



DISTRICT LEVEL SYMPOSIUM ON SRI

Date: 5th & 6th December 2008

Venue: Tribal Museum, Koraput

Organized By

JaiVik SRI Samaj

In association with **TROCAIRE, CWS, SDTT, ATMA,
CENDERET, CYSD-DRC, SOVA,
TRIBAL MUSEUM and PRAGATI, KORAPUT**

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Introduction:

Pragati along with 6 local NGO partners network (Jaivik SRI Samaj) organized a two day District level Symposium on SRI in the premises of Tribal Museum Koraput on 5th and 6th December 2008 in association with Trocaire, Ireland; Centre for World Solidarity , Bhubaneswar; Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai; CENDERET-SORC, Jeypore, ATMA, Koraput; CYSD-DRC, Koraput , SOVA, Koraput and Tribal Museum, Koraput ;

Sri Gadadhar Parida, Collector & District Magistrate Koraput was our Chief Guest on the first day while Sri Pyarimohan Mohapatra, IAS (Ret.) and Member Rajya Sabha was our



Chief Guest on the second day. The Hon'ble guests of the Symposium were Prof. Norman Uphoff from Cornell University, USA, who is promoting SRI in various countries, his wife Mrs. Marguerite Uphoff and Dr. Ms Caroline, Pediatrician, Minnesota, USA, Prof. C. Shambhu Prasad, Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar, Sri Satyanarayan Mishra, Nodal officer representing the Director of Agriculture & Food Production (Odisha) Bhubaneswar and Sri G.B. Mohanty, Deputy Director Agriculture, Jeypore.

430 farmers, 47 Agriculture department officials from Koraput, Raygada, Malkangiri and Nabarangpur districts, 72 representatives of 31 NGOs and 16 Media representatives have participated in the deliberations on both the days.



5th December 2008-Friday

Inaugural Session

The symposium started at 11.00 a.m. on 5th December 2008 with traditional tribal worship (Gurumain Puja) by a tribal priest. The Chief Guest, Sri Gadadhar

Parida, Collector and District Magistrate of Koraput inaugurated the Symposium lighting a lamp. At the outset, Mr. Prabhakar Adhikari, Secretary of Pragati extended warm welcome to all the guests and participants and highlighted the main objectives of the symposium. He said that as 80 % of farmers in Koraput district are small and marginal farmers scale up of SRI will help increase in rice production with lesser input costs and

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This symposium would greatly help in spreading the impact of organic SRI among more and more farmers in the district and also enable the SRI farmers to share their experiences, learnings and challenges.

Sri K.C. Panigrahi, Director of Tribal Museum, Koraput presided over the session. The panelists were Sri Satyanarayan Mishra, Nodal officer (representative of Director of Agriculture & Food Production (Odisha) Bhubaneswar), Sri G.B.Mohanty, Deputy



Director of Agriculture, Jeypore and Sri D. Narayan of Makarjholla village (Ganjam district) who is the first farmer adopting SRI in Odisha state.

Sri G.B. Mohanty, Deputy Director Agriculture explained the initiatives taken by government for promotion of SRI in Koraput district and presented brief statistical data. SRI was

introduced in Koraput district for the first time during Rabi 2007 with coverage of 90 acres. During subsequent Kharif 2008, it has risen to 308 acres. It shows that the number of SRI farmers is increasing progressively. These SRI farmers have got more yields as compared to yield under past traditional cultivation. He advised the farmers to give importance for early transplantation, proper water management and frequent weeding so that their yield can increase many folds.

Mr. D. Narayana opined that though Green Revolution in 1960s helped in increasing productivity and addressed the immediate food requirement of the country, since 1992 onwards the productivity has not increased as expected. On the other hand it has led to increased



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chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Indigenous variety of seeds have disappeared due to introduction of hybrid and high yielding varieties. However, he expressed that SRI has become comparatively successful in Koraput district versus coastal districts of the state



as the farmers are reluctant to adopt SRI.

