



**Total Solutions
for Farmers**

Agrimech Africa Ltd

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Hands-on Training Course Mechanization for Conservation Agriculture

10th – 14th May, 2021

Tabor Hill Retreat Centre & FTC Nyandarua
{between Ol Joro Orok and Nyahururu Towns}

Agrimech Africa Ltd is an Agricultural Mechanization Service Provision Company backed by some 30 years of international and frontline agricultural mechanization application and services experience. The company has become known locally and regionally for its professional agricultural engineering leadership (serving under *The Mechanization Hub Model*) and training excellence, in mechanization for climate-smart agriculture. For example, Agrimech's Directors participated in AGRA continental study identifying and analyzing Workable Agricultural Mechanization Business Models for the Continent. The Agrimech MD consulted for the East Africa region in the AUC-FAO "*Sending the Hoe to the Museum*" Movement, that led to the Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization for Africa (SAMA) framework and book that African countries are now using to shape their mechanization programmes (<http://www.fao.org/3/CA1136EN/ca1136en.pdf>). Agrimech has been on a year-long Conservation and Climate Agriculture capacity building programme for the Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia, which is ongoing. A modern manual with Landscapes Management, *The How* of applying Conservation Agriculture (CA) and value-chains focused items like Institutional Partnerships and Public Private Partnerships have made the manual unique and innovative. The manual is accompanied by elaborate Power Point presentations and A1 posters for training in remote areas. **Agrimech wishes to bring this engineering expertise and experience to Kenyan agricultural mechanization supporters, operators and beneficiaries.**

Problems Needing Attention:

- Despite Agricultural Mechanization being an important input to Agriculture, Kenya and the Africa Continent desperately lags behind. Land and labour productivity remain extremely low, despite progress made with soil health and nutrition.
- There is a huge gap between the machinery vendor and the farmer. Tractor sale numbers in Kenya has fallen to 700 units per year in a market that should be selling an estimated 3000 units per year. Vendors train mostly about tractor care, not about the adjustment and calibration of implements, which are normally not of the same brand or source as the tractor. Tractors and implements are extremely poorly serviced. They are lasting a small fraction of the life the same units serve, in countries where they come from.
- The majority farmer is the smallholder, for whom tractor-purchase is unreachable or does not make business sense. Innovators like Agrimech know the future is in service provision, rather than expecting smallholders to purchase increasingly complicated machinery. Service providers are employing operators that (like them) know only ploughing. There is a huge capacity gap in offering professional and modern mechanization services.
- Agriculture value-chains are getting more and more modernized. Systems and operations are getting more technical, more climate-smart and more digital. The already deprived and limited tractor owner and operator knows at most, the disc-plow, harrow and maize planter. They have been left behind.

Course objectives:

- To build the capacity and ability of agricultural mechanization service providers, their employers, supporters and farmers to implement sustainable mechanization options in line with current farming challenges and farmer needs.
- To add to the pool of qualified technical personnel who understand agricultural tractors and implements, their uniqueness, appropriate utilization, service and maintenance for increased and safe working life.
- To make real the meaning and knowledge of and application of mechanization for conservation and climate-smart agriculture.
- To learn how to use the Hello Tractor digital platform for tractor location, fuel-use and maintenance (service) tracking, work booking and aggregation, collection of work performance quality, among other management data.

Nature of Course:

The course will have a maximum of 20 participants of both genders, for maximum trainer-trainee attention. The course will constitute morning class-room sessions and mid-morning to afternoon practical sessions with hands-on interaction with tractors and machinery on the farm. All sessions will be conducted by dedicated professionals who will strive to understand the trainee's shortcomings, with an aim to strengthen the existing individual skills and practice. The trainer will learn from the trainee and pass on new techniques that will help the trainee be more exposed, more aware, hence more confident and prepared for the "future farm" and "future business". The trainer will carefully connect theory to practice in a **What?-Why?-How?** ~ (*The Theory, Attitude and Practice*) approach to the (*holistic*) learning. Sessions will include tractor and implement workings (systems, parts, adjustments and calibration) and appropriateness for the job and the farm at hand. Hallmarks will revolve around climate-smartness as well as business delivery matters like operational costing and (business) profit maximization through work scheduling, monitoring and evaluation on the digital platform.



Who Should Attend?

The Course targets stakeholders of the Mechanization Service Provision Industry and Sector. These are persons who need to learn or gain new perspectives and techniques of growing and profiteering from the agricultural mechanization service business and sector. These are persons that need a new fit into the rapidly changing trade in terms of scope of tractors and machinery, technology and ICT applications, environmental impacts and climate-smartness in a challenged and dwindling agribusiness sector.

Attendees will be mechanization service practitioners and their supporters from the farming industry and sector. They will be from farms and farmer organizations, machinery vending and service companies, County Government and other extension agencies, international and local NGOs, institutions of higher learning, etc. They will be persons of all ages, including youthful men and women ready to explore the huge mechanized farming and agribusiness potential for profit. They will be persons ready to close technological gaps in farming, focusing on the many opportunities that become real, once the labour burden and drudgerous operations are no longer a deterrent to farming.

When is the Course & Where?

This course is one of at least 3, to be offered each year by Agrimech. The course is scheduled to take place from 10th to 14th May, 2021. The course will be residential (in comfortable rooms) with all meals provided, and conducted while observing all COVID-19 protocols. Trainees will report in the afternoon of the 10th and depart in the afternoon of 14th May. The venue will be the serene and friendly Tabor Hill Retreat Centre, located about 2km from the Ol Kalou-Nyahururu road, between Ol Joro Orok and Nyahururu towns. Farm activities will be at the extensive Nyandarua Farmers Training Centre farm, located next to the Retreat Centre. The course will be offered in English and Kiswahili and it is designed to be inclusive, fun and highly interactive between all present.

What will it cost to participate?

This is a highly subsidized course with participants paying only \$450 (about Ksh 50,000/-) each to cover tuition fees, learning facilities, equipment, training materials, meals and accommodation. It is a fully residential course and all participants are expected to stay in the designated venue during the entire course. Participants will cater for their transport to and from the training venue.

Certificate of Attendance

Certificates of attendance will be issued.

Have a Future with Agrimech

Agrimech (the company) is a machinery manager and trainer of Mechanization Service Providers. The company's business model utilizes the Hello Tractor Digital Platforms. The company and partners place a lot of value and recognition upon trainees that have a Certificate from any of Agrimech courses. By training at Agrimech you are opening a path towards being a certified and recognized Mechanization Service Provider, a work aggregator or a member of the Agrimech Youth-Wing. At the Youth-Wing, youth businesses are incubated and supported to operate small mechanization for business.

Contact us:

If you are interested in the Course, or need more information, please contact The Agrimech Operations Director at info@agimechafrica.co.ke or Telephone: +254-713-833335. You will be sent a Course Curriculum. The same and more information is available in the Agrimech website www.agimechafrica.co.ke

