

TWO WHEEL TRACTOR NEWSLETTER _ AUGUST 2014

Direct seeding of rice in Laos.

Dr. John Schiller, an Honorary Senior Fellow in faculty of Agriculture, University of Queensland, has sent me a copy of his latest report on progress with direct seeding of rice in South Asia (principally Laos) this year. (ACIAR Project LWR-2008-019) The pictures following show the direct seeding operation, plus some views of rice crops sown by direct seeding method.

Despite a relatively dry start to the current (2014) wet season, the direct seeded plots in lowland rainfed areas in Savannakhet province in the lower central agricultural region of Laos, are most impressive, relative to the transplanted crops. There is a lot of farmer and Lao government agency interest in the potential of the direct seeders, not only on account of the increasing cost of labour (and sometimes a lack of access to labour) for the transplanting of rice crops, but also on account of reduced year-to-year variability in rice yields when direct seeding is used (partly reflecting the good establishment of direct seeded crops under rainfed conditions).



Direct seeding in Phin-Tay village,
Outhomphone district 4 June 2014



Direct seeding (2) in Phin-Tay village
, Outhomphone district 4 June 2014

(Photo credits – Mr. Sysavanh Vorlasan)



Direct seeded crop in Vattana village Champone District on 11 June 2014
(Photo credit Mr. Sipaseuth)



Direct seeded crop (2) in Vattana village Champone District on 11 June 2014
(Photo credit Mr. Sipaseuth)



Direct seeder being used in Phin-Tay village, Outhomphone district 4 June 2014
(Photo credit – Mr. Sysavanh Vorlasan)

Other agronomic factors such as fertiliser rate and placement, variety selection, weed control, and seedbed preparation methods are being studied as well as seeding methodology.



Direct seeded plot Phin-Neua village, Outhomphone district 18 June 2014
(Photo credit – Mr. Sysavanh Vorlasan)



Direct seeded plot Phin-Neua village, Outhomphone district 3 July 2014
(Photo credit – Mr. Sysavanh Vorlasan)

Copies of the progress report on this Laos project are available by contacting Dr. John Schiller at University of Queensland Email: j.schiller@uq.edu.au



These are the 2WT seed drills currently being evaluated in Laos.

Left: Thai built seeder

Right: IRRI –ACIAR-Rogro seeder.

More on the FACASI Project in East Africa.

The University of Nairobi has posted quite a comprehensive summary of the Kenya FACASI training workshop held earlier in the year. Full details can be found at:

<http://engineering.uonbi.ac.ke/node/7002>

If you click on the view photos link at the bottom of the page you will find many more pictures.

Another site is at:

http://ebe.uonbi.ac.ke/sites/default/files/cae/engineering/ebe/KENFIELD2013%20by%20Karimi%20May%202014%20%281%29_0.pdf

John Morrison Seeder:

The John Morrison single row seeder for 2WT now has a website. It is at:

http://www.morrisonseeders.com/?page_id=14

On a lighter note: Have you seen Drag Racing with a 2WT? Click on the link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmcEDEouN4g>

Progress report on the Gongli Africa 2WT row crop seed drill with the ground following openers;

I am still working on this unit. (see previous 2014 newsletters) The sourcing and installation of correct size springs to exert accurate positive pressure on the tine openers and the cutting coulters is proving to be a challenge. I now realise that the physics and engineering principles of compression and torsion springs is quite a complex business. Two prototypes with various spring set-ups have been tried in the field with only moderate success. The unit is currently in the workshop having a third spring arrangement fabricated. More news next month.

Back issues of the 2WT Newsletter can be found at

[:http://conservationagriculture.mannlib.cornell.edu/pages/resources/twowheel.html](http://conservationagriculture.mannlib.cornell.edu/pages/resources/twowheel.html)

Note: This newsletter has been sent in a low resolution pdf. format for those on slow internet connections. If you require the newsletter or parts of it in higher resolution please let me know.

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