

**Final Report, 2009 National Workshop-Conference of SRI Trainers
(jointly hosted by SRI-Pilipinas, the Bureau of Soils
and Water Management, and the Agricultural Training Institute)**

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Submitted: 28 February 2010

Final Report, 2009 National Workshop-Conference of SRI Trainers (jointly hosted by SRI-Pilipinas, the Bureau of Soils and Water Management, and the Agricultural Training Institute)

The National Workshop-Conference of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Trainers was successfully held Sep. 28-30, 2009 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), Elliptical Road, Quezon City.

The meeting was held despite strong floods that hit Metro Manila on Sep. 26-27 due to typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana). Because of the disaster, the welcome dinner for participants scheduled for the evening of Sep. 27 was cancelled. Although several confirmed participants cancelled their travel plans, the meeting began as scheduled on Sep. 28, at 8am.

Attendance

All in all, 34 participants attended the meeting, including guests Prof. Norman Uphoff of the Cornell Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD) and Dr. Marguerite Uphoff. The participants included 7 women and 27 men. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix A**.

Among those who had confirmed their participation, 17 people (including two whose plane tickets we had already paid for), cancelled their trips at the last moment due to the floods. The list of those who had confirmed their participation but were unable to make it is also in **Appendix A**.

Second Meeting in Mindanao

Due to the trip cancellations, only one participant from Mindanao made it to the meeting. But because a government agency, the BSWM, agreed to co-host the Manila meeting and shoulder the cost of the meeting venue as well as the lodging costs of the participants, and also because we had fewer participants than we had planned for in terms of food and transport costs, we did not spend our entire budget for the meeting. We decided to use the left-over funds, with the permission of funder Oxfam-GB, to hold a similar but smaller meeting for SRI trainers in Mindanao. The meeting was held on Nov. 20-22, 2009 at the ATI Training Center in Kabacan, Cotabato, with 20 participants attending. The Agricultural Training Institute (Reg. 12) of the Department of Agriculture was the co-host for the meeting. The list of the participants in the Mindanao meeting, including invitees who were not able to make it, is in **Appendix B**.

Three-Day Program

The Manila meeting followed the announced program schedule, which included updates by the participants, assessment of the training module, review of the principles and practices of SRI, discussions about a new funding proposal, and international updates. A highlight of the programme was the lecture given by Prof. Norman Uphoff, foremost advocate of SRI trials in the international scientific community and among governments, which reviewed recent SRI developments in the scientific arena as well as the extent of adoption of the SRI method in various countries. The detailed program schedule is attached as **Appendix C**. Professor Uphoff's presentation is available separately on the CD version of this report.

The Mindanao meeting followed essentially the same schedule as the Manila meeting, with Prof. Uphoff's slides on international developments being presented by SRI coordinator Roberto Verzola. The meeting outputs confirmed as well as enriched the results of the Manila meeting. The Mindanao meeting likewise ended on a very positive note. It also ensured that the SRI Pilipinas network was as rooted in Mindanao as in Visayas and Luzon.

One highlight of the two meetings before they ended was the sharing of seeds, where participants who

had brought rice seeds with them shared the seeds with other participants. This has become a tradition in SRI Pilipinas meetings.

Each participant also received a copy of the SRI Book, a compilation of scientific articles, CIIFAD reports and media stories on SRI. A copy of the SRI Book also comes with this report.

MEETING OUTPUTS

The following meeting outputs already incorporate points raised in the Manila meeting as well as the Mindanao meeting. On the whole, the points raised by participants in the Mindanao meeting generally coincide with those raised in the Manila meeting. Where the distinction is important, it will be mentioned in the text.

The outputs detailed below are the results of the sharing of experiences, insights and lessons by the participants in the two meetings. The outputs were generated as follows: in plenary, the participants wrote on meta-cards their inputs on the three major topics of the meeting: 1) a review of SRI principles and practices and local innovations; 2) an evaluation of the SRI training modules; and 3) inputs for a new funding proposal for the network. The plenary then broke into three groups, each group working on one of the three major topics, using the plenary meta-card inputs as their starting material and deepening the discussion on the topic. The group outputs were then presented in plenary for further discussions, inputs and comments. Each group then met again to work further on their assigned topic, when they again presented in plenary for final comments and approval by the meeting as a whole. Thus while the outputs below are listed by topic/group, they were approved by the whole meeting in plenary.

TOPIC 1: SRI Principles and Practices and Local Innovations

The participants reaffirmed the following SRI principles and practices, having confirmed them in their own production fields and/or trial plots as well as in similar experiences by the farmers they have trained. Furthermore, the participants have also tried, in combination with these generally accepted SRI principles and practices, the following local innovations which they found effective and which may be considered, upon further validation and discussion, to be either extensions of, improvements on, or complementary to existing SRI practices.

- 1) **Seed selection.** Careful seed selection through the use of salt water or some similar means of separating the denser seeds from the less dense ones. Here are **local innovations**:
 - Add salt to the water in an open container and put in eggs. Keep adding salt until the eggs float, indicating that the water is salty enough (i.e., more dense than the eggs). The seeds that sink in this salt water solution are good, well-developed seeds. Those that float should be discarded because they lack density, meaning nutrients.
 - Include varietal trials (planting one to several dozens of varieties simultaneously) in the first SRI trial, in order to identify which varieties are more responsive to the SRI approach; multi-variety trials improve the probability of achieving some success on first try (SOFT).
 - Use of varieties known for their high tillering rates, or of longer maturing varieties that allow for more tillering time
 - Use of upland varieties for drier (unirrigated) conditions.
 - Learning to collect and select own seeds: just before harvest, look for robust, highly productive plants; harvest their panicles individually and hand-thresh; dry the seeds and store these in preparation for the next crop; first drying should reduce moisture content to 13-14%; redrying after 15 days for at least 2 hrs (between 9-12am) further reduces moisture; seed testing should be conducted regularly for viability and germination rate.
 - Maintaining a community seed bank, sometimes in cooperation with a local agricultural school.
 - Learning to breed farmers' own seeds (some of the participants had rich experience breeding their own lines, some of which had become quite popular).

- 2) **Seedbed preparation.** Lower sowing density to facilitate separation of seedlings. Some **local innovations:**
 - Use only 5-10 kg of seeds per hectare of rice field.
 - Seed soaking in bag: 24-48 hrs (for farmers who use hybrid seeds, 8-12 hrs is enough); incubation (after soaking): 24 hrs, turning bag upside down every 4 hrs.
 - Lower density seedbeds for minimizing root entanglement among seedlings (one bag of seed per square meter of seedbed).
 - Modified *dapog* to produce loosely-matted seedlings that can be rolled like sleeping mats, for easier transport in bulk to the fields.
 - Use of old banana trunks cut in half for portable seedbeds.
 - Alternatives to the dry-bed (modified *dapog*) method: wet-bed method, seed-box method.
 - Staggered growing of seedbed, to ensure that young seedlings are available each day; if the transplanting period extends over 7-10 days, and all seedlings were planted at the same time, some will become too old.
 - Alternative materials for seedbed substrate: carbonized rice hull (CRH), coco-coir, even sand.

- 3) **Seedling age.** Transplanting seedlings earlier, when they are younger (8-15 days old, two-leaf stage). **Local innovations:**
 - 7-day old seedlings as well as older seedlings have also been tried with some success; in Indonesia, one farmer has successfully used seedlings as young as 4 days.
 - Direct seeding (see below); the direct-seeded seedlings are planted along marked rows with spacing following standard SRI practice

- 4) **Transplanting with care.** Transplanting with care and as quickly as possible (within 30 minutes after uprooting from the seedbed), to avoid damaging the roots and to minimize trauma to the plants, thus facilitating recovery of the transplanted seedlings. **Local innovations:**
 - Direct seeding of germinated seeds, to eliminate the trauma caused by transplanting.
 - Use of modified *dapog* for easier seedling separation with minimum root damage and enabling the loosely-matted seedlings to be rolled like sleeping mats for easier transport to the fields.
 - Another option is hand-broadcasting of germinated seed, with plants denser than typical for SRI practice (say, 25 kg/ha). Then the emerging plants are thinned when 10-12 days old, in a square geometric pattern by using a rotary weeder to “weed” the field and plough under 80-90% of the young plants and leaving seedlings just at the intersections, as if the field had been transplanted according to SRI recommendations (first tried in Sri Lanka).

- 5) **Planting distance.** Planting single seedlings per hill and at wider distances to minimize competition between plants for sunlight and soil nutrients. **Local innovations:**
 - Planting distances of 20 cm up to 50 cm have been tried with varying success. The optimal distance apparently depends on soil fertility and is best determined through local trials; the more fertile the soil is, the higher production will be from fewer plants.
 - Two seedlings per hill have been tried especially where farmers are concerned about Golden Snail attacks.
 - Plant excess seedlings more densely near the *pilapil* (bunds), as source of transplanting material in case some of the seedlings do not survive

- 6) **Weed control and soil aeration.** Using a mechanical rotary weeder/cultivator to control weeds as well as to aerate the soil and encourage the growth of soil organisms. **Local innovations:**
 - Various local rotary weeder/cultivator designs have been developed and used. In fact each locality tends to evolve its own favorite design
 - A motorized weeder design that cultivates four rows per pass has been developed.

