

Workshop on the Efficient Use of Water and Machinery for Rice Production

Havana, Cuba
December 12-16, 2011

**“MÁS ARROZ PARA EL MUNDO, MÁS AGUA PARA EL PLANETA”
(More Rice for the World, More Water for the Planet)**

Cuba's newly-created Agricultural Engineering Research Institute (IAGRIC) coordinated a workshop in Havana, December 12-16, 2011, to discuss the crucial situation with respect to water usage for rice on the island as 47% of the total water dedicated to agriculture is consumed by that crop. There were 55 participants, including officials from FAO and UNDP, scientists/technicians from two research institutions (In Granos and IAGRIC), representatives from the Popular Rice Group (MINAG) and three types of coops (CCS, CPA and U BPC) and private producers.

The participants, who came from the five major rice growing regions in the country, spent five days listening to the problems associated with a growing lack of water followed by discussions about the possibility of addressing them by introducing a new rice production system known as the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) or, in Spanish, SICA. The workshop was intended to promote the new programs related to agricultural decentralization on the island, had as its slogan: **More Rice for the World, More Water for the Planet**. A follow-up workshop is planned at the end of the growing season.

PROGRAM

Day 1

Welcome address and presentation of the participants

Workshop objectives

Production and consumption of rice in Cuba - Dr. Luis Alemán; MINAG

Availability and demand of water in Cuba for rice production - Dr. Julian Herrera, IAGRIC

Agronomic considerations of the cultivation of rice - Dr. Miguel Socorro, In. Granos

Day 2

System of Rice Intensification (SICA). World Overview. Dra. Erika Styger, Director of Programs, SRI-Rice, Cornell University, USA

System of Rice Intensification (SICA) - Agronomic Overview. Ing. Oscar Montero, Costa Rica

System of Rice Intensification (SICA) - Cuban Experience. Dra. Rena Pérez, Volunteer SRI Coordinator for Cuba

Day 3

Visit to Crop Cooperative (UBPC) “Fidel Borrego” and to rice producers in Municipal “Melena del Sur”. Machinery and SRI planting trials promoted by Ing. Orlando Martí

Day 4

Chemical control of weeds - Ing. Reytel Perez, Especialista BAYER

Water management in rice - Ing. Julio Reyes, IAGRIC

Drainage in rice cultivation - Ing. Román Pujol., IAGRIC

Cuban rice varieties - Dr. Ruben Alfonso, In. Granos

Final discussions

Photos from the Workshop



Ing. Juan Arthur, IICA, Dominican Republic, asks a question.



Listening to a question - Front row: Orlando Acosta, FAO, Cuba; Julio Reyes, IAGRIC; Rena Perez, Cuba



Dr. Julian Herrera (IAGRIC) welcoming the participants