Key results - Yield

Adoption of SRI principles more comprehensively in SRI demonstrations in FPAR plots (SRI-D) led to more than twice the average yield reported by the baseline survey. Even partial adoption of SRI practices (SRI-T) yielded more, also outperforming that from Farmer Practice (FP) plots.

Average yield from FPAR plots (tons/ha) compared to that from Farmer Practice plots, baseline survey and MOAC report

The above experience was true for all the three provinces.

Comparison of SRI and Farmer Practice (FP) plot yields in various provinces

Key results - Net return

Higher net returns were obtained from sale of rice produced with even partial adoption of SRI practices compared to FP plots. Lower costs of production with SRI and the better quality of its produce which fetched better returns influenced the higher net returns earned.

Net returns (USD/Ha) from SRI and FP plots

Recommendations for future work

- Continue facilitating the productive use of on-farm assets for generating higher and more consistent quality produce for household consumption and market, through training on production methods which conserve natural resources, enhance ecosystem services and environmental sustainability
- Improve farmer connectivity to markets
- Work on farmer compliance with market standards (by providing information and organizational resources, technical support, and some critical costs)
SRI-LMB project in Thailand

Funded by the European Union, the implementation of the ‘Sustaining and Enhancing the Momentum for Innovation and Learning around the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in the Lower Mekong River Basin” (SRI-LMB) project began in 2013.

Project purpose

The purpose of the SRI-LMB project is to increase crop yield, productivity and profitability of the smallholders in rainfed areas of Lower Mekong Basin region on a sustainable basis. This is expected to contribute to their resilience to climate change and food security.

Project approach

The project approach is based on the principles of SRI and Farmer Field School. The initial group of district and farmer trainers were trained on experimenting with SRI at provincial level at the Central Farmer Participatory Action Research (CFPAR) sites. They in turn conducted training for other farmers and led experimentation centered on local-specific problems at the Farmer Participatory Action Research (FPAR) sites in various districts.

Project partners

• Provincial Office of the Non-Formal and Informal Education, Surin
• Rice Seed Center, Surin
• Vocational Training and Development Center for Thai People Along the Border Areas (VTDC), Uttaradit
• Farmer Trainers and groups from Surin, Sisaket and Uttaradit.

Farmer outreach and capacity building

• 170 Farmer Trainers (FTs) trained
• 5065 farmers from 9 districts of 3 provinces directly involved
• Training focus on rice cultivation, SRI, Agro Eco System Analysis (AESA) and, data collection and analysis, to strengthen their crop management and decision making abilities
• 192 FPAR experiments focusing on problems and issues identified by farmers conducted

Project experience - most widely adopted SRI practices

As per the independent Monitoring Evaluation and Learning study, the most widely adopted SRI practices by the FPAR farmers are: transplanting fewer seedlings / hill and adoption of wider spacing for transplanting.