

CEDAC recommends of a simple farming practice to achieve higher rice yields

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As Cambodian farmers are now busy with their rice farming during this wet season, CEDAC is encouraging farmers to apply simple farming practices to improve rice productivity by.

CEDAC President, Dr. Yang Saing Koma, said that farmers can easily get a higher yield and lots of benefits within their small plot of land by applying the principles and practices of System of Rice Intensification (SRI), which is a series of 14 steps or simple ideas. These ideas include:

- selecting only good seeds for sowing
- sowing seeds on the bed nursery like a vegetable bed
- uprooting the seedling carefully and transplanting immediately after uprooting
- transplanting only good seedlings
- transplanting younger seedlings (less than 15 days is better)
- transplant the seedlings shallow-rooted
- transplanting only one or two good seedlings per planting hill
- transplanting with equal distance between seedlings
- weeding early and frequently
- managing water by keeping the soil moist during transplanting and rice growing
- using more compost or forest humus
- planting green manure before transplanting or after harvesting
- mulching the soil between the planting hills by using organic matter
- Select the best seed for the next crop, by handpicking seeds at harvest from only those rice plants with many tillers many longer panicles with many grains

Dr. Yang Saing Koma stressed that farmers can choose any of these ideas or all of the above to apply. If the seedlings are too old, they can adjust the spacing, and if there is too much water that they cannot drain it from fields they should also adjust the spacing (closer spacing) and the age of seedlings (use older seedling in this case), he added.