

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is a methodology for increasing the productivity of irrigated rice by changing the management of plants, soil, water and nutrients. These practices contribute to healthier soil and plants through greater root growth and the nurturing of soil microbial diversity. SRI was first developed in Madagascar. It was found to be a sustainable rice farming technology that can help small farmers increase their rice yields without depending on hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

The first field trials on SRI in Cambodia were implemented by **CEDAC** (Centre d'Études et de Développement Agricole Cambodgien) in year 2000 with 28 farmers in five provinces. Now, more than 17,000 farmers are using elements of SRI methods.

In order to facilitate the systematic analysis of experiences with SRI in Cambodia, GTZ conducted a study survey on " Potential of the System of Rice Intensification for Cambodia" in cooperation and collaboration with CEDAC, OXFAM, CARD, PADEK, MAFF and other agencies involved in promoting SRI in Cambodia. The intention was to gain more understanding of the impact and the adoption of SRI, and to discuss the usefulness of this low cost rice intensification approach for improving household food security in Cambodia. The experiences with regard to SRI in Cambodia and the results of the study were presented and shared and discussed in a national workshop organized under the umbrella of Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) on the 8th of April 2004. Participants of the National Workshop from government (MAFF, CARD), donors, IOs and NGOs recommended and agreed to form a SRI working group and establish a permanent SRI secretariat. The SRI working group is chaired by Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries under the Department of Agronomy and Agricultural Land Improvement (DAALI).