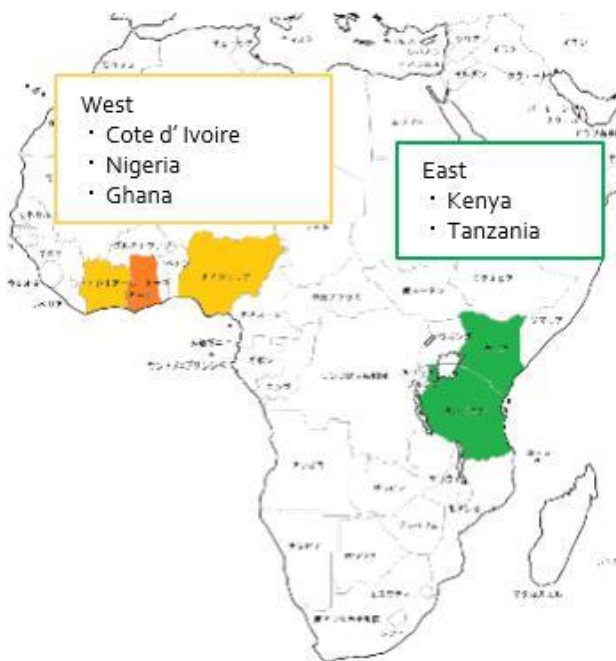


# AFICAT Newsletter (Ghana No. 1)

Issued on December 6, 2022

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

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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:

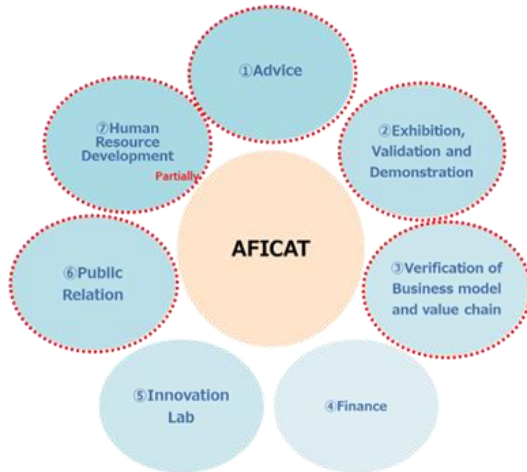
- 1) AFICAT is operated and managed based on Japan-Africa Public-Private Partnership.
- 2) Instead of building a new “center,” the necessary functions are added to the existing facilities and organizations.
- 3) AFICAT covers a wide range of agricultural machinery and materials for various agricultural 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 figure below) 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 Ghana!**



*AFICAT works with three main counterpart organizations: MoFA-AESD, MoFA-DCS, and GIDA in Ghana. The AFICAT implementation structure was discussed among representatives from the three organizations and the AFICAT team.*

The AFICAT team conducted its first field activity in Ghana from late June to early July 2022. They discussed and agreed with the relevant departments under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Ghana Irrigation Development Authority (GIDA), and other related organizations to officially kick off AFICAT's activities in Ghana.

The AFICAT team was impressed by the strong commitment shown by the MoFA and GIDA officers, which is an implication of their high expectations and trust in Japanese agricultural machines as a tool for promoting agrarian mechanization in the country, and improving farmers' livelihoods. This might also be due to the long-lasting relationships built through many years of JICA cooperation in this country.

**AFICAT implementation structure in Ghana**



*In July 2022, the AFICAT team visited Kpong Irrigation Scheme (KIS), which is managed by GIDA. KIS, where other JICA projects have been conducted since 2016, is one of the possible sites for AFICAT demonstrations of Japanese machines.*

It was officially agreed that the Agricultural Engineering Services Directorate (AESD) and Directorate of Crop Services (DCS) of the MoFA and GIDA are the three leading counterpart organizations on the Ghanaian government side to run AFICAT. The Minutes of the Meeting were signed by the Acting Chief Director of MoFA (MoFA is also administratively responsible for GIDA), JICA headquarters, and the AFICAT Team. The parties that make up these AFICAT activities work together as a team to create and implement activity plans. We, the AFICAT Team, would like to take this opportunity to appreciate generous support from the MoFA, GIDA, JICA headquarters,



and JICA Ghana Office.

