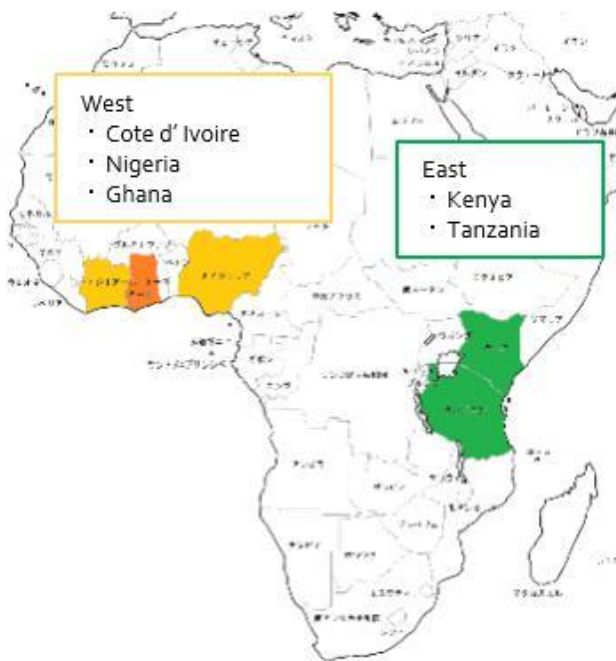


AFICAT Newsletter (Nigeria No. 1)

Issued on September 13, 2022

This newsletter presents the activities of the “Africa Field Innovation Center for Agricultural Technology” (AFICAT). In this first issue for Nigeria, we introduce AFICAT and the activities conducted by the Nigerian government and Japanese companies under the coordination of the AFICAT team from May to July 2022 in Nigeria.

What is AFICAT?



Map depicting the five countries in West and East Africa in which AFICAT aims to operate

1. Background of AFICAT

AFICAT is officially the “Africa Field Innovation Center for Agricultural Technology”, whose establishment was proposed during a public-private business dialogue co-chaired by the late Shinzo Abe, former Prime Minister of Japan (at the time), and Mr. Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, the Chairperson of the African Union (at the time) (current president of Egypt) at the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in August 2019. From 2020 to 2021,

the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) conducted a survey on establishing and operating AFICAT in the following five countries: Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, and Nigeria, which have potential for rice production and collaboration between the public and private sectors by facilitating the participation of the Japanese private sector, which has advanced and excellent technologies and products. A subsequent survey since February 2022, which includes preparatory work for the AFICAT operation and pilot activities for a period of two years, has been conducted.

2. Basic concept

The objective of AFICAT is to improve agricultural productivity and the quality of agricultural products and to empower farmers in Africa through collaboration with the Japanese private sector, which has advanced technologies and products.

The basic concepts are as follows:

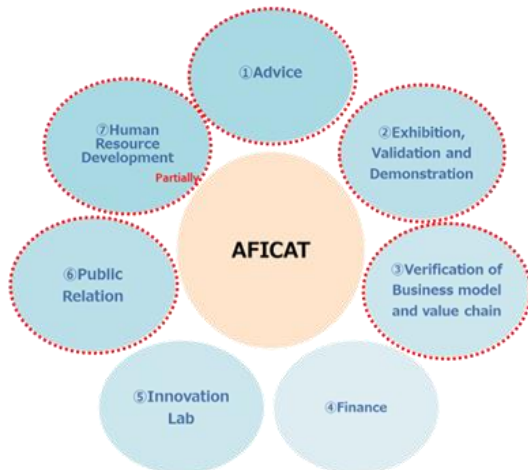
- 1) AFICAT is operated and managed based on Japan-Africa Public-Private Partnership.
- 2) Instead of building a new “center,” the necessary functions are added to the existing facilities and organizations.
- 3) AFICAT covers a wide range of agricultural machinery and materials for various agricultural products but mainly focuses on agricultural machinery for rice production and processing during the pilot activity period.

3. Seven functions

AFICAT will have seven functions (as shown in the below figure) directed to the existing facilities and organizations to promote agricultural mechanization by utilizing the technologies and products of the Japanese companies that may be suitable to the local conditions of the five target countries in Africa. The pilot activity period will focus on agricultural machinery, mainly for rice



cultivation, and the following five out of the seven functions will be the main focus: ① Advice; ② Exhibition, Validation, and Demonstration; ③ Verification of Business Model and Value Chain; ⑥ Public Relation; and ⑦ Human Resource Development (partially).



Schematic representing the seven functions that AFICAT uses to support Japanese companies in bringing their products and technologies to African countries

As stated above, pilot activities will be conducted as part of the JICA survey. Based on the experiences and lessons from the pilot activities, the AFICAT team will propose a medium- to long-term implementation policy and an activity plan for agricultural mechanization through private-sector participation.

Activities have started in Nigeria!

From mid-May to the end of June 2022, the AFICAT team conducted its first field activities in Nigeria. The AFICAT team discussed and agreed with the relevant departments under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), National Centre for Agricultural Mechanization (NCAM) and other related organizations to officially kick off AFICAT’s activities in Nigeria.



Photograph of the visit to NCAM in Ilorin. The AFICAT team and the officers of NCAM had a positive discussion with each other

AFICAT team was impressed by the number of staff, large field and well-furnished facility of NCAM. The visit to NCAM was introduced on the Facebook page of JICA Nigeria Office on June 3rd, 2022.

(<https://www.facebook.com/jicanigeriaapr>)

The AFICAT team also visited Nasarawa state and Oyo state as potential sites for future pilot activities. In Oyo state, the commissioner and the permanent secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development welcomed the AFICAT team and expressed their hope that Oyo state will be selected as a pilot area in future.



