

# Successful scaling approaches leading to autonomous adoption of Conservation Agriculture in West Bengal



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Unified under the Sustainable and Resilient Farming System intensification (SRFSI) Project Since 2012, a network of actors comprised of research (local university, international research organisations), extension (Department of Agriculture) and farmers groups have been working together through participatory field trials, capacity development, supply chain and policy interactions to undertake research and development activities with the unified aim to take CA to scale across the state of West Bengal (and more widely the Eastern Gangetic Plains). As a result of this, more than 100,000 farmers in the state are now using CA practices, with several important factors identified that have contributed to scaling CA. The below outlines our process to reach this achievement.

## Collaborative Engagement

- Implemented by Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya jointly with Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal, INDIA
- Direct collaboration with state sanctioned Farmers Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations and Self-Help Groups
- Funded by ACIAR & DFAT, Supported by 22 International Organizations (7 in WB) and led by CIMMYT

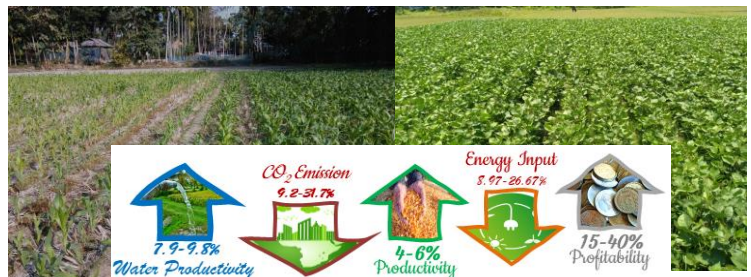


Plus >20 other collaborating institutions

Australian Government  
Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research

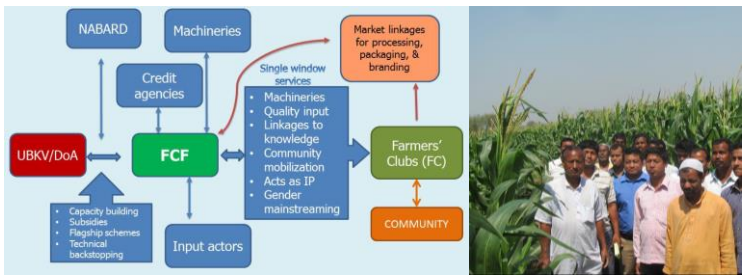
## Evidence built together for increased trust in conclusions

- More than 200 Participatory Trials across the geographic locations over 4 years
- Involvement of farmers' groups
- Generation of field-based evidence
- Convergence of Agricultural Development Schemes by the Government



## Scaling out through strengthened networks

- Conceptualizing Service Provider Models (Transformation of farmers organizations from welfare mode to business mode)
- Transfer of ownership of technology to rural Farmers' aggregations/ groups
- Catalyzing Farmers' Federation for mutual benefit - aiming efficient supply chain and collaboration



## Multi Level and Stakeholder Approach (Creation of Interest)

- Her Excellency Australian High Commissioner to India
- Advisor to Chief Minister, West Bengal
- Chief Secretary, Agriculture, WB
- International Experts on Technology and Policies
- Science based Policy Advocacy based on field-based evidence.



## Manifestation of effort

- Inclusion of CA machineries as compulsory in Govt. Incentives for Farm Mechanization
- Inclusion of CA based technologies in regular demonstrations by the Department of Agriculture, Govt of West Bengal
- Involvement of Private sectors for dissemination of technology
- Commissioning of Conservation Agriculture Centre of Excellence



## Looking to the future – the road ahead

- Implementation of technology throughout the state, already adopted by more than 100000 farm families (1% area adopted)
- Multiplication of microentrepreneurs
- Approval of joint project by Govt of West Bengal and Ministry of Agriculture, Govt of India

Adoption (Farmers) by CASI Practice in West Bengal

