

AFICAT to promote Advanced Technology for Agricultural Mechanization in Tanzania



Presentation by Honda Motor Co., Ltd in Kilimanjaro. PHOTO | FILE

Collaborating Japan and Tanzania Public Private Partnership

At the Seventh Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD7) held in Yokohama, Japan, in 2019, the “Africa Field Innovation Center for Agricultural Technology” (AFICAT) was proposed to be set up in African countries for promoting advanced technologies and agricultural mechanization through public and private partnership between Japan and African countries.

Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, who represented Tanzania at TICAD7, expressed his gratitude for Japan’s cooperation in a wide range of areas such as in agriculture, education, water, infrastructure, sport, etc. He also expressed his sincere expect-

tation for Japan’s investments in Tanzania.

Under these circumstances, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been in discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and other concerned organizations in Tanzania, and identified the MoA’s Kilimanjaro Agricultural Training Center (KATC) and the Lower Moshi Irrigation Scheme areas, which have been established and supported with Japanese cooperation since the 1970s, as a base of AFICAT in Tanzania. Japanese experts have accordingly been dispatched, and started pilot activities in March 2022.

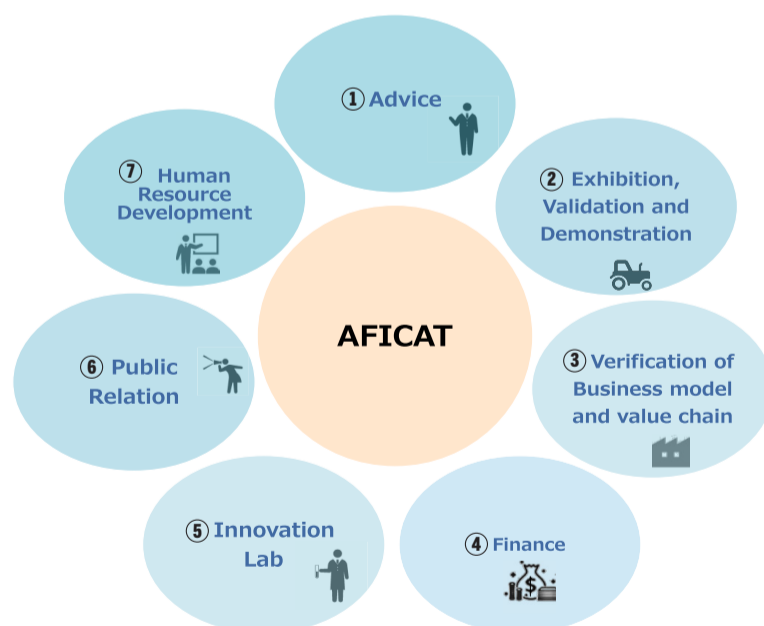
Since AFICAT promotes the use of agricultural mechanization, which is one of the intervention

areas in the MoA’s National Rice Development Strategy (NRDS), it is expected that the initiative will contribute to the ongoing implementation of NRDS phase2 which aims at increasing rice production in Tanzania from current 2.2 million metric tons to 4.4 million metric tons by 2030. AFICAT will support Tanzania to be self-sufficient in rice, and to be the market for other African countries.

Now the Japanese expert team of AFICAT is inviting Japanese companies, Tanzanian dealers, and related organizations to bring, verify, and introduce Japanese technologies and products. Already, Honda Motor Co., Ltd. which is the largest motorcycle manufacturer in the world, for example, is now introducing their power products such as tiller, pump, sprayer, and brush cutter to Tanzania in collaboration with AFICAT.

The Japanese expert team is planning to present their progress of AFICAT activities in Tanzania and other African countries at the coming TICAD 8 which will be held in Tunisia on August 27 and 28, 2022. Thereafter, the expert team will continue with their pilot activities in Tanzania, and propose mid- and long-term AFICAT activity plan for sustainable operation based on lessons learned during their pilot activities.

As one of the principles for setting up AFICAT, necessary functions, as depicted in the figure below, are to be added to existing facilities and organizations, rather than to build new structures. It is expected that the KATC will become a center of excellence of agro-mechanization for rice farming in Tanzania.



If you need more information on AFICAT, please contact:
JICA Tanzania office:
 Andrew-Ridda@jica.go.jp
JICA Headquarters:
 aficat@jica.go.jp
JICA AFICAT expert team:
 aficat.team@kmcinc.co.jp



Major benefits of AFICAT for Tanzania

- Agricultural mechanization and introduction of advanced technologies will be facilitated from land preparation to post-harvest management with Japanese companies and technologies.
- Through implementation of exhibition, verification, and demonstration of Japanese technologies, government officials and technical staff in Tanzania will be trained for agricultural mechanization.
- Production and quality of rice and other crops are eventually improved, and income of producers and processors of these crops are enhanced in line with agriculture related policies and programs of Tanzania.