

Registration

If you intend to participate in this symposium, please communicate your intention by **25th July 2007**. For those who decide to attend, the other deadlines are as follows:

Submission of Extended Abstracts
Submission of Full papers/Posters

10th August 2007
5th September 2007

The full papers/posters should be sent to the address given overleaf. Guidelines can be downloaded from website: www.sri-india.net

Note: Only papers and posters submitted within the deadlines will be included in the program. It is proposed to levy a nominal registration fee of Rs. 500/- per Indian participant or US \$ 20 for foreign participants.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be arranged in various hostels and guesthouses in Agartala, Tripura.

Other Information

This information may be shared widely with persons and organizations interested working on SRI method of Rice Cultivation.

For further information, please contact:

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FORM OF INTENT

I wish to participate in the Second National Symposium on "**System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in India –Progress and Prospects**" to be held at Agartala, Tripura, India from October 3rd – 5th, 2007.

Name:
Designation:
Address:

Tel:
Fax:
E-mail:

Area of Interest:

If you wish to participate with invited lecture/panel discussion/poster presentation, please indicate which kind of participation you propose and proposed subject of participation:

Accommodation required: Yes/No

Please send your consent in the enclosed form for your participation by post/fax or e-mail to the following address.

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Dr. Biksham Gujja, Policy Advisor, WWF

Dr. B. C. Viraktamath, Project Director, DRR, Rajendranagar

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Organised by

The Department of Agriculture of the Government of Tripura
Directorate of Rice Research (DRR), Rajendranagar
Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), Cuttack
Directorate of Rice Development (DRD), Patna
Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Rajendranagar
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai
World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)



The Second National Symposium on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in India – Progress and Prospects

3rd - 5th October 2007

Venue:
**State Institute of Public Administration and Rural development
(SIPARD)**
Agartala – 799 003, Tripura, India

Web site: www.sri-india.net





Background

Rice is life for millions of people in the world, particularly in developing countries. It is the main cereal for majority population in India. The demand for rice is growing with ever-increasing population. Rice is water intensive crop. More than 70 percent of the country's ground and surface water is being used for agriculture, and out of this, 70 percent is allocated to rice cultivation. Each kg of rice produced with irrigation requires 3000-5000 litres of water. Increasingly water is becoming single most constraint to produce more rice to meet increasing demand. In spite of providing assured irrigation, use of pest-resistant high-yielding varieties, and high inputs of fertilisers and pesticides, rice yields in India are plateauing. With inevitable growth of demand for human and industrial needs, water available for agriculture will become scarcer in future. Hence, India needs to invest on improving its water productivity, and any capacity to produce more rice with less water will be an important contribution to sustainable water and food security.



The System of Rice Intensification, known as SRI method, is gaining popularity among paddy farmers in several states in the country in recent times for its potential to improve productivity of land, capital, water and labour simultaneously. This system developed in Madagascar in the 1980's has since 1999 been tried out successfully in 25 countries across the world providing farmers with increased options. SRI is a system of growing

rice that involves principles that are at times radically different from the traditional ways of growing rice. It involves single and young seedlings transplantation with care instead of conventional method of multiple and mature seedlings from the nursery. SRI spaces rice plants more widely and does not depend on continuous flooding of rice fields. It uses lesser seed, chemical inputs and promotes soil biotic activities in and around plant roots, enhanced through liberal applications of compost and weeding with a rotating hoe that aerates the soil. These changed practices with lower inputs counter-intuitively lead to improved productivity with yields of 7-8 tonnes/hectare (t/ha), about double the present world average of 3.8 t/ha.



Thus, SRI is more than a package of practices and represents a paradigm shift in that the way the crop production is understood and practiced based on the biological potential. In states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal, Kerala, Chattisgarh, Karnataka, Assam, Punjab, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, Madhya Pradesh, etc., during the last few seasons many farmers have begun adopting SRI method to cultivate rice. Many research institutes and universities across the country have also started conducting trials on various aspects of SRI method. There seems to be quite a range of experiences ranging from bad to good to very good among farmers and scientists. However, there is no space now where they can



meet and share the experiences. Regular national dialogues among SRI researchers, farmers and civil society will help cross sharing and learning.

