

# Concerns on SRI in Al-Muthanna province in Iraq

Khidhir Abbas Hameed and Flayeh Abed Jaber  
Al-Mishkhab Rice Research Station  
Najaf - Iraq

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At the start of the 2008 rice season, we conducted training on the SRI system in Al-Muthanna province for wider application with support from the Cooperative Housing Foundation ( CHF ) / Iraqi Community Action Program (ICAP) and the International Organization of Migration (IOM). In addition of supporting application of the SRI system, machines were given to small rice farmers in that province as a gift: water pumps and rice thresher machines.

This new system has had a great echo in Iraq due to its positive results. Dr. Saleh M. Bader, General Director of the State Board of Agriculture Research, the first person who took an interest in SRI system, visited SRI fields at 16 sites in Muthanna Province during tillering and productive phases with Mr. Shaher F. Nwehi, Director of the Rice Development Department, and Dr. Abdul Hussain El-Hakim, agro-economic expert from the Ministry of Agriculture for planning and follow-up. He was nominated from our Ministry to follow up SRI activities in Iraq. When he visited SRI fields, he saw the difference between SRI plants and non-SRI plants and also other benefits. He wrote a very good report to the Ministry of Agriculture on his visitation and he recommended expanding the SRI system into three provinces (Najaf , Diwaniya, and Muthanna) using transplanting machines. Three visitations were organized for 1,200 rice-growing farmers to SRI fields at transplanting , tillering, and productive phases (see pictures below).



Second from right: Dr. Saleh M. Bader in one SRI field at Al-Rumatha district



**First picture: Dr. Saleh M. Bader (second from left), Dr. Abdul Hussain El-Hakim (third from left); Shafer F. Nwehi (third from right)**



**Group at Al-Najmi sub-district**



**Second from right: Director of Extension & Training Center in Muthanna Province**



**Farmers at one SRI field**

**SRI system was risen like of date palm it is so high**

