

“Conservation Agriculture and its Role in Soil Health, Sustainable Food Production and Food Security”

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October 4, 2011

Continued population growth, reduction in agricultural land per person, resource degradation, global climate change and limited fresh water means that ensuring future food security will be a major challenge to the next generation of agriculturalists. Increasing yields per unit area in a sustainable and economic way will be needed as well as equitable distribution of food to ensure no person goes hungry. Improved “soil health” will be the cornerstone for the way forward in terms of physical, chemical and biological properties. Business as usual will not be sufficient to raise production and new management systems need to be researched and deployed with farmers to meet future food security production. Conservation Agriculture is one management system worth consideration. This meeting will introduce the topic of CA in order to facilitate a permanent and improved platform for engaging the Cornell community and other organizations in interdisciplinary research, scholarly dialogue, and international knowledge-sharing related to Conservation Agriculture (CA). We want to form a Cornell based CA group for this purpose.