

**Stock Update** 

VST Tillers Tractors
Ltd.

September 22, 2021









Industry	LTP	Recommendation	Base Case Fair Value	Bull Case Fair Value	Time Horizon
Automobile	Rs 2562	Buy in Rs 2550-2580 band & add more on dips to Rs 2250-2280 band	Rs 2859	Rs 3079	2 quarters

HDFC Scrip Code	VSTTIL
BSE Code	531266
NSE Code	VSTTILLERS
Bloomberg	VSTT IN
CMP Sep 22, 2021	2561.6
Equity Capital (Rs cr)	8.6
Face Value (Rs)	10
Equity Share O/S (cr)	0.9
Market Cap (Rs cr)	2236.8
Book Value (Rs)	772.7
Avg. 52 Wk Volumes	31,300
52 Week High	2899.0
52 Week Low	1505.0

Share holding Pattern % (Jun, 2021)					
Promoters	54.8				
Institutions	18.9				
Non Institutions	26.4				
Total	100.0				



\* Refer at the end for explanation on Risk Ratings

# Fundamental Research Analyst

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#### **Our Take:**

VST Tillers Tractors Ltd. (VTTL) is the leading power tiller company in India with a market share of ~54%. Power tillers are affordable farm mechanisation equipment (with an average selling price of Rs 1.45 lakhs), highly preferred by small and marginal farmers. VST being a dominant player in the tillers space and has been in a sweet spot since Jul'20 when the Indian government imposed import restrictions on Chinese tillers which used to command ~30% of the market and accounted for 50% of units imported annually. Restriction on cheaper Chinese imports provided level playing field for companies like VTTL. Also, the company has been expanding its product range and entering into strategic alliance with key players to expand its product portfolio and global reach. Govt. support in the form of subsidies under various schemes, increase in MSPs, easy finance options and normal monsoons augur well for the agricultural equipment market. VTTL has expanded its dealer network in the domestic as well as overseas markets and has been entering newer territories. New product launches, import curbs on power tillers and strong focus on tractors segment is likely to drive the growth of the company. VTTL is debt-free company with healthy cash flows and low capex requirement in the near term. Over the medium term the company has set an ambitious target of being a Rs 3,000cr company by 2025 in diversified farm mechanization products and solutions. It believes in leveraging electric, driver optional, and connected vehicle technologies to offer sustainable, productive, and profitable farming solutions and has made a strategic Investment in Monarch Tractor (Zimeno Inc) – Maker of the World's First Fully Electric, Driver-Optional Smart Tractor.

On May 17, 2021, we had initiated coverage on the stock with a recommendation to 'Buy at LTP and add on dips to Rs 1,540-1,550 band' for base case fair value of Rs 1895 and bull case fair value of Rs 2105 (Link). The stock had achieved our base case target on May 18 and bull case target on June 3, 2021.

## Valuation & Recommendation:

We expect revenue/EBITDA/PAT of the company to grow at CAGR of 19/23/18% over FY21 to FY23E on the back of new product launches, increasing exports and continuing import curbs which could drive higher volumes. We expect RoE/RoCE to expand by 160/250bps to 16.2/21.9% in FY23E from FY21. We believe investors can buy the stock in the band of Rs 2550-2580 and add on dips to Rs 2250-2280 band (15.5x FY23E EPS) for a base case fair value of Rs 2859 (19.5x FY23E EPS) and bull case fair value of Rs 3079 (21x FY23E EPS) over the next 2 quarters.







