

SRI (System of Rice Intensification) Field Day at Kani Panka Research Station- Directorate of Sulaimanayah Agriculture Research / Iraq

By the researchers: Zana Dabagh, Karwan Mustafa, Sarkawt Taha, and Bakhtyar Abdolkadir

Correspondence: zanamm70@gmail.com

On October 7, 2025, a field day was held at Kani Panka Research Station to highlight the vitality of implementing and using a new method of growing rice, the SRI technique, in this area for first time. Follow-up was provided by SRI expert Khidhir Abbas Hameed from Al-Mishkhab Rice Research Station. The aim of the field day was to compare and contrast this new method with the traditional method of growing rice that has been practiced for many years by local farmers.

The conventional method consumes more water while climate change and global warming have led to both a shortage of rainfall and availability of water for cultivating paddy in Iraq in general and in Kurdistan in northern Iraq in particular. Thus, researchers are implementing this new method of growing rice to mitigate the consequence of this global phenomenon. SRI can be especially useful in helping farmers grow rice as water availability is becoming increasingly unstable.



Why SRI and why is it vital for cultivating rice in this area?

- ✓ Uses less water-- roughly 50 % less than conventional practice.
- ✓ Enhances paddy yield about 40 to 50% .
- ✓ Environmentally friendly-- it relies on natural and organic materials such as animal and plant residues, compost, and biochar which are produced by researchers at research center.
- ✓ Less reliance on chemical and synthetics pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides.
- ✓ Follows the rotation "cereal, legume, fallow ".
- ✓ Uses local rice varieties that survive under our climate, enhance yield, and can be sustained at the field level with both high quality and quantity.

The consequence of global warming and less rainfall precipitation in Iraq and KR region was farmers abandoning rice production. Introducing new methods and techniques like SRI can encourage farmers to return to producing rice, and continue doing so for many years, by helping to solve water shortage issues in the area. In this field day participants learned about how to use water more efficiently than with traditional methods.

Promoting and practicing SRI in farmers' fields can help save rice production in the country and offer more local rice varieties in the market. However, further research is necessary to address the market demand for rice.

The SRI field day events were covered by the Kurdsat News Stream satellite channel. See the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1FF8mGG8Z1/>

