

Supplementary materials

Table S1 Field management for CT and NT during 2014–2016.

| Management | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Maize Cultivar | XDH78 | XDH78 | XDH78 |
| Tillage Date | 15–Apr | 15–Apr | 18–Apr |
| Tillage depth | 30 cm | 30 cm | 30 cm |
| Fertilization date | 17–Apr N: 257 Kg·ha ⁻¹ | 8–May N: 257 Kg·ha ⁻¹ | 27–Apr N: 257 Kg·ha ⁻¹ |
| Fertilization application | P: 105 Kg·ha ⁻¹ K:15 Kg·ha ⁻¹ | P: 105 Kg·ha ⁻¹ K:15 Kg·ha ⁻¹ | P: 105 Kg·ha ⁻¹ K:15 Kg·ha ⁻¹ |
| Planting date | 20–Apr | 20–May | 6–May |
| Planting density | 50000 seed ha ⁻¹ | 50000 seed ha ⁻¹ | 50000 seed ha ⁻¹ |
| Row spacing | 90 cm | 90 cm | 90 cm |
| In-row spacing | 40 cm | 40 cm | 40 cm |
| Weed control | Thifensulfuron-methyl (120 g ha ⁻¹) | Thifensulfuron-methyl(120 g ha ⁻¹) | Thifensulfuron-methyl(120 g ha ⁻¹) |
| Harvest date | 10–Sep | 7–Oct | 3–Oct |

Note: Information of Tillage Date and Tillage depth are for CT.

Table S2 Statistical evaluations of measured and simulated soil water content in different layers for CT and NT during 2014–2016.

| Depth (cm) | Year | CT | | | | | | NT | | | | | |
|---------------|------|--|---|------|------|------|--|---|------|------|------|--|--|
| | | Simulated (cm ³ cm ⁻³) | Measured (cm ³ cm ⁻³) | RMSE | d | E | Simulated (cm ³ cm ⁻³) | Measured (cm ³ cm ⁻³) | RMSE | d | E | | |
| 10 | 2014 | 0.12 | 0.10 | | | | 0.14 | 0.12 | | | | | |
| | 2015 | 0.15 | 0.13 | 0.07 | 0.88 | 0.02 | 0.15 | 0.10 | 0.08 | 0.81 | 0.03 | | |
| | 2016 | 0.10 | 0.09 | | | | 0.10 | 0.08 | | | | | |
| 30 | 2014 | 0.15 | 0.14 | | | | 0.15 | 0.12 | | | | | |
| | 2015 | 0.19 | 0.15 | 0.06 | 0.80 | 0.02 | 0.19 | 0.14 | 0.06 | 0.83 | 0.04 | | |
| | 2016 | 0.13 | 0.11 | | | | 0.13 | 0.12 | | | | | |
| 50 | 2014 | 0.11 | 0.09 | | | | 0.11 | 0.11 | | | | | |
| | 2015 | 0.15 | 0.10 | 0.09 | 0.42 | 0.03 | 0.15 | 0.14 | 0.05 | 0.90 | 0.00 | | |
| | 2016 | 0.10 | 0.10 | | | | 0.10 | 0.13 | | | | | |
| 70 | 2014 | 0.11 | 0.07 | | | | 0.09 | 0.08 | | | | | |
| | 2015 | 0.15 | 0.11 | 0.07 | 0.73 | 0.03 | 0.15 | 0.13 | 0.05 | 0.89 | 0.01 | | |
| | 2016 | 0.10 | 0.10 | | | | 0.10 | 0.10 | | | | | |
| 90 | 2014 | 0.10 | 0.09 | | | | 0.08 | 0.06 | | | | | |
| | 2015 | 0.14 | 0.12 | 0.06 | 0.81 | 0.01 | 0.14 | 0.12 | 0.03 | 0.95 | 0.02 | | |
| | 2016 | 0.10 | 0.09 | | | | 0.10 | 0.10 | | | | | |