

## **The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Training in Pakistan**

On 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009, Lok Sanjh Foundation (LSF) organized a one day training workshop on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in relation to Biodiversity-based Ecological Agriculture (BEA) at Sheikhpura District of Pakistan. The main purpose of the workshop was to promote SRI and BEA in Pakistani Punjab's rice farming systems. Farmers from different areas of Sheikhpura who have been identified as key researcher farmers by LSF participated in the event.

During the workshop, the LSF's experiences on SRI were highlighted by Mr. Irfan Ali who previously attended the SRI Training with **CEDAC in Cambodia**. He has been actively involved in LSF's comparative study of SRI and conventional techniques of rice production.

Asim Yasin of LSF introduced SRI as "a holistic agro-ecological crop management technique which substitutes the conventional high-input oriented agriculture, through effective management of soil, water and nutrients. With the core principle of sustainable agriculture that seeks to make the best use of nature's goods and services as functional inputs, SRI works by integrating processes to give more production."

It is important to note, that from September 08-12, 2008, **CEDAC** in collaboration with Pesticide Action Network Asia and Pacific (PAN AP), organized

a Training of Trainers Course on System of Rice Intensification (SRI) with the farmers and NGO's representatives from Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan, China and Cambodia.