

To: SRI Group Orissa (29/5/2009)
From: Jagadish Pradhan, SVA
Re: **SSI in Orissa**

Dear friends,

We are glad to know that some farmers in Nayagarh district in this state have taken up Sustainable Sugarcane Intensification successfully with support from ICRISAT and others. We had heard about SSI successfully practiced by many farmers in Maharashtra, and hence during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, we sent about 50 farmers from Kalahandi, Bolangir, Bargarh, Boudh and Nuapada districts to see the new practice of sugarcane in Nasik area.

Also, we invited Shri Manohar Parchure, an eminent organic farmer from Maharashtra, for training our farmers in Bargarh district. After all these efforts since 2006-07, a few farmers in Boudh (e.g., Shri Padhan of village Sarsara) and Kalahandi (Shri Dilip Pradhan of village Labanipur) have been practicing SSI in their own way. Shri Shyam Kumar Kansal of Navdanya Foods, Bargarh, has also taken initiative to promote SSI in the Bargarh area.

Use of less seed:

We have introduced the bud scooper brought from Maharashtra, and by planting the buds for one acre, only 24 kgs of seed material is enough. In 2007, SVA planted sugarcane in about 4000 sq. ft. area in Bhawanipatna, using the buds for trial (in its own trial farm), and the result was very encouraging.

Lack of follow-up:

In SVA, we could not put enough effort for the follow-up activities to promote SSI as we were focusing on a few other crops. However, we are confident that use of buds for plantation as well as plantation with spacing of 10 to 12 ft. increases productivity of sugarcane. Various materials are already available in the websites, and those who are interested may contact Shri Manohar Parchure at the following address for more information.

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Yours sincerely,
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