

SRI in Central Assam

An experience sharing of North East Social Trust (NEST)

System of Rice Intensification (SRI) was first experimented by NEST in Dighalipam Village of Assam in the year 2006 in the Ahu season. That experimentation was completed with a mixed result.

It was a failure because the experimentation was not taken seriously by the farmer with preoccupied cynicism and tedious time bound minutiae. The weeding need was not properly taken care of and above all, the high yield



variety “Kolong” collected from the Agriculture University of Jorhat for this experimentation was of long duration and we were not informed about it. In spite of all these, we felt successful also experiencing the remarkable change of SRI crop growth process contrasting with the traditional methods. We got more than 40 tillerings of rice plants in contrast to the 6/7 per plants in the traditional methods.



In collaboration with RGVN and SDTT, NEST has recently started Research and Demonstration initiatives of SRI in Jorhat and Golaghat districts along with providing technical support to Jiroi, NGO in Karbi Anglong district.

In these initiatives, NEST tried to identify the research areas cutting across various ethnic groups, diverse agricultural practices and micro agro climatic milieus.

Emphases were given to the places where traditional practices are always in risk and SRI could be a potential alternative.

Durgapur Chapori village, Near Kaziranga National Park, Dighalipam Village, Near Dergaon

Town are the two areas identified in Golaghat District; Bishnupur Gaon, Sonapara Gaon and Kamalabari Satra areas were identified in Jorhat district.



Four numbers of motivation workshops were organized in these areas to train 58 potential interested farmers on SRI methods. 14 farmers came forward to take part in the experiment and others decided to remain close observer of the experiment this time.

Motivation workshops

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Committed</i>	<i>Remark</i>
27 May	Dighalipam	17	5	One dropped out
30 May	Durgapur Capori	17	7	One dropped out
3 June	Natun Kamal	12	0	Not attracted in Sali, But interested in Bodo & Ahu
4 June	Majuli Bishnupur Gaon	12	5	One dropped out
Total	4 Motivation Workshops	58	17	14 persons continued

In Majuli we have discussed with the Satradhikar of a Satra. But as per information gathered from the Satradhikar there is shortage of land for Sali season hence they want to cultivate in Boro & Ahu season. Therefore in Majuli we have discussed with 12 farmers of ST/OBC community & 5 of them agreed to cultivate in 5 bighas of land in Sali season

Name of the farmers, address their caste and the amount of land they are researching SRI is given here under.

S.N.	Name	Address	District	Caste	Land in Bigha
1.	Khagen Saikia	Bishnupur, Majuli	Jorhat	OBC	1
2.	Baba Saikia	Bishnupur	Jorhat	OBC	1
3.	Duneshwar Bora	Bishnupur	Jorhat	OBC	1
4.	Padma Regan	Sunapara Gaon	Jorhat	ST	0.5
5.	Kushewar Dutta	Durgapur	Golaghat	General	2
6.	Nagen Saikai	Durgapur Chapori	Golaghat	General	1
7.	Jagat Mili	Durgapur Chapori	Golaghat	ST	0.5
8.	Nairam Kardong	Durgapur Chapori	Golaghat	ST	0.5
9.	Mungilal Pegu	Durgapur Chapori	Golaghat	ST	1
10.	Jiten Dutta	Durgapur	Golaghat	General	1
11.	Nurul Islam	Dighalipam	Golaghat	Minority	0.5
12.	Hydor Ali	Dighalipam	Golaghat	Minority	0.5
13.	Baatu Ali	Dighalipam	Golaghat	Minority	0.5
14.	Dwepen Bishwkarma	Dighalipam	Golaghat	Nepali	1
<i>Total Experimentation in Bighas</i>					12

After identification of the farmers and the farmland following initiatives were taken by each of the farmers

Seed Processing

- ☞ Seed variety was selected after due consultation with the farmer concerned
- ☞ All varieties are of 150 days
- ☞ Average 1.250 Kg. seeds were purchased by the farmers for 1 Bigha land
- ☞ Cost of seed was from Rs. 15/- to 20/-
- ☞ Seeds were cleaned and husks (*potaans*) were removed.
- ☞ Seed were washed with salt water
- ☞ Soaked the seeds in plain water for 12 hours



- ☞ Steaming (*gap dia*) the seeds were done by wrapping with jute bags till the sprout (*Gazali*) comes

In the meantime following initiatives were taken in the field for the land processing



Land Processing

- ☞ Ploughing mostly by spread and makes the soil totally grainy after 2/3 plough
- ☞ Immediately Cow dung application at the rate of 40-70 Kg in one bed of the size 1 meter X 13 Meter. This was done about 3 days before sawing
- ☞ The land is irrigated on day of sawing to make the plot muddy

Sawing

- ☞ Sprouted seed are sown in the field
- ☞ For two/three days the bed is covered with thatches or some net to protect from birds
- ☞ In Dighalipam a banana trunk was rolled over the bed so that the seeds go inside the soil.
- ☞ If there is no rain after sawing, and the field is dry, water sprinkling is done manually



Transplantation

- ☞ Before transplantation, bed is irrigated so that soil become soft and lifting of the seedlings were easier
- ☞ Seedlings were carefully transferred to a dish or to a scoop to transport to the transplantation bed
- ☞ With plastic threads 3 rows of nets were prepared with 9 inches distances for Holpuna variety of rice and 10 inches for Bahadur and Ranjeet variety

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☞ 3 Meter width beds were prepared with 6 inch deep furrow and 1 feet width

☞ At the time of transplantaion it was found that 2 Kg seeds were enough for 3 Bighs of land.

