

Invitation to Express Interest in Hosting 6th World Congress of Conservation Agriculture, 2014.

WCCA is an international forum for broad discussion of the ideas, issues and impacts of sustainable agricultural intensification through Conservation Agriculture. It has been particularly valuable in bringing together concerned stakeholders from the public, private and civil sectors in the industrialised as well as the developing world, emphasising the issues and importance of Conservation Agriculture for large and small holder agriculture.

Early WCCA's were primarily concerned with the scientific, technical and adoption issues of conservation agriculture, but the focus of has steadily broadened. Aspects such as consultation, participation and knowledge sharing are now equally important, together with consideration of underpinning policy. The co-location of 3rd International Farming Systems Design Conference with 5th WCCA in Australia and the support of Landcare International will further broaden perspectives on conservation agriculture, it's adoption processes and impacts.

The international organizing committee of the 4th WCCA in New Delhi during 2009 considered bids for the next congress and accepted the Australian bid to host 5th WCCA during 2011. At the same time, they recommended that the 5th WCCA international organising committee initiate a process for the ongoing operation of congresses and specifically call for bids to host the 6th WCCA in or around 2014.

National and Regional Organizations supporting Conservation Agriculture are invited to present preliminary expressions of interest in hosting the 6th WCCA for consideration by the current International Steering Committee, which might seek supplementary information from proposers in order to select a short list of proposers who will be invited to submit full bids by 1st June 2011. The International Steering Committee will review and recommend a one bid for the 6th WCCA for endorsement for endorsement by the 5th WCCA.

Preliminary expressions of interest will be received on behalf of the International Steering Committee by Dr John Dixon, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research [Dixon@aci-ar.gov.au]. These should be received by 1st September 2010.

Important criteria for hosting the 6th World Congress of Conservation Agriculture.

- **Resources:**
 - Human: scientific, practitioner and institutional backing for proposal.
 - Financial: extent of known and anticipated support .
 - Endorsement by appropriate national and governmental bodies
- **Location:**
 - Proximity to significant groups of CA scientists.
 - Proximity to local examples of CA practice and development.
 - Relative to previous WCCA's (developed/developing country alternation)
 - Accessibility from most regions
 - Opportunity to foster greater CA adoption.
- **Logistics:**
 - Cost and convenience of transport, accommodation, communications etc.
 - Availability of Conference facilities
 - Calibre of proposed organizing committees
- **Themes and organization:**
 - Relevance of themes and content to a majority of CA practitioners and scientists
 - Nature of proposed organization
 - Potential alliances with other professional organizations