



YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE ACADEMICS, OR YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE FARMERS.

Smallholder farmers throughout Africa are adopting conservation agriculture practices on their farms to improve their farming operations and their livelihoods. The soil health and resilience benefits of conservation agriculture mean these families can now afford to send their children to school, have sufficient supplies of food, have more fertile and durable farmland; and have healthier livestock.

Protecting our soils and practicing smarter methods of farming is critical. *Brown Revolution: Save Our Soils, Save Our Future* is an initiative to raise awareness about and promote the adoption of conservation agriculture practices. By educating farmers about the positive impact healthy soils have on productivity and conservation, as well as demonstrating an improved return on investment, we can feed the world more profitably and sustainably – *now and for generations to come.*

ABOUT THE HOWARD G. BUFFETT FOUNDATION

The Howard G. Buffett Foundation is a private family foundation working to catalyze transformational change to improve the world and the lives of the most impoverished and marginalized populations. The Foundation has invested over \$150 million in research to improve agriculture and an additional \$350 million in agriculture-related programs globally.

THE ACADEMICS

“CA (conservation agriculture) does not “fit” within the majority of smallholder farming systems in Africa.”
– **Ken Giller**, Professor, the Wageningen Centre for Agroecology and Systems Analysis

“The big challenge for agriculture is that we need to further increase yields but greatly reduce our environmental impacts. The common assumption that no-till is going to play a large role in the sustainable intensification of agriculture doesn’t necessarily hold true, according to our research findings.”
– **Cameron Pittelkow**, Assistant Professor of Crop Sciences, the University of Illinois

THE FARMERS



“Before I only had 0.3 Ha; now I am farming an additional 0.8. The land I have under CA is beautiful, soft, and fertile, with no erosion. It is so fertile now that it doesn’t need chemical fertilizer to produce well, unlike my conventional plots.”

– **Ansila Gerald**, 60 years old, Maweni Village, Tanzania



“As a widow, I realized that this [CA] is the only way I can get significant production. I have really improved my farm production and as a side benefit I have a stronger cattle herd.”

– **Sostina Mlambo**, 51 years old, Midzi Village, Zimbabwe



“Conventional production isn’t very reliable. When yields were poor, we had to rely on vegetable gardening to get by. I bought 4 goats with the income from CA fields, as well as paid the school fees for my grandchildren.”

– **Ruth Muleya**, 55 years old, Hanyanga Village, Zambia



“In the old system, I had to invest \$157 a year per acre to grow crops. Now, with no-till, I spend only \$26 per acre. Once established in no-till, corn yields tripled, from 4 to 12 bags per acre.”

– **Samuel Amponsah**, 46 years old, Amanchia, Ghana



“[With CA], I’ve had a 70 percent drop in my cost of labour and my yields have increased by 30 percent.”

– **M’Mutea Kiagora**, 52 years old, Mbajone Village, Kenya



“Production is a lot better under CA. There is a lot less erosion; you can really see the difference between my fields and my neighbor’s fields.”

– **Veronica Mutono Mwangela**, 34 years old, Lairangi, Kenya



“Before [CA], we didn’t have enough to eat and sell. We had enough last year to sell 7 bags and could still send our kids to school with maize to eat.”

– **Neda Muninge**, 42 years old, Mongole Village, Zambia