

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES.

## BRIEF OVERVIEW OF LANDCARE PROGRAMME IN SOUTH AFRICA.

06<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
Durban, South Africa

*Mpume Ntlokwana*



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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Introduction
- LandCare Principles
- Highlights of SA LandCare Projects
- Conservation Agriculture in SA
- African LandCare Network
- Conclusion



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# INTRODUCTION

- o *LandCare is the integration of best sustainable methods of conservation farming which lead to the greater productivity in harmony with natural resources.*
- o Soil loss in SA is estimated at 300 -400 million tones, nearly 3 tones for each hectare of land. Replacing the nutrients carried out to the sea by our rivers each year with fertilizers would cost R1000 million. For every tone of maize, wheat, sugar or other crop produced SA loses an average of 20 tones of soil.
- o 13% of total SA Land is suitable for agricultural production, only 3% is regarded high potential agricultural land.
- o The integrated Soil Protection Strategy of SA was developed with aims of addressing erosion problems or land degradation.
- o The strategy was approved by the cabinet in 2005



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# INTRODUCTION.

- o In 1997, the Government of South Africa introduced a LandCare programme to assist in managing degradation of natural agricultural resources that was exacerbating poverty in poor rural areas
- o The overall objective of LandCare is to optimize productivity and the sustainable use of natural resources, leading to greater productivity, food security, job creation and a better quality of life for all.
- o The LandCare programme has until to date allocated more than R465 million to the LandCare Projects in South Africa since its inception in 1997
- o LandCare is a community based and government supported approach to the sustainable management and use of agricultural natural resources (CBNRM)..
- o LandCare is successful in building partnership between the public, community, intergovernmental departments, NGO's, CBO's and private sector. Partnerships are effective because they foster community spirit and people are realizing the need for LandCare.



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# LANDCARE PRINCIPLES

## LandCare principles:

- ***Integrated Sustainable Natural Resource Management*** embedded within a holistic policy and strategic framework where the *primary* causes of natural resource decline are recognized and addressed.
- **Fostering *group or community*** based and led natural resources management within a participatory framework that includes all land users, both rural and urban, so that they take ownership of the process and the outcomes.
- The development of ***sustainable livelihoods for individuals, groups and communities*** utilizing empowerment strategies.
- Government, community and individual ***capacity building*** through targeted training, education and support mechanisms.
- The development of active and true **partnership between movements**, LandCare groups and communities, non government organization, and industry.
- The **blending together of appropriate upper level policy** processes with bottom up feedback mechanisms. Feedback mechanisms should utilize effective LandCare institutional framework to give voice to LandCare Programme beneficiaries and supporting participants.



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# LANDCARE PROJECTS

- LandCare projects are implemented under the following four thematic areas
  1. Soil Care
  2. Water Care
  3. Veld Care
  4. Junior LandCare.
- Kalahari Namib Desertification Project. DAFF through the LandCare programme is part of KNP which seek to enhance decision making through Interactive Environmental Learning and Action in Molopo-Nossob River Basin in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa.
- This leveraged through providing support to communities and policy makers in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa so that they could effectively implement and upscale SLM in the Molopo-Nossob catchment area and thereby contribute to restoration of the integrity and functioning of the entire Kalahari-Namib ecosystem.



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# CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE (CA)

- Conservation Agriculture (CA) is characterized by three principles which are linked to each other, namely:
  1. Continuous minimum mechanical soil disturbance.
  2. Permanent organic soil cover.
  3. Diversified crop rotations in the case of annual crops or plant associations in case of perennial crops.
- CA contributes to climate change reduction through carbon sequestration systems, based on
  1. high crop residue addition and no tillage,
  2. Accumulate more carbon in the soil, compared to the loss into the atmosphere resulting from plough-based tillage.
- During the first years of implementing conservation agriculture the organic matter content of the soil is increased through the decomposition of roots and the contribution of vegetative residues on the surface.



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# AFRICAN LANDCARE NETWORK

- The ALN was established in South Africa in 2006, and has a major role in uniting the African States in developing programmes against natural resource degradation and poverty.
- The main purpose of ALN is to build a network of countries LandCare programme as a general strategy to deliver the MDGs in Africa.
- The primary objective of the ALN is to facilitate scaling up of the LandCare programme across regions and continentally with the goal of achieving sustainable livelihood and conservation wellbeing
- This would enable, develop and utilize synergies across countries, providing opportunities for showcasing and mainstreaming LandCare ideas in natural resource management linking this initiative to various regional development processes.
- Members of the Network include SA, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Namibia, Malawi and many more countries showing interest



