

## Communication from the International Conference on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Held in Sanya, China, April 1-4, 2002

Organized by the Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD) and the China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center (CNHRRD), co-sponsored by Association Tefy Saina (ATS), Madagascar, and the China National Rice Research Institute (CNIRRI)

Reports from the 15 countries where SRI methods have been tried and from the Chinese participants who have done evaluations on SRI have shown that the principles and methods of SRI have:

- **much potential for raising rice yields;**
- **under many different circumstances;**
- **in environmentally friendly ways;**
- that are **particularly accessible to small farmers** to contribute to food security and poverty reduction; and
- that can substantially **raise the factor productivity** of land, labor and water for the benefit of households and countries.

The best uses of SRI methods involve **farmer skill, experimentation and learning** rather than promotion and adoption of a fixed technology. The system should contribute to human resource development as well as to rice production. Furthermore, SRI should **always continue to evolve and change:**

- to **suit the varied conditions** under which rice is grown; and
- to **incorporate new learning** from farmers and scientific researchers.

The participants will **assist the development and spread of SRI:**

- through scientific research to expand and deepen our knowledge of the principles and practices of SRI; and
- through NGOs and farmer organizations to spread and evolve the use of SRI methods.

The participants will cooperate to **advance the theory and practice of SRI** through:

- **national networks** of practitioners and researchers within their respective countries;
- **international networks** using electronic means of communication;
- **a website** to make information on SRI accessible worldwide;
- **sharing of extension materials and information on practices** as well as scientific reports and evaluations; and
- **international forums** such as the Latin American rice congress to be held in Havana, Cuba, in July 2002, and the international rice congress to be held in Beijing, China, in September 2002.