Conservation Agriculture: A part of the solution....

Sarah Singla
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We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.

Albert Einstein
German Theoretical-Physicist
(1879-1955)
Losses of CO2
Losses of CO₂

12 Aug., 1998 Plow Depth Study Swan Lake Farm
Pertes cumulées de CO₂ en 24 heures

10
Soil Surface
Not Tilled

48
4 in.

105
6 in.

202
8 in.

229
11 in.

( g CO₂ m⁻² mm⁻¹)

Source: Don Reicosky
We are falling short on climate change goals and we know agriculture should play a bigger role...
La Photosynthèse

Energie lumineuse

Chlorophylle

Energie chimique

Glucose

6CO₂ + 6H₂O → C₆H₁₂O₆ + 6O₂

CO₂

Eau

Sels minéraux

Composés organiques

O₂
Change the way you see…

A fallow

A well cultivated field

Carbon Sequestration

Carbon Losses....

Crédit photo : M. Archambeaud

Agricultural Outlook Conference
6th of December 2016
A system made of 3 Principles

- Permanent soil covered
- No disturbance
- Diversified rotation
Conservation agriculture is a win-win situation

It mitigates climate change by reducing carbon in the atmosphere and adapts to climate change.
Agricultural Outlook Conference
6th of December 2016
European Commission – 15th June 2016
« Soil IS first »
Agricultural Outlook Conference
6th of December 2016
Facts: Where are we today?

• Farmers globally switched 10 million hectares to Conservation Agriculture, reducing CO2 in the atmosphere by nearly 20 million tonnes.

• But only 4% of European farms are under CA.

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Obstacles for CA dissemination:

- No help for farmers who take risk
- Difficulties for changing mentality
- System needs to be improved
- Some regulation not adapted (Nitrogen)
- No CA visibility in agricultural area

(French survey conducted in 2016)
Levers for CA dissemination:

- Recognition of CA (definition)
- Recognition of farmer to farmers learning
- Build qualifying trainings around soil
- Measures to encourage investment in CA
  - Payments for ecosystem services
  - Help for Financial autonomy for farmers group
  - Insurance system for facilitating transition to CA
- Mobilize researchers program, with farmers into the governance, to improve system
- Specific regulatory arrangements for CA
- Valorization of CA products
Should we waste money in an agriculture which uses tools from the middle age?

Or should we spend money in a performing agriculture based on soils regeneration?
Success...

It’s not always what you see
And if Conservation Agriculture was the solution.... Just Do It...