

Field Note on Field Study on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) "*Love your Rice*"

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A national workshop on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) was held on 21 April 2008; during the workshop Farmers who had made outstanding achievements over the past year were recognized. The top award when to Mr. Hak Seurng of Takeo Province, he was voted the best overall farmer of 2007 and received a prize of \$500. The category when he stood out the most was rice production, over the past year his land yielded over nine tons of rice, more than four times the national average. He attributed this success to SRI; of the SRI 12 practices he selected four which he felt made the greatest impact on his rice production. They were:



- Compost – natural organic compost that can take the place of expensive chemical fertilizers.
- Level land – the land in which the rice is grown must be level.
- Seed selection – picking just the best seeds to plant.
- Water management – ensuring the land has an appropriate supply of good quality water.

To best approach these practices, Seurng described how you must give your rice care and attention, he said, "***Rice needs your love to grow, like your children.***" Seurng has worked with CEDAC since 2004 and now plays an important role in the community teaching other farmers about SRI.

In addition to SRI, Seurng has followed CEDAC's advice and diversified his farm. He now grows many types of vegetables, such as beans, tomatoes and onions. These feed his family and he can sell some at market generating capital to invest in the Saving for self-Reliance scheme (SfR), of which he is a group leader. The vegetables when they loose their foliage also fertilizer the land, saving the need for a chemical alternative.

He sees CEDAC as a mother, because CEDAC helps and guides him, enabling him to achieve high yields and better the living conditions for his family. Finally Seurng encouraged all Cambodian farmers to adopt SRI if they want to increase their amount they produce.