### First event: Online seminar by Kett



The AFICAT team returned to Accra in late August 2022 to conduct the first AFICAT event in

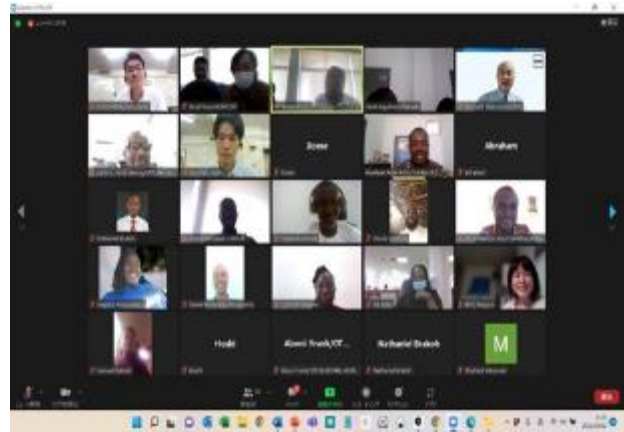
Ghana. It was an online seminar on the importance of grain moisture measurements presented by Kett Electric Laboratory Co., Ltd. (Kett). Kett is a Japanese manufacturer of agricultural measuring instruments, such as moisture testers for grains, wood, paper, and other materials. Measuring and controlling the moisture content of rice and other crops is crucial for quality control. Kett's products are characterized by their ease of use and ability to accurately measure the moisture content of a wide variety of grains.

On September 2, an online seminar was held via Zoom, connecting participants from Ghana, including officers of the MoFA, GIDA, Ghana Standard Authority (GSA), and private distributors/millers. Kett provided lectures online from Japan.

During the event, Kett presented 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 huskers, polishers, and rice whiteness testers.

realized the importance of proper equipment, proper measurement procedures, and the roles played by a standard authority for moisture measurement." The introduction of such technologies will help Ghana achieve its goal for self-sufficiency of foods, so we should go one step further to encourage farmers and other value chain actors to use Kett products."

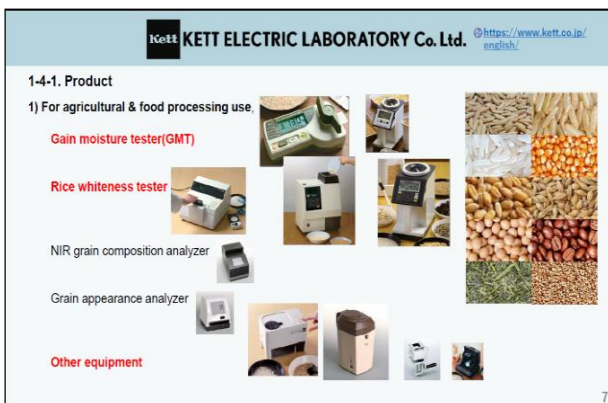
The follow-up seminar by Kett will be conducted in February 2023 in Accra, offering participants an opportunity to use Kett products. The AFICAT team continues to support Kett's activities in Ghana.



More than 40 participants attended the seminar and exchanged opinions on Zoom.

If you are interested in Kett products, please contact the Ohayo Ghana Foundation, Kett's official distributor in Ghana.

- Ohayo Ghana Foundation:  
Ms. Kayoko Yeboah  
Tel. +233 (0)55 576 1689  
Email [info@ohayoghana.com](mailto:info@ohayoghana.com)
- Kett Website: <https://www.kett.co.jp/english/>



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

During the seminar, there were many positive comments from the participants, such as "I



Ebara conducted a pump market study



Ebara Corporation (Ebara) is a Japanese water pump manufacturer ranked the world 5th in sales volume. Ebara has several subsidiaries and representative offices in some sub-Saharan African countries but not in Western Africa. In September 2022, Mr. Takeshi Tsuji, the African Market Development Project Manager, visited Ghana to conduct a local water pump market study to identify the market needs and elaborate its business plan for Ghana.



The Model 3M

In response to his request, AFICAT supported Ebara's field study by arranging and attending several meetings with governmental organizations (MoFA-DCS, MoFA-AESD, GIDA, and Dawhenya Irrigation Scheme) on September 5 and 6 in order for him to have the overview of the Ghanaian water pump market and learn related governmental policies. AFICAT also arranged and attended meetings with a financial institution (Agricultural Development Bank) and a university (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, KNUST) on September 7 and 19, respectively. This helped Ebara be linked with those organizations that might be able to help Ebara's business by providing loans to farmers or verifying the appropriateness of Ebara's technology in the local context. Mr. Tsuji appreciated the support he received from AFICAT.

