

TWO WHEEL TRACTOR NEWSLETTER JANUARY – MARCH 2016

21 March 2016

Latest from Zimbabwe

Following the visit from the FACASI fabrication team to Zimbabwe in late 2015 (see previous newsletter), a lecturer at University of Zimbabwe, Dr. Special Musoni has continued to work on the 'CIMMYT Hybrid' that was built at that time. Special has cleaned it up, and completed all of the finicky bits and pieces, to make this two row planter into a fully operational unit.



Note several features of this planter.

It is fitted with the Chinese made 12 cell vertical spoon seed meters.

It is fitted with an operator platform at the rear.

Fertiliser boxes have been fitted, and separate fertiliser placement is available.

Minimum disturbance points on vertical narrow shank tines have been fitted.

The swivelling tail wheels at the rear double as press wheels.

Row (line) spacing is adjustable with the clamping system on the tool bars.

Special has also made up an alternative contour following disc opener unit, using many of the design features of the CIMMYT Hybrid planter,



This planter is fitted with two Chinese made double disc soil engaging tools. These are on drag arms which are spring loaded.

Each disc unit is also equipped with a pair of angled press wheels to firm the newly planted seeds, as well as acting as a depth control arrangement.

A pair of tail wheels to support the tool bars are also attached.

A pair of vertical 12 cell seed meters is also fitted. Fertiliser boxes with fluted roller metering as similar to the original CIMMYT Hybrid model.

Note that the planter mechanism is driven by a ground wheel, whereas the previous model is driven from the main drive wheel of the 2WT.

For further information please contact Special Musoni at smusoni3@gmail.com

Thai made 2WT planter.



Clive Murray (Syngenta Foundation SE Asia) has supplied me with two pictures of a Thai made 2WT planter. I do not have any detailed information on this planter. However it appears to be fitted with a pair of inclined plate seed metering systems on the seed boxes. The seed covering devices and the drive system is clearly visible.

Further Zimbabwe Developments.



I understand a shipment of small Chinese 4WT has been made into Zimbabwe recently. A two row maize planter, specifically designed for these tractors has been fabricated by a local consortium, comprising the importer and a local farm implement manufacturer. I do not have specific details at this time.

The 4WT are belt driven from the motor to very simple multi speed transmission. The single cylinder diesel motors are similar to those on most 2WT in specifications and power. However I understand that these tractors do not have a differential drive system to the rear wheels. This is perhaps a significant drawback as they need a very wide turning circle to operate properly.

If you have any comment on this newsletter, please let me know.

Back issues of the 2WT Newsletter can be found at

:<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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