Mr. S.N. Mishra, Nodal officer representing Director of Agriculture & Food Production (Odisha) Bhubaneswar gave a brief resume on the State

Agriculture Policy-2008. He said that the policy intends to focus on integrated farming system, promotion of sustainable agriculture, importance of horticulture, water management through people's participation, agriculture credit to small and marginal farmers and creating wider marketing opportunities for agriculture produces. The State Agriculture policy 2008 also attaches greater importance to promotion of SRI. He appealed the farming community to form Farmers Associations so as to avail of different government facilities.

The **Chief Guest, Sri Gadadhar Parida**, Collector and District Magistrate, Koraput said



that the farmers are the main pillars of the society. But due to changing environment and cost impact of farming, they are gradually diverting to other sectors. He appealed the farmers to learn the principles of SRI and adopt the same.

Sri K.C. Panigrahi in his presidential address advised the farmers to understand SRI method clearly and adopt it to increase productivity which can address food security.

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Experience Sharing by Farmers-Their issues and concerns

The second session of the first day and the first session of the second day were



earmarked for experience sharing among SRI farmers and NGOs promoting SRI. 16 farmers including 2 women hailing from different blocks of Koraput,

Kandhamal, Mallkangiri and Nowrangpur districts shared their experiences, problems and challenges faced by them. They were of the opinion that by adopting SRI they are able to enhance productivity using less seeds, less water and organic practices though they had some problems in adhering to all the six principles of SRI. Initially they faced opposition from family members and other local farmers who couldn't accept the proposition of planting single seedlings with spacing of 25*25 cm. between plants and lines

The farmers also raised other problems for scale up of SRI such as need of social mobilization, erratic monsoon cycles affecting the crops and yield rate. They also stressed on provision of weeders and organic inputs at subsidized



rates. The farmers opined that Government and NGOs should take more initiatives for awareness generation and capacity building of farmers to spread SRI practices among more farmer groups.

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The panelists for these two sessions were Dr. Nimai Charan Mishra, Additional Director of Research, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Semliguda, Sri R.K. Sadangi, Deputy Director, Horticulture, Sri Narayan Panda, District Agriculture Officer, Koraput, Mr. George M. Karketta, Programme Coordinator, CENDERET, Mr. Prafulla Moharana, Programme Coordinator, CYSD and Mr. Basanta Kumar Patnaik, Agronomist. The panelists discussed on the problems and concerns of farmers and also on possible solutions to meet their needs and requested the farmers to avail of the facilities under govt. schemes for promotion of SRI.

Exposure to Field areas:

The visiting guests Prof. Norman Uphoff, Mrs. Marguerite Uphoff, Dr. Ms Caroline and Prof. C. Shambhu Prasad were taken for field visit of SRI farmers. Sri Satyanarayan Mishra, Nodal officer representing the



Director of Agriculture & Food Production (Odisha) Bhubaneswar and Sri G.B..Mohanty, Deputy Director Agriculture, Jeypore and Sri B.K. Pattnaik, Agronomist also accompanied the team. They visited SRI farmers field in Hardoli village of Kotpad block and cultivation of Kalajira variety in Dhamnahandi village. They had interaction with farmers and encouraged them for their interest in adoption of SRI.



Session with Prof. Norman Uphoff and Prof. C. Shambhu Prasad

C. Shambhu Prasad, Prof. Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar in his address discussed about the initiatives for promoting a Learning Alliance of SRI in Odisha since 2007. He appreciated the initiatives taken by NGOs to promote SRI. He said that Dr. Aravind Padhi, Director of Agriculture department Govt.

of Odisha has also shown keen interest for promotion of SRI in the state.

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Prof. Norman Uphoff in his own introduction said that he was working as a Professor in Cornell University, USA and Director of Food and Agriculture Department. He had learnt about SRI from Father Henry De Laulene at Madagascar, Africa during his visit in 1993 where the farmers have been able to address food crisis by increasing productivity through SRI. When he started



introducing SRI for the first time in his country in 1993, the farmers were reluctant and even the scientists did not agree. Only 38 farmers could be motivated. But more and more farmers have adopted the practice when they started getting good yields i.e. almost double, triple and some even harvested four times as compared against the traditional method. At present SRI is adopted in Asian countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, Burma,



Malaysia and India. Prof. Norman also emphasized that SRI involves adoption of organic practices which is necessary for maintenance of ecological balance. Now SRI method is also used for sugarcane, wheat and Ragi and farmers are comparatively harvesting more in comparison to traditional method.

