

TWO WHEEL TRACTOR NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2011.

United States Assistance to Afghan Farmers – Supply of 6000 2WT units.



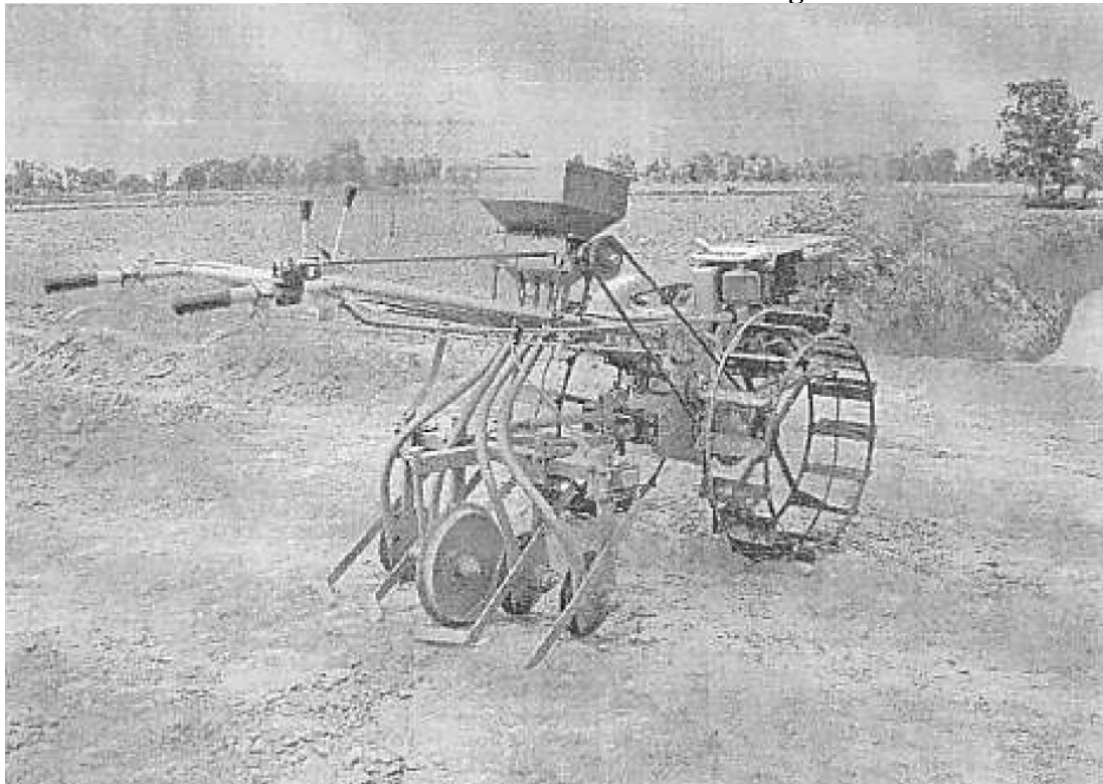
U.S. Ambassador to [Afghanistan](#) Karl Eikenberry, right, operates a two wheel tractor during a ceremony to mark the distribution of two wheel tractors to Afghan farmers in [Kabul](#), Afghanistan, Sunday, Feb. 6, 2011. A U.S. funded mechanization program to distribute 6,000 two wheel tractors to farmers in 18 provinces was launched in Kabul on Sunday.

More on this story can be found at:

http://afghanistan.usaid.gov/documents/document/Document/1280/Small_Tractors_Lead_to_Surplus_Crops

It appears that farmers may be subsidised up to 65% of the cost, and are also being supplied with seed drills to suit. My guess is the 2BG-6A rotary drill is the unit being supplied.

Thai built 2WT seed drill for direct seeding of rice.



This pic. was sent to me by one of my colleagues who is doing foreign aid work in South Asia. Full details not known at this time. This seed drill has been designed in Thailand and is fitted to a Siam Kubota 2WT. The four rows have single disc openers, and also a steel gauge wheel for depth control. Note also the steel cage wheels for seeding into muddy or flooded field, and also the covering arms at the back of the machine.