## **Financial Summary**

Particulars (Rs cr)	Q1 FY22	Q1 FY21	YoY (%)	Q4 FY21	QoQ (%)	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Operating Income	194	146	32.4	195	-0.6	544	764	933	1,075
EBITDA	25	16	55.3	8	224.3	17	92	118	139
APAT	24	17	40.7	13	85.7	18	91	110	127
Diluted EPS (Rs)	27.8	19.8	40.7	15.0	85.7	20.8	105.1	126.7	146.6
RoE (%)						3.1	14.6	15.6	16.2
P/E (x)						123.0	24.4	20.2	17.5
EV/EBITDA (x)						119.2	21.0	16.6	14.3

(Source: Company, HDFC sec)

#### **Recent Triggers**

#### Q1FY22 financials

VTTL reported strong performance for Q1FY22. Net sales increased by 32% YoY to Rs 194cr driven by 30% growth in power tiller volumes to 6729 units and 16% growth in tractor volumes to Rs 2048 units. Average realization of tractors increased by ~13%. EBITDA came in at Rs 25cr, a growth of 55% YoY with EBITDA margins at 13.1% (+193bps yoy) on account of operating leverage. Adj. PAT grew by 41% over Q1FY22 to Rs 24cr supported by higher other income. The company has added 40-50 dealers in the power tiller segment and 20 dealers in the tractor segment in Q1FY22.

In the months of Jul-Aug 2021, tractor sales increased by 8.9% to 6,185 units and power tillers sales witnessed a de-growth of 11.4% to 1,548 units.

# **Recent Triggers**

## Industry tailwinds to benefit VTTL

As per ICRA, the Indian agriculture machinery market is estimated to grow at a healthy CAGR of ~11% to Rs 120,700cr in FY25, spurred by the need to enhance mechanisation in Indian agriculture. Mechanisation levels in India have remained significantly lower than global benchmarks, with tractors being the mainstay to volumes. Inherent challenges, key among them being small land holdings, have continued to constrain enhanced adoption over the years. Projected decline in availability of agricultural labour led by increasing urbanisation and continued rise in labour costs necessitate higher mechanisation. Power Tillers market in India is likely to grow even faster from Rs 1350cr in FY21 to Rs 3150cr in FY25.







#### Agreement with ETG for African markets

VST has entered into an agreement with ETG (Export Trading Group), for distribution of its tractors, power tillers, power reapers and diesel engines in the Southern African markets including South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and Zambia. The objective behind the distribution model of VST Tillers Tractors in ETGL's portfolio is to expand its offering in the industry. ETGL operates an established automotive and farm equipment distribution business in South African region.

The launch introduces the complete range of VTTL's Tractors and Power Tillers into the Southern African market. The range extends from 18 HP (13.3 KW) 4WD to 50 HP (37.28 KW) Tractors and Small Farm Mechanisation implements like, Power Weeders, Power Reapers and Power Tillers ranging from 5 HP (3.7 KW) to 16 HP (11.8 KW).

### Increasing exports to aid volume growth

Tractor exports of VST has been increasing as the company is expanding its geographical reach. Tractor exports have increased from ~450 units in FY20 to ~860 units in FY21. The company is targeting exports of ~1200 units in FY22 of which it has exported 264 units in Q1FY22. Alliance with Zetor is helping the company to expand in the European markets and the recent agreement with ETGL would drive its presence in the South African region.

## Targeting topline of Rs 3,000cr by FY25

VTTL is targeting revenues of Rs 3,000cr by FY25 which implies a CAGR of 41% from Rs 764cr of revenues in FY21. The company is relying on four major objectives to accomplish this objective i.e. (1) evolving from a power tillers company to an established small farm mechanization company (2) focus on strengthening leadership in the compact tractor category with greater coverage and a broader range of products (3) focus on utilizing capacities in the higher HP segment and (4) developing precision component business for the Mysore plant, to ensure precision in farm mechanization products.

## MSP price hike to support rural income

Government has increased the MSP of Kharif crops for marketing season 2021-22 and Rabi crops for marketing season 2022-23, to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. MSPs of key kharif crops such as paddy, bajra, ragi, jowar moong, urad and cotton have been increased by 1.1-5% in FY22 as compared to FY21. For Rabi crops like wheat, barley, gram, lentils, rapeseed & mustard and safflower MSPs have increased by 2-8.6%. With the total outlay of Rs 11,040cr, the MSP scheme will benefit the farmers by increasing their income and generation of additional employment. This is turn could push up the demand for agri equipments including tillers and tractors.







