Policies and public services on agro-ecological rice production: The case of System of Rice Intensification in Viet Nam

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Map of SRI in the World

- Small-scale testing, with SRI proven effective; farmer adoption has begun
- Organizational support developing; moderate farmer adoption in 1 or more regions
- Multiple organizations supporting SRI; broader adoption in several regions
- Growing institutional and governmental support; substantial farmer adoption in multiple regions
- National policy support; SRI firmly established in multiple regions

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SRI principles

- Carefully transplant single seedlings at two-leaf stage (8-12 days).
- Plant seedlings at a distance of 20-25 cm or more in a square pattern.
- Fertilize with compost, add chemical fertilizer only if needed.
- Keep soil moist and aerated.
Highlight of SRI adoption

• SRI adoption in 5 countries who produce 2/3 of world’s rice (India, Vietnam, China, Indonesia, Cambodia).
  • About 9.5 million farmers use SRI in 3.4 million ha.

• Estimate value of SRI increased production: $862.5 million.

http://sri.ciifad.cornell.edu/
Map of SRI in Vietnam
(Source: IAE)
Building capacity and promoting farmer’s collaboration

Rogers Adoption / Innovation Curve

The strategy in Vietnam will be based on working with early adopters with a view to encourage policy activation (red line) at this point an accelerated investment on the part of the State is expected.
Results to date

2003: IPM introduced SRI in Vietnam
2006: 3.450 farmers applied SRI
2007: MARD acknowledged SRI as technological advancement
2009: 264,000 farmers & 85,422 ha
2011: 1,070,384 farmers & 185,065 ha
2013: 1,803,200 farmers & 366,951 ha
2014: 1,813,201 farmers & 394,894 ha

Led by Plant Protection Dept. with Farmer Union, Extension Center.

Academia: Thai Nguyen (ICC), Hue Uni, Hanoi Ag Uni, Field Crop Research Institute / FCRI, CASRAD, Institute of Ag Environment - IAE

CSO: Oxfam, SNV, VECO, FIDR, SRD, World Vision
Challenges & opportunities in creating enabling environment

Challenges:
• SRI is principle-based rather than prescriptive (challenge the top-down extension and farmer mindset).
• Land fragmentations and water management
• Difficulty in evaluating SRI adoption at the large scale.
• Reconsideration of economic growth model \(\rightarrow\) less priority.

Opportunities
• Farmers are anxious about profit margins and paddy environment
• There is political will to maintain a viable, green rice sector
• Extension sector is well established.
Good & not-so-good practices in creating viable enabling environment

- Two-tiered extension (FFS, key farmer network)
- Diverse, innovative communication (field day, farmer ambassador, art performance, media)
- A variety of collaboration modes at the local level
- Effective M&E along the scaling up pathways.
- Influencing policy space (MARD’s endorsement)

- Narrowly-focused (seed, fertilizer, mechanization) packages; Conflicting, poorly-coordinated policy & extension policies.
  - Adoption skewed in rice-progressive areas.
  - Lack of studies for specific agro-ecological zones.
- Lack of evaluation of policy’s effectiveness and impacts.
Key Messages

- Farmer-led innovations and consumer’s support will be key to developing a fair and sustainable (rice) food system.

- Farmers need and benefit most from safe, low-input, readily accessible, viable solutions.

- Effective policies, incentive mechanisms, accountability and farmer outreach are vital to adoption.

- Stakeholder collaboration and alignment are fundamental to wide-scale impact.

- Creating synergies with networks (SRP, CANSEA, ALiSEA)
Vietnam SRI network (SRIViet)

- Founded in 2015 (Oxfam, SNV, ICC-TNU, FCRI, CASRAD, IAE, Veco, FIDR, PPDs, SRD).
- SRIViet is linked with global SRI network.
- SRIViet offers to lead regional exchanges, dialogue and collaboration of national SRI networks in ASEAN.
- **Mission**: A knowledge hub for SRI and sustainable rice interests to share information, research and resources in order to enhance voice of rice producers, advocacy of enabling policy & support
Viet-SRI Network

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