

= Renault Agriculture =

Renault Agriculture S.A.S. ( French pronunciation : ? [ ??no a??ikylty? ( ? ) ] ) was the agricultural machinery division of the French car manufacturer Renault established in 1918 from its armored military vehicles division . While in operation , Renault Agriculture had various partnerships with major manufacturers and focussed production on tractors . The company was sold between 2003 and 2008 to German rival Claas . Renault Agriculture was dissolved in 2008 and its facilities became part of Claas ' tractor division . Claas ' tractor division and Renault 's Auto Châssis International are Renault Agriculture successors .

= = History = =

After the end of World War I , the Renault company used its experience in armored tanks to devise agricultural vehicles . The Renault 's Department 14 ( responsible for the FT tank ) developed the first tractor of the company , the Type GP , which was powered by an engine similar to that of the FT ( a four @-@ cylinder ) and had tracks . The most distinguishable differences of the new tractor with the FT were the front @-@ engine design and the reduced weight . The tractors were assembled in Renault 's Billancourt factory since 11 November 1918 on the same production lines that the tanks and tested at Louis Renault 's farm in Herqueville . The Type HO introduced in 1921 replaced the tracks by more conventional wheels . In 1926 , Renault introduced the Type PE which was extensively revised compared to its predecessors , incorporating a new engine with reduced consumes and a vertical radiator . In 1931 , with the PE1 , the radiator was moved from the middle position used in the previous models to the front and , in 1933 , the model became the first France @-@ produced rubber @-@ wheeled tractor . The company also started to develop versions for specific markets , as vineyards . With the aim of reducing the fuel costs , it introduced its first diesel @-@ engined model , the Type VI , in 1932 . By 1938 , Renault was producing about 40 tractors per month and was the largest French manufacturer .

In 1920 , Renault founded the Le Mans engineering centre . Shortly after , plans to move the agricultural machinery production to the new site were revealed . However , the new factory was inaugurated in 1940 and the production was stopped because of World War II . Following the war and nationalisation , the Le Mans plant resumed production . The location was divided into a foundry section , a mechanical parts section ( supplying the factories of Flins and Billancourt ) , a painting section and a tractor manufacturing section . At the time , Le Mans was the third largest Renault 's operation in France after Billancourt and Cléon . The following years saw the arrival of the D , N , E and Super model series . In 1956 , Renault Agriculture standardised the orange colour for its models . In 1950 , Renault was the largest tractor manufacturer within France , producing 8 @,@ 549 units , the 58 % of the country 's total production . In 1961 , Renault introduced the 385 model , with a 12 @-@ gear transmission . Apart from its own engines , Renault used MWM and Perkins units . In the 1960s , it produced the One @-@ Sixty Diesel for Allis @-@ Chalmers . In 1968 , the company introduced its first four @-@ wheel drive model . In 1972 , Renault partnered with Carraro and sold some models of that company with the Renault badge . During the 1970s and 1980s , it also sold models from Mitsubishi . At the 1981 SIMA exhibition Renault Agriculture unveiled the TX range , with comfort elements designed in collaboration with the Renault 's car division . The last Renault tractors had ancient gods ' names .

From late 1993 to 1998 , Renault Agriculture and John Deere had a partnership agreement by which the former received John Deere engines manufactured at the Saran factory and in return it supplied John Deere with tractors marketed as the 3000 series . In 1994 , Renault Agriculture and Massey Ferguson formed a strategic partnership , as part of which they set up an equally owned joint venture called Groupement International de Mécanique Agricole ( GIMA ) at a facility located next to Massey 's Beauvais factory with the aim of manufacturing transaxles and related components . In 1995 , Renault Agriculture agreed to market products from the British agricultural machinery manufacturer JCB through its dealership network in France . In 1997 , the company took a 16 @.@ 6 % stake of Rovigo @-@ based Agritalia , a manufacturer of orchard tractors for various

clients . In 2000 , it purchased a stake in the Indian manufacturer International Tractors ( the owner of the Sonalika marque ) , forming a Sonalika @-@ Renault joint venture . In 2003 , as part of a plan to shed non @-@ core assets , Renault sold a 51 % majority stake in Renault Agriculture 's tractor manufacturing plant to Claas . In 2006 , Claas increased its ownership to 80 % and in 2008 took full control and renamed it Claas Tractor . By 2005 , the Renault marque was phased out and all the tractor models produced at Le Mans were badged as Claas .

= = Renault Agriculture 's successors = =

= = = Claas Tractor = = =

Claas Tractor S.A.S. is a subsidiary of the Claas group and its main tractor manufacturing operation since 2003 . Most of the company 's models are manufactured within the facility .

= = = ACI Renault = = =

In 1999 , Renault created the subsidiary Auto Châssis International SNC to manage the foundry and parts area of Le Mans . ACI has worldwide operations and supplies the Renault @-@ Nissan Alliance . Production is organised in three departments . The site also has an engineering centre .