The AFICAT team hopes that Ebara will begin its water pump business in Ghana soon, until which

we would like to extend our support.

Ebara Website: <https://www.ebara.com/en/>

Voice of AFICAT Partner Companies #1 -Mr. Takeshi Tsuji, Ebara Corporation



Mr. Tsuji (third from the right) and DCS staff. At DCS, Mr. Tsuji explained Ebara's global business and the current business plan for Ghana.

AFICAT Team kindly arranged meetings with Ghanaian agricultural sector stakeholders, which was a great help for me. Thanks to AFICAT support, I could establish a good relationship with governmental institutions such as MoFA, GIDA, and financial institutions, which I would not have accomplished without AFICAT support. Those things made my business trip very fruitful.

I also noticed an already-established good relationship between governmental institutions and AFICAT Team, which made my visits very efficient and helped me to get their honest opinions. I understand that AFICAT is a bridge between JICA, Japanese companies, and Africa. Through AFICAT I hope to enhance the collaboration between JICA and my company.

There are many challenges when we want to perform business in Africa. For example, we have to consider how we can establish a customer support structure. We hope we can get continuous support from AFICAT. However, I know that AFICAT pilot phase lasts only until the



end of 2023. As a Japanese company that deals with large machines, which usually takes an extended period for business development, we want to request AFICAT to kindly extend its implementation period after 2024 and establish a sustainable structure in African countries.



*AFICAT arranged a visit to Dawhenya Irrigation Scheme for Mr. Tsuji, where he learned how water pumps are used in Ghana irrigation schemes and got inspiration from Ebara's business plan.*

**Preparation for a Honda machine demo**

# HONDA

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (Honda) is the largest motorcycle manufacturer in the world. Honda has already started working with AFICAT and has conducted demonstrations of its machines in Tanzania and Nigeria, two other countries where AFICAT was launched before Ghana. Similarly, Honda planned to conduct demonstrations in Ghana. On August 31, the AFICAT team discussed Honda's local distributor in Ghana, the Overseas Union, to schedule a future demonstration and conduct a trial run of machines in the field.

Overseas Union and the AFICAT team brought a small power tiller, a bush cutter, and a backpack sprayer to Ashaiman Irrigation Scheme (managed by GIDA), where they operated those machines. When conducting a trial run of the power tiller and the two other devices, neighboring farmers who

were interested gathered around the field, asked some questions, and operated the machines by themselves. The farmers' reactions were quite positive, especially for the backpack sprayer, which amazed the farmers by demonstrating their high injectability and portability.

After discussion and trial run, the Overseas Union and the AFICAT team agreed to conduct an official demonstration of their machines the following year. AFICAT will support Honda's agricultural machine business in Western Africa in parallel with our support in the two countries in Eastern Africa.



*An AFICAT team member, Mr. Uozumi (left), operating Honda's small power tiller on field in Ashaiman Irrigation Scheme.*



*A farmer operating the backpack sprayer was surprised at its intense water pressure and easiness of carrying.*



If you are interested in Honda products, please get in touch with Overseas Union Limited, Honda's official distributor, in Ghana.

- Overseas Union Limited:  
Mr. Joseph Kwabena Daniels  
Sales and Marketing Executive  
Tel. +233 (0) 302 220 216/ 221 768  
Mobile +233 (0) 244 343 117  
E-mail [jdaniels@hondaoverseas.com](mailto:jdaniels@hondaoverseas.com)
- Honda Power Products Website:  
<https://global.honda/products/power.html>

Line up of Honda – Tiller



Specification	
Model name	FQ650
L*W*H (mm)	1625*650*935
Weight (kg)	61.4
Engine name	GP200H
HP	5.8 HP
Fuel tank capacity (l)	3.1
Gear shift	Forward 2 / Reverse 1
Tillage width (mm)	500



Comparing with diesel tiller:

- Light and easy to use and transport
- Much lower cost of equipment and spare parts cost

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

## Editors' postscript

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

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AFICAT HP (only in Japanese):

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

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