- 7) **Water management.** Intermittent wetting and drying, instead of continuous flooding of the rice fields,

to encourage roots to grow deep. **Local innovations:**

- Using permaculture design methods for the efficient distribution of water throughout the fields using only gravity.
- Maintaining a small fishpond in the lowest portion of the ricefields, for water storage among other functions.
- Digging canals around the inside of rice plots, for water storage and snail control, while keeping the rest of the fields relatively drier; where there is a lot of flooding in surrounding fields and water control is difficult, planting SRI on raised beds within such fields has given good results in Indonesia.
- Participants have noted that the effectiveness of water management practices depend on soil type.

8) **Soil fertility.** Using organic methods to restore and maintain the fertility of the soil by encouraging the growth of soil micro- and macro-organisms. **Local innovations:**

- Use of Korean Natural Farming (KNF) methods using SRI to encourage the growth of beneficial microorganisms. KNF includes the growing of indigenous microorganisms (IMO), and the making of fermented fruit juices (FFJ), fermented plant juices (FPJ), oriental herbal nutrients (OHN), fish amino acid (FAA), lactic acid serum (LAS), brown rice vinegar (BRV), etc. These concoctions are used not only to enhance soil fertility but also to speed up composting, control pests, remove foul odors due to animal excretions, and improve feed conversion ratios in poultry and livestock.
- Use of carbonized rice hull (CRH) as soil conditioner.
- Use of bokashi and the commercially-sold Effective Microorganisms (EM).
- On-farm production of compost and organic fertilizers.
- Vermiculture for the production of vermicompost.
- Use of locally-available *guano* for enhancing soil fertility.

9) **Pest management.** Using ecological pest management methods consistent with the goal of enhancing the growth of soil organisms. **Local innovations:**

- Use of Korean Natural Farming (KNF) methods using SRI to encourage beneficial soil organisms, which in turn help limit the growth of undesirable organisms.
- Rice seedlings are planted not on the intersection of the marker lines, but slightly offset from the intersection. The marker lines are grooves in the soil that tend to accumulate water. Golden Snails tend to travel along these water-filled grooves rather than on unsubmerged soils. Thus, seedlings planted right in the intersection of these grooves are perfectly located for snail attack and become easy prey to the mollusks. When seedlings are instead planted offset from these intersections, they are less accessible to the snails, which will usually not venture on drier soils.
- Use water-filled side canals and banana or yam leaves to attract Golden Snails for easier collection and eradication.
- Use various organic attractants for pests like the black bug for easier collection and eradication.
- Use *tubli*, red chili, and tobacco soaked in water to control the rice bug (*atangya*)
- Use soap, cooking oil and similar ordinary kitchen materials for holding the various plant extracts above in suspension.
- Use cooking oil and chopped garlic and onion as spray to control *tungro*. These are mixed with water to control, through spraying, the spread of *tungro* and to help the affected rice plants recover from the disease.
- Use of foliar pesticide from *kakawate* and neem leaves, *makabuhay* stems, and goat manure to control pests and improve the health of rice leaves
- Use of careful and timely water control to limit the mobility of the Golden Snail while the rice seedlings are vulnerable to their attack and to release them later in the field to attack subsequent weed growth, whose younger and softer shoots they prefer.
- Use of Korean Natural Farming methods to extract calcium from collected Golden Snails.
- Use of IMO to prevent Golden Snail eggs from hatching.

- Use of ducks for snail and weed control.
- Weed suppression through careful land preparation: at least 6" plowing depth; soak for up to one week and level with the *suyod*; plow across field, then level again; drain the water and dry the fields until weeds appear; after one week, apply about 40 bags of organic fertilizers) and do the final harrowing and levelling; leave overnight; create the markers for transplanting seedlings (using the offset method to avoid the Golden Kuhol); the whole land preparation process can take at least 30 days.
- Use of IMO during land preparation to hasten the germination of weed seeds and facilitate weeding.
- Land preparation option: use key-check #2 of the Philrice palay-check system.

10) **Crop diversification.** When the SRI method has been mastered and higher yields can be consistently attained, convert some of the rice fields to vegetables and other crops. **Local innovations:**

- Planting *ampalaya* (bittergourd) and/or other vegetables along the *pilapil* (rice bunds).
- Alternating rows of two or more rice varieties (e.g., main crop with aromatic variety).
- Focusing on "fancy" rice varieties (black rice, red rice, aromatic rice, sticky rice, etc.) which fetch higher prices in the market).
- Going into commercial seed production for higher income.

In addition to the participants' reaffirmation of the basic principles and practices of SRI, they further asserted that SRI is best considered as part of a more general approach commonly known as sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture systems also include such approaches as:

- organic agriculture (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements)
- biodynamic agriculture (Rudolf Steiner)
- nature farming (Masanobu Fukuoka)
- permaculture (Bill Mollison)
- agroecology (Miguel Altieri)
- biointensive farming (John Jevons/Ecology Action)
- Korean natural farming (Korean Natural Farming Association)
- other lesser known approaches

SRI has in common with these sustainable agriculture approaches many of the following general principles:

- back to basics / back to nature
- socially acceptable
- ecologically sound
- holistic
- integrated, diversified, organic farming systems

TOPIC 2: SRI Training Methods and Modules

There was agreement among participants that each SRI trainer was free to explore and use his/her own training methods and modules, based on current SRI principles and practices as well as local innovations, according to what he/she thought was best for a particular set of trainees and situation. Thus, the methods and modules detailed here serve mainly for reference, to be adapted and modified as field trainers saw fit. In particular, the training approaches discussed covered the whole range from one-day trainings to season-long trainings patterned after farmers' field schools.

The following set of reference SRI training modules was developed in the meeting. Given the depth and extent of the reference modules, the training strategy specifies the season-long approach. However, as noted earlier, this does not preclude the conduct of one-day trainings depending on the readiness of the participants, the availability of resources, and the schedule of the trainer. The participants proposed that a technical working

group be convened to work on these modules further, and that these modules be circulated among all members of the network for continuing improvement and the incorporation of local innovations.

SRI Training Strategies:

1. intensive (season-long)
2. on-site (in farmers' fields)
3. field trials/learning farms that allow farmers to see for themselves how SRI plants grow, mature and bear fruit
4. hands-on, participative, to enable trainees to have direct experience in various aspects of the SRI approach
5. start small, with trial plots of a few hundred square meters instead of a hectare or more
6. use of the local language
7. information, education and communication (IEC) tools
 - SRI book, primer and other reading materials
 - SRI video (World Bank video, ADRA video, local video)
 - Flip charts and similar materials that need no electricity or high-tech equipment
 - precisely-sized SRI primers that take full advantage of the cheapest postal rates
8. Monitoring, documentation of results

SRI Training Modules

Contents

- I. Introduction
 1. History/Scenario (SRI principles and practices)
 - a) International situation
 - b) Philippine situation
 2. S & M values
 3. Economics of SRI
- II. The healthy rice plant: a description
- III. Rice plant management
 1. Seed selection
 2. Land preparation
 3. Seedbed preparation
 4. Transplanting
 - a) care in transplanting
 - b) seedling age (phyllochrons)
 - c) number of seedlings per hill
 - d) distance between hills
 5. Water management
 6. Rotary weeding
- IV. Pest management
 1. insects
 2. diseases
 3. weeds
 4. Golden Snail
- V. Soil amendment and amelioration
 1. Understanding the living soil
 2. Organic fertilizer production
 - a) ordinary composting
 - b) vermi-composting
 - c) bokashi
 3. Foliar fertilizer production (Korean natural farming)
 4. Carbonized Rice Hull (CRH) production
 5. Biodynamic inputs

- VI. Seed banking / seed production
- VII. Diversified farming systems
- VIII. Farm planning (strategy – SRP)

TOPIC 3: SRI Funding Proposal

The Manila meeting discussed in detail the proposed budget for the next phase of the SRI-Pilipinas training program. The proposed budget is attached as **Appendix D**. The proposal suggests a maximum funding target of P7 million, for a one-year project that will cover 100 municipalities, and which can be repeated year after year until all rice-producing municipalities are covered.

The Mindanao meeting, however, came up with a somewhat different suggestion: a joint proposal involving P2 million for NGO activities and P21.3 million for government activities, coordinated by the ATI. We decided to leave the two proposals separate and to decide based on actual discussions with potential donors which proposal to push through. The P2 million Mindanao proposal for NGOs is simply a scaled-down version of the P7 million Manila proposal. The NGO portion of Mindanao proposal is attached as **Appendix E**. The government portion, prepared by Mindanao meeting host ATI Region XII under Center Director Noe Ysulat who was present in both Manila and Mindanao meetings, is attached as **Appendix F**.

The raw transcription of the meta-cards and manila papers prepared during both the Manila and Mindanao meetings are included in **Appendix G** for reference.

Some photos taken during the Manila meeting are in **Appendix H**. Photos taken during the Mindanao meeting are in **Appendix I**. More photos are included in the CD version of this report.