#### New product launches to drive market share gains

VTTL has introduced several new products in FY21 like 27 HP high torque compact tractor, 16 HP power tiller, 30 HP VST 932 compact tractor, etc. Taking the advantage of import restrictions from China, VTTL started supplying products to various new brands who were previously dependent on the Chinese market. The alliances forged by the company in the past couple of years would help it to gain market share in the domestic as well as global market. VTTL has tied up with Pubert from France for Power Weeders and product development agreement with Zetor from the Czech Republic for Higher Horse Power Tractors. It has also signed supply agreement with Farm Mech Taiwan and MTD, USA.

#### New Product launches

#### Successful transition to Small Farm Mechanization business with the introduction of:



Power Tiller - Kisan

Power Weeder-FT70



Power tiller - 16 HP



Power Weeder-Josh FT50



Power Reaper Brush Cutters

#### **Tractor Market Product Introduction**



17 HP



24HP (Puddling, Spraying)



27 HP (High Torque Variant)



30 HP Tractor

#### **International Business**



VST FIELDTRAC 927 (NGT) seeding volumes offered to the market and will be launched officially during 2021-22.

#### **Precision Components segment**



Gear Drive Variants in 3feet (900 mm) Rotavator series and S blade variant in complete 3ft and 3.5 ft series in FY21.



1000 mm Compact Rotary model

(Source: Company, HDFC sec)







### **Expanding dealer network**

VTTL is expanding its reach and added 155 new dealers in the power tiller segment and 110 new dealers in the tractor segment in FY21. It has also strengthened its distributor network in overseas markets across various countries including Germany, Hungary, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Guinea, Tunisia, Liberia and Congo. During FY21, it added 42 new dealers in Europe and 10 new dealers in Asia & Africa. It is also entering the Eastern Europe markets and has appointed dealers in Croatia and Slovenia and scouting for dealers in Romania and Bulgaria.

### Value unlocking by way of sale of land at Bangalore could bring in extra ordinary gains.

As per a communication from the company dated May 16, 2021, Voluntary Retirement Scheme for all eligible workmen of the Bangalore Factory has been accepted by the workmen and same has been implemented for workmen of the Bangalore Factory. Further to implementation of VRS scheme, the Bangalore tractor operation has been shifted to Hosur, Tamil Nadu. Now VTTL can look to sell the 20 acres Bangalore factory land and use the proceeds for retiring debt or incurring capex.

### What could go wrong?

### High correlation with monsoons

The tractor industry volume growth has a high correlation with the deviation of monsoons from their long-term average. Although the monsoons started on a strong note, the month of August witnessed lower monsoons (September has seen some catch up so far). Any significant deviation (especially back-to-back in two years) resulting in weak monsoons could lead to a sharp decline in the industry's growth.

## Dependence on government subsidy for power tillers

The farmers are dependent on government subsidy for power tillers and any delay in implementing schemes by various states could impact the company's business. Most tiller sales are subsidy-driven with the subsidy at 40-50% of the cost of tillers. Farmers prefer to wait for new government permits which are available at different intervals which results in higher volatility in tiller sales volume. Also, lot of farmers are reluctant to go for outright purchase. Moreover, non-availability of retail finance may hamper the demand for power tillers. However, in the recent past, looking at the positive impact of mechanisation on farm output, some farmers are buying power tiller without waiting for the subsidy.

## **Huge competition in higher HP tractors**

The tractor industry consists of many small and big players, thereby the company faces high competition in tractor industry. This may result in pressure on margin and profitability.







#### Removal of import license

The government has imposed curbs on tiller imports by moving it to restricted items (requiring a license to import) from free. Reversal of this policy could impact market share of VTTL as Chinese imports are relatively cheaper.

### **High input prices**

Hike in price of key raw materials like steel and components due to demand and supply gap may lead to rise in input cost, putting pressure on the company's margin and profitability.

### **Covid related disruption**

The second-wave of the pandemic impacted the rural areas as well unlike the first wave where the impact was minimal. Covid related disruptions could hamper sales.

