

# **Report of the West Bengal Two-Wheel Tractors Stakeholders Meeting**

**29 July 2003 Park Hotel, Kolkata, WB**

**By Scott Justice and Chanda Gurung**

The Stakeholders Meeting was held after our West Bengal tour on July 29, 2003 at The Park Hotel at Kolkata, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Scientists, engineers, importers, a NABARD BANK official, and CIMMYT Nepal and Bangladesh staff attended the meeting (see Appendix Two). However, two important and major stakeholders – farmers and NGOs- were not present as we, the organizers, could not identify any from our office in Nepal.

The meeting was not as well attended as we had hoped for, as the majority of the importers stayed away. Despite that we had enough for a quorum and the ensuing discussions were very lively and enlightening.

The meeting started with a welcome by Scott Justice, NRG, CIMMYT. This was followed by four presentations: first by Scott Justice, on the South Asia regional scenario on conservation agriculture and mechanization efforts by CIMMYT and the RWC. A second presentation of the Nepal farmer participatory project on conservation agriculture and rural mechanization was made by Dr. Chanda Gurung. The third presentation by Mr. Emanul Haque, Program Manager, CIMMYT, Bangladesh, was about the: a) situation of two-wheel tractors in Bangladesh; and b) CIMMYT's support of participatory research and extension of two-wheel tractors in Bangladesh. Lastly a presentation about the two-wheel tractors' situation in India by Dr. K.P. Pandey, Prof. and Head, Agricultural And Food Engineering Department, IIT, Kharagpur.

After the presentations the floor was open for discussion. What follows below is short 1.5 page overview of the major issuers and concerns of the various groups of stakeholders followed by recommendations. In Appendix One are the complete minutes of the meeting followed by Appendix Two and the names and addresses of the participants and lastly Appendix Three: Itinerary of Power Tiller Stakeholders Meeting.

## ***Major Issues and Concerns: Scientists/Researchers and Engineers***

1. Despite the high prices power tillers are still ahead of four-wheel tractors in West Bengal, due to small and fragmented holdings.
2. Power tillers are wide spread in many districts of West Bengal but there are many other districts where they are not. Lack of awareness of among the farmers is seen to be the main reason. Also, awareness among current two-wheel tractor owners is lacking about the various attachments
3. Price – it is too expensive in India as compared to Nepal and Bangladesh.
4. Transfer of agricultural machinery technology in general is lacking.
5. Projects should take into account how to make power tillers profitable to the farmers.
6. CIMMYT or some such other focus international organization should support them in research, development and extension of the two wheel tractors and accessories.

### ***Major Issues and Concerns: All Others***

1. Price :
  - All importers and manufacturers agreed that prices were too high but gave differing reasons. Importers said government taxes and regulations were a major reason for this and manufacturers said that manufacturing costs were high. Some said that now power tillers were losing importance among the importers when compared with Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand and Philippines. Indian importers can hardly sell more than 15,000 power tillers in total in a year.
  - High prices was thought to be the major reason for the lack of spread of power tillers. Although there is great demand from the farmers, they cannot afford it. Growth or adoption rate of power tillers is less than 5% over the past ten years.
  - The general consensus was that this should be somehow taken up with the Government.
2. Attachments are not available due to the vastness of India and different agro-climatic regions. Attachments for one agro-climatic region may not be suitable for others.
3. Lack of spare-parts. Import of Chinese spare parts has 60% duty. Therefore, black market of spare parts from Bangladesh is very ludicrous and the importers do not have incentive/ability to compete. Also, it was said one could make more money importing whole two wheel tractors and then breaking them down into spares.
4. Manufacturers complain of Chinese imports hurting their sales and at the same time criticizing importers for charging too much. Importers said then, does this mean that manufacturers are also charging too much? Are the state owned manufacturers too top heavy and not doing enough to control bring down costs?
5. Accusations from the importers that the two remaining manufacturers are not manufacturing at all, but importing the majority of the power tiller parts and components from Japan and simply assembling them in India.
6. Questions of standardization of the power tiller- why and what is the need for this? The Government was trying to establish a power tiller standard but the questions were – how can an institute certify for power tillers when it was not an expert or specialist in it? How much to standardize and who has that authority on what grounds?
7. Transfer of technology: Though there are some small government efforts, farmers were still not aware of power tillers multiple uses and attachments. Therefore, raising their awareness on this is crucial. Private sector could do more via krisi melas, etc (krisi melas are not very wide spread or attended as they are in other areas of the northwest India).
8. Subsidies: In policy it is good but not in practice. They get abused and eventually only go to rich farmers.
9. That this was the first such meeting that anyone had attended and everyone felt it was very useful. All agreed that another meeting should be held with a year (some said six months) and that that ICAR or one of the agriculture universities should convene the next meeting. This would compel importers and government agencies who did not attend this meeting to attend the next meeting.