SRI-Pilipinas Provincial Training Program

The meeting heard, discussed and made suggestions to the draft of the Terminal Report of the SRI-Pilipinas Provincial Training Program, which will be submitted to the Department of Agriculture as soon as the program's financial report is done. The draft report is attached as **Appendix J**.

Gender Balance in the Meeting

The Manila meeting attained a gender ratio of eight women to twenty-six men among the participants. While far from ideal, we feel this was the best we could do, given that we specifically asked invited organizations to include women among the participants they were sending. We note that among those who confirmed, more women were unable to come than men, perhaps due to the flooding and bad weather that marred the Manila meeting.

However, we are not proud of the gender ratio in the Mindanao meeting, which was one woman to nineteen men. Among the factors that possibly led to this was that the invitations were made mostly by our government partner in Mindanao, and although we tried to get them to invite more women, they were also constrained by their – as well as our – range of contacts. A conclusion that emerged from our discussion about this poor gender balance in the Mindanao meeting was for subsequent SRI meeting to invite husband-and-wife teams (we had three in the Manila meeting). This was an offshoot of the light-hearted discussion regarding occasional (though temporary) conjugal conflicts triggered by the unconventional SRI practices. We would like to try this approach in subsequent meetings.

Financial Report

As a result of the unexpected disruption of the original meeting plans due to typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana),

and because the government offices that co-hosted the meeting (BSWM in Manila and ATI-XII in Mindanao) agreed to shoulder the participants' lodging and meeting venue, the actual expenses for some budget items depart significantly from the budget, as summarized below. The financial report detailing how the P250,000 meeting fund from Oxfam-GM was spent is in **Appendix K**.

Expense Items	Budget	Actual Expenses
Lodging	98,000.00	1,500.00
Food and Travel	107,500.00	167,779.00
Training Materials	17,500.00	18,980.00
Honoraria	9,000.00	15,200.00
Others	18,000.00	46,669.75
TOTAL	250,000.00	250,128.75

In closing, we would like to again thank Oxfam-GB, BSWM, ATI-XII, and all the speakers and participants, for making the successful 2009 National Workshop-Conference of SRI Trainers possible.

We also thank the Action for Economic Reforms (AER) for agreeing to accept the Oxfam-GB funding on behalf on SRI-Pilipinas.

Prepared by:

Roberto Verzola
Coordinator, SRI-Pilipinas
26 February 2010

Appendix A: Manila Meeting Participants and Other Invitees

	Name	Province	Organization/Office
1.	AGUELO, Crispin	Aklan	PAKISAMA
2.	BANOSA, Willy	Cam.Sur	Rincomesa, Bgy. Buluan, Baas
3.	BARSATAN, Ronello	Agusan del N.	NASSA-CBCP Sus Ag program
4.	BARTOLOME, Cesar	Sorsogon	Gapas Inc., Gubat, Sorsogon
5.	CERVANTES, Carmelita	Cam.Sur	Cam.Sur State Agric. College
6.	DE LA PENA, Bella	Bulacan	Cropgrowers Assn, Inc., Plaridel
7.	DE LA PENA, Ernesto	Bulacan	Cropgrowers Assn, Inc., Plaridel
8.	DELA ROSA, Zosimo	Leyte	Visayas State University
9.	ENRIQUEZ, Rene	Aklan	PEASANT, Inc.
10.	ESCARCHA, Pio	Sorsogon	GAPAS Inc., Gubat
11.	GABRIEL, Felipe	Tarlac	SRI trainer
12.	GARDE, Venancio Jr.	N.Ecija	Natl Training Coordinator, SRI Pilipinas
13.	GARINGALAO, Gerardo	Guimaras	PABINHI
14.	ILAO, Virgilia	Biliran	SRI practitioner
15.	JARANILLA, Rene	Guimaras	SRI-Pilipinas
16.	JAYECTIN, Manuel	Bohol	For Carol Daquio, Center Director ATI-VII
17.	MAKINANO, Salvio	Bohol	SRI-Pilipinas
18.	MAURO, Demetria	Mindoro	SRI- trainer
19.	MILAGROSO, Agaton	Bulacan	Cropgrowers Assn, Inc., Malolos
20.	ORIÑO, Wilson	Cam.Sur	PLDFI, NASSA-CBCP
21.	ORPIA, Pelagia	BSWM	Dept. of Agriculture
22.	POLIQUIT, Juanito	Leyte	Baybay, Leyte
23.	PORTE, Domingo	Aurora	PABINHI, Aurora Province
24.	RAZO, Charlie	N.Ecija	Phil. Rural Reconstruction Movement
25.	SERRANO, Fe	BSWM	Dept. of Agriculture
26.	TADEO, Jaime	Bulacan	National Rice Council
27.	TAMBALO, Joselito	N.Ecija	Kalikasan-NE
28.	TUPAZ, Emerson	Aklan	PABINHI
29.	UCLARAY, Nilo Samuel	Cam.Norte	SPACFI
30.	UPHOFF, Norman	New York	Guest speaker, CIIFAD
31.	UPHOFF, Marguerite	New York	Guest
32.	VERZOLA, Flora	Quezon	SRI-Pilipinas
33.	VERZOLA, Roberto	Metro Manila	SRI-Pilipinas Coordinator
34.	YSULAT, Noe	Cotabato	Center Director, ATI-XII

Invited but could not come:

1.	FFF		National federation
2.	Philnet-RDI		National network
3.	MAYOTE, Art	Romblon	Winrock International
4.	Mayor/MAO, Claveria	Cagayan	Mayor Bolante
5.	PAO/Sultan Kudarat	Sult. Kudarat	c/o Noe Ysulat
6.	SAC-Ilocos Sur	Ilocos Sur	c/o VGJ
7.	SAC-Pagadian	Misamis Occ.	c/o Vic Tagupa
8.	TAGUPA, Victoriano	Misamis Or.	Xavier U. Sustainable Agriculture Center
9.	MAO/Trainer, Alaminos	Pangasinan	c/o VGJ
10.	PEETERS, Bert	N.Ecija	Cabiokid, Cabiao, N.Ecija
11.	ARAGOZA, Bernie	Cavite	Office of the Governor, Cavite
12.	Merle Calubaquib	N.Vizcaya	PRRM-Nueva Vizcaya
13.	PAO/Trainer, Ifugao	Ifugao	Office of the Governor, Ifugao
14.	Amor Cabico	Quezon	PRRM-Quezon
15.	PRRM-Bataan	Bataan	c/o Gani Serrano
16.	Green Daisy Farm	Isabela	Isabela c/o VGJ
17.	JUDILLA, Edward	Negros Occ.	BIND, Negros Occidental

Appendix B: Mindanao Meeting Participants and Other Invitees

	Name	Province	Organization/Office
1.	DEFANTE, Andrew	S. Cotabato	SOCOSEPCO, Koronadal, S. Cotabato
2.	DELFIN, Diego	Sultan Kudarat	FFF farmer-technician, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat
3.	ENGALLADO, Nick	Bukidnon	NICE, Valencia, Bukidnon
4.	ESDRELON, Frank	N. Cotabato	SEARICE, Kabacan, Cotabato
5.	GARDE, Venancio Jr.	N.Ecija	PABINHI, SRI-Pilipinas
6.	HILARIO, Loreto	N. Cotabato	ATI-XII, Kabacan, N. Cotabato
7.	JUAN, Patricio	Bukidnon	former NIA provincial official
8.	LAXAMANA, Ma. Theresa	S. Cotabato	ATI-XII, Tandingan, S. Cotabato
9.	MANGLICMOT, Danilo	S. Cotabato	NIA president, Tandingan, S. Cotabato
10.	MANTILLA, Abdon	Agusan del N.	ATI-CARAGA, Butuan City, Agusan d. Norte
11.	MATUNOG, Ecclesiastes	N. Cotabato	Former provincial DA employee, now farmer
12.	NACIONAL, Jorex	Sultan Kudarat	RDISK-COF, Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat
13.	PADURA, Norberto	S. Cotabato	Farmer, Koronadal City, S. Cotabato
14.	RIEMENS, Patrice	Netherlands	Dutch volunteer
15.	SABIWANG, Florante	Sultan Kudarat	FFS-SRI technician, Palimbang, S. Kudarat
16.	TORRES, Rene	N. Cotabato	DA-ATI XII, USM, Kabacan, N. Cotabato
17.	TY, McDonnell	Sultan Kudarat	PASALI Foundation, Palimbang, S. Kudarat
18.	VERZOLA, Roberto	M.Manila	SRI-Pilipinas coordinator
19.	VILORIA, Wilson	N. Cotabato	Farmer, Kabacan, N. Cotabato
20.	YSULAT, Noe	N. Cotabato	Center Director, ATI-XII
Invited but could not come:			
1.	TAGUPA, Victoriano	Misamis Occ.	Xavier Univ Sustainable Agriculture Center
2.	Engr. DORMITORIO c/o Noe	N. Cotabato	
3.	CABALLEDA, Edgardo	S. Cotabato	PPRDI
4.	MIRAFUENTES, Tom	Davao	TACDRUP
5.	MAYOTE, Art	Romblon	Winrock International
6.	GAMELA, Betsy	Cotabato	Don Bosco Foundation for Sustainable Devt
7.	MAMPARAIR, Totoy	Cotabato	PABINHI
8.	CATRE, Jessan		Oxfam Mindanao
9.	PAKISAMA		national farmers' federation c/o Cris Aguelo