#### **About the company**

Established in 1967 VST Tillers Tractors Ltd. (VTTL) is one of the leading power tiller and compact tractor manufacturer in India. It was established by the VST Group of companies, a well-known century old business house in South India, as a JV with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Japan and Mysore State Industrial Investment Corporation. VTTL manufactures farm equipment, namely power tillers, tractors, power weeders, diesel engines and other precision agricultural and automotive components. It also trades in certain other farm equipment (mainly rice transplanters), which are sourced from China.

Headquartered in Bangalore, the company is now the largest manufacturer of Power Tillers in India with its 'VST Shakti' being the leader in power tillers. Its tractors are marketed under 'FIELDTRAC' brand in various markets of European Union meeting the latest EU standards. The company has expanded its presence in more than 20 countries over a decade and established itself as a most preferred brand for the compact tractors

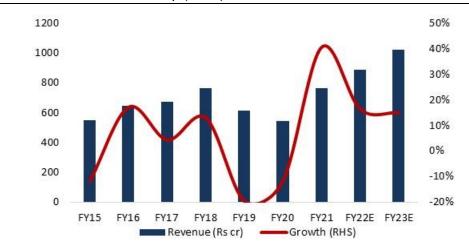
VTTL derives over  $^{95\%}$  of its revenues from the domestic market and has a nationwide network of more than 350 active dealers to support sales and provide after-sales services. VTTL's current capacity stands at 36,000 units p.a. of tractors and it had sold  $^{7}$ ,150/8,842 tractors in FY20/FY21 which implies a capacity utilisation of  $^{20/25\%}$ . Tiller capacity stands at 60,000 units p.a. and FY21 utilisation was  $^{45\%}$ .

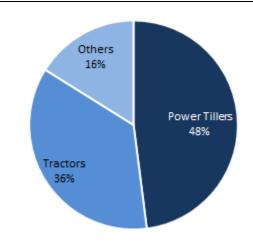






# Revenue trend and breakup (FY21)





(Source: Company, HDFC sec)







# Financials – Consolidated Income Statement

income statement					
(Rs cr)	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Net Revenues	615	544	764	933	1075
Growth (%)	-19.5	-11.6	40.6	22.0	15.3
Operating Expenses	570	526	672	815	937
EBITDA	45	17	92	118	139
Growth (%)	-62.7	-61.2	429.2	28.1	18.1
EBITDA Margin (%)	7.3	3.2	12.0	12.6	12.9
Depreciation	16	16	17	22	25
Other Income	45	24	46	52	57
EBIT	74	25	121	148	171
Interest expenses	2	1	2	2	2
PBT	72	23	119	146	169
Tax	25	5	28	37	43
PAT	46	18	91	110	127
Share of Asso./Minority Int.	-58.9	-60.9	404.3	20.6	15.7
Adj. PAT	53.3	20.8	105.1	126.7	146.6

### **Balance Sheet**

Data reconstruction					
As at March (Rs cr)	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
SOURCE OF FUNDS					
Share Capital	9	9	9	9	9
Reserves	581	568	659	732	816
Shareholders' Funds	590	577	668	741	824
Total Debt	0	0	0	0	0
Net Deferred Taxes	7	1	-1	-1	-1
Total Sources of Funds	597	578	667	740	824
APPLICATION OF FUNDS					
Net Block & Goodwill	183	184	248	291	341
CWIP	35	48	25	20	26
Investments	197	193	318	301	274
Other Non-Curr. Assets	9	14	6	19	22
Total Non Current Assets	415	424	592	613	641
Inventories	124	102	107	118	141
Debtors	96	96	82	115	127
Cash & Equivalents	19	26	32	30	32
Other Current Assets	94	80	72	84	88
Total Current Assets	333	304	293	347	389
Creditors	34	58	83	84	65
Other Current Liab & Provisions	117	93	135	135	141
Total Current Liabilities	151	150	218	219	206
Net Current Assets	182	154	75	128	183
Total Application of Funds	597	578	667	740	824