Photograph of the meeting with the commissioner, the permanent secretary and officers of Oyo State



The AFICAT team also visited the National Cereal Research Institute (NCRI) in Ibadan, and learned its history, major roles and activities for the future possible cooperation with the institute.



Photograph of the meeting with the officials of NCRI in Ibadan station

AFICAT in Nigeria

It was officially agreed that Federal Department of Agriculture (FDA) and Department of Agribusiness and Market Development (ABM) of FMARD, as well as NCAM, are main stakeholders on Nigerian government side to run AFICAT, and the Minutes of Meeting was signed on 17/05/2022 by FMARD, JICA Nigeria Office, and the AFICAT Team. The parties that will make up these AFICAT activities work together as one team to make and implement activity plans. We, the AFICAT Team, would like to take this opportunity to appreciate generous support from FMARD and NCAM. Because of accessibility from Abuja and security situation, AFICAT field activity was conducted in Nasarawa state at first. In the activities reported here, one of the things we would like to emphasize is the great cooperation of the Nasarawa state government. Without their cooperation, AFICAT activities would not have proceeded smoothly in Nasarawa state.



Photograph of the meeting with the project managers and officers of Nasarawa Agricultural Development Programme (Nasarawa ADP)

On-site activities by HONDA



In May and June, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (Honda), the largest motorcycle manufacturer globally, entered Nigeria as the first Japanese company to deploy AFICAT.

Under the arrangement of the AFICAT team, Honda and their subsidiary company in Nigeria, Honda Manufacturing (Nigeria) Ltd, conducted its first seminar. This included a demonstration of their agricultural machineries as an activity in AFICAT in Lafia, the capital city of Nasarawa state. There were around 30 participants in total, which includes those from FDA and ABM of FMARD, NCAM, Nasarawa Agricultural Development Programme (Nasarawa ADP), and farmers from the surrounding area. At the beginning of the event, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Water Resources in Nasarawa State and the Project Manager of Nasarawa ADP offered opening remarks.



In the demonstration, some of the participants experienced the operation of the tiller in the farm field of Nasarawa ADP

In the event, Honda introduced and demonstrated their products such a power tiller equipped with a 6-hp gasoline engine, a power-driven backpack sprayer, and engines that can be applied to various types of agricultural equipment. Honda emphasized that these machines are characterized by small size, affordable and easy to

use & fix, and therefore smallholder farmers including women can afford and manage these machines so that they can increase agricultural productivity and save on labor costs and time with these machines. Through the demonstration, the participants experienced an operation of the tiller and expressed their high interest in the product. In particular, some of the participants seemed to be amazed by the tiller's performance, relatively high power, and easiness of handling, even though the size is small.



Image of the Honda's power tiller equipped with a 6-hp gasoline engine (FQ650)

During the discussion session, Honda and participants exchanged their views and opinions in a frankly and lively manner. Some farmers indicated that they would like to consider purchasing the tiller because of the affordable price. Regarding questions about Honda's maintenance service structure in Nigeria, Honda explained their broad service network, including more than 100 dealers, in the country.



Photograph of explanation of the way of maintaining the tiller by Honda staff

The event was broadcast and promoted by various media as shown below.

- Radio Nigeria: <https://radionigeria.gov.ng/>
- Nasarawa Broadcasting Service: https://www.facebook.com/nasarwabroadcasting-service?_rdc=1&_rdr
(for the video, see the KMC's website: <http://www.kmcinc.co.jp/news/2876/>)
- JETRO Lagos: https://www.jetro.go.jp/biznews/2022/06/c9d0f3b36198a4db.html?_previewDate_=null&revision=0&viewForce=1&_tmpCssPreview_=0
(in Japanese only)

Utilizing the network established during the event, Honda already carried out a follow-up demonstration workshop including repairs and maintenance lecture to farmers in Lafia in cooperation with Nasarawa ADP at the beginning of June for the future expansion of their business in Nigeria.

Activities by Kett



Kett Electric Laboratory Co. Ltd. (Kett) is a Japanese manufacturer of agricultural measuring

instruments such as moisture testers for grains, wood, paper, and other materials. Measuring and controlling moisture content of rice and other crops are very important for their quality control. Kett's products are characterized by ease of use and ability to measure the moisture contents of a wide variety of grains accurately.

In June, an online seminar was held via Zoom, connecting participants from Nigeria including staff of the Federal Department of Agriculture of FMARD, Department of Agribusiness and Market Development of FMARD, NCAM, rice milling associations and private millers. Kett provided lectures online from Japan.

During the event, Kett presented some topics such as "Importance of Grain Moisture" and "Accuracy and traceability of Grain Moisture Measurement," and introduced their products such as some types of grain moisture testers, paddy husker, polisher, and rice whiteness tester.



Images of Kett's products from the seminar material such as grain moisture and rice whiteness testers

During the seminar, there were some positive comments from the participants, such as "I was amazed by the technologies of Kett's products", "I realized the importance of further dissemination of post-harvest knowledge in Nigeria" and "there will be increasing demand of moisture testers for parboiled rice in Nigeria." The follow-up seminar by Kett will be conducted in October in Abuja, offering the participants an opportunity for using Kett's products. The AFICAT team will continue to support Kett's activities in Nigeria.

Editors' postscript

We hope that you have enjoyed our first newsletter for Nigeria. We are preparing the next issue that will present the future activities of AFICAT and hope that you will continue to read our newsletters.

Editing/Inquiries

Kaihatsu Management Consulting, Inc.

Ms. Kano

Tel: +81-3-5791-5083/Mail: aficat.team@kmcinc.co.jp

AFICAT HP (only in Japanese):

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

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