

Demonstration SRI Technique with Thai farmers

Mr. Vann Saran, a staff member of the Cambodian NGO CEDAC, was posted in Thailand for a 10 months assignment with the FK (Fredskorpset Norway) exchange program. His tasks are to share knowledge and experiences from home organization and learn from host organization techniques.

He shared his knowledge with the host organization about the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). Saran conducted his demonstration work at Bana Isan village, Sanam Chaiket district, Chachoengsao province (right), Thailand. There were 12 farmers from Hin Rae cooperative and Banna Isan group to join actively with this work. The demonstration took place from August 23 to December 14, 2011, on a plot of 15m x 25m. Field day calculations showed that the yield averaged 2,340 kg per hectare. Although the yield seems low, it is actually high when compared to the 300 kg/ha average yield with the traditional methods.



The farmers appreciated the field practice of the SRI techniques because by using little rice seed and transplanting only one seedling, and using local resources, one could get around 11 tillers per clump on average, etc. The participants felt it is important to disseminate this technique among community members; the practitioners are going to apply SRI on their own field next season and also plan to produce rice using SRI for their organic cooperative shop. The demonstration work was very successful both field practice as well as the process of understanding the SRI steps well enough to make farmers understand the SRI techniques.

It was noted that the applied techniques were:

- selecting good full seed (the demonstration plot used only 1kg of rice seed)
- moister seedbed (dry land seedbed)
- 13 days of seedling age
- single seedling
- transplantation in row pattern
- 30cm x 30cm spaces
- natural fertilizer (fresh leaves)
- weeding
- water control

Besides conducting demonstration plots in the field, Saran also displayed SRI techniques and the results of demonstration in an open house ceremony on Wanakaset's 29th anniversary. Many guests attended and raised a lot of questions about SRI techniques. The guests were impressed that it was an appropriated technique and was appropriate to the situation of farmers today.

- CEDAC (2012)

