

Civil Society Involvement in SRI

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From NGOs to civil society

- **NGOs are not homogenous**
- **Arenas of operation** – grassroots, block, district, state, regional, national, international
- **Category of involvement** – direct implementation, extension, training, resource centres, research, creating solutions on implements, policy work, and combinations of these
- Need to include farmers' organisations, networks, people's movements, etc.

Spread of SRI, civil society, and innovation

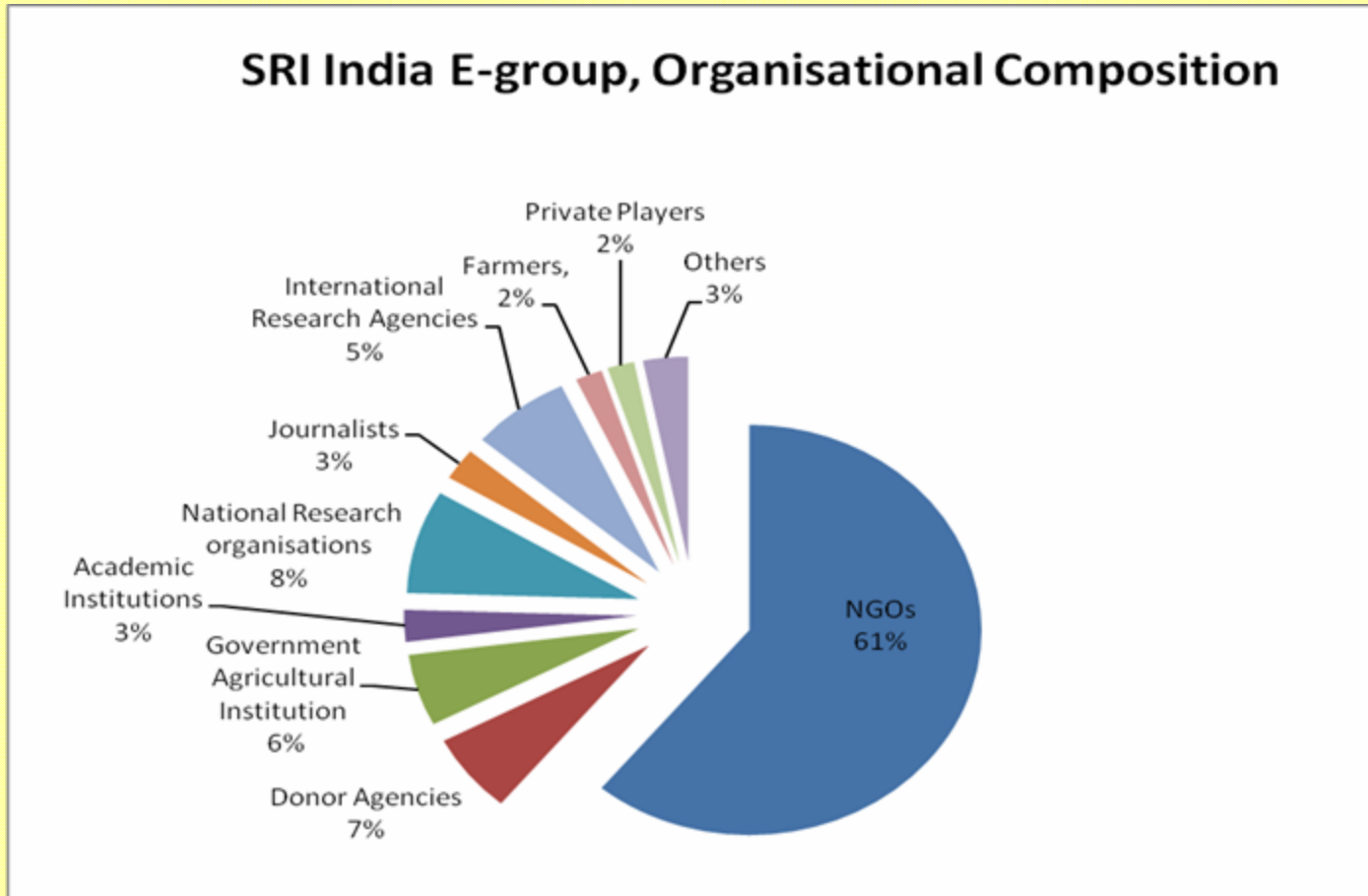


- An innovation that has civil-society origins
- Promoted as a philosophy, as a **system** rather than as an invariant technology
- Civil society recognises the **knowledge** (rather than input) **intensive** nature of SRI and has **innovated** accordingly in both research and extension
- Not something given, but providing multiple meanings to SRI, experimenting, risking...

