

Cultivation Practice Trials of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) by BRAC, 2001

This is piloting a new rice cultivation method called system of rice intensification (SRI) which was practiced in Baniachong sub-district. This is also known as Madagascar practice. The SRI has already helped many hundreds of farmers in Madagascar to at least double their yields. BRAC has experimented with this method with the rice variety BR 28 in 10 acres of land. Professor Norman Uphoff of Cornell University came to BRAC and demonstrated to a group of BRAC staff how to implement SRI. The outcome of this method seems to be promising compared to traditional one. For example, more number of panicles and grains are produced and ultimate crop production is higher than with conventional methods.

A comparative result of SRI and normal practice in Baniachong DTW project during the Boro season 2000-2001

Sl No	Particulars	Normal practice	SRI practice
1.	Name of variety	BR-28	BR-28
2.	Seed sowing period in seed bed	20/11/00 to 26/11/00	7/11/00 to 11/12/00
3.	Amount of seed/acre	12 Kg	4 Kg
4.	Seedling age	30-40	15-20
5.	No of seedlings in clump	3-5	1
6.	Spacing	20x20 cm	25x25 cm
7.	Transplanting period in main field	20/12/00 to 29/12/00	22/12/00 to 26/12/00
8.	Irrigation	Flooded	Just moist never
9.			flooded
10.	No of tiller	20-25	30-40
11.	No of grain per panicle	185-200	260-280
12.	Production per acre (Ton)	1.8	2.6
13.	Cost of production per acre (Tk.)	9246	13315
14.	Income (selling price at Tk. 5.75/Kg)	10350	14950
15.	Gross profit (Tk.)	1104	1635

Note:

1. In SRI practice, skilled labour is required to transplant seedlings in the main field. So seedling transplanting to the main field is more cost than normal practice. If it is possible to train a group of farmers or labourers, then the SRI project may become more profitable.
2. The sowing period of SRI practice in Baniachong was late. The more cold in the Haor land hampered growth of seedlings and plants.
3. It was difficult to collect a big amount of compost for SRI practice within a short period. So normal dose of chemical fertilizer was used in the field.
4. In SRI management, the cost of seed bed and also seed is less than normal practice.