



Cover Crops Implementation in Mango and Longan Orchards, in Battambang Province, Cambodia



Objective

To understand cover crops' opportunities, constraints, farmers' knowledge and attitude towards this Conservation Agriculture (CA) practice.

Research site & Methods



Map of Cambodia and research site area (Source: worldometer.info)

Study site:

- Battambang Province
- Rattanak Mondoul and Banan districts
- 9 Villages

Tools:

- Literature review
- 39 semi-structured interviews with CA-, CT (CA*)- and CT-farmers
- 2 Focus Group Discussions
- Key informants interviews

CA= Conservation Agriculture
 CT (CA*)= previous CA farmers, currently conventional
 CT= conventional

Conservation Agriculture (CA)

- Minimal mechanical soil disturbance
- Permanent soil organic cover
 - Cover crops
- Species diversification and crop rotation

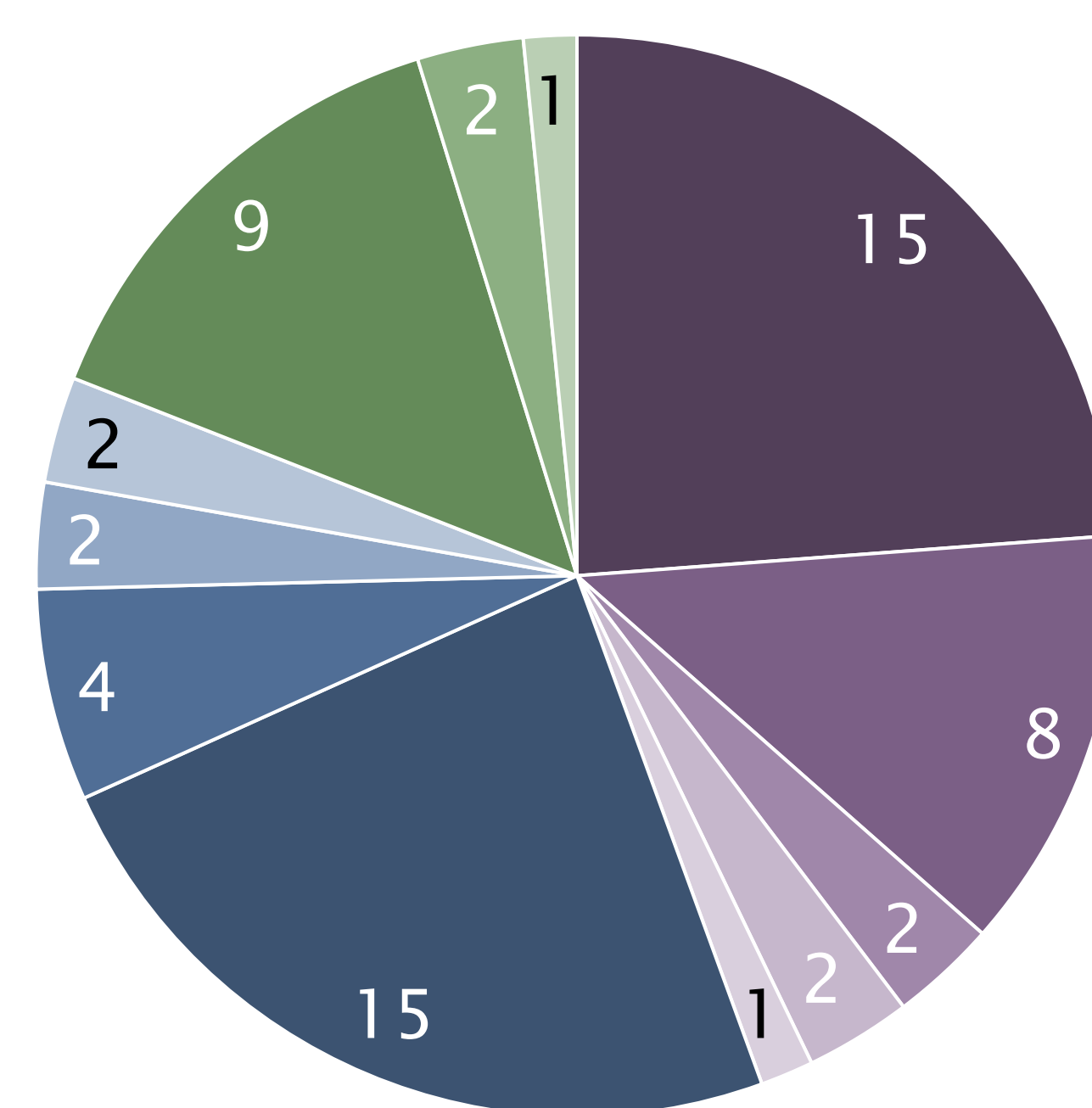


Cover crop in longan orchard

Results

- 54% of farmers still does not know the definition of Conservation Agriculture
- CA-farmers are satisfied with cover crops' opportunities in their orchards (graph)
- 27% of CA-farmers still have problems with pests in their orchards
- 72% of CT-farmers are willing to start growing cover crops to improve their soil fertility
- *Crotalaria juncea*, *Arachis repens*, *Arachis pintoii* and beans are used to be left on the soil, to be sold, or to be consumed as food or fodder

Soil health 45%
 Plant health 36%
 Agro-economic 19%



Improvements in mango and longan orchards after the implementation of cover crops

Conclusions

- Trainings and technical support about cover crops and Conservation Agriculture are needed to promote cover crops in orchards
- New cover crops' species are required as animal feed and for the seed market

