



SOIL CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF CANADA
CONSEIL CANADIEN DE CONSERVATION DES SOLS

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The face and voice of soil conservation in Canada

On the World stage

The Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC) in partnership with the U.S. Conservation Technology Information Centre (CTIC), organized and delivered the 6th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture (WCCA) in Winnipeg, Canada. About 400 people from forty-nine countries participated. This was the first time the WCCA was held in North America and it was a supreme showcase of conservation agriculture from around the world. It was amazing to see a man-pulled one-row no-till seeder from India featured in the same forum as North American 48-row no-till planters. We saw presentations from scientists and farmers successfully using conservation agriculture (CA) in tropical Africa, near desert conditions in Australia and Asia and in the more favourable conditions of France, Argentina and the United States. No-till was generally referenced as the means to achieving conservation agriculture. The successes and benefits of conservation agriculture are found in all conditions and in almost every part of the world.

The Congress provided an opportunity to examine the agronomy, technical, social and political challenges associated with both the adoption and promotion of CA through presentations and participant networking.

Feature speakers included Dr. David Montgomery, a geomorphology scientist, and author of "Dirt – A Case for Global Restoration", Howard Buffett, Chairman and CEO, Howard Buffett Foundation, philanthropist and proclaimed no-till farmer who has promoted and shared conservation technology around the world, and Dr. Duane Beck, Manager of the Dakota Lakes Research Farm of the University of South Dakota and internationally acclaimed tillage system and agronomy expert. Chair of the Congress was Dr. Jerry Hatfield of the U.S. National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment, a world renowned scientist.



WCCA MANITOBA FARM TOUR: DR. DAVID LOBB, DEPT. OF SOIL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA DISCUSSING INNOVATIVE ON-FARM SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ON CARL CLASSEN'S FARM.

Collectively, this brought focus to the need for soil protection, soil care, soil health, and the benefit of responsible soil management. The next Congress will be held in Rosario, Argentina, in 2017.

This Congress was not only a huge success but was also a remarkable demonstration of how two very different organizations from two countries can work together toward a common cause – the need to make sustainability the priority in soil use.

The SCCC shone as President Don McCabe led the movement to host a North American Congress and Glen Shaw, SCCC

Executive Director, led the planning committee that collaborated with the U.S. partner through the monumental effort required to organize and deliver this international event.

Through membership, support and participation in SCCC, organizations, business, government and individuals have collectively advanced the cause of conservation agriculture on the world stage. This is another SCCC activity that all Canadians can be proud of. New members and collaborators are welcome as we move forward to share in SCCC causes. *The legacy and vision continues.*

Dec 2-4, GrowCanada Conference, Ottawa

SCCC is co-hosting the "Sustainability at Sunrise" breakfast with Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Canadian Fertilizer Institute. This will help to underscore the importance of soil care and soil health amongst Canada's farm and corporate leaders.

Dec 4, 2014, SCCC Special Meeting, Ottawa, 1:30 PM

For more information contact Sue Hubbs, 306-695-2231 or info@soilcc.ca

Dec 5, 2014 World Soil Day

United Nations General Assembly declared 2015 the International Year of Soils to raise awareness of the importance of soils for food security and the essential role of soils in healthy ecosystems: <http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/iys-2015/en/>

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