System of Rice Intensification: Path to Sustainable Rice Production

5 June 2017: SRI-LMB celebrating World Environment Day

Conventional rice farming with excessive use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and water can strongly be associated with many environmental concerns, like methane emission resulting due to continuously flooded rice field, contaminated agricultural run-off that pollutes water bodies, chemical residues in harvested crop which can bio-magnify in the consumer’s body, and health issues of farmers resulting due to excessive use and unsafe handling of pesticides. This resource intensive practice is also lowering the profit for the farmers in an increasingly changing input/output market scenario.

System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is an agro-ecological based method for producing more rice with less physical resources while maximizing the quality of the rice and minimizing the negative environmental impacts.

SRI has already been validated by over 50 countries and has proved to be a very successful method of rice cultivation. This method of farming has established itself as an environmentally sound, economically efficient and socially acceptable way to improve the livelihood of resource poor farmers.

In addition to increasing yield at lower cost, it has also been proven that plants under SRI are more capable to absorb micronutrients like iron, zinc, copper, magnesium in the grain, which improves its nutritional value as well. Better roots and plant growth is visually distinct in SRI.

SRI-LMB (Lower Mekong Basin), a regional project implemented by the ACISAI, AIT with funding support from the European Union, strives to work with and for small-scale farmers to improve their livelihood, food security and nutrition. This large-scale regional implementation covers four countries: Lao PDR, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand. So far, the project has carried out more than 405 sets of field experiments involving 11,000 farmers and has reached out to another 30,000 farmers with positive results.

World Environment Day

SRI-LMB: A genuine engagement with land, nature and people for climate smart agriculture

Benefits of SRI

+ 66 % Yield
- 30 % Energy use
+ 90 % Net return
66 % Labour productivity
+ 46 % Fertilizer use efficiency
+ 56 % Water productivity

Higher farm gate price

More income to farmers

Lower GHG emission up to 40 %

Larger and better grains

Increased resource efficiency

Up to 50% reduced usage of water

Improved plant growth

Drought resilient

Improved coping capacity

Pest resilient

Improved root system

Disease resilient

Improved soil quality

Up to 95% reduced usage of seed

Up to 100% reduced usage of agrochemicals

The project is funded by the European Union

The project is implemented by AIT

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66 % + 90 % + 46 % - 30 %

+ 30 %

+ 66 %

+ 56 %

+ 90 %

- 30 %