

1st SRI Working Group Meeting

Kampot, 21 March 2003



Venue: Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Kampot

Hosting Organization: PDAFF and GTZ-RDP Kampot

Main Facilitator: CEDAC

General Information

During the national workshop on SRI, which was held from 15-17 January, the participants agreed to set up a SRI working group. On behalf of the SRI network, CEDAC and GTZ RD-Kampot organized this first SRI Working Group meeting on 21 March 2003. The meeting was hosted by PDAFF Kampot and GTZ-RDP.

17 people participated in the meeting. They represented CEDAC, GTZ-RD Kampot Kampong Thom, PDAFF Kampot, Prasac-Takeo, Prasac-Kampong Speu, Prasac-Kampong Chhnang, Prasac-Prey Veng, JICA and Oxfam America. The list of participants is attached in the annex.

The following agenda was proposed for the meeting:

- a) Update information on activities related to SRI after the National Workshop
- b) Sharing positions and ideas on why we should promote and support SRI, to establish Working Group objectives, activities, and coordination
- c) Plans of each member organization in 2003
- d) Plan for collective action in 2003
- e) Next Working Group meeting

Summary report on the meeting

Mr. Khem Sokha, the director of DAFF, welcomed the participants. He said that so far, we have applied conventional methods to support farmers to increase their rice production, with a focus on three elements, namely, fertilizers, new or improved varieties, and water/irrigation. However, for SRI there are many new ideas and practices. In 2002, we started an SRI program in Kampot in collaboration with CEDAC. The first experiences show that SRI seems to be appropriate for Kampot. He commented that the Working Group meeting will contribute to support farmers and promote SRI in Cambodia.

Mr. Edwin de Korte, the advisor of GTZ to PDAFF, also welcomed and thanked the participants for coming to this Working Group meeting.

After the introduction speech and remarks, Mr. Yang Saing Koma, took responsibility to chair the first session of the meeting. He started by saying that it is the first time that we are coming together after the national workshop on SRI in Prey Veng in January 2003. Since the workshop, CEDAC has been working on preparing the report of the workshop, and we are expecting that the final report will be completed in April 2003. There were some problems related to data from different provinces that we would like to verify again before finalizing the report. However, it is very useful that Prof. Norman Uphoff helped to produce a report on the workshop. He also shared information on the trip of Prof. Norman Uphoff to the Philippines. This trip report was distributed to the participants.

Then, he asked representatives from different organizations and provinces to share updated information relating to activities on SRI. The main points are summarized below:

GTZ Kampot

- GTZ Kampot to install SRI in the dry season in two villages of Banteay Meas District.
- GTZ, PDAFF Kampot organized introduction training on SRI for 15 people from five districts. Yang Saing Koma and Cheachoun (CEDAC) were resource persons for the training.

PRASAC Kampong Speu

- Improving data collection on SRI.
- Supporting farmer in improving home gardening.

PRASAC Prey Veng

- Selecting 360 key farmers from 90 villages for promoting SRI in Prey Veng.
- Supporting farmers in the dry season to implement SRI.

CBRD-GTZ, Kampong Thom

- Analyzing and documentation of experiences on SRI for the development of extension guidelines.
- One officer will be selected to be in charge of SRI in Kampong Thom.
- Planning to organize training and workshop on SRI for farmers and government and non-government organizations based in the province.
- Planning to increase the number of SRI demonstration and support farmer-promoters to disseminate SRI.
- Planning to request CEDAC to support SRI program, including also farmer-promoters.

PRASAC Takeo

- Selecting SRI key farmers.
- Supporting farmer in the dry season to implement SRI. In the dry season, there are 151 farmers from 37 villages in 4 districts already implementing SRI on an area of 10.3 ha.

PRASAC Kampong Chhnang

- Supporting new farmers in 21 villages to implement SRI in the dry season. 318 farmers were trained, and 94 farmers tested SRI on 1.58 ha.
- Held meeting with the director of DAFF on SRI, and the director is supportive for SRI.