☞ In each of the areas we could estimate average 6 women days required for 1 Bigha of land transplantaion



☞ Rs. 300 per Bigha was given.

☞ First weeding is being done in between 13 to 15 days



Farmer wise Seed variety used, date of Seed processing, sawing, transplantation and first Weeding are shown in the table.

S. No.	Name	Seed Variety	Seed Processing	Seed Sawing	Transplantation	Weeding
1	Khagen Saikia	Holpuna	21-Jul	23-Jul	Flood	
2	Baba Saikia	Holpuna	21-Jul	23-Jul	Flood	
3	Duneshwar Bora	Holpuna	22-Jul	24-Jul	Flood	
4	Padma Regan	Holpuna	1-Aug	3-Aug	16-Aug	
5	Kushewar Dutta	Ranjeet	14-Jul	17-Jul	25-Jul	9-Aug
6	Nagen Saikai	Aghuni Bora	24-Jul	27-Jul	8-Aug	17-Aug
7	Jagat Mili	Bahadur	20-Jul	23-Jul	31-Jul	14-Aug
8	Nairam Kardong	Aijung	14-Jul	17-Jul	29-Jul	12-Aug
9	Mungilal Pegu	Bahadur	24-Jul	27-Jul	5-Aug	17-Aug
10	Jiten Dutta	Aghuni Bora	23-Jul	27-Jul	10-Aug	
11	Nurul Islam	Holpuna	20-Jul	24-Jul	10-Aug	
12	Hydor Ali	Holpuna	7-Aug	10-Aug	21-Aug	
13	Baatu Ali	Holpuna	6-Aug	9-Aug	22-Aug	
14	Dwepen Bishwkarma	Holpuna	20-Jul	24-Jul	10-Aug	

JIROI NGO, Karbi Anglong

Mr. Dipankar Bora, the Master Trainer of NEST planned to visit Karbi Anglon for orientation workshops on 8 June 2008, however, given the disturbance situation of the area, he was suggested by the NGO to postponed the program. The organization was fixed to



alternative dates for his visit on 12 June and 19th June, however both the dates were to be cancelled for some or other problems of the NGO.



30th June 2008, Karbi Anglong, Assam

The exposure visit of the NGO representatives from 21 June to 27 June to Tripura had helped building confidence of the team members of JIROI where Bidyasing Kiling participated along with Mr.

Kusheswar Dutta, a farmer of NEST

On 30 July 2008 Mr. Dipankar Bora visit Karbi Anglong and met 4 farmers, discussed with secretary and went for the field visit. It was gathered that the farmers were very

confused at the initial stage but sharing the experiences of Tripura and providing Rs. 500 to meet with the initial cost of SRI helped them to go ahead with the production. It was to be noted that no farmer was ready to transplant only one seedling at



5 August 2008, Durgapur, Golaghat, Assam

a time. Hence they are transplanting 2/3 seedlings. However, they have put some serious effort to do the transplantations in a straight line so that the regular weeding was possible. The duration of the transplantation was also much more than what is expected in SRI practice.

Sl. No.	Name	Seed Variety		Seed Processing	Seed Sowing	Transplantation	Weeding
1	King kisu	Goyan	1 bigha	NA	16 june	14 july	
2	Haren kisu	Goyan	1	NA	16 june	14 july	
3	Raju Tondi	Goyan	1	NA	16 june	14 july	
4	Godpora killing	Goyan	2	NA	16 june	14 july	
5	Lorence killing	Goyan	1	NA	16 june	14 july	
6	Nobinson kisu	Goyan	1	NA	16 june	14 july	
7	Rajen inshi	Bordhan	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
8	Luche terong	Ranjeet	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
9	Sanjoy Timung	Bahadur	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
10	Chamsing lefonch	Bahadur	1	NA	NA	NA	NA
11	Lonken knisu	Bordhan	1	NA	NA	NA	NA

The crisis in Majuli

After the initial preparation sowing and transplantation in Majuli, sudden flood submerged the seedling for more than 15 days killing all the transplanted crops. However, second attempt for the transplantation was also failed because of the flood. Now we are looking and locating some 90 days variety of rice which we are going to transplant soon so that these also could be harvested at the same time.