

Farmers' Experience in SRI

***AME FOUNDATION,
Bangalore, Karnataka***

FARMER'S DETAILS

Name : Mr. Revanna

Village : KB Hatti (Kannaborayyan Hatti)

Taluk : Kudligi

District : Bellary

State : N. Karnataka

Land Holding : 3 acres of dry land & 0.4 acre
irrigated land

CROPS GROWN

- **Food crops** : Jowar, ragi, bajra, paddy
- **Commercial crops** : Groundnut, sunflower
- **Dryland crops** : Jowar, ragi, bajra, groundnut
- **Irrigated crops** : Paddy, sunflower

WHY SRI PADDY?

- Scarcity of water
- Reliance on others for irrigation water
- Increasing cost of cultivation

THE CROPPING SITUATION:

- The water table has gone down more than 300 feet during the last 5 years, resulting in shortage of irrigation water
- Costs of cultivation of paddy have increased from Rs. 10,000-12,000 per acre with yield stabilized about 12-14 Q/acre (3.25 tons/ha).

SRI PRACTICES

- **Variety** : KRH-2
- **Chaffy seeds separation:**
Salt solution (salt : water - 1:4)
- **Seed rate:** 2 kg/acre
- **Seeds germination :**
Seeds are soaked for 24 hours in water, then for 12 hrs more in a gunny bag



- **Seed treatment:** *Azospirillum* at a rate of 200 g/acre

- **Nursery bed:**
20m X 1m X 10cm
2 raised beds for one acre



- **Transplanting :**

10-day-old seedlings

1-2 seedlings per hill

- **Irrigation :**

Initially: once in a week

During panicle initiation: twice in a week



Conoweeder operation :

1st weeding 10 DAT

In total, 4 weedings



EXPERIENCE WITH SRI

- Higher root growth
- Less cost of cultivation
- More weed infestation
- More yield



THE EXPERIENCE (Economics)

| | Farmer Practice | SRI Practice |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cost of cultivation | Rs. 12,150/acre | Rs. 8,450/acre |
| Grain yield | 19.5 Q/ac | 20.5 Q/ac |
| Fodder yield | 13 cart loads/acre | 15 cart loads/acre |
| Net income | Rs. 9,286/acre | Rs.14,872/acre |

LEARNING

- Transplanting of 10-day-old seedlings is beneficial
- SRI paddy requires less irrigation, only once in 6 days in red sandy soil
- Costs of cultivation can be reduced, especially the cost of inputs with SRI practice
- Labour requirement in SRI paddy is more because of weeding operations
- Net income is more due to higher yield and lower cost

SPILL-OVER EFFECT

- *Shri Basaveshwar Susthir Krashikar Sangha* in KB Hatti organized a sharing event
- 15 farmers from different villages adopted the SRI method after seeing Revanna's experience

