

# **Why Resource Poor Farmers Adopt No-Till in the Rice-Wheat Areas of South Asia. (A06-hobbs031128-Oral)**

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## **Abstract:**

The rice-wheat cropping system grown on 13.5 million hectares is a major cereal system in South Asia in terms of food security and farmer incomes. Rice grown in the wet summer is followed by wheat in the cool, dry winter. This intensive system places stress on natural resource use and contributes to global warming through increased greenhouse gas emissions. The rice-wheat consortium for the Indo-Gangetic Plains, led by CIMMYT, has been promoting resource conserving technologies like no-till with its partners to improve natural resource use efficiency, reduce GHG emissions and increase the returns and livelihoods of farmers by increasing yields and cutting costs. This paper describes the various no-till options available and resoundingly concludes based on various surveys that resource poor farmers do benefit from this technology and adopt it enthusiastically. Custom service providers, a system already used by farmers to get their land ploughed, allow any farmer to test this technology. The paper describes the many benefits accrued by farmers that adopt this technology and issues that still need to be resolved in the future so all can benefit from this new revolution.

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