

Study Tour Reports »

- 2016, Jan - [PROTOCOL FOR ON STATION TESTING \(MOTHER TRIAL\) FOR 2 WHEEL TRACTOR MOUNTED DIRECT SEEDERS FOR MAIZE AND PIGEONPEAS IN MAIZE-LEGUME BASED FARMING SYSTEMS](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- Training Visit to India. http://act-africa.org/file/newsletters/technical_reports/.

Brochures & Fliers »

- 2016, Jan - [FACASI Project Brochure Ethiopia](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [BROCHURE FACASI PROJECT ZIMBABWE](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [BROCHURE FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [BROCHURE FOR FARMERS FACASI ZIMBABWE](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [Direct Seeder Planter Brochure](#) - Annexes 2015, English
- 2016, Jan - [Small Scale Mechanization](#) - Annexes 2015, English

African Conservation Tillage Network



Subscribe 23

Channel description

Uploads Public



Revitalizing small scale agriculture in Zimbabwe
161 views • 3 months ago



... FACASI Video Maize and Wheat production using two wheel
140 views • 3 months ago



... Improving yields through conservation agriculture
14 views • 6 months ago



Farm Mechanization and Conservation Agriculture Kenya...
378 views • 10 months ago



Powering Smallholder Agriculture in Eastern and Southern Africa
258 views • 1 year ago

Twitter social Media HashTags #FACASI, #2WT, #Farmpower

ACT-N @ACTillage - 17 Mar 2016
Training on Gender Mainstreaming in Projects and Programs
#conservationagriculture #FACASI : facasi.act-africa.org/news.php?com=5...

ACT-N @ACTillage - 18 Feb 2016
Day 2 #FACASI RPM Moti_Ethiopia leading the discussion on what policy environment is appropriate for mechanization #Farmpower #2WTs

ACT-N @ACTillage - 17 Feb 2016
Field days r a marketing platform to get a buy in from farmers & potential service providers #FACASI Zimbabwe experiences #Farmpower #2WTs

ACT Tillage - 17 Feb 2016
senting #FACASI review in Zimbabwe and reiterates on agriculture is not new in Zimbabwe #Farmpower #2WTs

Appendix 2: ICT, photography and communication-based training to ACT staff

1.0 Introduction

The African Conservation Tillage network (ACT) conducted a four days ICT training course for seventeen of its staff from Southern, Eastern Africa and the Nairobi headquarters with the overall objective to further the knowledge and skills of the staff in knowledge management. An ICT needs assessment was conducted in October 2013 and identified some ICT gaps. Based on this assessment, a course module that would equip ACT staff with the required skills was designed.

Training objectives were to:

- Enable ACT staff to contribute to the FACASI knowledge portal and other ACT Knowledge platforms.
- Give staff the opportunity to optimally use and adapt the skills learnt to their specific work context.
- Build a large community of personnel skilled in using new emerging media and applications in sharing FACASI knowledge.

Opening of the course was done by Dr Joseph Mureithi, ACT Board Director and Deputy Director



Technology and Research for Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) on 12th May 2014. Dr Mureithi highlighted the importance of ICT in ACT work. He cited a study done by KARI on the use of ICT and how ICTs had changed the way research findings are disseminated. The use of such skills in disseminating project work activities and getting a wider audience to share content and information would depend on how ACT used the skills gained effectively.

2.0 Methodology

The training was participatory with participants having hands on practice in the tools that were being introduced and taught. Six main modules were taught during the four days training and these included, Introduction to Web 2.0; Search magic; Information self-service; Remote collaboration; Online Mapping; Communication voice over the internet; Online publishing; Social Networking and share-point.

3.0 Course summary

Introduction to Web 2.0:

Opportunities for web 2.0 were identified as income generation; wider outreach and sharing of content; increased access to relevant and up-to-date content; establishment of CoPs; remote collaboration and Networking and for Geo-referencing information. Examples included tools that facilitate real time communication.

Search magic

Using web search strategies in plain English and strategies that allow for specific search like use of quotation marks (".."), use of the minus sign (-). Searching for documents in a particular format like PDF, word documents and power-point presentations.

Remote collaboration

The document management module consisted of learning how to manage documents in an organization centrally using collaborative tools like Google drive and wikis to work on documents while in different geographical locations.



Online Mapping

Involved using google maps to create and map project locations, as well as give directions to a particular place

Communication voice over the internet

The use of tools like skype and webex were discussed including use of other tools that allowed communication over the internet.



Social Networking and share-point

Staff were introduced to Social network working like face-book and twitter that can be used at organizational level and how to optimize their use in content creation and in sharing information

Photography

Staff were exposed on how to take high resolution and theme focused photos taken. Thereafter during the citizen journalism training, staff were able to edit, and insert pictures in their blogs, articles and twitter

4. Conclusion

The course closure was made by the ACT Executive Secretary, Engineer Saidi Mkomwa on 15th May 2014. He sought the views of the participants who concluded they had gained valuable ICT skills and insights to several tools, which will make it easier for them to capture, package and share conservation agriculture and farm power experiences.