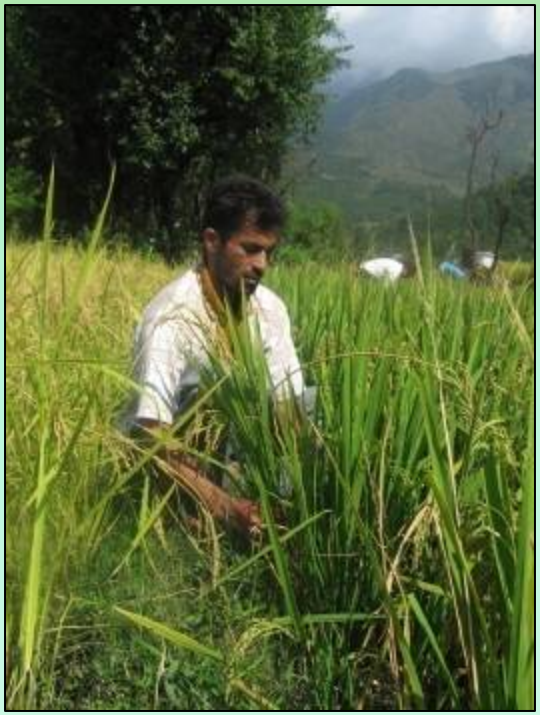
EXPERIENCES FROM MOUNTAIN FARMS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH



Tilak Raj
Kangra, H.P.

Personal Details

Name: Shri Tilak Raj
Age: 35 Years
Education qualification: 10th Pass
Name of village: Kardiana (Chakvan)
Name of district/state: Kangra/Himachal Pradesh
Number of family members: 4
Primary occupation: Agriculture
Number of years in farming: Since childhood

Paddy Cultivation

Total agriculture land: 0.24 ha (6 karnal)

Extent of paddy land: 0.24 ha (6 karnal)

Livestock: 2 bullocks and 1 cow

Water source: Kuhal (irrigation channel)

Inputs used: Plow, vermi-compost, and spade.

Yield in flooding method: 56.25 Q/ha (225 kg/karnal)

Source of information for SRI : Chinmaya Organisation for Rural Development (CORD), Sidhbari, H.P. - A partner organization of Peoples' Science Institute, Dehradun

SRI Adoption -Variations

S. No.	Parameter	Conventional Technique	SRI Technique
	Practices		
1	Nursery	50 m^2	24 m^2
2	Preparation of field	Marker not used	Marker used
3	Transplantation	8th July (30 day-old seedlings)	25th June (12 days-old seedlings)
4	Weeding	Manual	Mandva weeder –3 times
5	Management of water	6” water applied throughout	1” water applied at 10 day intervals
6	Fertilizers/manure	Vermi-compost	Vermi-compost, panchgavya

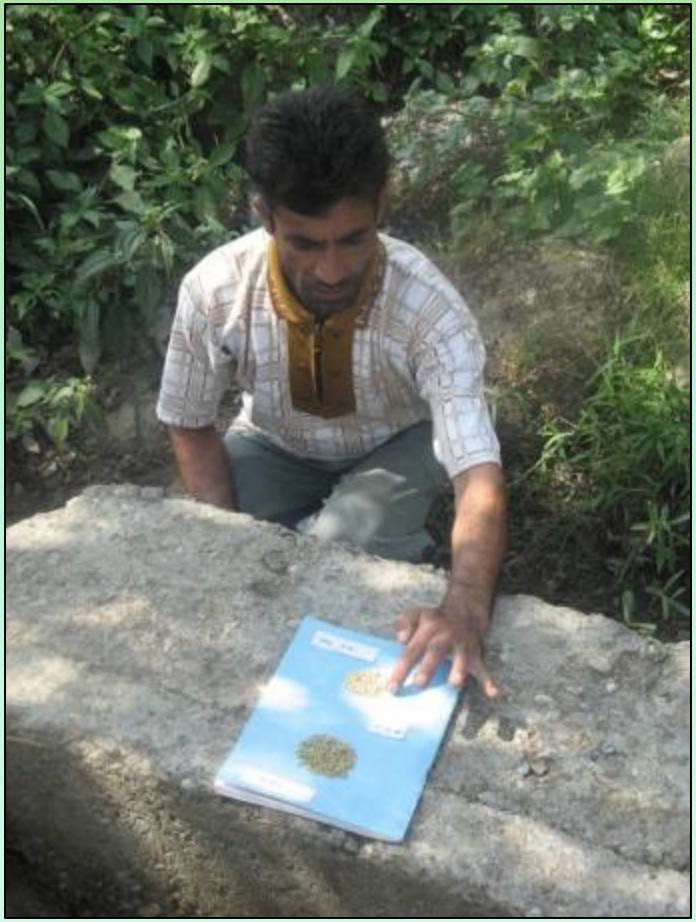
Upscaling SRI

	Year 2006	Year 2007	Year 2008
Area under SRI	0.04 ha (1 karnal)	0.08 ha (2 karnal)	0.16 ha (4 karnal)
Seasons	Kharif	Kharif	Kharif
Variety	Parmal	Parmal	HP 6129
Inputs used	Panchgavya, vermi-compost	Panchgavya, vermi-compost	Panchgavya, vermi-compost
Practices followed	All practices followed	Weeder used 3 times	Weeder used 3 times
Implements used - their availability and usage	Weeder and marker, weeder provided by CORD	Weeder and marker, weeder provided by CORD	Weeder and marker, weeder provided by CORD
Plant protection	-	-	-
Grain yields	240 kg/karnal (60 Q/ha)	250 kg/karnal (62.5 Q/ha)	300 kg/karnal (75 Q/ha)

Self-Designed Wooden Marker

Perceived Benefits

Less seed required – only 1 kg / 4 karnals
50 % less water required in this method
Saving in time - 5 hours / karnal
Need less labour work
Grain production - 12 quintals from 4 karnals (about 75 Q/ha)
More green fodder - 18 quintals in 4 karnals (112.5 Q/ha)



Comparative Results

Parameter	Conventional Technique	SRI Technique
Total no. of tillers	8	18
Average plant height (cm)	98	124
Productive tillers	6	16
Average panicle length (cm)	24	26
Average no. of grains/panicle	100	170
Total output - grain	225 kg / karnal (56.25 Q/ha)	300 kg / karnal (75 Q/ha)
Total output - straw	320 kg / karnal (80 Q/ha)	450 kg/karnal (112.5 Q/ha)
Total cost of cultivation (Rs.)	Rs. 804/karnal (Rs. 20,100/ha)	Rs.575/karnal (Rs. 14,400/ha)
Net profit earned	Rs. 52,150/ha	Rs. 83,000/ha

SRI - Constraints & Lessons

A. CONSTRAINTS

Due to excessive rainfall the nursery gets spoiled

Effort is required to operate the weeder

Marking of small and irregular fields is difficult

B. LESSONS

More filled seeds are obtained in the crop

There are fewer weeds in the crops

There is less lodging of the crops

Due to delay in growth of the crops, the crops were damaged by the cattle

Suggestions

- The availability of good seeds must be assured.

- The specialists should make regular and timely visits.

- The weeder used for the SRI technique needs to be improved and made available at reasonable prices.