10. There is scope and need to organize a professional organization of two-wheel tractor manufacturers and importers but it takes time and effort from organizations such as ICAR and CIMMYT.



## Appendix Two: Meeting Attendees

SN	Name and Designation	Mailing Address	Email Address	Phone Number
1	S.Gururagavan , Area Manager	VS.T. Tillers Tractor Ltd. P-383, Keyatala Lane, Kol-29	<a href="mailto:vltlcalbr@vsnl.net">vltlcalbr@vsnl.net</a>	2465-6054 2465-5727
2	D. Mandal, Regional Manager	VST Tiller Tractor P-383 Keyatala lane, Kol-29	<a href="mailto:vltlcalbr@vsnl.net">vltlcalbr@vsnl.net</a>	2465-6054 2465-5727
3	M.T Paul, Assistant Engineer	Kamco 14, New.Taratala Road Kol-700 088	<a href="mailto:kamco@satyam.net.in">kamco@satyam.net.in</a>	24014093 4014093 4459689
4	H.N Haldar, Advisor	Friends Machinery and Spares Representative of ICAMC	<a href="mailto:Friends_machinery@vsnl.net">Friends_machinery@vsnl.net</a>	2329005
5	Afsar Akam	Friends Machinery and Spares 20, Paymental Garden Lane, Kol 15	<a href="mailto:Afsar_alam@vsnl.com">Afsar_alam@vsnl.com</a>	98300 07660
6	Dr. J.P Gupta, Professor and Head	Department of Farm Machinery and Power / Agri. Engineering Bankim Chandra KV, Kalyani	<a href="mailto:Jpgupta_bckv@yahoo.co.in">Jpgupta_bckv@yahoo.co.in</a>	03473-222657(o) 033-25821584(R)
7	K.L Agrawal Director	Bengal Tools Ltd., (SHRACHI) Todi Mansion P-15, India Exchange Place , Extn. Kolkata-700 073	<a href="mailto:kla@shrachi.com">kla@shrachi.com</a>	K.L Agrawal
8	P.K Chakraborty, GM Operation	Bengal Tools Ltd. (Agro Div.) (SHRACHI) 2, Jessore Road, Dum Dum Kolkota-700028	<a href="mailto:Btl_agrofactory@vsnl.net">Btl_agrofactory@vsnl.net</a> <a href="mailto:belachak@vsnl.com">belachak@vsnl.com</a>	25502480(o) 25123291(R)
9	Dr. A.K Bandyopadhyay	General Manager Natl. Bank for Ag and Rural Devl. 6 Royd Street Kolkata-700016	<a href="mailto:nabcal@cal.usnl.net.in">nabcal@cal.usnl.net.in</a>	2216-1828(o)
10	Dr. V.K Tewari, Professor	Department of Agri. And Food Engg. HT, Kharagpur-721302	<a href="mailto:vktfeb@agfe.iitkgp.ernet.in">vktfeb@agfe.iitkgp.ernet.in</a>	(03222) 283152 (o)

11	Prof K.P Pandey, Prof and Head	Department of Agri and Food Engg 11T Kharagpur-721302	<a href="mailto:kpp@agfe.iitkgp.ernet.in">kpp@agfe.iitkgp.ernet.in</a>	(03222) 283142(o) 283143
12	Jitesh Shrnand	Ganga Motors 23 G.C Ave Kolkata-13	<a href="mailto:gangamtr@cal.vsnl.net.in">gangamtr@cal.vsnl.net.in</a>	033-22361511 2215843
13	Hasan Sikder Managing Director	Green Machinery 90/90 Nawabpur Road. Dhaka, Bangladesh	<a href="mailto:Greenmachinery@hotmail.com">Greenmachinery@hotmail.com</a>	880-2-7114413(o) 880-2-7100086(R) 880-2-7101470 FAX
14	Mr. Enamual Haque, Program Director	CIMMYT, Bangladesh PO Box	<a href="mailto:e.haque@cgiar.org">e.haque@cgiar.org</a>	
15	Dr. Chanda Gurung	PO Box CIMMYT, Nepal Kathmandu	<a href="mailto:Chanda_gurung@yahoo.com">Chanda_gurung@yahoo.com</a>	977 1 426-9564 977 1 422-9804
16	Scott Justice Research Affiliate	PO Box CIMMYT, Nepal Kathmandu	<a href="mailto:justice@wlink.com.np">justice@wlink.com.np</a>	977 1 426-9564 977 1 422-9804