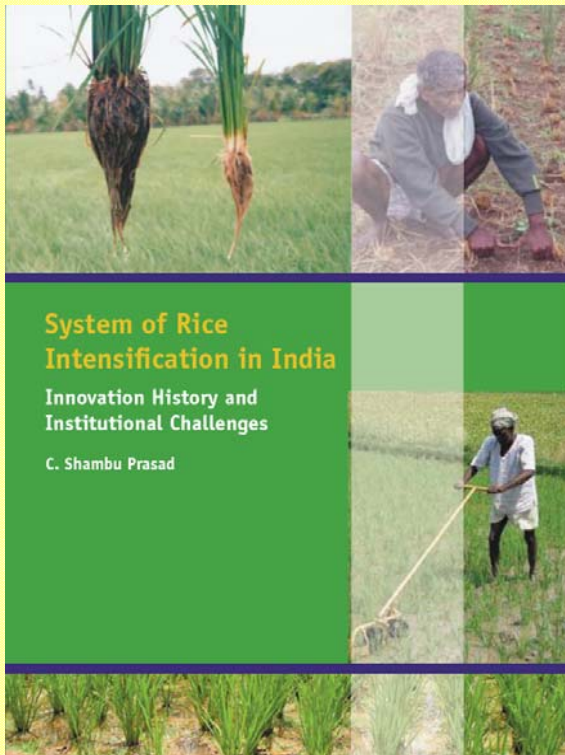
SRI in India: Civil society summary

- Difficult to get a national picture, very decentralized process
- Over 60% of the members in SRI 'googlegroup' are from CSOs
- SRI presence in 180 and more districts is attributable to civil society involvement
- Some key civil society-led SRI states – West Bengal, Uttarakhand, HP, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Assam, MP and AP
- In Orissa, over 23 organisations are involved in 46 blocks and 414 villages with over 5,000 farmers using SRI on at least 500 acres

CSO: Key actors in SRI India group



Civil society and SRI in India



The first to accept SRI (1999)
even as it was being rejected by
formal researchers

