



Report on Asia Testing of the Oklahoma State University Hand planter



This project is an effort by the Oklahoma State University Departments of Plant and Soil Science and Bio-systems and Agricultural Engineering to field test the effectiveness of an OSU designed hand planter that will reliably plant corn seed with a minimum of effort from the farmer. The intention of the hand planter development team is that this planter will improve the corn planting methods of upland farmers and decrease the treated seed to skin contact for farmers. An additional benefit of the planter is that by changing a small plastic drum the farmer can make fertilizer applications next to the growing corn plant at the optimum time. For more general information on the corn planter look at the following website: http://nue.okstate.edu//Hand_Planter.htm

AGCO has provided development funding and Oklahoma State University has designed and built the hand planters. IndigDev LLC. has partnered with ARLDF (Thailand) to conduct Asian testing of the OSU Hand planter. Jethro Adang, ARLDF Thailand Technical Advisor, arranged for four farmers in Doi Luang District, Chiang Rai Province to implement the test plots. The plots



Left: One of the cooperating Thai farmers using the hand planter to plant his corn field . This corn field was planted between rubber trees. (6-12-2013)

Right:

Mr. “Bu” Sangkum, ARLDF Thailand extensionist, describes the plot layout and data collection process to Mr. Ghani, cooperating farmer.(6-12-2013)



Problems and Recommendations: Some of the problems and recommendations of the farmers was the need for a stronger pvc handle, decreased clogging of the tip in wet soils, and need for a back plate to direct seed into the planting hole. The recommendations were taken into consideration and when Joshua Ringer traveled to Lashio, Shan State, he had two additional tips made to see if this would help. Initial testing has proven that the modifications have improved the utility of the planter. In addition this confirms the adaptability of the planter design in that planter tips can be modified by local metal fabricators in order to fit local conditions. The planters have held up well and are doing what they were designed to do. Agronomic data will be available once the test plots are harvested.



Left: Joshua Ringer, IndigDev Director, and Jethro Adang, ARLDF Thailand Technical Advisor, discuss the details of data collection with three of the cooperating Thai farmers. (6-23-2013)

Right:

Joshua Ringer stands with the metal fabricator who built a modified OSU hand planter tip following the recommendations of the Thai Lahu Farmers in Lashio, northern Shan State, Myanmar. (6-27-2013)