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# AFRICAN LANDCARE NETWORK

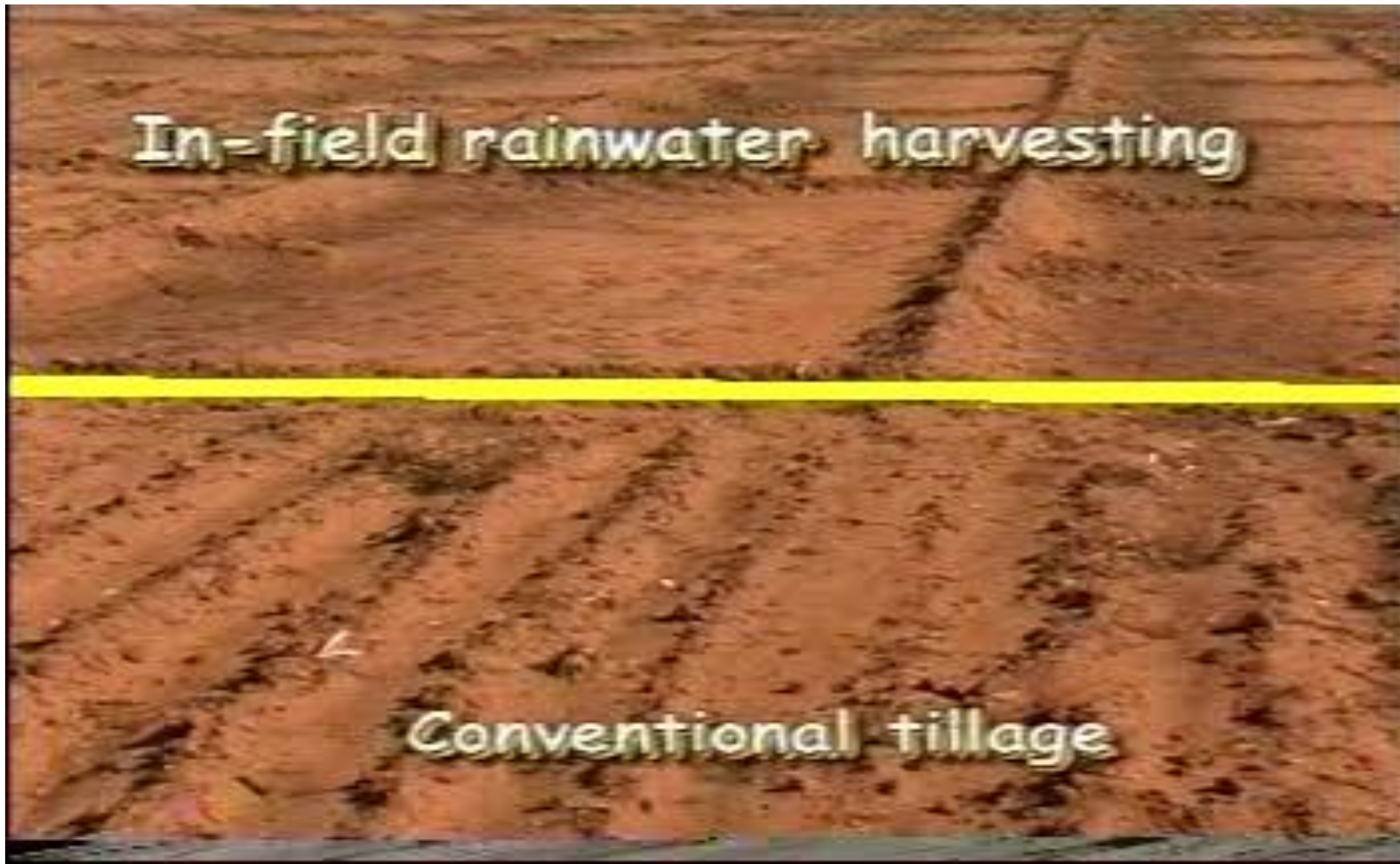
- SA will support the ALN in the next five years with an amount of 100 000 USD.
- The aim is to reach to Africa and support the sustainable Land Management practices by adopting the LandCare approach and Conservation Agriculture in the South African Development Countries, East African Countries, Economic States of West Africa and the Maghreb Union
- South Africa together with ICRAF hosted the ALN workshop in Kigali, Rwanda on the 02nd - 03rd June 2010.



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## Rain Harvesting & Conservation



# CONCLUSION

- SA is engaged in reducing the 70% level of land degradation to 55% and LandCare is seen as the solution to achieve this target while simultaneously creating green jobs.
- Partnership to address land degradation and sustainable use of natural resources to combat climate change is critical amongst all stakeholders



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# JUNIOR LANDCARE

















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LANDCARE  
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LANDCARE CONFERENCE

POLOKWANE

2009

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