Appendix C: Program Schedule

2009 National Workshop-Conference of SRI Trainers		
Sep. 28, Monday	8:00	Opening Program Introductions Overview of workshop-conference, Group assignments
	9:45	Activity reports – individual participants
	10:00	Break Activity reports -- continuation
	1:00	
	3:15	Lunch break
	3:30	Small Group workshops Break Plenary reports of small group recommendations Plenary discussion In the evening, small groups will incorporate suggestions raised in the plenary, and prepare an updated report for the next day
Sep. 29, Tuesday	8:00	Review of first day Presentations by Groups I, II and III
	9:45	Break Plenary discussion The objective of the morning session is to settle major areas of contention that have emerged in each of the three Groups
	1:00	Lunch Break
	4:00	Public Forum – International Updates: SRI in other countries Guest Speaker: Prof. Norman Uphoff, Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development Resumption of Plenary discussion In the evening, the small groups will again incorporate suggestions covered in the plenary and prepare a fresh report for the next day
Sep. 30, Wed.	8:00	Final group reports Formal adoption in plenary of the group reports
	12:00	Closing Lunch Departures
Group I: SRI Principles, Practices and Local Innovations Group II: The SRI Training Modules, Methods and Content Group III: Project Proposal for Nationwide Municipal-Level SRI Field Trials		
This workshop-conference was organized by SRI-Pilipinas and is co-hosted by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM). We thank Oxfam-GB (Phils.) for the financial support that made this meeting possible.		

Appendix D: Project Proposal discussed in the Manila meeting

BUDGET SUMMARY FOR SRI TRAINING COVERING 100 TOWNS

**Appendix E:
Proposal
(NGO component)
discussed in
the Mindanao
meeting**

	GRAND TOTAL	7,392,000	GRAND TOTAL	7,392,000
50 trainors				
100 towns in 50 provinces			Training/extension	2,550,000
8500 pesos/1-day session			Trainors workshops	800,000
3 session/town at most			Training materials	600,000
30 farmers/training			IEC	1,854,000
3000 farmers total			Natl coordination	1,088,000
25500 pesos/town			Contingencies	500,000
TRAINING TOTAL		2,550,000		
2 workshops				
400000 pesos/wkshop			WORKSHOPS TOTAL	800,000
MATERIALS TOTAL		600,000		
200 pesos/material				
800 pesos/ad		80,000		
100 newspaper ads				
1500 pesos/plug		150,000		
100 radio plugs				
100000 Txt/SMS server		100,000		
Project documentation				
18000 documentor		234,000		
20000 Communications		260,000		
50000 pesos/month travel		650,000		
10000 Office supplies		130,000		
5000 Equipment		250,000		
IEC TOTAL			1,854,000	
20000 natl trainor		260,000		
24000 natl coordinator		312,000		
6000 Regional coordinators		156,000		
13 months				
3000 Office supplies		39,000		
2000 Communications		26,000		
Office equipment		100,000		
15000 pesos/month travel		195,000		
NATL COORDINATION TOTAL			1,088,000	
CONTINGENCIES		500,000	500,000	

Highlights:

- target: training in 100 towns
- demand-driven: we will respond to all training requests
- will rely on 50 existing trainors all over the Phils
- a training will consist of at most 3 one-day training sessions
- no money will be spent on food (farmers' counterpart)
- main program output: organic/SRI trainors all over the Phils
- target: training in 50 towns
- demand-driven: we will respond to all training requests
- will rely on 50 existing trainors all over the Phils
- a training will consist of one-day training sessions
- no money will be spent on food (farmers' counterpart)
- main program output: organic/SRI trainors all over the Phils

Appendix F: Summary of ATI proposal discussed in the Mindanao meeting

Item of Expense	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Personnel (1)	1,500,750			1,500,750
Travel (2)		562,500	562,500	1,125,000
Supplies (3)		3,750,000	3,750,000	7,500,000
Insti. Devt (4)	8,662,500			8,662,500
Equipment (5)		750,000	750,000	1,500,000
Indirect Costs (6)	350,000	350,000	350,000	1,050,000
TOTAL PROJ COST	10,513,250	5,412,500	5,412,500	21,338,250

Appendix G: Transcription of Meta-Cards and Manila Paper Outputs

Output of Manila-Group I: SRI Principles and practices

META-CARDS

- More with less – less can give you more
- Better soil aeration
- Single planting
- Counterparting/convergence
- Wide spacing
- Early rice planting
- Conservation of biota
- conservation of seed diversity (diversification of crops; varieties)
- intermittent irrigation
- biodiversity
- diversified farming system
- sustainable
- living soil
- knowledge-based
- seed selection (seed varietal trials)

Principles:

Seed selection

Living-soil

Knowledge-based

Sustainable

Biodiversity

Diversified farming system

Less can give you more

Diversification

Better soil aeration

Intermittend irrigation

Conservation of biota

Conserve diversity of seeds

Wide spacing

Counterparting-convergence

Single-Planting

More with less

Output of Manila-Group II: SRI Training Modules/Methods

META-CARDS

Inclusion of the ff modules in SRI training

- CRH production
- organic input production (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides)
- pest control of weeds, snails
- soil management
- field day

One-day training

Module:

- History
- SRI steps
- Soil fertilization management
- Water management

- Tools and steps in monitoring
- farm plan
- actual transplanting
- seed selection
- seed banking / breeding
- Include 20x20cm during the wet season

Experiential learning

Inclusion of consolidated local practices (e.g. vegetable production)

Underscore effect of chemical farming on the soil (as entry point for SRI training)

SRI principles and practices:

- Land prep
 - at least 6" depth in plowing
 - soak up to one week the level with 'suyod'
 - then plow across then level again
 - drain the water, and dry the fields till weeds appear up to one week
 - then apply basal organic fertilizer (about 40 bags of organic fertilizers)
 - final harrowing and levelling
 - Let it stay overnight
 - the next day, create the markers for transplanting seedlings

Suggested Golden Kuhol eradication and by-product uses

Do not insist on training a group that is not asking for training

Develop local trainers in every target area

Include value formation in training

Discuss agronomic/economic aspect (Rene Jaranilla presentation)

Consider costs and returns

Training module should include economic analysis

How to estimate rice yields

The first module should be economic analysis of rice production (SRI vs. conventional)

How to plant

Seedbed preparation for SRI (modified dapog system)

Include phyllochrons

Consider mass production of organic fertilizers with analysis, before trainings

Organic fertilizer production

Making foliar fertilizer (fermented) out of Golden Kuhol (Kuhol amino acid)

Vermiculture composting

SRI-Organic foliar sprays management

MANILA PAPER

Strategy:

- season long
- on site
- field trials/learning farm
- hands-on, participative
- start small
- local language
- IEC
 - SRI manual
 - video (World Bank, local video)
 - chart
- Monitoring, documentation of results

SRI Module

Contents

- I. Introduction
 - History/Scenario (7 principles of SRI)
 - International situation
 - Philippine situation
 - S & M values
 - Economics of SRI
- II. What is a healthy rice plant
- III. SRI Principles and Practices
 - Seed selection
 - land preparation
 - Seedbed preparation
 - Transplanting
 - Age (phyllochron system)
 - number of seedlings
 - distance
 - Water management
 - Rotary weeding
- IV. Pest management
 - insects
 - diseases
 - weeds
 - Golden Snail
- V. Soil amendment and amelioration
 - Understanding the living soil
 - Organic fertilizer production
 - vermi composting
 - bokassi
 - ordinary composting
 - Foliar fertilizer production (Korean nature farming)
 - CRH production
 - Biodynamic inputs
- VI. Seed banking / seed production
- VII. Diversified farming systems
- VIII. Farm planning (strategy – SRP)

SRI Principles and Practices: Local Innovations

Technologies

Innovations

- I. Land preparation
 - Weed suppression diversification; SRI with nature farming technologies
- II. Seedlings
 - Planning/scheduling
 - 8-12 days transplanting
 - staggered growing on seedbed
 - 1+1+1 theory (?)
- III. Principles
 - holistic approach
 - production of inputs
- IV. Documentation
 - common monitoring/evaluation forms
 - regular monitoring
 - establish trial farms

META-CARDS

Strategy/methodology

2 days training should include the making of effective microorganisms (demo + hands-on)

Step by step kung paano gawin ang SRI

Kailangan ng magandang weeder design

Complete module about SRI and organic farming (season-long training)

Specific modules for every step of the way supported with documentations and testimonials

1-day training dapat captured na lahat ng mga kailangan sa SRI kasama ang paggawa ng organic fertilizer

Applicability of the modules to different scenarios like water availability, weather consideration, trainees attitude, etc.

