

# RICE MILLING IN VIETNAM

Satake helps to sort the panicle from the paddy

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**T**he Mekong River is one of the longest transboundary water courses in the world - second only to the River Nile in Egypt. Spanning the space between the borders of Myanmar and Laos, this grand water way begins its 4350km journey in the Tibetan Plateau.

Then, as it ruthlessly cuts a silver swathe through the green and fertile countryside of the region, it separates Vientiane - the capital city of Laos - from Thailand, then travels across Cambodia and Vietnam, where it splits three ways before slipping surreptitiously into the South China Sea.

Like any other transboundary river does, this huge river has been playing a critical role in nourishing this particular civilisation since the ancient times. The river still carries an abundant supply of water and sediment to its basin to this day, supporting the lives and food supply of the millions of people living in the area.

Where the Mekong finally flows into Vietnam, the river forms a vast delta area, where it grows a variety of products, including rice. The Vietnamese rice is consumed not only locally but has been exported worldwide.

The export quantity of Vietnamese rice in 2020 surpassed Thailand, with it now ranked as the second largest exporter in the world behind India.

## A research-oriented company

Vinaseed is one of the major companies in the country who

enjoys the benefit from the Mekong River. It is a research-oriented company who is dedicated to improve the Vietnamese agriculture.

In 2020, it established a state-of-the-art rice mill in the very center of the Vietnamese breadbasket - or rice bowl, should I say. This new rice processing facility of Vinaseed is located in Dong Thap province, in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Vinaseed, Vietnam National Seed Group Joint Stock Company, is a part of Pan Group and is the largest company in the Vietnam seed industry, holding 20 percent of the domestic market share. It also produces and distributes rice for both domestic consumption and exports.

Vinaseed's latest rice processing facility is capable of processing 14 tons of paddy per hour, for which Satake supplied most of the core processing components such as abrasive milling machine VTA, rice polisher KB and optical sorter.

Vinaseed selected Satake as the main equipment supplier due to its total engineering approach; the fact that they are capable of not only designing the system based on know-how that has stood the test of time but also provides all grain processing related solutions to process higher quality and to benefit customers.

"Satake's expertise and technology have resulted in better appearance and yield of the rice we process. This higher quality rice will help us compete in overseas market," says Vinaseed CEO, Ms Tran Kim Lien.

One of the key components used in the plant is Satake's optical sorter with NIR sensors. This machine is capable of capturing not only the colour difference on the surface of the product, but also the difference of the material itself.



Materials such as white rice, white plastics, white stones all look the same on the surface, for example. Although this is true of our eyes, this is not the case with the NIR sensor, which is able to distinguish between the material differences and can separate these foreign materials out of the product stream. This will significantly improve the safety of the final product.

### **Continuously developing cutting-edge technologies**

Staying on the subject of Satake's optical sorters, Satake recently introduced Nirami, which is a high-performance optical sorter. The sorter is equipped with Satake Smart Sensitivity, which allows operators to easily create optimum settings for various incoming products, on top of full colour cameras, NIR and shape recognition technology.

With a variety of chute configuration and machine size options, the machine can handle up to 46 tons per hour of white rice with

seven chute model and is designed to provide a versatile option not only for rice industry, but also for others areas that require processing such as for wheat, maize and coffee.

Another optical sorter Satake introduced is a belt-type Beltuza Spectra. The sorter utilises artificial intelligence (AI) with vast range of scanning capabilities including X-ray, to precisely sort and eject a wide range of previously impossible defective products, including tree-nuts with internal insect damage.

Also, the sorter comes with patented sensitivity creation function that combines both visible and NIR signals for the optimum separation of good and bad products.

With continuous development of these cutting-edge technologies, Satake is committed to support its valuable customers such as Vinaseed and the whole agricultural industry of Vietnam, which has been, and will be supporting foods and lives of millions of people around the globe.



### **Dedicated to supporting rice millers**

Satake Vietnam is together dedicated to supporting rice millers in the country with its trained service engineers. Satake has been involved in rice milling industry in Vietnam since the 1980s.

In 2011, Satake established a local joint company to improve maintenance services in the area. Along with an increase in production and export of rice in Vietnam, the company continued to increase its share of rice processing equipment in larger scale rice milling facilities.

To support current customers and to further expand its market share in all aspects of rice milling industry in the country, Satake

has decided to start up a new subsidiary, Satake Vietnam, in 2018 that can fully utilise Satake's service network.

Satake Vietnam started its business in Ho Chi Minh City from April 1, 2018. It is now the main strategic sales office for Satake equipment in the country as well as supplier of ancillary equipment to Satake designed rice milling plants in other Asian countries.

Satake Vietnam will not only meet the demand of the expanding domestic market but also take an important role among to enhance Satake group companies as part of the Satake Global Network, supporting our valued customers internationally.