Key experimentation, adaptation
and some failures

SRI pushed by organic groups and
networks

Asked different questions in
keeping with the agroecological
paradigm

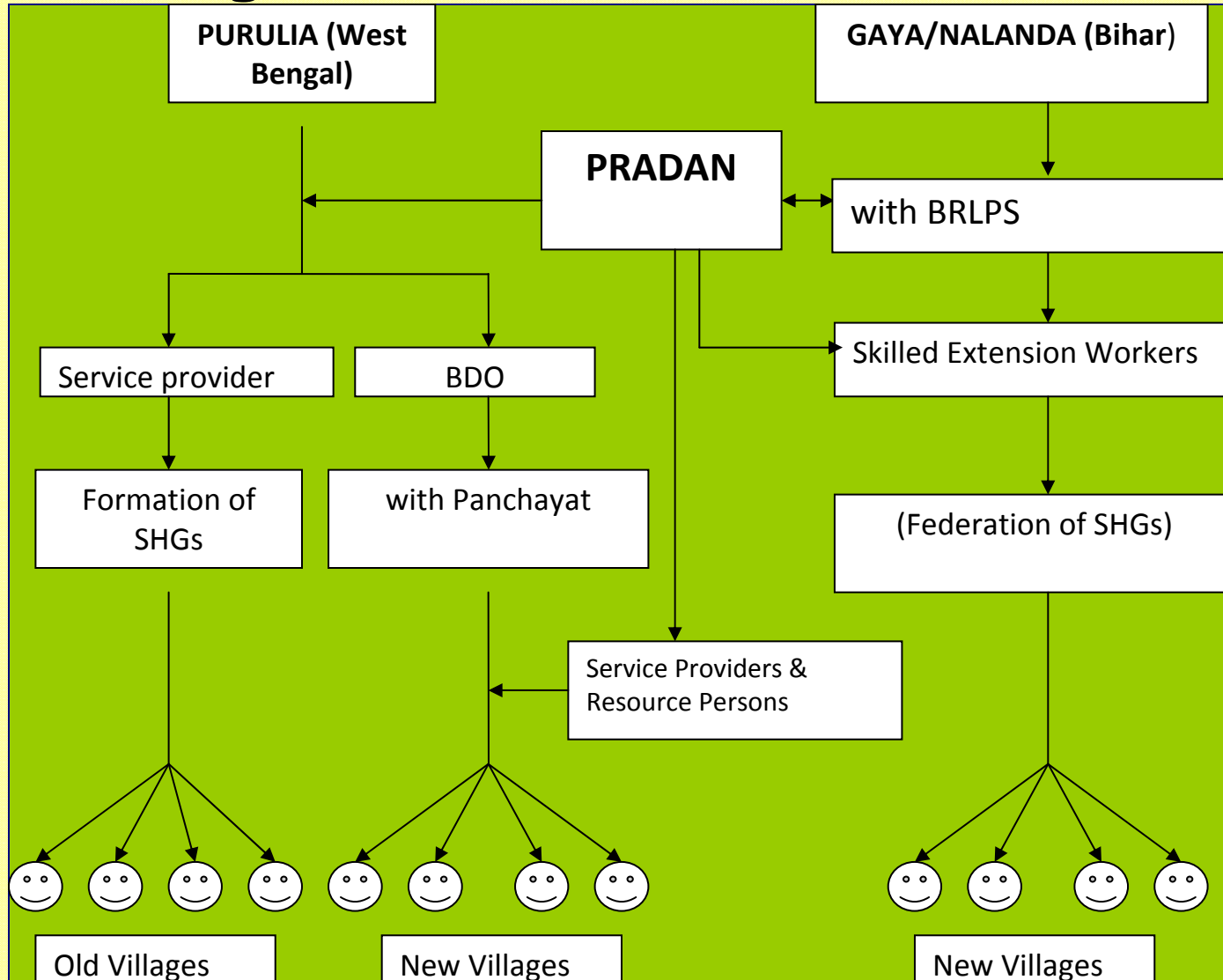
Extended SRI to rainfed areas

Many stories not told - staggered
nursery, flexibility SRI gives
farmers in 'playing the monsoon'

Civil society and SRI: Phase 2

- Improvements made in implements - Mandava weeder, markers, etc.
- Extension to other crops, e.g., wheat, ragi, sugar cane
- Extension of SRI methods to traditional varieties
- Use of EM, vermicompost, panchagavya, etc.
- Great innovations and diversity in extension strategies - FFS, experience-sharing
- Setting new axioms - **on farmers' fields**
- Different kinds of scale-up models
- Greater involvement of women - Uttarakhand, SHGs.
- Strategic fit with watershed activity, NRM, sustainable livelihoods

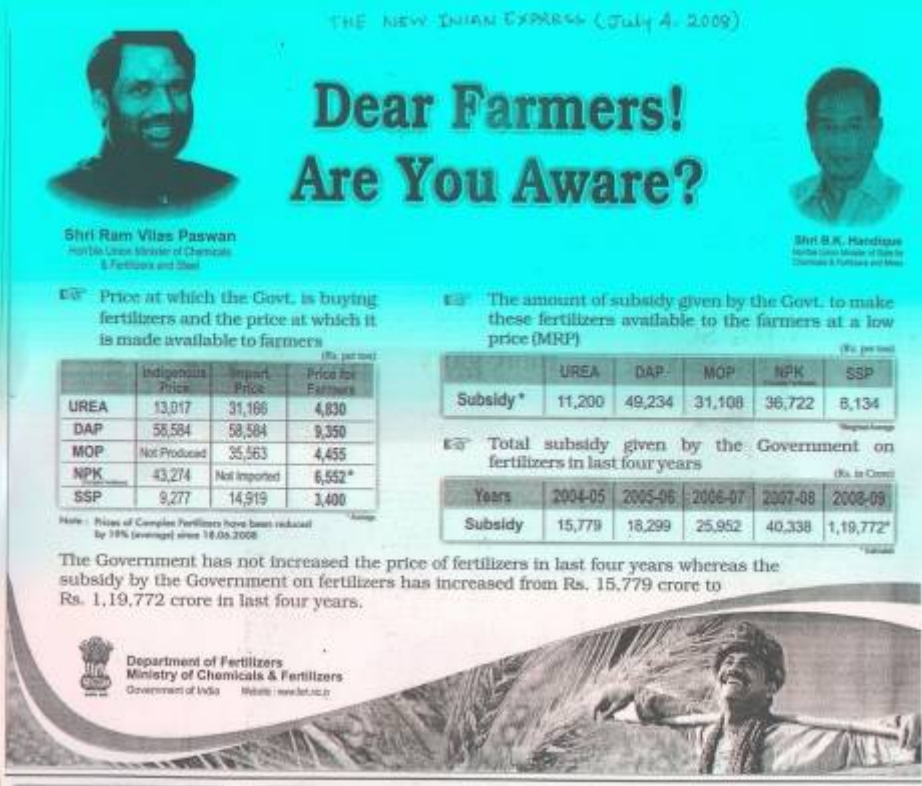
Different institutional models by same organisation - case of PRADAN



