Goal and Objectives

Goal of this project is to provide food security by increasing productivity and economic returns to smallholding farmers dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

Objectives of this research are:
(a) test various conservation agricultural practices under on-station and on-farm conditions; and
(b) identify practices that are sustainable and contribute to crop productivity and soil health.

Conservation Agricultural Practices

- Crop Residues
- Cover Crops
- Minimum Tillage
- Crop Rotations
- Water Harvesting
- Nutrient Management

Conservation Agricultural Practices

- Market Value
- Building Material
- Fences
- Animal Grazing
- Termites
- Fire Hazards

Research Approach and Road Map

1. Needs Assessment: Problem diagnosis with farmers
2. Collecting base line information on socio-economic and biophysical conditions
3. Gender sensitization
4. Community engagement / network building with all stakeholders
5. Farmers identified conservation agricultural practices (CAPs) for evaluation
6. On-farm (5 – 10 villages) and On-station (2 – 3) demonstrations (Mother-trials)
7. Farmers led and managed : single / multiple CAPs in their own fields (Baby-trials): 10 – 25 in each village
8. Technical and impact assessment of CAPs
9. Methodology assessment and gender impact analyses
10. Extend and scale-up in other villages with in and outside the region (Baby-trials)

Large quantities of crop residue is produced by local genotypes that are tall. However, after harvest residue is collected and taken out of the field and stored due to alternative uses and biotic and abiotic challenges.