CEDAC

- In addition to the cooperation with PRASAC and GTZ, CEDAC is also supporting 9 NGOs in 5 provinces to implement SRI programs.
- CEDAC has also expanded the program in Takeo on SRI.
- Two districts workshop were organized, one in Tramkok (Takeo) and one in Borseth (Kampong Speu).

According to the reports from the different organizations, information on SRI practice in Cambodia can be summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Progress of SRI in Cambodia

Province	# Villages	# Farmers	Remarks
Kampot	5 (GTZ)	137	Maximum yield : 7 t/ha, maximum size of land used by one farmer for SRI: 1.80 ha
Kampong Speu	22 (PRASAC) 15 (CEDAC)	72 (PRASAC) 120 (CEDAC)	Maximum yield: 8 t/ha
Prey Veng	90 (PRASAC) 50 (CEDAC) 11 (PNKS, CT)	819 (PRASAC) 500 (CEDAC)	Maximum yield: 8 t/ha Maximum size of field used by one farmer for SRI : 2 ha
Kampong Thom	48 (CBRD-GTZ) 14 (GRET- CEDAC)	1,000 (CBRD- GTZ) 30 (GRET- CEDAC)	There is wide dissemination of SRI through farmer-to-farmer methods in Kampong Thom
Takeo	91 (PRASAC) 30 (CEDAC) 5 (CCK)	395 (PRASAC) 237 (CEDAC) 20 (CCK)	
Kampong Chhnang	41	134	
Kandal	9 (CEDAC) 5 (KFA)	240 (CEDAC) 22 (KFA)	
Kampong Cham	15 (CEDAC) 6 (NAS)	58 (CEDAC) 17 (NAS)	
Battambang	16 (KWAP, CT, AS, RDA)	70	
Total	475	Around 3,000 SRI farmers	There are data from several organizations that are not included in this accounting

At the end of the session, Mr. Koma summarized the data on SRI progress in Cambodia, based on the report from the participants. As for March 2003, the SRI program has reached 475 villages of nine provinces in Cambodia. There are around 3,000 farmers involved in testing SRI. In January, there were around 2,600 farmers.

After the break, Mr. Pich Nan from PDAFF Kampong Thom facilitated the second session. This session focused on sharing opinions and ideas related to why and how to promote SRI, and the expected role of the working group/network. The results of the discussion are summarized below:

Prasac Takeo

- We should convince technical department/offices of the government about SRI.
- PDAF would continue SRI after PRASAC withdrawal in December 2003, by using other resources.
- We should reinforce the capacity of existing key farmers to adapt principles and techniques more systematically. Key farmers will help to support and expand SRI after PRASAC's support.

P-Kampong Chhnang

- SRI progress is very fast in Kampong Chhnang if compared to other programs.
- PRASAC staff are officials from department, trained and experience in SRI, so they have become potential human resources for SRI in the province.
- The Director of DAFF is interested in SRI.
- There is good possibility for the continuation of SRI through departmental structure.
- Workshop is being organized with the participation from senior officials from MAFF/DAFF.
- Working Group formed to support SRI, with extensive network (farmer, commune, district).

P-Kampong Speu

- Farmers are interested in SRI.
- We propose to organize monthly Working Group meetings.
- We should invite officials from technical office of DAFF to participate in the meetings on SRI.

P-Prey Veng

- There is possibility to integrate SRI into IFAD program and ADB program.
- CARE is interested to get people trained in SRI by CEDAC to work for their project.
- Strong interest and adoption/adaptation by farmers in Prey Veng. We have selected 360 key farmers to disseminate SRI in the future.
- We promote SRI because it allows farmer to get high production with low expenditure.

Kampong Thom (GTZ-CBRD)

- We need to develop a common list of principles and techniques of SRI, with a basic standard for SRI evaluation.
- We should get wider support from government and others.
- Planning workshop on SRI at the provincial level (one day for sharing experiences, and one day for staff training).

