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Sustaining and Enhancing the Momentum for Innovation and Learning around the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in the Lower Mekong River Basin (LMB)

Enhancing & Strengthening...
• Multi-institutional-multi-stakeholders network from local to regional level
• National research-extension capacity of four LMB countries Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Thailand
• Crop productivity, profitability and food security of rainfed smallholder farmers
• Result-based policy advocacy for smallholder agriculture

SRI is best described as work in progress; continuous farmer innovation; ideas not technology; menu not recipe; mobilizes biological potentials and processes rather than depending on costly inputs; farmer and environment friendly; promoting life in the soil – a life that can feed humankind.

- Prof. Norman T. Uphoff
SRI Rice, Cornell University

No single overall solution can suffice for a fundamental transformation of agriculture systems towards sustainable intensification, but all productivity solutions need to be based on ecologically sustainable production intensification.

- Dr. Amir Kassam
Visiting Professor
University of Reading

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Why SRI in LMB?

22 million hectares of land area are under rice cultivation, with about 90% of this area rainfed. 60 million people inhabit rainfed, with one-third living on less than one dollar/day. They confront an increasingly degraded natural resource base and climate change variability that puts additional pressure on them to maintain livelihoods and household food security.

**System of Rice Intensification (SRI)** instills a social dimension to farming to produce healthy and profitable crops using less water and less seed, and through skillful management of plants, soils, water and nutrients without deteriorating the natural resource base.

The SRI-LMB seeks to stimulate local innovation using SRI and Farmers’ Field School (FFS) approaches in order to sustainably improve agricultural productivity and food security in the context of climate change adaptation, and to enhance research capacities to continue to support this development.

Agronomic principle of SRI

- Transplanting younger and fewer seedling
- Giving plants more space
- Avoiding continuous soil saturation and
- Applying compost or manure as much as possible

**Preparing seedling tray (left), one seed in each hole (right), for SRI planting**

**Selecting vigorous and healthy seeds is the first step for growing healthy plant so called “SRI Plant”**

**Giving adequate space to plant gives plant root & canopies more room to grow and to acquire nutrients and sunlight**

**SRI Plant - Pictures speak better than words**