

SRI activities in Nepal as of 2011

SRI Training and Discussion Meeting in Khotang

For the sharing ideas and building consensus among partners, an SRI orientation and interaction program was organized in Diktel, the district headquarter of Khotang district, for 3-4 January, 2011. The program, organized by Janasewa Samaj Khotang and facilitated by Rajendra Uprety, was supported by the Rural Access Program II, that is funded by Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). The meeting was convened to disseminate information about SRI among the concerned stakeholders, including the district administrative office, district development committee, and local political leaders, and farmers, and to prepare a plan of introducing SRI in the district to increase production of rice.

Orientation Program

On the 3rd of January and in the morning of the 4th, Rajendra Uprety facilitated participants in considering SRI, with powerpoint slides and a video documentary on SRI. After presentation, he responded to questions from the participants from Janasewa Samaj Nepal, Sakela Club Nepal, RAP Khotang, and DADO Khotang. The main areas covered were:

- A. History and background of SRI
- B. SRI methods
- C. Status in the world and Nepal
- D. Potentialities
- E. Challenges
- F. Marketing potentialities of the rice produced by SRI

At the end, participants made the following decisions:

- A. To commence SRI in lowland areas in April.
- B. Dil Bahadur Rai, Janasewa Samaj Nepal, will work as district coordinator for SRI promotion.
- C. Rajendra Uprety will manage the supply of rotary weeders to Khotang.
- D. RAP, Sakela and Janasewa will manage the budget of 35 rotary weeders for coming season.
- E. In monsoon season, at least 35 demo plots of SRI will be set in different areas of the district

Interaction Programme

In the afternoon of the 4 January, Janasewa organized an interaction program on SRI, with all the political parties, journalists, experienced and leader farmers, and other participants invited. Uprety facilitated about the session and responded to all the participants' queries. Finally, some decisions were taken in the plenary.

	Responsible	Decisions/actions
A.	Parties	Will disseminate directions to the respective committees in VDCs, for the provision of budget to promote SRI
B.	DADO	Prepare plan and budget for SRI promotion in the district in periodic plans
C.	Journalists	Support the communication of information on SRI
D.	NGOs	Manage awareness programs on SRI
E.	JSSN	Collect samples of locally-produced rice for assessing quality and finding marketing opportunities
F.	Uprety	Share updates and help link with international markets for production
G.	DDC	Provision of budget for the promotion of SRI

Sharing of Technology

It was fortuitous that Madan Thapaliya, an engineer of the Centre for Rural Technology (CRT), was in Khotang for a course of Biomass Briquette Production Training. Janasewa shared about SRI with him and asked whether CRT could produce the kind of rotary weeder needed in Nepal. Thapaliya has given a positive answer. It will be a relief to the farmers if CRT can prepare weeders at cheaper price.

Some Lessons Learned

1. There is great opportunity for SRI promotion in the district. Janasewa can be the leading agent for its dissemination.
2. All are interested about it, but the awareness program is the key.
3. The initiative can promote local seeds preservation, marketing, and increase income through SRI.
4. It is necessary to test first before transferring to the farmers.

Conclusion

The concept has been brought to reality. Now the challenge is to materialize the slides and the vision in the heads of the participants into the field reality. The inspiration in the participants seemed very high. We can expect very much if regular follow-up and the weeder supply is made in the time.

