A Multidisciplinary Approach to Conservation

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(Editor)

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FORWARD

Conservation agricultural systems need technology and expertise from all areas of agricultural exploration, including but not limited to soil science, nutrient management, plant pathology, entomology, and weed science. Changing one aspect of an agricultural production system, such as implementation of no-tillage or addition of high-residue cover crops, may impact other production system practices. In-depth discussion and investigation needs to be conducted amongst all agricultural fields to ensure sustainable production for years to come.

Virginia farmers are at the forefront of conservation agricultural systems implementation. Most farmers in Virginia have adopted conservation tillage and other soil improvement practices. However, vegetable production is one of the last frontiers for implementation of conservation tillage technologies. Current production practices and necessities often make use of many conservation system technologies impractical. We hope that the multidisciplinary discussion of agronomic and vegetable crops may offer some insight into improving vegetable conservation agricultural system practices.

The organizing committee would like to thank all sponsors, authors, faculty, and staff that helped make the 31st Conservation Agricultural Systems Conference possible.

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ABOUT SERA-IEG-20

The Southern Conservation Agricultural Systems Conference (SCASC) is the main activity of the Southern Extension and Research Activity – Information Exchange Group 20 (SERA-IEG-20). It is sponsored by the Southern Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (SAAESD), the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors (ASRED), the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), and the participating state universities and federal agencies.

The primary mission of the SCASC is to provide a medium for exchanging information about conservation tillage and related technology between and among researchers, extension personnel, NRCS personnel, crop consultants, agrochemical companies, and farmers. The primary goal of most conservation sustainable agricultural systems research is to develop improved technology to increase yields and/or profitability of agricultural crops and livestock while maintaining or improving the quality of soil and water resources available for agricultural, domestic, and recreational uses. The overall objective of the SCASC is to expand the conservation agricultural systems in the South for the purpose of controlling erosion and reducing environmental degradation.

SUGGESTED REFERENCE INFORMATION

These proceedings are available in online format and in print copy from Virginia Tech printing services via a print-on-demand service. Therefore, the suggested reference information using the *Soil Science Society of America Journal* format is:

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