# Increase Rice Yield through the System of Rice Intensification

***Advantages of SRI:***

- Higher yields, 5-17 tons/ha or more
- Requires less seeds, 5 – 6 kg/ha
- Needs very less water
- No or less chemical inputs are required
- High quality grains
- Lesser cost/volume
- More pest resistance
- Resistant to lodging
- Cold tolerance
- Improves soil quality
- It has been applied successfully in many Asian countries

## The guiding principles of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

### 1. Early Transplanting

- Plant young seedling, preferably 8-12 days when it has only two small leaves
- Young seedling establishes quickly
- Young seedling has more duration for tillering.

### 2. Careful transplanting of single seedling

- Plant only single seedling per hill
- A single seedling can produce more than 100 tillers
- Be careful in planting, do not push the seedling too deep as it will affect the tillering
- Plant immediately after uprooting

### 3. Wider Spacing

- Plant in wider space, 25 cm x 25 cm or more
- It will lessen competition and allow more root growth
- Plants will thus be able to produce more tillers and grow healthily

### 4. Rotary weeding for aerating the soil

- Use rotary weeder for weeding
- It will give more oxygen to roots making the growth vigorous, so plants will take more nutrients from soil
- Do weeding 2 to 4 times
- Start weeding immediately after irrigation

### 5. Water Management

- Apply water when the field dries up.
- Do not keep the field flooded more than 2 days. It will affect root growth and tillering
- Keep the soil moist but not saturated

### 6. Application of compost or animal manure

- Apply compost or animal manure
- Apply them at least 2 weeks before transplanting
- There is no limit for compost, apply as much as possible

While use of chemical increases yields, best results are achieved when compost is applied. Thus apply organic manure, instead of chemical fertilizers. It will increase soil health, and as a result soil will be able to produce more nutrients for plants.