

## E-MAIL FROM BRUCE EWART, ADRA DIRECTOR, ON SRI WORK IN WESTERN TIMOR, INDONESIA

June 24, 2002

Dear Extensionists,

I would like to report to you the results of farmer trials on rice grown under SRI conditions in West Timor, Indonesia, under the ADRA Mother and Child Health and Agriculture Project. Following a visit from extensionist Roland Bunch in November 2001, we decided to try this technique in both Kupang, West Timor, and in Lampung, South Sumatra. Sumatra results are not yet to hand, however, as harvest there is not complete. These Timor results were for seedlings all planted out before 10 days. Areas are per ha.

Area	Variety	Spacing	Maturity	Ave Tillers	Panicles	Wt/1000 Grains	Productivity kg/ha	
0.5	IR 64	30 x 30	116	38-42	26-28	25-28 gr	9,760	
0.01	Si Pitih	25 x 25	120	37-40	28-30	29	11,600	
0.01	IR 64	25x 25	117	40-43	31-35	28	13,800	
0.01	IR 64	25x 25	117	40-45	25-26	30	12,800	
0.01	IR 64	25 x 25	119	45-50	30-33	27	12,100 **	
0.01	IR 64	25 x 25	116	40-42	22-26	29	12,700	
0.005	IR 64	25 x 25	116	29-37	15-20	28	8,600	Ave. 11,623
Controls								
0.25	IR 64	20 x 20	118	20-22	5-7	22-25	4,010	
0.5	IR 64	20 x 20	120	21-27	5-9	26	4,232	
1.0	IR 64	20 x 20	117	22-27	15-25	26	4,370	Ave. 4,404

Controls were grown in the same areas as the SRI trials, often on adjacent fields. We will have more information on the Lampung plantings, but note the control production was higher than what is normally obtained around Kupang.

Because of the distance and remoteness of some of these plantings, I do not have any information on fertiliser usage, however it was minimal.

\*\* This farmer was from a rainfed area which suffered a 3-week drought during the growing season. When I saw it in late March, the crop was so dry that the farmer considered it as not being productive at all. However, there were 2 subsequent rainfalls. The cracks in the soil in March were 20 to 30 mm wide, and the plants were wilting.

The farmers are all very happy and will be planting a very significant proportion of their land in SRI for the next planting. Other farmers are also very interested. The local Dept. of Agriculture Officer refuses to believe the results, however, and says they were from hybrid American seed and huge amounts of fertilizer.

The largest farmer in the SRI group has an affiliation with our project, and he was not very happy about taking part in the trial initially. I had to threaten him with dire consequences to plant a small area. Then he had a fight with his wife about it (she is an ag researcher). So he decided to double the area to "show that woman who is boss," ha ha. His normal crop yield was 4,232 kgs, less than half that from the SRI area.

You may publish these results if you wish. I would appreciate acknowledgment for our organization, ADRA MCHAP Indonesia

Regards,

Bruce Ewart, Project Director.

Mother and Child Health and Agriculture Project.

Jakarta, INDONESIA

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