GTZ-Kampot

- We are working to integrate SRI into CBRD.
- We are expanding target villages and training district officials.
- We will involve other NGOs based in the provinces.
- We will ask for more support from GTZ to support SRI. GTZ is committed to SRI.
- The Director of PDAFF is interested to produce a newsletter on SRI.
- SRI dissemination through pagoda committees can be effective
- GTZ supports organic rice production, and we should combine organic rice and SRI together.
- We should develop a SRI poster together

CEDAC

- With SRI, farmers can use local seeds, reduce expenditure on fertilizer, improve soil fertility, while getting higher production. It can also help Cambodian rice farmers to be in a better position to compete with rice products imported from other countries
- CEDAC is interested to have a strong working group to share information, to develop training tools, to support SRI marketing, and to mainstream SRI as national strategy.
- We are interested to see how we can organize follow-up activities after PRASAC is completed, to keep the momentum before new donors come to support the SRI program.

JICA

- I am impressed by farmer-to-farmer extension during the SRI national workshop in Prey Veng.
- I think we should have a working group to share information, experiences related to data collection, and to further develop technical recommendations on SRI.

Oxfam

- SRI has good potential in Cambodia. In Thailand, the Government has made a lot of financial resources available for the investment in development in organic rice cultivation. There is now an international movement for organically-grown rice
- There is a possibility for CEDAC or the Working Group to submit a proposal for funding support to Oxfam GB and other members of Oxfam family to support activities of the Working Group.

Mr. Koma took over the responsibility to chair the last session in the morning. In this session, he helped to summarize what is expected from members of the Working Group and from the Working Group as the whole.

Why have a Working Group on SRI?

a) Being a member of the Working Group would help to reinforce the efforts for promoting SRI in project areas:

- Getting information for dissemination to others
- Obtaining relevant documents on SRI
- Obtaining new experiences on SRI and SRI extension approaches
- Being inspired, and not feeling isolated

b) Being together in the Working Group would also helped to promote SRI in Cambodia:

- Getting MAFF and other organizations to be involved and support SRI
- Wider dissemination of SRI in Cambodia
- Improved cooperation between involved organizations
- Improved cooperation between farmers and agricultural development professional

At this point, Mr. Koma and Mr. Pich Nan commented that important thing is that SRI is promoted through a participatory approach; it is about helping farmers to think and make decisions about how best to grow rice. It is not about telling farmers to follow certain concrete recommendations from extension workers, for example as people did with chemical fertilizer recommendations. For SRI, extension workers need to sit down and have consultation with farmers on how to help rice to grow better.

Mechanism/strategies/activities of the Working Group

- Working Group meetings
- SRI bulletin
- Workshops, including also fair or exhibition on SRI
- Organizing exchange programs
- Developing poster and T-shirts
- SRI awareness campaign (One idea was to organize a 'march' for SRI)

Sharing expectations on the progress of SRI in the next season, according to plans from each organization

This discussion is summarized in Table 2 below. According to the expectations from members of Working Group, the SRI program would reach around 900 villages in this next season, with about 10,000 SRI farmers participating. When CEDAC started the field program with SRI in 2000, there were only 28 SRI farmers.

Table 2: Expected Numbers of Villages and Farmers to be reached by SRI program in 2003 (new and existing villages and farmers)

	Expected number of villages to be reached by the end of 2003	Expected number of SRI farmers
P-Kampong Speu	90 (Prasac) 50 (CEDAC)	1080 (Prasac) 700 (Prey Veng)
P-Prey Veng	90 (Prasac) 65 (CEDAC) 15 (NGO partners of CEDAC)	2000 (Prasac) 1000 (CEDAC) 150 (NGOs partner of CEDAC)
Kampot	25	750
Kampong Chhnang	61	334
Kampong Thom	242 (CBRD) 45 (GRET-CEDAC)	1100 (CBRD) 200 (GRET-CEDAC)
Takeo	40 (Prasac, only wet season) 80 (CEDAC) 8 (CCK, NGO partner of CEDAC)	350 (Prasac, only wet season) 600 (CEDAC) 80 (CCK, NGO partner of CEDAC)
Battambang	40 (NGO partner of CEDAC)	500
Kampong Cham	30 (CEDAC) 10 (NAS NGO partner of CEDAC)	200 (CEDAC) 50 (CEDAC's partner)
Kandal	30 (CEDAC)	500 (CEDAC)
Total	Around 900 villages	Around 10,000 farmers

During the afternoon session, participants shared information about plan for workshops and training on SRI. We also discussed and agreed on collective activities relating to SRI. The results of the discussion are summarized below.

