

**2007 STEEP PROJECT FINAL REPORT
(November 2006 through September 2007)**

PROJECT TITLE: STEEP Impact Assessment Project

INVESTIGATORS:

PNW STEEP Extension Cropping Systems Specialists Team

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Cooperators:

Robert Papendick, retired ARS, Pullman

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PROJECT OBJECTIVES: OBJECTIVE I. Determine the impact of farming practices and systems on soil, water and air quality.

- Assess the impacts of conservation practices on soil, water and air quality and use this information to develop tools for improved conservation planning and resource management.

KEY WORDS: Direct seed cropping systems

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM: The USDA-CSREES Program Leader for Water Quality, Dr. Mike O'Neil (who is also the USDA contact for STEEP) has suggested to conduct an impact assessment for the STEEP Program. This proposal will concentrate on impacts on Air, Water and Soil Quality, Economy and Social Aspects, such as grower attitudes towards adoption of conservation tillage systems in the region.

AGRONOMIC ZONES OF INTEREST: All Pacific Northwest cropland agronomic zones can benefit from this technology transfer program on conservation tillage systems, particularly those agronomic zones targeted in STEEP research projects.

ABSTRACT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION:

An impact assessment of the STEEP program was completed with the help of retired, long-term STEEP researchers. Goal of this assessment was to quantify, and qualify, the impacts the STEEP program has had on farming, economy, policy and environment in the PNW. Data analysis, computer simulations, and farmer interviews have been used to achieve this goal. A 28-page STEEP Impact Assessment Report, and a 4-page Executive Summary were published and distributed to Congressional delegates of Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

IMPACTS OF RESEARCH: Impacts of the first 30 years of the STEEP program were summarized and documented. Stakeholders were informed of the results.

INTERACTION (COOPERATION) WITH OTHER SCIENTISTS CONDUCTING RELATED ACTIVITY:

This was a stand-alone compilation of STEEP results. Many past and present STEEP researchers were consulted to achieve the objective.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Kok, H. (ed.) STEEP Impact Assessment Report, October 2007. 28-page, 4-color report.

Kok, H. (ed.) STEEP Impact Assessment Executive Summary, June 2007. 4-page, 4-color brochure.