Training should be hands-on

1 day lecture + 1 day field exposure

a. actual na paggawa ng seedbed

b. pagbunot ng punla/transplanting

- pagtatanim
- paggawa ng concoctions (IMO, FPJ, FFJ, OHN, etc.)
- planning workshop para sa participants

The training module should include hands-on training on different organic inputs and soil amendments

Participative training

Use the World Bank SRI video and add audio in the local language

SRI training manual needed

Pls review SRI primer and give suggestions

Dapat bigyang pansin ng trainers ang documentation

Documentation

Use Noe Ysulat's approach: bring sample plants, count tillers, grains

Gumamit ng pop-ed sa pagtuturo

Sana magkaroon ng nagkakaisang pamamaraan sa pagbibigay ng pag-aaral sa SRI

Sana maipasok sa module ang lahat ng success o subok na pamamaraan ng mga magsasaka na matagal nang nag-SRI

Content should be in the local dialect

SRI Weed management module

Pest and disease management module

Water management module

epektibong pagkontrol sa kuhol

Season-long training (with hands-on)

on-site training

season-long training with defined modules

Module on SRI transplanting

SRI history in the Philippine setting (Margate system)

When to transplant

Establish trial plots (field trials) as output of the training

Season-long training with field-trials

Output of Manila-Group III: SRI Proposal

META-CARDS

Documentation funds

Seedlings are transplanted early

Environment friendly

Absolutely full organic

Economically viable

Weeders as incentive for farmers' coops

Budget for food of farmers/pax

Counterpart of farmers should be travel expenses, training/trial site

Figures and accounting, liquidation and budgeting updated and reasonably prepared for easier

comprehension

Budget for monitoring + evaluation

Include annual trainers' conference

Proposal should include incentives for trainers

generate funds locally

Objectives like refreshers, initial trainings, follow ups and support programs must be justified and given equal consideration

Include organic fertilizer production in budget proposal

Kung 1-day training lang ang popondohan, mas maraming area/farmers ang coverage

National networking

Strategic area coverage

Consider the cost-benefit ratio

Participation of the academe in conducting SRI trials

Check claims: higher milling recovery, better nutritive value, better eating quality

Fund sourcing, networking, linkaging not limited to government programs and local resources and backed up with credible and thorough studies

Local officials/LGUs must undergo rigid training on SRI, organic farming and /or NFS training, with proper budget counterparting

Strategic/tactical engagement

counterparting

SRI institutionalization

Counterparting/partnership with ATI-DA, academe, LGUs, SRI Pilipinas, local NGOs

Field trial area: 1000 sqm or less

Trials should cover both dry and wet seasons

MANILA PAPER

- 100 towns
- 70 farmers/town per year
- 3 meetings/town per year
- National coordination

National Coordinator

- National coordinator / Field coordinator for Luzon
- Field coordinator for Visayas (part-time)
- Field coordinator for Mindanao (part-time)

SRI Institutionalization thru networking / trainer accreditation

Field trials in wet / dry seasons

Fund releases

- SRI funding window of the DA
- Release of funds to LGU partner subject to SRI certification
- Formal info to the LGU partner
- P31,000 per town (3 barangays / town)

META-CARDS

SRI principles and practices / Local innovations:

Mahirap mag-construct ng punlaan sa styrofoam. Kaya para nang sabog tanim ang punlang dinagdagan ko lang ng organic fertilizer para madaling bunutin.

SRI Training Module: I prefer 1-day seminar kaysa season-long training. Pagbasehan na lang yung brochure.

Incorporate the economic development impact, eg. Comparative studies

contribution on ecological awareness and conscientization

network strengthening

venue of sharing innovations and resources

Ang mga prinsipyo ng SRI ay dapat kilalang nakapaloob sa mga prinsipyo ng Sus Ag at sa Sus Dev sa

pangkalahatan.

Back to basic

Socially acceptable

Principle of return

Holistic approach/science

revival of bayanihan culture/spirit

economic viability

cultural acceptability

Kailangan ma-include lahat ng mga farmer innovations na makakatulong sa pagpapalago ng palay

bigyang halaga ang SRI at organic sa lahat ng magsasaka

Ecologically sound

Socratic approach in education

Science of agriculture

Bigyang halaga ang ibig sabihin nitong philosopher: "That rice plant is a living creature that have great potential, this potential will only be realized if we provide them the best conditions for their growth. Because if we provide them the new and better ways, they will repay our efforts several times over. We don't treat them like a little machine and to do things not natural for them to do."

META-CARDS

Emphasize thorough land preparation

Raising of seedlings:

- use of charcoal
- other substrates (coco coir)
- raise seedlings in the upland

Core SRI practices: 1) younger seedlings 2) wider distances, 3) intermittent irrigation, 4) mechanical weeding, 5) use of organic fertilizers

Malaman ang tamang land prep

Water management

Appropriate na sukat o layo ng pagtatanim

Depth of planting and time

Technology on weed suppression and proper soil aeration

Epektibong pagkontrol sa damo laluna pag rainfed area

Iba't ibang practices sa water management, halimbawa: sa sandy loam na lugar, pumpara sa clay loam, magkaiba ang kanilang water requirements

SRI principles and practices:

- prepare the land by plowing 6" or more in depth
- soak the farm up to one week then harrow it
- plow again crosswise, then let the water in for another week
- drain the water, dry the field and let the weeds grow for up to a week
- then apply basal 40 bags of organic fertilizer per ha

Incorporate concoctions in watering

use papaya trunks/leaves for golden snail prevention

diversification for additional income

use of IMO to prevent golden snail eggs from hatching

use high tillering varieties

maximum care of plants during their 1st and 2nd tillers

the role of microbes

IMO farm approach/field day

Seed preparation methods and recommendation of suitable seedbed designs

CRH + soil + organic fertilizers

Age of seedlings:

- SRI is below 15 days
- more than 20-25 days old still SRI?

- 10 kg per ha
- 25x25cm distance
- intermittent flooding (water management)
- transplant within 30 min after pulling
- single planting per hill

Is 20x20cm still SRI?

Is transplanting 15-22 day old seedlings still SRI?

Can we call it pure organic if the rice seeds are hybrid?

Diversification

Strengthening of learning farms (DIFS)

Integrating vegetable farming and fishponds with SRI practices, for sustainability

the system should be SRI organic / NFT combinations of technology

Sa SRI kailangan kasama ang gulay para maipakita ang magandang bunga ng malusog na lupa at malaking bagay ang dagdag na kita ng magsasaka, bukod pa sa palay.

Kailangang maipakita sa datos ang pagkakaiba ng SRI sa conventional na pamamaraan mula sa synthetic at organic fertilizers hanggang sa pamamahala ng mga insekto.

Constant and regular monitoring of SRI trial farms

Proper monitoring of field trials

Ipasunod ang giya ng SRI

Common monitoring/evaluation forms

proper documentation of SRI field trial results

Kailangan ang masinop na pagdodokumento ng mga practices at innovations ng SRI

documentation of field trials

Establishment of baselie data.

Output of Mindanao-Group I: SRI Principles and practices

METACARDS

Development of more direct seeding approaches and methods

promote varietal adaptation (field trials)

Farmers produce their own seeds

- handpick the seeds
- find strong and healthy plants with more tillers
- handthreshed the selected seeds
- store and dry for the preparation for next crop

Seed selection using eggs and salt

- open container
- eggs
- salt
- seeds
- Add salt to the water in an open container and then put eggs. The salt is enough if the eggs float. Finally put the seeds and good seeds will sink. Wash the seeds immediately.

Promotion of locally adapted varieties

Seed selection (use salty water, etc.) should NOT be omitted

Land preparation must not be less than 30 days (1 month)

popularization of local innovations

SRI practice: lessen the distance to 20 cm

Age of plant to be transplanted: 10-15 days old

Mechanized rotary weeder

- 4 rows per pass
- save weeding time for labor

seedling preparation thru modified dapog

crop establishment through direct seeding

1-2 times rotary weeding or soil disturbance

modified dapog with seed density of 1 bag per sqm seedbed area

rotary weeder: it must be mechanized, not manually-operated for easier management

use several/many varieties in the initial SRI trial

using preferred varieties

seed preparation using banana trunks has high % recovery

guano crusher: bat manure

- guano collected by farmers
- put in the crusher machine, product will be powdered guano
- distribute to the farmers for fertilizer without depending on outside inputs
- plant seedlings above the marker line

Land preparation using the key check #2 of the palay-check system

SRI methods of raising rice be incorporated by duck raising

MANILA PAPER

Land preparation

- at least 30 days fallow period
- return rice straw
- spray soil-conditioners/decomposers
- first plowing – after 3-7 days land soaking
- second plowing – apply organic fertilizer/vermi-cast
- harrowing/levelling
- final levelling/using wooden planer
- option: palay key-check #2

Seeds and seedbed preparation

- seed requirement: 5-12 kg
- drying:
 - first drying – MC 13-14 (at least 15 days stock)
 - redrying – at least 2 hrs – 9am-10am
 - seed testing for viable seeds – rag doll method (dormancy)
- soaking:
 - hybrid – 8-12 hrs
 - inbred – 24-48 hrs
- incubation:
 - 24 hrs – turn upside down every 4 hrs
- seedbed preparation
 - modified dapog (dry bed method)
 - wet bed method
 - seed box method

Output of Mindanao-Group II: SRI Training Modules/Methods

META-CARDS

develop pool of SRI experts/trainers for extension/research

involvement of more farmers in the conduct of field trials through FFS

seed promotion thru demo establishment cum FFS

follow up of adoptors by the trainer

introduce the use of organic farming practices

analysis of different concoctions (IMO, FPJ, FFJ, OHN etc)

application of natural stickers from coco-extracts

control of kuhol using improvised wooden apparatus for making small canal between plant hills

training modules must be written in local dialects depending on the place where the method is introduced or taught.

