

AFICAT Newsletter (Côte d'Ivoire No. 2)

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*Please note that this is an English translation of the original French newsletter.

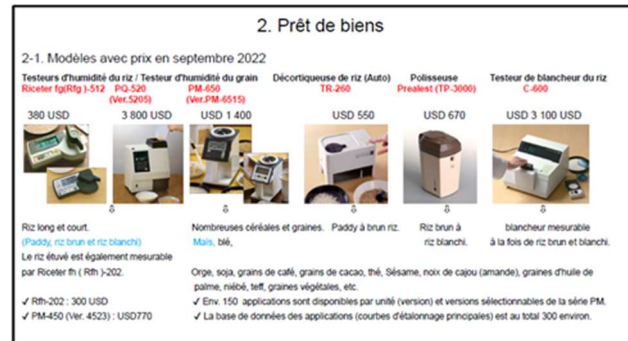
This newsletter presents the activities of the “Africa Field Innovation Center for Agricultural Technology” (AFICAT). In this second issue for Côte d'Ivoire, we share information about the pilot activities and research conducted by the Ivorian government and Japanese companies under the coordination of the AFICAT Team from December 2022 to March 2023 in Côte d'Ivoire.

2nd Kett seminar in Abidjan in Dec 2022



On December 15, the Kett Electric Laboratory, Co., Ltd. (Kett) conducted a second seminar to introduce its products to Côte d'Ivoire in cooperation with Ministère d'État, Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural (MEMINADER; Ministry of State, Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development), Agence pour le Développement de la Filière Riz (ADERIZ; Rice Sector Development Agency), the AFICAT team, and consultants from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). This seminar followed the first one held online in October 2022 and was held in a hybrid style by inviting local participants to the venue, Grand Hotel d'Abidjan, and the Kett members online. The actual Kett products were made available at the venue.

During the seminar, Kett introduced six measurement instruments. The first was a grain moisture tester (GMT) for multiple crops other than rice. Therefore, stakeholders from the cacao and cashew nut sectors were also invited by Kett, supported by its Ivorian distributor, CI MOTORS. Consequently, 16 participants joined the seminar, representing MEMINADER, ADERIZ, a private rice miller, a cacao cooperative, and Conseil du Coton et de l'Anacarde (Cotton and Cashew Nut Council).



Six different Kett products presented during the seminar. The indicated prices are for Japanese market. Shipment and other fees are added when sold to foreign customers.

The seminar started with a session by Kett on the importance of moisture measurement, which was followed by a product demonstration by CI MOTORS. Kett products, namely GMT, whiteness tester, and portable rice husker, sparked considerable interest in the participants and they sought answers to many questions from Kett. Mr. Traore Aboubakary, Head of Evaluation Support Department, ADERIZ, concluded the seminar by emphasizing that reliable Japanese products are essential because moisture management is very important for the quality control of rice and other products. In response to Mr. Aboubakary's remarks, Mr. Camara Mamadu, CEO of CI MOTORS, showed interest in organizing another large-scale seminar in which Japanese products can be presented.



CI MOTORS staff members explain Kett products displayed on the table surrounded by participants



Thus, AFICAT supports the business expansion of Japanese companies with prominent technologies and contributes to the development of the Ivorian agricultural sector. If you are interested in Japanese products and technologies, please contact the AFICAT team. The contact information is provided at the end of this newsletter.

Kett products can be purchased from their Ivorian distributors, CI-MOTORS CORPORATION (Mr. Mamadu Camara, +225-(0)2557265, camaeaide@yahoo.com).

- Kett official website: <https://www.kett.co.jp/english/>



A participant from a cacao production and processing cooperative (Left) measuring the moisture content of cacao using a Kett instrument.

Kubota and Yanmar trained their Ivorian distributors on combine harvesters

Three years after the COVID19 outbreak in 2020, Japanese companies have now been returning to Côte d'Ivoire. In November and December 2022, two Japanese agricultural machinery manufacturers conducted field and classroom trainings for their local distributors.



Kubota Corporation (Kubota) provided training to its Ivorian distributor, Lassire Industry. The training focused on the operation and maintenance of a combine

harvester, DC70 PLUS, so that the distributor is well equipped with the capacity to sell and provide aftersales services to its customers. If you are interested in the DC70 PLUS and any other Kubota products, please contact Lassire Industries (Mr. Soro Abou, a.soro@lassire.com).

