

# Memories with Shri.K.V. Rao



It is a very sad but also joyous thing to reflect on the passing of Shri K.V. Rao, one of the first and most vigorous and innovative proponents of SRI in India. It was a great and memorable pleasure to get acquainted with him on one of my first SRI visits to Andhra Pradesh. It was impressive to see how he could integrate so many ideas and values into coherent practical action. He

contributed effectively to the international consultation held at IRRI in the Philippines on water-saving rice production, and was always a valuable contributor to forums like the all-Indian symposia in Hyderabad and Agartala. His passing is a real loss to the ranks of SRI proponents, but by his leadership, he ensured that these ranks would grow and keep growing. To all of his family and to his thousands of friends in India, I send condolences from Cornell University. These thoughts are colored with sadness, but there is also a joyous aura around them reflecting the radiance and goodness that his life projected.

## Norman Uphoff



I am very sorry to know that Shri K.V. Rao is no more. For last several years we actively associated with Mr. Rao and he is an inspiration for thousands of farmers and scientists.

I attended so many meetings with him and in each of these meetings, his contribution was extremely valuable. Recently, he was part of the policy dialogue meeting with Planning Commission held in APAU, Hyderabad in May 2009. He passionately argued there about SRI and particularly growing rice using only organic fertilizers. Full of ideas and positive energies, he was somebody always ahead of times. He always referred our scriptures to get guidance and inspiration on agriculture.

Whenever I had an opportunity to meet him, he always had something new to show and share from the old texts about benefits of organic agriculture. He was with us at the recent event on Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI) manual release and contributed to the discussion.

We at WWF-ICRISAT project miss him, his guidance and inspiration. His demise is entirely untimely but his contribution to Indian farming in general and particularly for organic and SRI will continue to inspire generations to come.

We join many others conveying condolences to his family. We pray for his soul to rest in peace. We hope to carry on with his ideas and inspiration to continue our work with even more determination.

**Biksham**

on behalf of the **WWF-ICRISAT project team.**

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