

Philosophy Statement
Coordination of Conservation Agriculture Research Project
Client: Maize Trust.

Project Mission

Conservation Agriculture (CA) is to ensure sustainable agricultural practices by applying *the three CA principles: minimal soil disturbance, permanent soil cover and crop rotations* and subsequently improving livelihoods of farmers.

Project Motive

The motive is to:

- sustain and preserve South Africa's-nature capital;
- improve production, productivity and income of farmers within a real energy conservation framework;
- benefit present and future generations.

Project Message

Securing the stabile, sustainable and flourishing future of South Africa, its soil and its people.

In this context, rational management of the soil has to reach the 3 following main objectives:

- *Meeting the rising demand for food through diversified farming systems integrating livestock rearing and perennial crops;*
- *Increasing agricultural production, making it possible to generate incomes essential for the development of rural communities (equitable distribution of wealth and closing the gaps); and*
- *Ensuring the conservation of natural resources. Also focus on rehabilitation of sub-optimal production areas.*

Project Method

According to the terms and reference for the project

- Defining and design a project strategy and business plan;
- Structuring a Project Research Plan with short and long term deliverables and milestones against the background of existing literature information,
- Compile a representative, capable, peer panel of local experts and researchers to evaluate the funding applications made to the Trust;
- Assisting the Trust Administrators in distributing, summarizing and reviewing the involved documents to relevant role players. Effective communication is the key success factor for this project;
- Process and communicate all relevant information to the Maize Technical Advisory Committee and the Maize Forum Steering Committee.
- Lead the peer review panel in evaluating funding applications for CA projects.
- Monitoring, evaluating and coaching the project's progress;
- Preparing project reports and publish to the Maize Trust and relevant role-players and stakeholders;
- Making recommendations for the challenges of today and the problems of tomorrow.

My view and aim with this project, is to have a well defined strategy plan, implement it, and just do it.