Jai SRI: SRI as a people's movement

- *Jaivik SRI* – organic SRI
- Response or only option for S&M farmers?
- SRI songs, greetings

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS (JULY 4, 2009)



Dear Farmers! Are You Aware?

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan
Hon'ble Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Steel

Shri B.K. Handique
Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Steel

₹ Price at which the Govt. is buying fertilizers and the price at which it is made available to farmers (Rs. per ton)

	Indigenous Price	Import Price	Price for Farmers
UREA	13,017	31,166	4,830
DAP	58,584	58,584	9,350
MOP	Not Produced	35,563	4,455
NPK	43,274	Not Imported	6,552*
SSP	9,277	14,919	3,400

₹ The amount of subsidy given by the Govt. to make these fertilizers available to the farmers at a low price (MRP) (Rs. per ton)

	UREA	DAP	MOP	NPK	SSP
Subsidy*	11,200	49,234	31,108	36,722	8,134

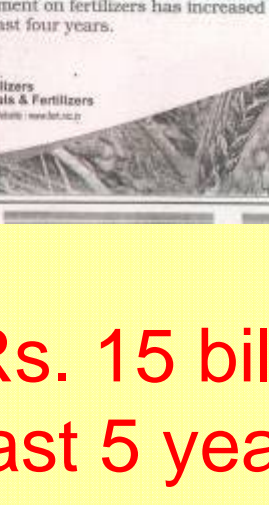
₹ Total subsidy given by the Government on fertilizers in last four years (Rs. in Crore)

Years	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Subsidy	15,779	18,299	25,952	40,338	1,19,772*

Note: Prices of Complex Fertilizers (port taxes reduced by 38% (averaged) since 18.05.2008)

The Government has not increased the price of fertilizers in last four years whereas the subsidy by the Government on fertilizers has increased from Rs. 15,779 crore to Rs. 1,19,772 crore in last four years.

Department of Fertilizers
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers
Government of India Website: www.fat.nic.in



Fertiliser subsidy up from Rs. 15 billion to Rs. 119 billion just in past 5 years

SRI Samman & Logo

ଶ୍ରୀ ସମ୍ମାନ

ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଓ ଶ୍ରୀଯୁକ୍ତ
 ଗ୍ରାମ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ
 ବ୍ଲକ୍ ଜିଲ୍ଲା

ସଫଳତାର ସହ ଜୈବିକ ଉପାୟରେ ଶ୍ରୀ ପକ୍ଷତରେ ଚାଷକରି ଆମ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରେରଣାର ଉତ୍ସ ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି । ଅନ୍ୟ କୃଷକ ସାଥୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆଶାର ଆଲୋକ ଦେଖାଇଛନ୍ତି । ସେହି ଭୂମିକନ୍ୟା ଓ ଭୂମିପୁତ୍ରଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ଶୁଭ ଅବସରରେ ସମ୍ମାନିତ ତଥା ଅଭିନନ୍ଦିତ କରି ଆମେ ନିଜକୁ ଗୌରବାନ୍ୱିତ ମନେ କରୁଛୁ ।

ତାରିଖ : ପ୍ରକ୍ଷି ସମ୍ମାନିତ
 ସ୍ଥାନ : କୋରାପୁଟ ଅତିଥି



What has civil society brought to SRI?