List of the participants

S.N.	Name Of Participants	Address	Institution	Phone No
1	Dil Bahadur Rai	Kharmi-1	Janasewa	9753005200
2	Debendra Kumar Rai	Jalapa-4	Janasewa	9741069784
3	Surya Bahadur Rai	Chhitapokhari-6	Nahima Agri Resource Center	9743006441
4	Priti Rai	Ratanchha-4	Sakela Club	9742080999
5	Jitendra Rai	Ratanchha-2	Sakela Club	9841163452
6	Lenuka Rai	Jalapa-4	Janasewa	9741067355
7	Bhim Bahadur Rai	Jalapa-4	Janasewa	9741067182
8	Jayashwor Rai	Jalapa-5	Janasewa	9753004105
9	Samadhoj Rai	Kharmi-1	Janasewa	9842941873
10	Iman Rai	Jalapa-4	Janasewa	9741067359
11	Anjana Rai	Ratanchha-9	Sakela Club	9841182781
12	Manju Rai	Ratanchha-2	Sakela Club	9842942426
13	Urmila Rai	Ratanchha-2	Sakela Club	975304224
14	Bishnu Kumar Shreshtha	Diktel	Rural Access Program	9741022140
15	Bikash Rai	Jalapa-4	Janasewa	9841771995
16	Fulkumar Shah	Siraha	DADO, Khotang	36420130
17	Ambar Tamang	Chiuridanda-9	Janasewa	9743006403
18	Dhruba Shreshtha	Jalapa-4	Janasewa	9741047239
19	Dillip Prashad Phuyal	Mattim-9	Janasewa	9753004565
20	Rewati Rai	Rakha Bangdel-1	Janasewa	9743012794
21	Pramod Upadhyaya	Biratnagar	Rural Access Program	9841944447
22	Babi Chamling	Laphyang	Nepal Communist Party UML	9743001497
23	Sunil Niraula		District Administration Office	36420102
24	Rabi Kiran Acharya		DDC, Khotang	36420144
25	Punya Pd Pandey		Nepali Congress Party	9752009171
26	Baburam Karki	Chhitapokhari	Nahima Agri Resource Center	9743006424
27	Ganga Bdr Bishwokarma	Diktel	Rupakot Radio	9753003157
28	Nanda Prashad Ghimire	Khalle-2	Farmer	9743023944
29	Gita Rai	Ratanchha	CEAPRED	9743072732
30	Ram Bahadur Pandey	Bamrang-9	Farmer	9743037502
31	Surya Bahadur Thapa	Bamrang-7	Farmer	9842849001
32	Ganga Bahadur Budhathoki	Bamrang-9	Farmer	
33	Mahendra Bahadur Pandey	Bamrang-9	Farmer	
34	Surendra Gole Tamang		CEAPRED	9744002691
35	Sarbajit Rai		UCP Maoist	
36	Dambar Hamrung	Jalapa-4	NJA-Khotang	9743006402
37	Maulidhan Rai	Kharmi-1	Janasewa	9743043265
38	Rajendra Uprety	Biratnagar	DADO	9852671109

Training of Trainers on SRI with Integrated Pest Management under EU/FAO Auspices

The Plant Protection Directorate (Department of Agriculture/Nepal) and EU/FAO Food Security project jointly organized a 4-day Officer-Level Training Curriculum Development Workshop on SRI and IPM in the Emergency Rehabilitation and Coordination Unit (ERCU) of FAO in Lalitpur, 8-11 February. The workshop prepared and finalized curriculum for training of trainers (TOT) for promotion of SRI and vegetable integrated pest management (IPM) through Farmer Field Schools (FFS).

The workshop has inaugurated by the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Vijaya K. Mallik, and the opening session has chaired by the IPM national coordinator and program director, Dr. Yubak Dhoj GC., PPD. Main participants in the workshop were: IPM master trainers and facilitators; Mr. Tara Lama from ERCU; Mr. Ganesh K. K.C., consultant; Dr. Binod Saha, national project manager from the FAO-funded intensive IPM project; Mr. Gopal Shrestha, program director of Vegetable Development Directorate; Priyambada Joshi from Crop Development Directorate, and Rajendra Uprety, senior agriculture development officer from DADO Jhapa as SRI resource person. The EU/FAO Food Security project and Department of Agriculture/Nepal are going to conduct officer-level SRI FFS TOT jointly based on the curriculum discussed and decided upon.

Booklet and Poster Published by EU/FAO on SRI, Supported by Weeder Distribution

The EU/FAO Food Security project recently published an SRI poster in both Nepali and English languages, and a corresponding booklet for wide distribution within the country. At the same time, about 700 rotary weeders have been imported from India by the EU/FAO Food Security project, DADO Jhapa and DADO Okhaldhunga and NGOs of Khotang to scale up SRI activity in targeted areas in Nepal.

Rajendra Uprety
February 2011