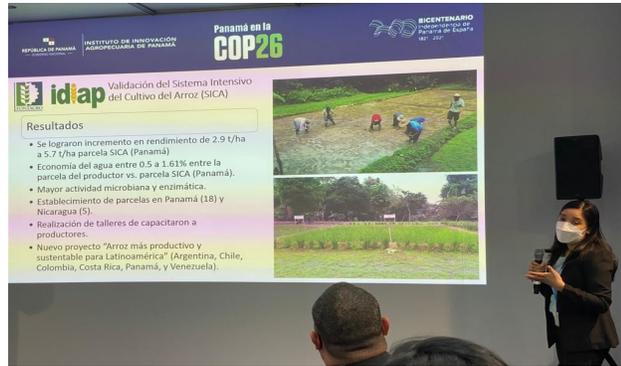


Advancing SRI in Panama

This past week at the UNFCCC COP26 held in Glasgow, Scotland, technical staff from the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) and the Institute of Agricultural Research (IDIAP) of Panama held an event to communicate efforts the country is undertaking to enhance the resilience and reduce emissions from the agriculture sector. Rice is one of the crops prioritized for climate action in the country for the significant contribution it makes to food security.



IDIAP has been working since 2016 to validate and adapt SRI to the agro-ecological conditions in Panama to help the sector respond to climate change. Researchers have been able to increase yields from 2.9 to 5.7 t/ha and reduce water and seed use. This has helped generate interest from many farmers.

Also in the rice sector, the Ministry of Agricultural Development is now working on developing a NAMA (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action) with financial support from Euroclima+. Executed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the project has been engaging producers through farmer field schools to encourage innovation and practices that set a strong foundation for an eventual transition to SRI.

IDIAP is also participating in a new SRI project, [More productive and sustainable rice for Latin America](#), led by the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA) of Chile and



supported by FONTAGRO is currently underway in Chile, Argentina, Venezuela and Panama. Other partners include FLAR, IICA, UNL, UNR, FUNDARROZ, ARGENINTA, and INTA-Argentina. The project brings together a research consortium

across the four countries, who are all at different stages with SRI.

Over 3 years, on farm actions and exchange between the countries will help accelerate advances, with the goals to:

- Increase the yield of rice cultivation of the intervened plots by at least 1 ton / ha.
- Reduce the use of agrochemicals used in rice cultivation by 10%.
- Reduce by 30% the use of rice seed in the intervened areas.
- Reduce the production costs of rice cultivation by 20%.

The project has a strong focus on innovation with farmers to help support the socio-cultural changes required to adjust conventional practices. (See photos below of a workshop with farmers in Chile).



In Panama, the goal is to engage 900 family farmers and 210 mechanized farmers across seven provinces and three indigenous regions to employ SRI.

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