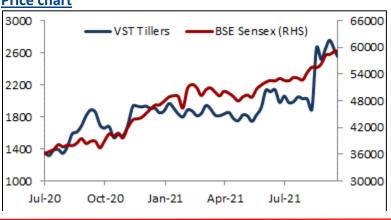




#### **Cash Flow Statement**

(Rs cr)	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
PBT	72	23	119	146	169
Non-operating & EO items	-19	1	-30	0	6
Interest Expenses	-3	0	-3	2	2
Depreciation	16	16	17	22	25
Working Capital Change	13	42	77	-67	-62
Tax Paid	-34	-10	-25	-37	-43
OPERATING CASH FLOW (a)	43	72	155	66	97
Capex	-45	-34	-28	-60	-80
Free Cash Flow	-2	38	127	6	17
Investments	34	-4	-127	30	30
Non-operating income	22	5	8	0	0
INVESTING CASH FLOW ( b )	11	-33	-148	-30	-50
Debt Issuance / (Repaid)	0	0	0	0	0
Interest Expenses	-2	-1	-2	-2	-2
FCFE	52	38	6	35	45
Share Capital Issuance	0	0	0	0	0
Dividend	-43	-26	0	-36	-43
Others	-9	-5	0	0	0
FINANCING CASH FLOW ( c )	-54	-33	-2	-38	-45
NET CASH FLOW (a+b+c)	0	7	6	-2	2

# **Price chart**



### **Key Ratios**

	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22E	FY23E
Profitability Ratios (%)					
EBITDA Margin	7.3	3.2	12.0	12.6	12.9
EBIT Margin	12.0	4.5	15.8	15.9	15.9
APAT Margin	7.5	3.3	11.9	11.7	11.8
RoE (excl. Goodwill)	7.8	3.1	14.6	15.6	16.2
RoCE (excl. Goodwill)	12.4	4.2	19.4	21.0	21.9
Solvency Ratio (x)					
Net Debt/EBITDA	-0.4	-1.5	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2
Net D/E	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PER SHARE DATA (Rs)					
EPS	53.3	20.8	105.1	126.7	146.6
CEPS	71.6	39.8	124.8	151.9	175.0
BV	682.8	667.7	772.7	857.4	954.0
Dividend	15.0	15.0	35.0	42.0	50.0
Turnover Ratios (days)					
Inventory days	84	65	42	39	41
Debtor days	60	76	50	44	44
Creditor days	28	31	34	33	25
VALUATION (x)					
P/E	48.1	123.0	24.4	20.2	17.5
P/BV	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.0	2.7
EV/EBITDA	46.4	119.2	21.0	16.6	14.3
EV/Revenues	3.4	3.8	2.5	2.1	1.8
Dividend Yield (%)	0.6	0.6	1.4	1.6	2.0
Dividend Payout (%)	28.1	72.0	33.3	33.1	34.1

(Source: Company, HDFC sec Research)







#### **HDFC Sec Retail Research Rating description**

#### **Green Rating stocks**

This rating is given to stocks that represent large and established business having track record of decades and good reputation in the industry. They are industry leaders or have significant market share. They have multiple streams of cash flows and/or strong balance sheet to withstand downturn in economic cycle. These stocks offer moderate returns and at the same time are unlikely to suffer severe drawdown in their stock prices. These stocks can be kept as a part of long term portfolio holding, if so desired. This stocks offer low risk and lower reward and are suitable for beginners. They offer stability to the portfolio.

#### **Yellow Rating stocks**

This rating is given to stocks that have strong balance sheet and are from relatively stable industries which are likely to remain relevant for long time and unlikely to be affected much by economic or technological disruptions. These stocks have emerged stronger over time but are yet to reach the level of green rating stocks. They offer medium risk, medium return opportunities. Some of these have the potential to attain green rating over time.

#### **Red Rating stocks**

This rating is given to emerging companies which are riskier than their established peers. Their share price tends to be volatile though they offer high growth potential. They are susceptible to severe downturn in their industry or in overall economy. Management of these companies need to prove their mettle in handling cyclicality of their business. If they are successful in navigating challenges, the market rewards their shareholders with handsome gains; otherwise their stock prices can take a severe beating. Overall these stocks offer high risk high return opportunities.

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