



### CONTEXT

An online survey has been implemented to know farmers' opinion about agronomic, pedo-climatic, economic, practical/organizational and policy/socio-cultural barriers to the adoption of Conservation Agriculture in the 8 Countries involved in project. The results of the survey have been used to better understand the most relevant farmers' needs in view to adopt Conservation Agriculture and to suggest technical improvements to be tested to overcome the identified barriers on the following **4 key topics**.

#### 1 - WEED CONTROL



#### 3 – CROP FERTILIZATION



#### 2 - NO TILL SEEDING



#### 4 - CROP ROTATION AND COVER CROPS

### WORK DONE IN CAMA

Focus groups involving small groups of selected farmers and technicians have been performed by CAMA partners in each one of the 8 Countries involved in the project with the aim to discuss the main results of the online survey and to get a more detailed and qualitative description of the main barriers to be overcome to facilitate CA adoption. A guidance toolkit has been provided to each partner by CAMA to facilitate and standardize the organization of the focus groups at local level.



The guidance toolkit included: a summary of the most relevant results of the online survey for the region/country concerned by the focus group, a set of region-tailored questions to be used for discussions, a 2-step standardized methodology to be followed by partner organizers (Step 1 – discussing most relevant barriers to CA adoption on the according to the results of the online survey; Step 2 – focusing on most urgent needs/solutions/proposals to foster CA adoption).

### RESULTS

Focus groups performed in the 8 Countries clearly showed that **intangible needs are perceived as strategic** elements to be considered in view of enhancing the development and spread of CA. Among these, elements such as the **enhancement of knowledge/training actions** to farmers and of **dedicated advice services** seem to be perceived as crucial factors. In addition, needs related to the reinforcement of cooperation and exchange of experiences between expert and-less expert farmers is also perceived as a relevant element. Above all, the demand for **economic support dedicated both to the purchase of machineries and to the remuneration of the environmental benefits** connected to the CA appears to be evident.

Concerning more **technical aspects**, needs raised by discussion on the 4 key topics identified by WP 3 can be summarized as follows:

Weed control	Crop fertilization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve strategies for weed control aiming at eliminating or minimizing the use of herbicides;</li> <li>introduction of new and competitive cover crops with allelopathic characteristics;</li> <li>introduction of solutions to manage perennial weeds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>development of application methods for manure and slurry in line with environmental rules</li> <li>identification of effective strategies of application of fertilizers in relation to limiting spring/summer weather conditions.</li> </ul>
Seeding	Crop rotation and cover crops
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>adaptation of No Till seeders to local soil and crop residues characteristics;</li> <li>availability of contracting services for No Till.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>promote market, advice and services for alternative crops;</li> <li>find solutions to enhance introduction of spring/summer cover crops or main crops.</li> </ul>



# CAMA PROJECT FACTSHEET



## Farmers' needs to adopt conservation agriculture



### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In summary, according to the results reached by CAMA, in order to enhance the adoption of Conservation Agriculture among smallholders of Mediterranean countries is necessary to ensure:

- site-specific research and experimentation targeting agronomy as well as machineries;
- demonstration actions involving expert farmers as mentors for new-adopters;
- economic support for the purchase of new needed machineries, as well as for the development of specialized contracting services or the remuneration of environmental benefits ensured by CA;
- adequate training to advisors, advise to farmers and information actions;
- promotion of cooperation/networking/knowledge exchange actions involving CA farmers and experts.

### References

Deliverable 3.1 - Set of suggested technical improvements for the 4 themes for each Country

Deliverable 3.2 - Set of technical improvements selected to be tested in open test-fields

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### PARTNERS INVOLVED