Supported by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the first national symposium was organised in November 2006 at Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU) in Andhra Pradesh. This brought together about 200 people including scientists, agriculture workers, policy makers, civil society, farmers and critics of SRI from across the country. For the first time among all the stakeholders two days of deliberations and interaction provided an opportunity for sharing successful experiences, concerns about constraints, farmer innovations, identification of research priorities, and policy directions to enhance adoption and scaling-up of SRI methods to enhance food security and improve the livelihoods of rural households, especially poor and marginal ones, while avoiding placing further stress on the water supplies critical for our rivers and ecosystems.

In continuation, the second national symposium on SRI is proposed to be held from 3rd -5th October 2007 at Agartala in Tripura. Tripura is a tiny state (10,491 sq. km) in the northeast surrounded by Bangladesh on three sides. Introduced in 2001, today SRI method is adopted in about 14,000 ha (about 8 per cent of the total paddy area) in Tripura and the Agriculture Department is geared up to reach over 10 per cent in the current year. A striking feature is that SRI methods have been adopted in large contiguous areas of 30-50 ha covering groups of 20 – 50 farmers. The energetic commitment of field staff and strong political support has enabled fast spread of SRI in Tripura. Hence, it will be appropriate and instructive for Tripura to be the host for a National Symposium to share its estimable work and contribute to current debates on expansion of SRI in India through its own case history.



The event is being jointly organised by the Department of Agriculture of the Government of Tripura, the Directorate of Rice Research (DRR), the Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI), the Directorate of Rice Development (DRD), the Acharya NG

Ranga Agriculture University (ANGRAU), the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-ICRISAT Dialogue Project based at ICRISAT, Patancheru.

The main objectives are:

- ❑ To bring in various field experiences of SRI from the state governments, researchers, civil society and farmers
- ❑ To identify and discuss constraints and opportunities based on practical experiences, for further expansion of SRI
- ❑ To deliberate on the policy and institutional interventions for increasing the area under rice cultivation with SRI method.



Programme

It is proposed to have invited papers, poster presentations, farmers' experiences, and panel discussions in the Symposium. Invited participants from the other South Asian countries such as Bangladesh,

Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan will also attend and share their experiences and lessons learnt in SRI utilization. The presentations shall address various issues covering the present status, progress, research results and current debates of SRI adoption and its impact in enhancing water saving, input use efficiency, and production and productivity of rice. Panel discussions will address topics like policy implications of scaling-up SRI method in India for various ecosystems. Poster presentation will parallel the session themes. There will be one day-field visit to SRI fields in Tripura to gain first hand information of their success in SRI adoption in a large scale.



The proposed sessions or themes for the workshop are:

I. Experiences of SRI adoption/promotion in India

- ❑ Diversity of approaches and extension methodologies
- ❑ Difficulties, constraints and deficiencies in promotion and scaling-up
- ❑ Institutional and policy mechanisms

II. Farmers experiences with SRI method of cultivation

- ❑ New or improved implements (e.g., markers and weeders)
- ❑ Innovations in crop establishment and crop management
- ❑ Constraints of SRI adoption – how to overcome



III. Research activities on SRI in India

- ❑ Theoretical and conceptual issues in SRI (Roles of soil biology/microbiology)
- ❑ Modifications being introduced in water, soil, nutrient and weed management
- ❑ Quality (of grain & straw) as affected by SRI method
- ❑ Varietal responses (according to different soils, field conditions, varieties etc.)
- ❑ Innovations in implements, mechanisation etc.
- ❑ Economic and impact assessment of SRI system

IV. Panel discussion on policy, research and extension support to SRI