Prof. Norman also clarified some of the questions on SRI raised by the farmers and other participants.

Release of Booklets:

Two booklets were released during the Symposium.

A booklet on “State Agriculture Policy-2008” published by ATMA, Koraput was released by Sri Gadadhar Parida, Collector & District Magistrate, Koraput on the first day of the symposium. This booklet contains key features of the State Agriculture policy 2008 which was distributed among the participants and would be very useful for the farming community. Another booklet “Steps towards Eco friendly Food Security” published by PRAGATI, Koraput containing experiences of SRI farmers was released by Prof. Norman Uphoff, Hon’ble visiting guest from USA.

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SRI SAMMAN Awards:

Sri Pyarimohan Mohapatra, IAS (retired) Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha). Chief Guest on the second day, conferred

SRI SAMMAN awards to 10 leading SRI farmers who have successfully undertaken SRI and are also disseminating SRI practice among other farmers in respective areas.

The SRI SAMMAN awardees are:

1.Smt. Purnima

Rout- Vill: Daleiput, GP: Mahadeiput, Block-Koraput - A landless woman who harvested 11.25 quintals from 100 decimal land through share cropping, got almost double yield as compared to traditional method.2.**Sri Trinath Harijan-** Vill: Hardoli, GP-Ghumar, Block-Kotpad - The farmer who took a risk even though he has only 50 decimal land which is the only source of his livelihood.3.**Dhansai Pujari** - Vill: Hardoli, GP- Ghumar, Block- Kotpad –Though doing for the first time he experimented



with SRI in 2 acres and has also motivated another 5 farmers of his village to adopt SRI.4.**Ananta Nayak** - Vill- Jiraguda, GP& Block- Kundra- He harvested 1.2 quintals of paddy from 10 cents of land by adopting organic SRI where as he used to harvest only 65 to 70 kg. from the same patch in traditional method.He has also learnt preparation and use of

organic manures and pesticides. 5 **Krushna Miniyaka** –Vill- Kainpadar, GP & Block-Laxmipur – A farmer belonging to Kandha tribe has adopted SRI after training and did without any further guidance.He has also motivated another farmer of his village to adopt SRI.6.**Dharmanada Guntha** -Vill- Sariaput, GP-Chatwa, Block-Nandapur- Has adopted SRI and guided other 5 farmers to adopt the same.

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7.Madhaba Pujari –Vill- Badagaon, GP & Block -Pottangi- Madhaba Pujari has adopted SRI in 2.5 acres of land in spite of opposition by family members and hopes to get double yield. He is now able to train other farmers. The District Administration has also conferred him with “Best Organic SRI Farmer” Award on the occasion of Block level festival of PARAB 2008.



8.Jani Samara – Vill- Badapadu,GP- Nuagaon-GP, Block-Pottangi- Jani Samara has taken up SRI for the first time in 40 cents of medium land and stuck to all the principles of SRI and adopted organic practices where as he previously used to apply chemical fertilizers.

9.Kaspati Dora- Vill-Dusura, GP-Subai, Block-Semiliguda-Attended trainings on SRI at SAMBHAV and adopted SRI in his land. He has conducted village meetings in 3 nearby villages and discussed about SRI. Due to his initiatives 4 farmers of nearby villages have adopted SRI and

10. Dambaru Gadaba,- Vill-Tanguda Colony, Block- Mathili-District- Mallkangiri-At present president of farmers group in his village. Tried out SRI in 20 decimal of land in spite of criticisms and discouragement by fellow farmers, stuck to the practices he had learnt during training for seed treatment, embryo formation, raising seed bed, maintaining spacing between plants, weeding and water management. He hopes to get more than double yield.



Exhibition Stalls

There were exhibition stalls in the premises where the Symposium was organized. Pragati and the partners of Jaivik Sri Samaj displayed implements used by farmers in SRI(markers and weeders),photographs of SRI field areas and collection of different variety of paddy seeds (191 varieties).ATMA ,Koraput had also established an exhibition stall displaying their activities.



Cultural Programme

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There were cultural programmes like songs on SRI and organic practices ,one act play and traditional tribal dance of Koraput District 'Dhemsal'in the first night of the symposium.

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