Plan for workshops and training organized by members of the SRI network

- SRI provincial workshop in Takeo in May 2003, organized and sponsored by PRASAC Takeo.
- Workshop in Battambang, May 2003, organized by CEDAC in cooperation with KWAP, sponsored by Oxfam GB.
- Workshop in Kampong Thom, April 2003, organized by PDAFF-GTZ-CBRD.

- SRI training for staff in Kampot, Kampong Thom.
- Continuation of training program in Takeo, Kampong Speu and Prey Veng, supported by Prasac II.

Joint activities of the Working Group

- a) SRI Working Group meeting to be held in June (at CEDAC office in Phnom Penh), and in October (hosted by DAFF Kampong Thom).
- b) A national workshop on SRI to be held in Takeo, December 2003, organized by PDAFF Takeo, with support by CEDAC and other members of the Working Group.
- c) A workshop on how to work with farmers in developing and disseminating SRI, 24-25 April, 2003, in Sihanouk Ville, facilitated by CEDAC. This workshop would give opportunity for people who have been actively involved in support farmers to implement SRI to come together to share and document experiences which can be important basis for future SRI program. It will be also an opportunity for all people who are supported by PRASAC II (to implement SRI) to meet together before the project is going to finish this year. CEDAC will take responsibility to organize this workshop, and each organization is responsible for covering the travel and accommodation of own participants.

Before the meeting ended, Mr. Pich Nan (PDAFF, Kampong Thom) gave a short remark about the meeting. On behalf of the participants, he thanked GTZ-PDAFF Kampot for hosting this meeting. He also said that this meeting helped to reinforce our responsibility in supporting SRI in Cambodia.

The main facilitator of the meeting, Mr. Koma, also thanked all the participants and the host of the meeting, especially Mr. Sarak, who took the initiative to host the meeting in Kampot.

To close the meeting, Mr. Edwin de Korte, thanked the members of the Working Group for making time to come here, and he appreciated the results of the meeting. He wished all the participants to have a safe home trip or to enjoy their stay in Kampot.

*Reported by CEDAC team (Or Thy, Chea Chourn and Yang Saing Koma),
21 March 2003*

***Annex 1: List of participants involved in the 1st SRI Working Group meeting
Date: 21st March, 2003***

No	Name	Sex	Position	Organization	Phone Number
1	So Kimsan	M	Field Staff	Prasac KCN	012692218
2	Hao Phal Sambat	M	Agric. Ext. Coord.	Prasac KCN	016889253
3	Nhep Srorn	M	Agric. Ext. Coord	Prasac TK	011323036
4	Sao Samol	M	Agric. Ext.	Prasac TK	011952208
5	Pich Nan	M	Planning Officer	PDAFF KT	012931744
6	Sem Rithivuth	M	PA of FSD	RDP/GTZ KT	011882576
7	Im Buthan	M	PTST	CBRDP KT	012691126
8	Un Ath	M	Assistant	Prasac PV	011752850
9	So Peauchetra	M	Agric. Ext.	Prasac KSP	012925256
10	Un Bunly	M	Agric.Ext.	Prasac KSP	012669873
11	Kono Satoko	F	Project Formulation Advisor	JICA	012909610
12	Sok Sarak	M	Agric. Asst.	GTZ Kampot	012930780
13	Mey Samoeun	M	PTST	PDAFF Kampot	012594233
14	Edwin de Korte	M	Advisor GTZ-Kampot	PDAFF	012923736
15	Yang Saing Koma	M	Director	CEDAC	012802201
16	Or Thy	M	Trainer	CEDAC	012985272
17	Chea Chhourn	M	Field Officer	CEDAC	012936462