

Agriculture Programs



The Malawi Project

Tractors for Tomorrow



Farming Made Easy

In rural areas of Malawi, garden cultivation is carried out with a single hand held hoe. Planting takes place by dropping seed into tiny indentations pressed into the soil by hand, one seed at a time. The result is a difficult, labor-intensive program that allows little time for error, and less time for the family to enlarge their garden, cultivate a second crop, or care for the needs of other family members. Adults cannot work at additional job responsibilities, or have time for community activities. Children are often unable to go to school because they are needed in the fields.

Through the years a major focus of the Malawi Project has been to find ways to assist the people of Malawi to get on their feet and provide for themselves. They have been designed to promote independency, rather than dependency. To give food, over and over, without any work or contribution on their part, would be counter-productive to the intent of Malawi Project program objectives. This would be true in case after case of meaningful assistance.



In 2005 a U. S. manufacturer, Tom Rich, and Dick Stephens of the Malawi Project, formed Agricultural Aid International, a manufacturing and development group focused on agricultural needs in emerging nations. Through Tom's efforts have come the creation of two distinctly different farm tractors that will increase efficiency and output, while using a simple format, and a design that has ease of maintenance. These tractors are unique in concept and purpose, and there are no other tractors with the design characteristic of these units. The VT and the VT-2 address unique conditions, such as the need for simplicity in maintenance and repair, size and movement limitations on village and small family plots, and weather conditions where land has been without rain for several months, leaving ground conditions especially difficult to cultivate.

V-Tractor

The original design is the larger V-Tractor (V for Village). This unit is designed for larger farms, or cooperative programs with a number of family units or villages. After years of extensive testing and design, the first of these tractors was shipped to Malawi in 2006. Since that time six more units have made their way to village communities in all three regions of the country. Unit specifications can be found at: <http://www.vtractor.com/specs.html>

VT-2

After extensive evaluation of the performance of the V-Tractors, it was determined there was a need for a smaller, rototiller type, hand-controlled units. In 2012 the first VT-2 units started coming off the line. In late 2013 the first of these arrived in northern Malawi.

For information on helping with the V or VT-2 tractors, or to contribute to building and shipping one of these units:



Web Site: www.malawiproject.org
Pictures: www.flickr.com/photos/malawiproject
Recommendations: <http://greatnonprofits.org/org/malawi-project-inc>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MalawiProject
Address, Phone and Email:
 3314 Van Tassel Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46240
 Area Code 317-255-2758
info@malawiproject.org