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

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Latest Version of Groundbreaking Rice Seeder is Market Ready

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Agri-Smart, operating under the umbrella of the parent organization, Brooklyn Bridge to Cambodia (BB2C) continues to develop its pioneering rice planting device. By providing solutions to outdated rice farming methods, we are changing the way rice is farmed in Cambodia and beyond.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.

The traditional rice planting method of manual transplanting is effective, but 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.

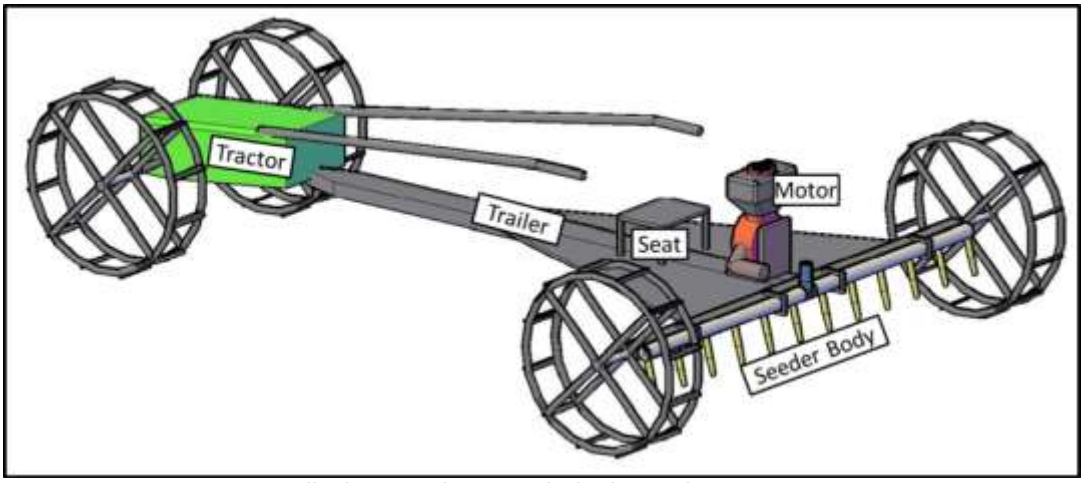
Eli Rice Seeder Latest Version:
Please see the video of our final testing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5f4a8Z_4JA
Youtube: Eli Rice Seeder – Takeo Demonstration

Agri-Smart continues to gain respect for how closely it works with the farmers. 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 improve the lives of farmers and helps end the trappings of generational poverty. From feedback we received from the field, BB2C has developed a version of the seeder that can be pulled by a walking tractor. These tractors are already fairly common in farming communities; they are used for plowing, leveling fields, and transportation. Now, many see tractors as potentially the easiest way to plant rice as well.

We have designed and are now producing a trailer that is pulled behind the tractor. The trailer has a wide deck that can carry the operator, the motor, and the seeder. It can even carry a helper plus additional seed. The heavy trailer along with the wide wheels provides a stable platform for the seeder regardless of varying soil conditions.

With this new upgrade, seed can be planted even more quickly and with less strenuous labor. Now, even larger fields can be planted, and the machine can be shared among larger groups of farmers. In our final testing of our recent configuration of the tractor pulled Eli Rice Seeder design, the results indicate that it would take less than two hours to plant a field the size of one hectare. This is a huge labor savings compared to the 200 hours of labor by women to complete the same task by hand.

We plan to partner with retailers of tractors and other farm equipment. Many farmers are eager to make the investment in equipment that has a more modern appearance when compared to a manually pulled machine. We will still, however, continue to offer our manually pulled version for use on smaller plots.



Eli Rice Seeder – Technical Drawing- 2016

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. Rice planted with this new method has also proven to be more drought resistant than seed that is simply scattered on the ground. Because the Eli Seeder drives the seed slightly under the surface of the mud, it is less like to dry out during a rain shortage compared to seed that is just sitting on top of the ground.

Takeo, September 2016

Benefits:

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