Nutrient management: soil resource and accounting management (SRAM)

farmer to farmer approach

enhance presentation of methods/modules using visual aids

incorporate updates on organic practices

trainers should be hands-on practitioners
discussion of the effects of chemicals on the soil, plant, microorganisms, NEs, environment, man
discussion of organic materials – advantages: yield, environment, health, microorganisms etc.
introduce concept of diversification at the end of SRI training
improve and keep updating SRI Book as an important tool of trainers

Govt Advocacy

Training seminar on SRI must be on grassroot level with trial farm and financial support
promoting SRI: production input support especially on the small farmer holder
Integration of SRI with govt extension (locally, nationally)
Govt agencies to support SRI program rather than opposing and making discouraging comments and reports
SRI should be included in the FFS packages conducted by the DA, LGU (municipal/brgy)

MANILA PAPER

Planting:

- distance – 25x25 cm
- 8-12 days
- modified dapog – 8-10 days
- wet bed - not less than 12 days
- transplant seedlings within 30 minutes
- use straight-row planting using marker
- 1-2 seedlings per hill
- offset the seedlings from the line intersections
- plant excess seedlings beside the bunds (pilapil)

Weeding: soil aeration

- use the rotary weeder lengthwise and crosswise
- weed every 7-10 days
- weed at least twice before panicle initiation
- manual weeding around the rice plants

Fertilization:

- vermi-cast: 10 bags
- natural compost: 15-20 bags
- application of organic foliar fertilizer every soil aeration or at 7-10 days interval
- apply early in the morning or late in the afternoon

Water management:

- intermited flooding: 2-3 cm every 10 days' interval

Pest management:

- alternative pest management – OHN, hanging of odorous materials, planting of insect repellants, “sticking” for birds, IHE

Harvesting:

- 85% mature
- return rice straw to the fields

Storage and processing internal quality control system

Output of Mindanao-Group III: SRI Proposal

META-CARDS

SRI demo farms must always be put at the location where most possible adaptors go and see easily.
Procedures of adapting the method must be printed in tarpaulins and displayed on the field
Conduct demo SRI (small plot) in a barangay
Establishment of demo area by piloting or modelling per municipality

Project proposal should have govt, academic and NGO component
Award system: “outstanding SRI farmers” (SRI natl/regional) annual conference
Motorized de-weeders should be made available to SRI practitioners
Assistance for farmer-innovators to conduct demonstration trials such as: certified seeds and organic fertilizer provision
Promoting SRI: it must have production input support especially on the small holder farmers (production subsidy)
Produce a trainer (at least 1 per municipality)
Training seminar on SRI must be on grassroot level trial farm and financial support
incorporate product processing
Info materials on SRI to be distributed in govt outlets like FITS centers

MANILA PAPER

produce a trainer (at least 1 per municipality)
develop pool of sri experts/trainers for extension research
involvement of more farmers in the conduct of field trials through FFS
SRI promotion through demo establishment cum FFS
follow up of adaptors by trainers

Advocacy in government

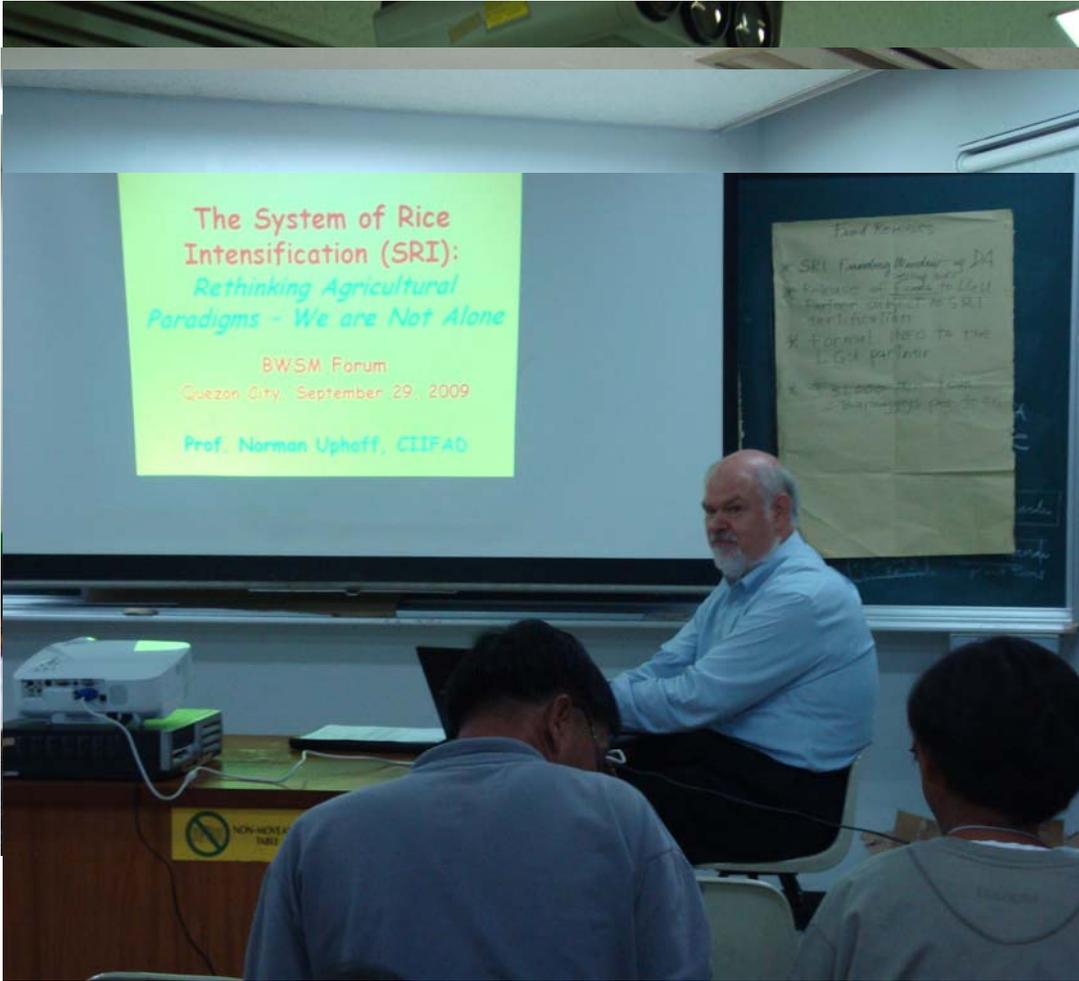
- SRI should be included in the FFS packages conducted by the DA, LGU (municipal/brgy)
- govt agencies to support SRI program rather than opposing and making discouraging comments and reports
- integration of SRI with govt extension locally and nationally

MANILA PAPER

1. Training seminar on SRI must be at the grassroot level with trial farms and financial support
2.
 - a) establishment of demo area for piloting / modelling per municipality
 - b) conduct demo sri (small plot) in a barangay
 - c) SRI demo farms must always be put at the location where most possible adaptors go and see easily.
3.
 - a) Promoting SRI: it must have production input support especially on the small holder farmers (production subsidy)
 - b) Assistance for farmer-innovators to conduct demonstration trials such as: certified seeds and organic fertilizer provision
 - c) Motorized de-weeders should be made available to SRI practitioners
4. Project proposal should have govt, academic and NGO component
 - a) Info materials on SRI to be distributed in govt outlets like FITS centers
 - b) incorporate product processing
 - c) Award system: “outstanding SRI farmers”
 - d) SRI national/regional) annual conference
5. SRI Magazine/Publication

Proposed budget for SRI-Pilipinas	P2.7 million
Proposed budget for ATI Region 12	P21.3 million

Appendix H: Manila Meeting Photos (CD version of this report has more)



Appendix I: Mindanao Meeting Photos (report on CD has more)









Appendix J: SRI-Pilipinas Provincial Training Program, draft report

SRI-Pilipinas Terminal Report (Draft)

by Roberto Verzola, Coordinator, SRI-Pilipinas

Introduction

The national SRI training program was initiated by SRI-Pilipinas, an informal consortium of NGOs, academics and government researchers who are promoting the use of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in the Philippines in an organic context. The program was supported by the Department of Agriculture through a grant of P875,000. The grant fund was received for SRI-Pilipinas in trust by the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM). The training program was supervised by SRI-Pilipinas coordinator Roberto Verzola, with the help of SRI-Pilipinas researcher Byron Resuello and SRI-Pilipinas national trainer Venancio Garde Jr.