- Kubota official website: <https://www.kubota.com/>



DC70 PLUS operation training workshop by Lassire Industry



YANMAR
AGRIBUSINESS
CO., LTD.

Yanmar conducted training for its Ivorian distributor, ATC Comafrique. The training focused on the operation and maintenance of a combine harvester, AW70GV, which Yanmar has introduced in the Ivorian market. The training aimed to build the sales and aftersales service capacities of ATC Comafrique staff. If you are interested in AW70GV or any other Yanmar products like power tillers and threshers, please contact ATC Comafrique (Mr. Armand Memel: armand.memel@comafrique.com)

- Yanmar official website: <https://www.yanmar.com/global/>



AW70GV operation training at a paddy field near Yamoussoukro

PRORIL2 conducted Yanmar thresher training in Yamoussoukro

YANMAR JICA's technical cooperation project, *Le Project de Promotion du Riz Local Phase 2 (PRORIL2) (Local Rice Promotion Project Phase 2)*, is being implemented in Yamoussoukro and its surrounding areas. PRORIL2 is working on building the capacity of local rice millers and agricultural machinery service providers and establishing a system to promote mechanization. To increase rice productivity and quality, it is important to introduce machines as well as improve operator skills. From December 13 to 15, PRORIL2 provided training to local machine operators on the Yanmar thresher, which is a throw-in type machine. The AFICAT Team monitored one of the classroom sessions that were conducted.

Seven male and one female operator working with nearby machinery service providers participated in the training course. The operators are from a young and dynamic age group and expected to play an important role in promoting mechanization. They were attentive participants and willing to learn a variety of new things.



AW70GV operation training at paddy field near Yamoussoukro

Voice of Participants

- I've never used a thresher before. I want to learn new things.
- We use a thresher, but it has a problem with the belt. I want to learn how to fix it.
- I want to learn the maintenance techniques.
- I want to share what I learned with my colleagues.

According to Mr. Tsuneo Oishi, PRORIL2 Machinery Expert, the thresher performance depends on the shape of the threshing teeth, where they are attached, the engine, and the threshing drum rotation (peripheral speed). Therefore, understanding the internal structure of a thresher (as shown in the photo) is important for participants to have knowhow of operation and maintenance techniques. Moreover, it leads them to think about the kinds of machines they require to increase rice quality.

The Ivorian trainer highlighted the better performance of Japanese agricultural machines compared to machines from other countries. AFICAT will continue to introduce various Japanese machines through its newsletters.

PRORIL2: Hokuetsu winnower training

 Hokuetsu Co., Ltd. (Hokuetsu) is a Japanese agricultural machinery manufacturer of various unique and innovative machines. One such example is the winnower, SK Tomi. On February 8 and 9, PRORIL2 imparted training featuring SK Tomi about post-harvest technology for rice to the local farmers. Mr. Shingo Furuichi, PRORIL2, Post-Harvest Expert, demonstrated SK Tomi and received significant attention from the participants.



A farmer operates Hokuetsu SK Tomi winnower



Farmers separate paddy from other impurities manually

Voice of Farmers

- It is my first time to see a winnower. I'm satisfied with the results of wind separation.
- It would be good if we could have the same machine in my neighborhood.
- I usually ask a private company for combine harvester service, which automatically does the first separation. However, I do the second separation when drying paddy. The Hokuetsu winnower is useful for that.
- This is because paddy is easily mixed with sand and stones by wind when we put paddy outside on concrete or vinyl sheet for drying." (Editor's note: A winnower is a farm tool that uses the power of wind to separate mature and immature grains. It can blow away chaff.)
- I usually separate manually by natural wind or a hand-made winnow, so the limited number and increasing fee of laborers are major issues.
- For rice post-harvesting, we need moisture testers in addition to winnowers. My cooperate owns one moisture tester but each farmer should have one.

proper knowledge and skills while operating it. Currently, PRORIL2 offers many types of trainings to help operators and engineers learn up-to-date technologies and take advantage of agricultural machinery.



Participants operating a mini combine harvester and learning the technology

Africa Rice and Pulsar International to conduct a field test of foliar fertilizer



AfricaRice

PULSAR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

PRORIL2: Yanmar small combine Harvester training



PRORIL2 is committed to promoting sustainable agricultural mechanization by providing training for agricultural machinery service providers. In March, PRORIL2 held a ten-day training session on Yanmar's mini combine harvester (YH150) in which participants received hands-on training on machine operation and maintenance. The training session was also designed to cater to the participants who had difficulty in reading and writing, with actual equipment demonstrations helping them practically to understand the concepts better.

