

BB2C/Agri-Smart featured in USAID Innovative Agricultural Technologies publication

Contact: paula.shirk@bb2c.org

<http://www.bb2c.org/>

A Groundbreaking Rice Seeder for Women

June 27, 2016

Agri-Smart, operating under the umbrella of the parent organization, Brooklyn Bridge to Cambodia (BB2C) has designed the next generation of its pioneering rice planting device. In this model the Cambodians have taken the western technology and made adaptations that address the concerns of abandoning the time tested, traditional method of manually transplanting rice used effectively for centuries. The seeder can be operated by one person. It is easy, it rolls, and the simplicity has converted any hesitations the Cambodian people have had into excitement. A woman farmer can now plant a hectare of land in two hours. A similar sized field using the traditional method could take 40 women all day to plant.



“Srey Touch operating the Eli Seeder on her small farm in Takeo Province, Cambodia comments, “very easy and not heavy.”



In addition, the traditional method is labor intensive. With migration leading to labor shortages in Cambodia and other rural areas, many farmers are forced to use less effective planting methods such as throwing (broadcasting) seeds into the field. The market is changing and our technology is well-positioned to address this urgent need for a new method.

Since we embed ourselves within the communities, we understand the farmer's struggles and provide solutions born out of participation. This approach allows us to provide cutting edge tools that improves the lives of farmers and helps end the trappings of generational poverty. By providing solutions to outdated rice farming methods, we are changing the way rice is farmed in Cambodia and beyond. We do *this* by delivering profit-making, labor saving innovative technology.

Agri-Smart technology is affordable and locally produced. The seeder uses air pressure to seed the ground in rows, which allows each plant enough space to grow, and reduces the total amount of seed required by half when compared to current methods. Rows also allow for tool-assisted and chemical-free weeding, as well as more targeted and efficient fertilizing. Crop yields using our machine meet or exceed the results of traditionally transplanted fields.



Benefits:

- Saves farmers' money on seed and fertilizer
- Less labor intensive planting
- Improved crop yields
- Eliminates use of environmentally harmful herbicides
- Generates income
- Local manufacturing means benefits for small business and entrepreneurs
- Easy to maintain and repair
- Agri-Smart's field staff provides training and technical support



A witness to History