

# **No-Tillage in Europe - State of the Art: Constraints and Perspectives**

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## **Abstract**

No-tillage in Europe contains a review of developments over the last three decades beginning in the late 1960s. Reasons for attempts to introduce this soil conserving production method are outlined and obstacles affecting the uptake of no-tillage throughout Europe are identified. Updated data are provided for the uptake of both conservation tillage and no-tillage in the member countries of the European Conservation Agriculture Federation.

Further explanations for the low uptake of no-tillage and even conservation tillage when compared to other regions in the world are explored. The specificity of European conditions whether natural, human or political are used to provide arguments against the successful adoption of no-tillage in Europe.

However, increased awareness of farmers, politicians and society as a whole that soils are a non-renewable resource are leading to gradual changes in the overall approach to soil conservation. The implementation of a European Soil Framework Directive is considered to be an important step towards the recognition that conservation tillage and no-tillage is both an economical and ecological sustainable method for crop production. It is anticipated that this will promote the concept of Conservation Agriculture and increase adoption levels throughout Europe.