The participants were impressed by the speed and quality of YH150 harvesting, which they found to be more efficient than manual harvesting. However, the trainer cautioned against overconfidence in using machinery, emphasizing the importance of

The Africa Rice Center (Africa Rice) is a regional research, development, and training institute dedicated to rice production. Africa Rice has headquarters in Abidjan and its research station in Bouaké, where Japanese researchers work. The AFICAT Team collaborates with African Rice to find ways to promote Japanese agricultural machinery and materials that cater to local needs and environments.

Currently, the AFICAT Team is discussing about the possible demonstration of the effectiveness of Orgamin, a biostimulant type of amino acid-based foliar fertilizer produced by the Japanese manufacturer, Pulsar International Corporation. This fertilizer is used worldwide and has been proven to improve both crop yield and quality. In Asia, it has shown positive results when applied to rice. Pulsar International plans to demonstrate its efficacy in the African environment, in collaboration with African rice.



Orgamin DA, foliar fertilizer by Pulsar International

- Pulsar International official website: <https://orgamin.com/>

Dr. Harold Roy-Macauley, who served as the Director General of the Africa Rice Center until March 2023, will start a new rice seed value-chain improvement initiative that will contribute to transforming the production and use of quality rice seeds among rice seed growers through various interventions along the value-chain. A rice seed value-chain platform on 300 hectares of land in Aboisso will be established to demonstrate and train rice seed growers and interested rice value-chain members by sharing knowledge and innovations generated through research. AFICAT will liaise with Dr. Roy-Macauley and explore the possibility of collaboration between his business projects and Japanese companies to contribute to the deployment and improvement of Japanese agricultural technologies, particularly machinery, in the local context.

Japanese companies are interested in cashew nut and cotton sectors

Although rice is the main target crop of AFICAT in its pilot phase, the AFICAT Team also seeks to explore the marketability of Japanese machinery and products in other crop sectors according to the needs of Japanese companies and the Ivorian people. Since Côte d'Ivoire is well known as a world leader in cashew nut production and processing, several Japanese companies are interested in selling their machines to stakeholders in the cashew nut sector of the Ivorian market.



One of such company is Kett. PM-650 is a GMT applicable for moisture measurements in various crops, including cashew nut. HB-600 is a stick-type raw cashew moisture tester that can be used easily. Additionally, Kett is also exploring the cotton sector for introducing their cotton fiber moisture tester, which can be extremely useful to the processors and traders.



Kett's product lineup for cashew nut and cotton

SATAKE Another company, Satake Corporation (Satake), is looking at

the Ivorian market. Satake is a leader in the field of rice milling machines and equipment. However, as the AFICAT Team introduced in our previous newsletter, Satake manufactures an optical sorter, FMS-2000, that can be used for a wide variety of produce, including cashew nut. The AFICAT Team conducted a demonstration event of FMS-2000 in July 2023 in Yamoussoukro. We will present you the details of the event in the next issue.

To cater to the growing mechanization needs of the cashew nut and cotton sectors and the interest of Japanese companies in providing the solutions, the AFICAT team has been communicating with major stakeholders in these two sectors, such as Conseil du Coton et de l'Anacarde (Cotton and Cashew nut Council), Centre d'Innovations et de Technologies de l'Anacarde (Cashew nut Technology and Innovation Center), and Intercoton (an interprofessional body of the cotton sector). AFICAT will collaborate with these institutions to promote Japanese products and contribute to mechanization in the two sectors. If you are interested in Kett or Satake products, please contact either CI MOTORS for Kett (refer details the first page) or Satake West Africa (Mr. Kasem

Nameh, +225 0757901167) respectively.

- Satake official website: <https://satake-group.com/>



FMS-2000 at PRORIL2 laboratory during the demonstration event in July 2023

Editors' postscript

We hope you have enjoyed reading our second newsletter for Côte d'Ivoire. Japanese companies are returning to Côte d'Ivoire to accelerate the business activities and contribute to the Ivorian agricultural sector. The AFICAT team extends its services as a bridge between the two countries.

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AFICAT HP (only in Japanese):

(<https://www.jica.go.jp/activities/issues/agricul/aficat/index.html>)

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