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To: ntul@cornell.edu
Subject: SRI in ADRA/Cambodia
Date: Sat, 17 May 2003 03:46:28 -0600

Dear Norman,

I am in Siem Reap, Cambodia, right now, visiting the ADRA program here. Yesterday, they gave us a report, according to which about a hundred farmers here tried out SRI last year. People were so afraid to try it (because of the small seedlings) that ADRA promised to replace any rice that a farmer lost as a result of trying it (i.e., anything less than the 1.0 t/ha that is the traditional average yield here).

The average yield for all the farmers trying out SRI was 2.5 t/ha! A 150% improvement! And not one single farmer claimed his yield insurance (i.e., not one got below 1.0 t/ha). And this in an area where virtually no one can control the amount of water in his/her paddy field.

Now, every single member of the groups in which at least one farmer tried SRI last year has stated he/she wants to try SRI next year--well over 500 people. Norman, this already IS a revolution!

Sincerely, Roland Bunch