

Lectures on SRI in Najaf and Diwaniya provinces

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For acquainting rice farmers and agriculture staff with the SRI system, the State Board of Agriculture Extension and Cooperation (SBAEC) in collaboration with the State Board for Agricultural Research (SBAR) organized a series of SRI lectures held between 29 April and 24 June 2009 in two provinces, Najaf and Diwaniya, preceding SRI application on demonstration fields in those provinces. SRI lectures were held for staff in the Agriculture Directorates in Najaf and Diwaniya provinces and for their Agriculture Departments. I delivered ten lectures and another two lectures for my colleagues.





For reducing labor in transplanting, there were two short training courses on using a transplanting machine in those provinces also for agriculture extension staff .



The number of farmers attending was less than in Al-Muthanna province last year because of the difficult conditions faced in rice cultivation in this season due to shortages of water. (Turkey and Iran have not released water that can be used in Iraq up to now.) Statistics on the training are given in the table below:

Province	Location	SRI lectures	Training courses	Number attending	Size of SRI field (in Donum)	Mechanical transplanting field (in Donum)
Najaf	Mishkhab	1	-	40	3	4
	Qadisiya	1	-	51	3	4
	Abbasiya	1	-	40	3	4
	Hurriya	1	-	37	3	4
	Center	1	1	53	-	-
	MRRS	-	1	50	-	-
Diwaniya	Mhanawiya	-	-	-	3	4
	Salahiya	1	-	38	3	4
	Shamiya	1	-	37	3	4
	Ghammaz	1	-	69	3	4
	Center	1	1	41	-	-
Muthanna	Rumatha	-	-	-	4	4
Total	11	9	3	456	28	36