



**AB ALVAN BLANCH**  
Processing the World's Crops

## Continued advances in containerised milling technology by Alvan Blanch

IN 1994, ALVAN Blanch supplied 13 containerised maize flour mills to East Africa for the UN Agencies WFP and UNHCR. These were destined for refugee camps in East Africa following the Rwandan civil war, each with a capacity of eight tonnes/hour. Alvan Blanch continue to provide spare parts and support to these plants, which have been in constant use since that time. To further increase milling capacity, WFP in Tanzania have now taken delivery of another Alvan Blanch milling unit, supplied through Project Consulting Services Ltd. The Alvan Blanch technology has developed considerably in the intervening 10 years.

Significant milling efficiency improvements enables the same capacity to be achieved with 40 per cent less power – which means that a smaller generator is needed and much lower fuel consumption. Other advances include: the addition of precleaning, enhanced dust control for better working environment and less wastage, easier installation, simpler maintenance and reduced spare parts consumption.

All of this whilst keeping the capital cost of the plant reasonable, and making sure that the Alvan Blanch reputation for equipment that lasts and lasts was maintained.

The plant is built up onto a skid and can be moved from place to place on a normal truck. The feed and takeaway conveyors can be disconnected in an hour or two, and the electrical connections unplugged. These conveyors then store in the skid for transport. Power is provided by an electrical generating set – also portable.

In operation the maize, is tipped from bags into a hopper and conveyed to the precleaner, which removes sticks, cobs, stones, dirt and sand, all of which would degrade the quality of the flour. The heart of the milling process is a large high performance hammermill. The milling process requires airflow to aid particle size reduction and to transport the material internally - using a reverse jet filter that cleans the air through ultra fine mesh filter bags, which are automatically and constantly cleaned by blasts of reverse compressed air. There is no loss of product in the exhaust air stream, and the whole grinding system is maintained under a slight negative pressure so there cannot be leaks of product at joints etc.

The finely ground flour produced by the hammermill is automatically packed into sacks. Alvan Blanch uses its long experience to design process plants to meet the specific needs of its clients. In this case, latest technological developments were combined with first-hand knowledge of the project priorities; rapid installation, independent operation, efficient performance, reliability and ease of maintenance.

*In the November/December issue of African Farming the report about Alvan Blanch's new website was incorrectly illustrated with a diagram of the company's old website. We apologise for any confusion this may have caused. The new website can be seen at: [www.alvanblanch.co.uk](http://www.alvanblanch.co.uk)*