Impact of 2WT technology on Bangladesh Farming Systems.

Have a look at:

<http://bdeconassoc.org/userfiles/pdf/10%20Backward%20and%20Forward%20Linkages%20of%20Power%20Tiller%20Technology%20Some%20Empirical%20Insights%20from%20an.pdf>

This reference is a bit dated (the research only covers the period 1988 to 2003), but has relevance to the current position with 2WT sales and technology adoption in Africa and other developing areas.

In Bangladesh, during the study period, the number of 2WT increased from 3000 to 350,000. Some thought that this mechanisation would lead to increased unemployment in agriculture in Bangladesh.

However the reverse has been the case. Over the 15-year period a whole new industry has emerged. A new class of 2WT owners has arisen, with another group of 2WT drivers, who specialise in this area of work.

As well, Bangladesh has seen the establishment of many 2WT sales, spare parts, and repair businesses. There has also been the start of a group of skilled and semi-skilled 2WT mechanics that service and repair these tractors. Some have been through the apprenticeship process while others are self-taught.

I have personally seen this development in NW Bangladesh, and every moderate sized city has several 2WT spare parts outlets, as well as sales offices. Used 2WT parts are also available from 2WT recycling businesses. Village blacksmiths also recondition tiller blades if necessary.

Development of inclined plate seed meters – as fitted to 2WT

My Aussie colleague, Dr. Jack Desbiolles has sent me some videos of a 2WT fitted with the National Agro inclined plate seed meters.

Have a look at the videos set out below:

National Agro inclined plate

http://www.4shared.com/video/q0jFwMZD/VID_00003-20100427-1055.html

National Agro inclined plate 2

<http://www.4shared.com/video/zGoZ7MiN/MOV00248.html>

National Agro Inclined plate 3.

http://www.4shared.com/video/frg_SKBd/MOV00245.html

The seed metering system may be OK, but I do not think much of the traditional fallow being used for the demonstration.

Recent 2WT seed drill evaluation trials in Cambodia.

In a further development, Dr. Jack Desbiolles along with Scott Justice and others have recently been undertaking further evaluation of the ACIAR-Rogro 2WT tined seed drill in Cambodia. They are initially working with the CARDI unit. As previously reported, a batch of similar 2WT drills is currently being fabricated by a Phnom Penh Ag. Machinery workshop.



Jack informs me that the seed drill was reasonable in performance. The seeds were well placed, and emergence has been good. However there were difficulties with residue clearance, partly which is due to machine design and tine layout, and partly due to the uneven nature of the residue cover on the field. (the previous crop was hand harvested and the residue was long and irregular.)

Some minor design faults were detected in the structure of the seed drill, and these are being noted and will be incorporated into later models.

Some further videos of the seeding operation can be seen at:

2WT no till drill – Cambodia 2011

http://www.4shared.com/video/pFAqVChe/MVI_4380.html

Enquiry re Deere & Co. dual range seed meter.

As may have been previously mentioned, I had an initial reply from Deere & Co. indicating that this seed meter has never been commercially produced. It was described in a recent newsletter. I contacted Deere & Co. again with more questions, but have to date not received a reply. Perhaps one of the forum members may have more 'clout' with Deere than I have.

Demonstrations and Field Days in Bangladesh with Versatile Multi Planter (VMP)

A recent CIMMYT blog has news of continuing publicity and field days showing conservation farming using the VMP to various farmer groups, NGO's and Government officials. Full details at <http://blog.cimmyt.org/?p=6207>
Have a look at the pictures below.



These pictures are courtesy of Enamul Haque, who is a co-worker in the program.

PROGRESS WITH MECHANICAL LIFT SYSTEM – TWO WHEEL TRACTOR.

I hope to have full details on this project (now 99% completed) next issue.