

Concept of System of Rice Intensification being broadcast in the Iraqi media

Khidhir Abbas Hameed
Al-Mishkhab Rice Research Station
Najaf – Iraq

Two important newspapers and an Iraqi agricultural extension magazine have published recent articles about the concepts of SRI and its methods for Iraqi readers, acquainting them about this internationally-spreading system and with the efforts of the worldwide SRI network to increase rice yields, improve farmers' livelihoods, enhance food security, reduce farmers' costs of production, and curb pollution of the environment. There has also been television coverage of our work at MRRS broadcast widely.

Tareek Al-Shaab (People's Way) newspaper is published by the Iraqi Communist Party and reaches most of the countries using Arabic language. *Al-Sabaah* (The Morning) newspaper is issued by the Iraqi media network and is a formal newspaper that most people read.



SRI article in page 9 of *Al-Sabaah*

Tareek Al-Shaab newspaper (main page)

The first article acquainted readers about the SRI system, its background, the number of countries using SRI, original significant practices, SRI methods of work, SRI applications and results in some countries, justification of SRI introduction to Iraq, and a request to make SRI extension a national project to give the needed support for its application to our country's rice fields.

The second article included pictures of Uphoff as former director of the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD) and of Khidhir from the MRRS rice research station, also with a picture from Indonesia that Uphoff had sent of two rice plants at maturity stage showing the difference attainable between SRI and conventional practices.

The *Iraq Agriculture* magazine published by the Ministry of Agriculture to support its agricultural extension efforts, published an article on the concepts of SRI.



Iraq Agriculture magazine (cover)



SRI article in page 61

- In 2005, the Al-Diyar satellite television channel was showed report in its news about SRI methods and our trials in MRRS. The report included a meeting with me and my colleague Abdul Kadum J. Mossa.
- In 2006, Salah al-Deen satellite channel showed a program about the 'parachute' method pioneered at MRRS and the benefits it has achieved in Shatra district with my colleagues Chassab Abdul Hassan and Saeed Abdul Razaq. The program showed a meeting with me and a farmer who had tested this method in his field. The program was filmed by the State Board of Agricultural Extension and Cooperation.
- In 2007, the Al-Gadeer channel showed a program about testing new mechanical transplanting machinery in MRRS. This program included a meeting where Falah Abed Jaber, director of MRRS, Aqeel Yousif Hadi and I explained the benefits of mechanical transplanting of rice and how to do this.