

Report on a thesis on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in Iraq

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Because of positive results with the SRI system, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research have planned to do studies on the SRI system and put it into their approaches to developing the rice sector in Iraq. In the 2015 rice season, Mr. Laith Naeem Hassoni conducted trials on SRI at Al-Mishkhab Rice Research Station for his thesis to obtain the Master of Science degree titled "Influence of irrigation periods and organic manure on rice growth under System of Rice Intensification (SRI)." During the rice-growing cycle, the amount of irrigation water was measured for several irrigation levels (continuous flooding, 3-day intervals, and 5-day intervals), with decomposed organic manure applied to SRI plots at two levels (10 tons/ha, and 5 tons/ha). The results of the SRI plots were compared with non-SRI management (farmer practices).

The initial results demonstrated very good results from SRI management for plant growth, water reduction, grain yield, and soil physical characteristics. The water consumption with SRI management compared to current practice was 42% with 3-day intervals and just 37% with 5-day intervals compared with usual irrigation. The reduction over current practice was, respectively, 58% and 63%, very substantial savings of precious water.

SRI plants grew well (taller tillers, greater length roots, higher net assimilate ratio, etc.). Soil analysis will also be done to assess the effects on soil fertility, nutrient levels, etc. After the thesis is finalized and discussed, the abstract in English and the whole thesis in Arabic will be sent to SRI-Rice for posting. The accompanying pictures give a preview of results.

Irrigation treatment	Amount of water consumption (m ³ /ha)	Water consumption compared with continuous submergence (%)	Saving of water compared with continuous submergence (%)
Continuous submergence	86,678	-	-
3-day intervals	36,762	42.4	57.6
5-day intervals	31,869	36.8	63.2





