



Aga Khan Foundation-Afghanistan

Participatory Management of Irrigation System (PMIS)

Natural Resources Management (NRM)

System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

PMIS/NRM/SRI practical work for 2008

To: Vincent "Thomas"

From: Ali Muhammad "Ramzi"

Subject: SRI Seed soaking, seedbed preparation & Seed broadcasting

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As SRI practice discovered in Madagascar by a farmer more than 24 years ago in 1983 but the system of rice intensification (SRI) practice spreads out to different countries and different continents such as Asia, Africa, America and Europe.

Now we have almost one million farmers around the world benefiting from SRI next year we might have from 2 millions Up to 5 millions farmers it jumps from one to 2 or 5 millions, in 2007 5 millions Hectare of land was under SRI program anyhow this is a tremendous achievement for agriculture aspect at the world level indeed which is system of rice intensification it is a great change to the rice cultivation and one day we hope SRI practice entirely replace to the Traditional method of rice cultivation and one thing is also mentionable that about **98%** of rice is producing by Asian countries and In fact rice is one of the most important food consumptions of human in the most countries.

Fortunately Aga Khan Foundation invited an SRI consultant last year (May 2007) namely Kishan Rao Who is working with WASSAN in Andhra Pradesh of India for many years and he has rich experience On System of Rice Intensification (SRI) practice.

WASSAN (Watershed Support Services Activities Network) is and NGO based in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh of India. The supremacy of System of Rice Intensification rather than traditional rice method is as follow.

- **Less water**
- **Less chemical pesticides**
- **Less Seed**
- **Less chemical fertilizers**
- **Equal or more yields in comparison to traditional cultivation**

Mr. Rao trained AKF/NRM staff in Baghlan on System of rice intensification last year, SRI core team has been selected and they received training on the SRI from SRI consultant Kishan Rao.

In 2007 we had one SRI demo plots in Baghlan Agriculture faculty research farm which was under AKF/SRI core team and another plot was selected at the farmer's farm in Old Baghlan.

We trained the farmer who was in old Baghlan on system of rice intensification. The farmer who was in old Baghlan named Shamsudin he was a sharecropper. In Baghlan province we had two SRI demo plots one in Baghlan agriculture faculty research farm and the other one were in old Baghlan at the farmer's farm.

Fortunately this year 2008 in Baghlan our farmers increased from **one** to **six** farmers. These **six** farmers selected from two different places and canals of Baghlan province which are under Participatory management of irrigation system (PMIS) funded by European committee(**EC**) four farmers are from different villages of Jangharoq canal and two are from different villages of Kelagai Proje canal.

These farmers are volunteer farmers to cultivate SRI on their own plots .PMIS provides some important SRI tools for farmer which is too important for this method. Selected or volunteer farmers are receiving training on SRI method at their fields through PMIS/SRI team so PMIS have just technical support to RI farmers

and it doesn't have an financial support to the farmers but just paid one Rose-can ,one Marker and Mandava weeder.



The above pictures are showing SRI seed soaking at the presences of farmers from Jangharoq canal and Keagai. The picture on the left is indicating that SRI seed soaking is something interesting and new for farmers and the picture on the right is indicating farmer soaking SRI seeds and salt is being dissolving in the water. Mixing seeds in water and removing green seeds.



Right after the seed soaking SRI seedbed should be ready for seed broadcasting so farmers are preparing the seedbed and the above photos are showing the SRI **seed-bed preparation**, this seedbed is a **20sqr meter** which is enough for one Jerib of land.



Juma gul one of our SRI interested and volunteer farmer is leveling the nursery seedbed using his local method (leveling the seedbed by shovel's handle). He is Kelagai's SRI volunteer farmers and his land is under Proje canal.

Juma gul was Mirab last year for Canal Proje but he left being as a Mirab every year he cultivates one part of his Melon and Water Melon other parts of his land he cultivates traditional rice.

This year beside the traditional rice he is eager to cultivate SRI but he is doing now as he received technical support from PMIS/NRM officers.



Photos on the left Nursery bed is prepared for seed broadcasting SRI team is broadcasting the seeds at presence of farmers, because they should learn how to broadcast SRI seed at the seed-bed .also we asked farmers to broadcast the seeds finally they learnt and they are broadcasting the seeds to the seedbed jointly with us. When seed is broadcasted farmers are covering the seeds with a slight layer of soil in order to protect seeds from, ant, birds and sunshine farmers and SRI team is broadcasting the soil for covering the broadcasted seeds. While the seeds covered by the soil then farmers should spray water right after it so they are spraying water to the seedbed by Rose can or Water Sprayer this provided by PMIS to SRI volunteer farmers.

SRI farmers should keep System of rice intensification nursery seedbed moist, farmers could irrigate twice, three times or four times a day their SRI seedbed it depends to weather or climate.

One place is different from other place but the ideal method is to keep moist the seedbed in order to let the rice growing. Since seed is broadcasted in 8 or 10 days seedlings becomes ready to transplant, the best time is 8 to 13 days not more than that it should be transplanted at the mentioned ages.