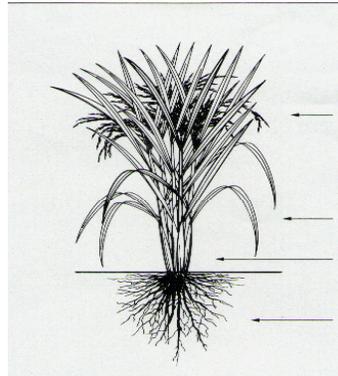
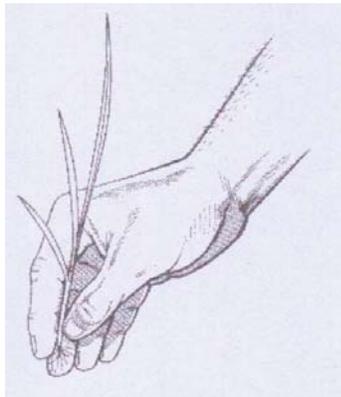
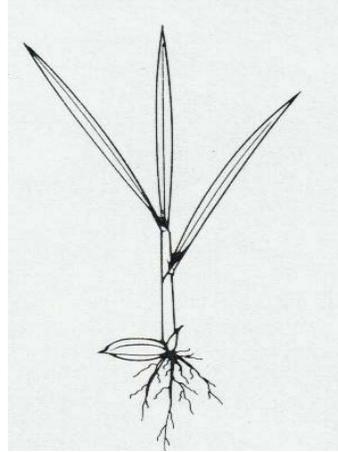
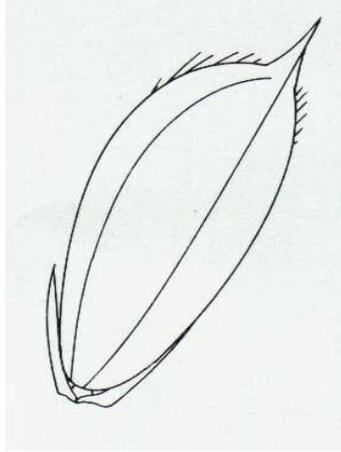


System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

Introduction to a Thai language manual.



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Acknowledgments.

This initial version of a Thai manual on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is compiled from various sources.

The chapters on cultivation methods are translations based on the manual “HOW TO HELP RICE PLANTS GROW BETTER AND PRODUCE MORE: TEACH YOURSELF AND OTHERS” drafted by Norman Uphoff, revised and elaborated by Association Tefy Saina in Madagascar.

Farmer experiences also include those from Sri Lanka, which Dr. Gamini Batuwitige, Additional Secretary of Agriculture, shared with us.

The Appropriate Technology Association (ATA), Bangkok cooperated with substantial translation of the text.

For the 2nd revision, passages have been included and adapted from a Thai translation on SRI methods by the CCHD (Catholic Committee for Human Development, Bangkok) which is based on a homepage by I.P.N.R., Madagascar.

In order to provide the reader with additional information on pest control and soil fertility, we have included paragraphs on snail and crab control with contributions from the Honey-Bee Network, India, Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center, Philippines, and the Multiple Cropping Center, Chiang Mai.

In particular we acknowledge the assistance of Mr. Phrek Gypmantisiri from the Multiple Cropping Center at Chiang Mai University (MCC/CMU) who assisted by giving valuable advice and editing the manual.

We hope that readers in Thailand and Lao P.D.R. can make good use of this manual and adjust the methods of S.R.I. for their situations and conditions.

Further revisions will include experiences from farmers in this area.

October 2001

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Introduction.

People in the upper northern part of Thailand are small-scale farmers cultivating an average area of only 0.8 ha (5 rai). Therefore, the main purpose of rice cultivation during the rainy season is for local consumption. The objective of production therefore focuses on elimination of risks and gives importance to stability of production. Besides that, rice strains are selected which have good properties for cooking. Therefore, glutinous rice G Kh.6 is preferred in particular. This variety, however, does not respond so well to the use of chemical fertilizer.

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is a methodology which was developed by Fr. Henri de Laulanié, S.J., in Madagascar between 1963 and 1995 (2504-2538 Buddhist Area) in order to improve rice yields and raise quality of living for people in this country.

Consequently these methods were extended by several organizations and projects, in particular by Association Tefy Saina (ATS) in Madagascar and CIIFAD at Cornell University. This Thai manual is based on an English language manual compiled by Dr. Norman Uphoff, director of CIIFAD, with ATS assistance.

SRI methods give importance to the real potential of the rice plants. With SRI cultivation methods, farmers attempt to develop a different environment in which the rice plants can show their full potential, including transplanting young seedlings of 8-12 days of age, soil preparation, transplanting single seedlings with wider spacing, and careful water management applying a minimum of water during the vegetative growth period.

Research and farmers' experiences from many countries have shown that yields of rice per area unit can increase considerably, just by using SRI methods and without using any external inputs.

We understand that SRI is an alternative method to increase the productivity of rice and one appropriate for small-scale farmers who cultivate paddies. Consequently these methods should be evaluated in Thailand and used as widely as they prove to be beneficial. Presently experiments are being done at MCC, Faculty of Agriculture, CMU and at McKean Rehabilitation Centre.

We expect that persons who read this manual and start using SRI will contribute their own ideas and their own experiences with the new methods for the benefit of Thai farmers.

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