Outputs and outcomes

This report covers the 50 trainings held by SRI-Pilipinas in 49 provinces throughout the Philippines. The trainings benefitted an estimated 1,000 farmers. Not all farmers adopted SRI, but we estimate around 5% (50 people) of the trainees mastered the method and are now in a position to conduct trainings themselves, providing SRI-Pilipinas with a core group of experienced SRI farmers and trainers nationwide who can help implement the next phase of the national SRI training program. SRI-Pilipinas fields trainers only after they have had at least two seasons of experience (one wet, one dry) in applying SRI practices.

Lessons:

- **One- to five-day training periods.** While a one-day training (half-day lecture, half-day hands-on) is sufficient good enough many farmers to pick up all the necessary information to try SRI themselves, some farmers need at least three, perhaps more, meetings for better transfer of knowhow and knowledge. We believe that the one-day training remains the most cost-effective approach in getting farmers to try SRI. Where longer training periods are tried, we propose as a maximum **five one-day sessions**, to cover the following essential topics:
 - **Session 1** – Organic fertilizer production with fermented activators, organic matter, soil life;
 - **Session 2** – Seedbed preparation, seed selection, varietal choices;
 - **Session 3** – Transplanting, water management;
 - **Session 4** – Weeding, pest management; and
 - **Session 5** – harvest, ratooning, diversification, field day.Where local authorities or the local hosts are willing to provide counterpart funds to support training periods longer than one day, SRI-Pilipinas can follow the above schedule. For a three-day training, Sessions 2, 3 and 4 can be collapsed into one. But the one-day training session remains our minimum goal, relying on our primer, training video, and the SRI Help Line (0908-2475-475) to do the rest. After all, SRI-Pilipinas has trained many farmers, who learned very well, with just one session. In fact, many have taught themselves SRI by simply reading our primer.
- **Look for farmer-innovators.** While the training program should serve as many farmers as possible, it should **focus on the innovators: farmers who are eager to immediately try out the method** in their farm, and leave for later those who just curious but non-committal or even highly sceptical and are ready to give up at the slightest problem, or those who mainly expect doleouts. Thus, SRI-Pilipinas will continue its approach of offering its trainings mainly to farmers, farmers' groups and local authorities who show a strong interest in the program, a commitment to allocate their own resources for the training, and who are ready to conduct a field trial at once.
- **SOFT SRI: Success-on-first-try SRI.** While a 100% success rate is not possible, the primer, video, other training materials, and the training program itself should **focus on attaining the highest**

probability of success for the farmer's first trial. *Success-on-first-try* (SOFT) means producing a significant number of high-tillering plants on the farmers' first trial plot. SOFT SRI raises farmers' confidence and morale immensely and is a major factor in securing a foothold in an area. For SOFT SRI, we need to maintain contact with the trainees throughout the planting season, either through regular face-to-face training sessions (FFS), individual farm visits, or SMS, the latter being the least expensive way of doing so.

- **Ideal group size: 25-35.** A smaller training group makes inefficient use of training resources and the trainer's time. A larger group becomes more unwieldy. A training group size of 25-35 farmers is ideal. The greatest advantage of a larger group is the higher possibility of seeing very impressive success-on-first-try SRI results (SOFT SRI) in some farmers, so that farmers who do not succeed on first try will not automatically conclude that the method itself does not work, but will instead try to analyse why they did not succeed while others did. Seeing a profusely-tillering rice plant is the most effective argument that convinces farmers of the viability of the SRI method.
- **Only three monitoring questions for farmers.** Farmers do not want to spend their time collecting data for researchers, and it is not fair to expect them to. The collection of agronomic and economic data for research should be assigned to researchers, if funds are available to hire them. If not, then the only information we need to get from farmers who are currently using SRI are: **i.) how many planting seasons have they been trying SRI, including the current one, ii.) what portion of their current rice production uses SRI, and iii) how does their SRI yield compare to their previous yields?** Confirmed repeat-users who are already using SRI in production are a clear signal that the SRI method is considered an improvement over existing farmers' practice. Valid and important conclusions can be made out of these two pieces of information alone. Production-level repeat users mean that SRI will soon be spreading by itself, diffusing from farmer to farmer, barangay to barangay.
- **Most cost-effective: SMS.** The most cost-effective method of promoting SRI among farmers is to announce that the SRI primer and training video will be sent for free by mail to those who text their mailing address to the SRI-Pilipinas Help Line (0908-2475-475). A determined farmer should be able to try SRI out simply by following the primer instructions carefully, as what several of our SRI trainers simply did. Still, these farmers should be strongly encouraged to convince their neighbors to try the method also. The more of them try, the greater the chances at at least one of them will succeed. Farmers who try SRI this way can be encouraged to report their results, if we offer more free videos and/or manuals to those who do so. SRI-Pilipinas should allot sufficient budget for this option in the next phase of its training program.
- **Verifying farmer claims.** Farmers should be trained to expect regular third-party verification of their claims, whether it is a yield claim or a claim that they are using SRI methods or that they are using organic methods. It should be explained to them that independent verification is important for people who may be willing to pay premium prices for the farmers' organic produce. This will **prepare them for third-party certification or their organization's internal quality control system** that is so necessary for an organic production program that is credible to consumers and the market.
- **Nationwide.** Regardless of the level of funding available, **SRI-Pilipinas should continue its strategy of nationwide coverage of its training program.** After conducting trainings in almost every rice-growing province in the Philippines, SRI-Pilipinas can now service requests for training by sending a trainer from the same province or from a nearby province, reducing training costs further. The next phase of its training program is to conduct trainings – and thereby produce more accessible farmer-trainers – in any municipality that requests such training. As long as those who request the training manifest not only curiosity but a real commitment to actually try the method, no request for training to SRI-Pilipinas will be turned away,
- **Prompt fund releases.** Funds for trainings must be released promptly, because farmers follow very strict planting schedules, and delays can result in missing entirely the window of opportunity for implementing the program. For instance, when the first rains of the season start, farmers will proceed with the necessary farm work like plowing the fields, levelling the land, preparing seedbeds, soaking seeds, and so on. The weather waits for no one, least of all fund releases. Fund releases for farmers programs should

not be delayed. The full release of the DA grant was a key to the program's relative success. It would have been extremely paralyzing if the program had to wait for tranches to be released.

Problems:

- **Delays**. The fund was received March 2006, too late for the 2006 dry season. Program implementation began April 2006. Only a few provinces were covered in the second half of 2006 due to problems in implementing SRI during the rainy season. Many groups contacted for the first half of 2007 were too busy in the national elections. We therefore adjusted the program to enable trainings even in during the rainy season. Thus more trainings were conducted in the second half of 2007 and throughout 2008, when the training program was finally concluded.
- **Low budget**. The original budget was meant to spend around P9,500 per one-day training in as many rice-producing provinces as can be covered. Because of the delays in the release of the funds and general inflation, the actual costs have gotten higher when the project began in earnest. A frequent response among some NGOs and farmers' groups was that the fund was too small for a one-day training. There was a positive side to this small budget: it acted as a filter, where those who were mostly interested in the funding stayed away, and the program was left with groups who were truly eager to try out the method and were even willing to allot some of their resources to make the training happen. This problem actually gave the program its most valuable lesson.
- **Lack of provision for full-time implementors**. The original program design, because of the pressure to keep the project proposal at the least possible cost, did not provide for full-time implementors, only for a trainer who will actually conduct the training. This resulted in a slower than usual implementation of the project, which was compounded by complications arising from the election period, changing weather patterns, low budget, etc. While keeping project costs as low as possible remains a valid goal, provisions for full-time implementors must be made in order not to hobble the project itself.
- **Changing weather patterns**. A number of scheduled trainings had to be postponed or cancelled altogether due to unseasonal rains or dry spells, as well as major floods that washed out seedbeds and newly-planted fields. This is probably already the impact of climate change and there is very little that can be done except to learn how to adapt to a more fickle climate.

Next step, next phase

This program has planted the seeds of SRI in most of the major-rice producing provinces in the Philippines, in the form of at least one SRI practitioner-farmer that is potentially a trainer/model-farmer in their province as well as neighboring provinces. The SRI-Pilipinas requirement for a qualified SRI trainer is one who has done SRI for at least two straight seasons (i.e., a wet and a dry season).

The **next step is to gather all SRI trainers and some potential trainers** who have been part of the program, to sum up their SRI implementation as well as training experiences, and to tap their collective wisdom to improve the SRI training module and its various components. The main goal of the module remains the same: the put into the SRI primer, training video, curriculum and other materials everything that is needed to **ensure the highest possibility success-on-first-try** (SOFT).

This national SRI training evaluation meeting should then initiate the **next phase of the SRI training program: to replicate the previous trainings in municipal-level trainings**, incorporating the improvements adopted from the SRI trainers' meeting. We hope to conduct around 1,500 such trainings in the rice-producing municipalities/cities of the Philippines, with the possibility of two or more trainings among the top rice producers. This phase will be conducted in ten identical sub-phases of 150 trainings at a time. Summing up, evaluation and planning will be conducted at the end of every season, to keep collecting lessons and improving the training module. The details and costs of this phase will be worked out at the first national SRI trainers' workshop.

