

GAINING RIGHTS TO CITIZENSHIP: THE PRESENCE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND THE GLOBAL PROGRESS OF “CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE” *

AMIR KASSAM**

This article first presents reflections on the joint work carried out by Michael Cernea and this paper's author over 8–9 years for gaining “room, recognition and resources” within the CGLAR¹ for sociological and socio-anthropological research on farmers, their practices and needs. The status of social research inside the CGLAR has gone through ups and downs in the uphill battle for expanding social research within this organization. Social scientists have constantly worked to feed their findings into the Centers' biophysical research. The paper documents the contribution of Michael Cernea, the first sociologist who acceded to CGLAR's top science and policy bodies, to strengthening the presence and influence of sociological and anthropological knowledge within CGLAR's institutional architecture and scientific products. The second part of this study presents the high promise of *Conservation Agriculture* (CA) – a new paradigm for non-tillage agricultural production that offers improved productivity and environmental protection. CA principles are universally applicable. The author offers global data on the impressive advances and distribution of CA, which covers already some 125 million ha distributed across all continents and agro-ecologies. CA is a farmer-driven socio-cultural phenomenon which has expanded at a yearly rate of 7 mil. ha during the past decade.

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