

Minutes of SRI Network (SRIN) Meeting Held on 08th April, 2008

Present:

Name	Organization
1. Dr Gamini Batuwitige	Gemidiriya Foundation
2. Mr. Sunanda Lal	Jana Aruna Foundation, Tangalle
3. Mr. Sudesh Rodrigo	World Vision Lanka – Wanathawilluwa ADP
4. Mrs. Chamila Gunarathna	Ecological Co-operative Federation, 604C, Jayanthipura, Athurugiriya
5. Dr. W.G. Somaratne	Oxfam Australia
6. Mr Tilak Warnakula	Gemidiriya Foundation
7. Mr. H.M.Premarathna	Oxfam Australia
8. Ms Sewwandi Nissanka	Gemidiriya Foundation

1. Promotion of SRI

- Members of SRIN agreed to establish district-wise SRI networks by inviting government organizations, INGOs, NGOs and CBOs, operating in each district to promote SRI and share the knowledge and resources among the members in the district. Accordingly, the following district/s assigned to each organization to facilitate to establish SRI area network.

Districts	Organization
1. Puttalam, and Kurunegala	World Vision
2. Hambantota, Ampara	Oxfam-Australia/ Jana Aruna Foundation
3. Kegalle	Oxfam-Australia
4. Matara	Jana Aruna Foundation
5. Ampara	Oxfam-GB/Oxfam-Australia/Sewalanka
6. Ratnapura, Moneragala	Gemidiriya Foundation

2. Formulating promotional strategies and developing promotional materials of SRI

- Developing a technical guide on SRI in a DVD:** For this purpose, required photographs on SRI methods and other required materials will be provided by Oxfam-Australia and world vision to Gemidiriya Foundation in early May, '08. Gemidiriya will produce DVDs by using their own funds.
- Two-page note on basic steps on SRI** as a promotional material will be developed by Oxfam-Australia.
- Developing a SRI database for Yala – 2008** season will be completed through members of SRIN, considering the data on areas planned, number of acres, and number of farmers involved etc.
- Oxfam-Australia and World vision will document** and prepare CDs on success stories of SRI for sharing with other members of the SRIN;
- Oxfam-Australia will prepare an article** on 'Role of SRI in present crisis in rice market in Sri Lanka' to publish in print media and raise awareness among the members of SRIN and their partners ;

- **Arranging exposure field visits** for farmers by members of SRIN;
- **Oxfam-Australia will make a list of government organizations, other INGOs, NGOs, and CBOs** which promote livelihood development. SRIN will arrange a half a day meeting with them to raise awareness on SRI and encourage them to consider SRI, as one of sustainable livelihood development and eco-friendly farming options.

3. Identifying possibilities for collaboration in SRI based research:

- **Regional farmer based SRI research:** IWMI will develop a proposal in collaboration with Oxfam-Aus to design a farmer based research programme of SRI in the Asian region, covering 3-countries – Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Indonesia or India. An initial discussion was held with IWMI and Oxfam-Aus officials to identify the goals, objectives, area covered, research methodology and sharing responsibilities, and identifying areas to be studied: In particular, the following areas were selected to incorporate into the proposal.
 - Water use and productivity;
 - Nutritional aspects of SRI rice;
 - Milling outturn of SRI paddy/rice;
 - Economic aspects of SRI (including food security issue).
- **Collaboration with Practical Action (PA) for developing a mechanised weeder:** Initial discussions were held to develop a programme for modifying the existing weeder into user friendly and ergonomic weeder. PA has given a green light to fund this programme under its appropriate technology development programme with the Open University of Sri Lanka.