

# Improving the Sustainability of Conservation Agriculture Programs

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ECHO SYMPOSIUM

Arusha, Tanzania

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# Varying levels of CA sustainability



# Findings from CA Evaluation

- CFGB Member – United Church of Canada
- Implementing Partner - Christian Care Zimbabwe
- Nkayi
  - 6 years since project began
  - Number of participants from year 1-3
    - 50/200/500
- Chirumhanzu
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> year of project
  - Number of participants
    - 120 to 240



# CA Evaluation Questions

- Sustainability
  - Yields
  - Level of CA adoption
    - Number of farmers
    - Land extension
    - Spontaneous adoption
  - Quality of CA adoption
  - Reasons for adoption and non-adoption



*“CF gave me the ability to be as good as everybody else”*

Chirumhanzu CF farmer

# Advantages of CA?

- Labour savings – 82% of FGD
- Yield increases - 72% of FGD
- No draft power required – 61% of FGD



*“You have to follow a plough a long way to get 20 bags of maize . . . with CF, on just a small piece of land, you can get a lot of maize” –FGD participant, Nkayi district*

# Disadvantages of CA?

- Adding mulch – 39%
- Time investment – 22%
- Digging planting stations – 17%
  - “Dig and Die”
- No market for surplus production – 11%



# Farmers adopting CA?



# Farmers adopting CA?





# Farmers adopting CA?



# CA Sustainability Factors

- Experience of the implementing partner
- Program length and focus
- Monitoring and evaluation program
- Mulch availability
- Amount of external input incentives (seeds, fertilizer, etc.)
- Farmer selection



Thank you