

TWO WHEEL TRACTOR NEWSLETTER – JULY 2011.

Here in Australia, there is a program on ABC National Television called ‘New Inventors’. This weekly program features all sorts of new Australian inventions. Some time ago colleagues suggested I enter the 2WT seed drill in the program. I completed the various application forms and the seed drill was accepted. About two weeks ago a film crew came to Tamworth, and the seed drill was operated in the field and various interviews recorded.

This week I travelled to Sydney to the TV studios where the final segment has been filmed. The 2WT seed drill was also transported to the ABC studios in Sydney and appeared with me on the show. After editing, the “New Inventors’ episode will go to air at 8 pm on Wednesday 20th July. Australian forum members will be able to watch the program at this time.

I am not sure about overseas members. However the website for the program is at <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/newinventors/>.

I expect some interest from viewers who have been associated with foreign aid projects and other interested people. I trust that this National TV exposure will give a significant boost to the awareness of conservation farming with a 2WT.

If I have a significant response from the viewers of the ABC ‘New Inventors’ program, which may have implications regarding the promotion of conservation farming with 2WT, I will let you know in the next newsletter.

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Several forum members have enquired regarding the offer of a free ARC Gongli 2WT zero tillage seed drill, and hopefully we may see some more of these units being evaluated in different areas of the world that extensively use a 2WT as the main traction unit for crop agriculture. Contact me for more information.

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Below I have extracted a page from the website of National Agro Industries, of Ludhiana, India.

This is taken from: http://www.nationalagroinds.com/zero_till_two_wheel.html

This is a multi crop planter attachment to fit to a two-wheel tractor. According to the description supplied, the existing rotavator (rotary tiller) is retained, and this seed drill is fitted to the rear. Four flat inclined plate seed meters are fitted. I have inserted other pictures of this seed meter set-up from a previous newsletter.

This may be an add-on adaptation using some of the ideas from the PTOS (Power Tiller Operated Seeder) and the VMP (Versatile Multi Planter) developed in the last few years by BARI and CIMMYT Bangladesh.

I note that no press wheels or other seed firming devices are available.



NATIONAL ZERO TILL MULTI CROP PLANTER FOR 2 WT

Technical Specifications	
Available in:	4 Rows
Seed Metering:	Rotating Disc with cells on its periphery.
Fertilizer Metering:	Fluted Roller
Hitching:	To be attached behind the Rotary Tiller with the help of provided clamps.
Row Space:	8" Std. & max. also adjustable.
Drive:	Ground Wheel driven (Driving wheel is at Side of Planter)
Sowing Depth:	Adjustable (Depth Control wheels are provided on both sides of Planter)
Furrow Openers:	Zero Tillage blade type openers for sowing in un-prepared / zero tillage fields
Type:	2 Wheel Tractor Mounted

Note: More detailed specifications are available on request.



A view of the National Agro inclined plate seed meter (left) and an early version of the National Agro Zero Till multi crop planter for 2WT (right)

To be a successful zero tillage seed drill utilising the rotary tillage principle, considerable modifications to the tiller shaft are necessary in order to use the tiller in strip tillage mode. Also the PTOS and VMP systems increase the speed of rotation of the tiller shaft to assist in handling the residue in order to properly prepare the strip for the seeding time. I do not know whether these alterations have been incorporated into the implement as shown.

I know that Dr. Jack Desbiolles from the University of South Australia and Md. Abdul Matin (a Bangladeshi national studying for a higher degree at Uni. SA) are doing extensive research with rotary strip tillage with 2WT and they may be able to advise further.

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Jack has also sent me a Youtube video clip of a 2WT seed drill made up by a farmer in Cambodia. Have a look at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrP86gcKG4A>

It looks like it is based on a Siam Kubota 2WT and Jack thinks it **has** a 4 row disc seeder system (the large wheels are there to give it underframe clearance) using a modified rotary tiller unit as a furrow closer (i.e. operating very shallow).

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