The future

When the municipal-level phase of the program is done, we will be ready to do training in every rice-producing barangay in the country, tapping the trainers we have developed at the municipal level.

Conclusion

SRI-Pilipinas has two “winners” on hand: 1) The SRI set of practices itself is proving to be easily implemented, widely applicable, and farmer-friendly. It has been diffusing gradually among farmers, despite efforts from some sectors of the rice industry to discredit it. 2) The SRI Pilipinas low-cost nationwide approach to training and field trials, which has enabled us to extend our nationwide reach with little funding. The low-cost approach and nationwide coverage of the SRI-Pilipinas training program is a relatively unique experience which offers lessons for other non-government organizations as well as government agencies. It is an important political capital of the consortium, that enhances its credibility in fund-raising as well as training. It is also consistent with the SRI principle of “more with less”, of getting more benefits with lower costs, more outputs with less inputs.

SRI-Pilipinas is hopeful that the Department of Agriculture, given its public commitment to convert at least 10% of all ricelands in the country to organic production, will continue supporting the SRI-Pilipinas training program, as it enters its next phase.

Drafted by:

Roberto Verzola
SRI-Pilipinas Coordinator

Appendix K: Financial Report

SRI National Trainers' Conference-Workshop Sep. 28-30, 2009 / Nov. 20-22, 2009

	Breakdown of Actual Expenses					
	Total	Lodging	Travel/ food	Training materials	Honoraria	Others
Budget (= BPI Deposit)	250,000.00	98,000	107,500	17,500	9,000	18,000
Actual Expenses (Row total)	250,128.75	1,500	167,779	18,980	15,200	46,669.75

Date	Chk No.	Withdrawals (see bank statements)	Withdrawals				
09/22/09		Bank charges	175.00				175
09/23/09	0420701	Airfares, ACT Travel OR#0256	45,565.00	45,565			
09/25/09	0420702	SRI Book, DGR Bookbinding, OR#17876	6,000.00		6,000		
09/29/09	OTCounter	Reimbursements for travel, food (see A.)	34,922.00	34,922			
09/29/09	0420703	SRI Book, DGR Bkbinding, missing OR	8,280.00		8,280		
09/30/09	ATM	Advance to VGJ for misc expenses (see A.)	1,900.00	1,900			
10/01/09	0420706	Honorarium for secretariat (RSVerzola)	5,000.00			5,000	
10/01/09	0420704	Food catering, GNP Foods OR#3381	32,500.00	32,500			
10/02/09	0420705	Airfares, ACT Travel OR#0320	7,100.00	7,100			
10/07/09	0420708	Reimb. to VGJ for expenses (see A.)	1,408.00	1,408			
10/23/09	0420709	Honorarium for secretariat (VGardeJr)	4,000.00			4,000	
10/30/09	0420710	Airfares, ACT Travel OR#0407	11,654.00	11,654			
11/16/09	0420711	Reimb/Advance to RSV (see B.)	45,000.00	1,500	31,930	0	3,000
11/17/09	0420712	SRI Book, DGR Bookbinding, OR#17876	4,700.00			4,700	
12/27/09	ATM	Reimb/Honorarium for VGardeJr (see A.)	4,000.00		800		3,200.00
12/27/09	0420714	SRI Report/B00k DGR Bkbinding, OR#18375	37,796.00				37,796
		Total Withdrawals (Column total)	250,000.00				

Detailed explanation of A (34,922 + 1,900 + 1,408 + 800 = 39,030) above

A.		Lodging	Travel/ food	Training materials	Honoraria	Others
A.	Manila pax reimbursements (c/o VGJ)	39,030.00	39,030.00			
	Venancio Garde	870.00	870.00			
	Jaime Tadeo	144.00	144.00			
	Demetria Mauro	1,414.00	1,414.00			
	Agaton Milagroso	360.00	360.00			
	Ernesto de la Pena	645.00	645.00			
	Cesar Bartolome	28.00	28.00			
	Rene Jaranilla	546.00	546.00			
	Felipe Gabriel	490.00	490.00			
	Emerson Tupaz	1,370.00	1,370.00			
	Rene Enriquez	1,200.00	1,200.00			
	Salvio Makinano	5,055.00	5,055.00			
	Domingo Porte	1,014.00	1,014.00			
	Gerry Garingalao	1,706.00	1,706.00			
	Nilo Uclaray	1,620.00	1,620.00			
	Pio Escarcha	2,514.00	2,514.00			
	Juanito Poliquit	1,945.00	1,945.00			
	Virgilia Ilao	1,010.00	1,010.00			
	Manuel Jayectin	1,410.00	1,410.00			
	Crispin Aguelo	760.00	760.00			
	Noe Ysulat	2,200.00	2,200.00			
	Ronello Barsatan	1,346.00	1,346.00			
	Carmelita Cervantes	2,380.00	2,380.00			
	Zosimo dela Rosa	2,052.00	2,052.00			
	Wilson Orino	2,450.00	2,450.00			
	Joselito Tambalo	1,836.00	1,836.00			
	Willy Benosa	2,665.00	2,665.00			

Detailed explanation of B (= 45,000) above

	Total	Lodging	Travel/ food	Training materials	Honoraria	Others
B. Manila + Mindanao expenses (c/o RSV)	45,128.75	1,500.00	31,930.00	0.00	3,000.00	8,698.75
Manila expenses (RSV advance)	12,378.75	0.00	680.00	0.00	3,000.00	8,698.75
09/01/09 Transport expenses	340.00		340.00			
09/10/09 Fax to VSU, CSSAC	100					100
09/14/09 Tricycle to AER and back	60.00		60.00			
09/15/09 Fax to BSWM	20					20
09/15/09 Load for phone calls/text	300.00					300.00
09/18/09 Tricycle to AER and back	60.00		60.00			
09/21/09 Tricycle to AER	60.00		60.00			
09/24/09 Laser cartridge/toner	2940					2940
09/25/09 PLDT long-distance calls	502.50					502.50
09/26/09 Smart load	100.00					100.00
09/27/09 Smart load	300.00					300.00
09/27/09 Office supplies	3,510.25					3,510.25
09/28/09 Taxi to UP Shopping Ctr	160.00		160.00			
09/29/09 Taxi (60+200+160+60)	480					480
09/29/09 Photocopying	96					96
09/29/09 Photocopying	106					106
09/30/09 Smart load	100.00					100.00
12/15/09 Additional honorarium for RSV	3,000.00				3,000.00	
12/20/09 Photocopying	144.00					144.00
	Total	Lodging	Travel/ food	Training materials	Honoraria	Others
Mindanao expenses (c/o RSV)	32,750.00	1,500.00	31,250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11/17/09 Taxi, residence to domestic airport	250.00		250.00			
11/17/09 Terminal fees	400.00		400.00			
11/17/09 Taxi, airport to hotel	150.00		150.00			
11/17/09 Meals	150.00		150.00			
11/17/09 Lodging, Davao, OR#22109	900.00	900.00				
11/18/09 Meals	171.00		171.00			
11/18/09 Taxi, hotel to bus terminal	80.00		80.00			
11/18/09 Bus fare	432.00		432.00			
11/20/09 Reimbursement of pax expenses	10,450.00		10,450.00			
11/20/09 Food catering, OR#1650	18,040.00		18,040.00			
11/20/09 Bus fare	432.00		432.00			
11/20/09 Taxi, bus terminal to hotel	80.00		80.00			
11/20/09 Meals	87.00		87.00			
11/20/09 Lodging, Davao, OR#260184	600.00	600.00				
11/20/09 Meals	65.00		65.00			
11/21/09 Meals	113.00		113.00			
11/21/09 Taxi, hotel to airport	150.00		150.00			
11/21/09 Terminal fee	200.00		200.00			

Explanation:

1. The total fund of P250,000 from Oxfam-GB was deposited in a BPI checking account on Sep. 22, 2009.
2. Most withdrawals were made by issuing checks (as reflected in the attached bank statements, except two which were made by ATM because the amounts were needed right away.
3. Withdrawals are supported by official receipts or (in the case of one missing OR) a photocopy of the encashed check.
4. P39,030 was disbursed through SRI-Pilipinas Training Coordinator Jun Garde. The supporting papers detailing how this amount was spent are included in this report.
5. P45,000 was disbursed through SRI-Pilipinas Coordinator Roberto Verzola. The supporting papers detailing how this amount was spent are also included in this report. The total expenses exceeded the

P45,000 by P128.75.

6. SRI-Pilipinas is expecting a refund from the ACE Travel Agency for two unused tickets (by Edward Judilla of Bacolod City and Victoriano Tagupa of Cagayan de Oro City, both of whom cancelled their trips at the last moment). As of Jan. 29, however, the agency was still unwilling to specify how much the refunded amount will be after various penalties are deducted by Cebu Pacific, and when the refund will be released. We propose to use any refunded amount for photocopying additional copies of the SRI Book and of this report.