

Farmer Impact Grant and Technical Training for Women Rice Farmers

Women rice farmers in Côte d'Ivoire struggle to access mechanisation for agricultural production.

Often left with the least fertile soils and the most difficult land to cultivate, women would highly benefit from farm machinery. It would protect the paddy from rainfalls, reduce losses and allow for faster harvesting times, thus improving women rice farmers' income and livelihoods.

INOKS Capital contributes to reducing the barrier to mechanisation by supporting Socomci, an Ivorian company active in rice processing and packaging. In 2021, we partnered with Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA), a Canadian development organisation, to provide a Farmer Impact Grant (FIG) to our investee, Socomci. Local, women-led cooperatives producing paddy rice for the latter thereby received machinery and will benefit from technical training, too.



Indeed, five combine harvesters adapted to small areas, 25 tillers and 25 threshers will be made available to five local women cooperatives producing paddy rice for Socomci.

We provide technical training through the FIG program, jointly with MEDA to ensure the proper usage and maintenance of such machinery; in particular for the small machines adapted to women farmers' paddy fields, such as motorised threshing machines.

The FIG is deployed to improve agricultural yields, reduce drudgery, and increase the income of women farmers while contributing to women's empowerment.

A training in gender equality has been provided during the month of October, while November will mark the starting date of field tests in preparation of the main harvest season.

Socomci's mission is to play a significant role in contributing to food security in Côte d'Ivoire and help the country become self-sufficient in rice. The company is locally owned and operated, creating jobs for local communities. Socomci manages the entire value chain, from production to processing and distribution with both suppliers and offtakers being based in Côte d'Ivoire.



We are glad to contribute to their mission and look forward to the next steps.