



CTI Grinders Produce Good Results in Mali

CTI's work in West Africa started several years ago in Mali, a land-locked country typical of the semi-arid tropical Sahelian zone immediately south of the Sahara and home to Timbuktu. Activity began with the introduction and field testing of CTI's hand-powered peanut and grain grinders, thanks to collaboration with Iowa-based NGO [Medicine for Mali \(M4M\)](#). M4M distributed grinders as a revenue-generating service in eight villages.

In May of 2007, CTI volunteers Steve Clarke and Mike MacDonald visited Mali in West Africa to conduct a field assessment of the performance and acceptability of the Omega VI grinders previously delivered, and evaluated opportunities for a larger-scale CTI grinder project. They visited four villages where M4M had



installed grinders in late 2005 and obtained firsthand feedback from users of the grinders. Despite occasional glitches, the female users validated the CTI mechanical grinder which they said produces a superior creamy peanut paste with less effort and in much less time compared to the traditional mortar-and-pestle system. It has also been shown to successfully grind other staple food crops in Mali such as millet, sorghum and cowpeas. Grinders are also being evaluated by colleagues at the Agricultural School (IPR), thanks to Mr. Belco Tamboura, a senior faculty member at the school (see photo).