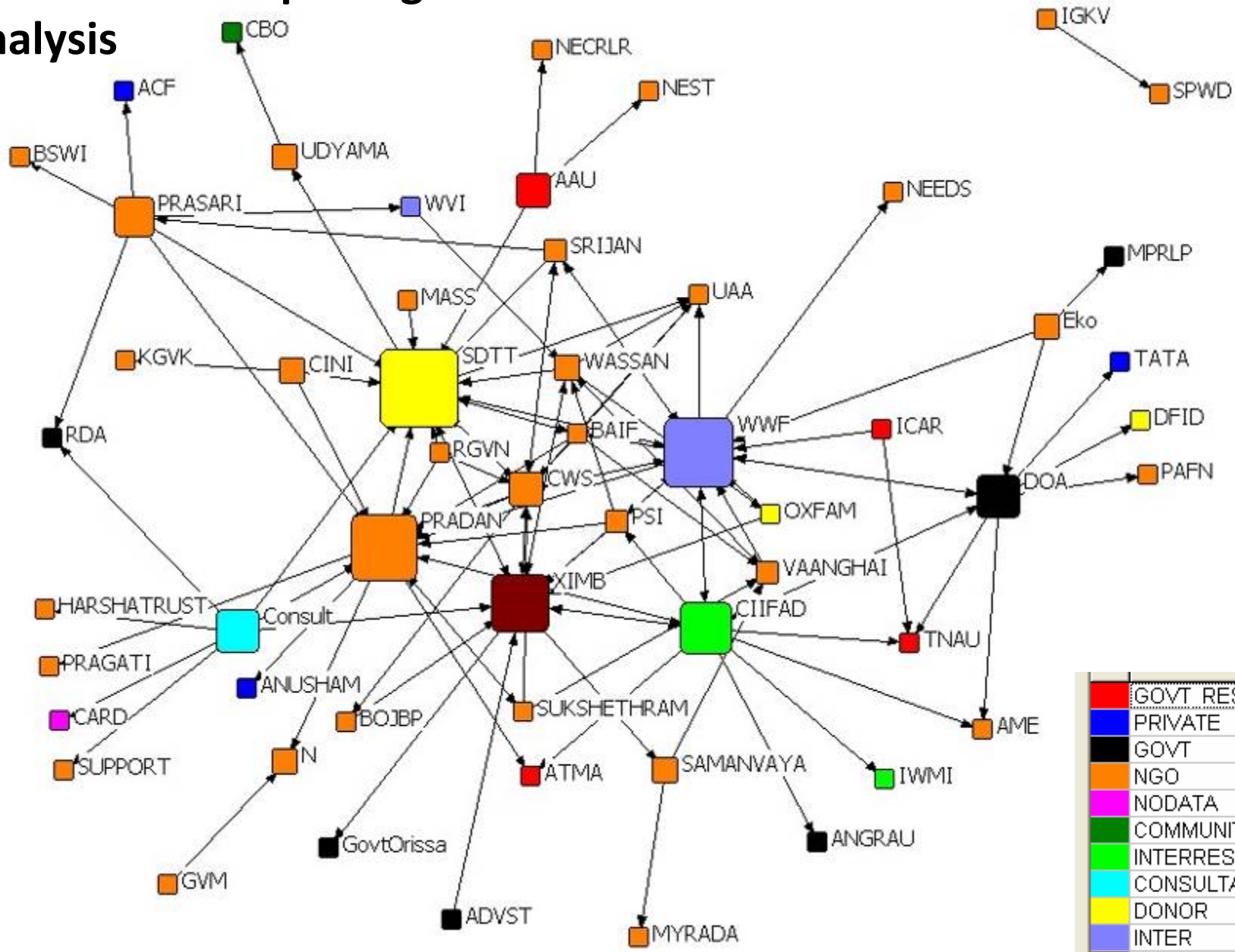
- Pro-poor and rainfed focus
- Organic and agroecological focus
- Need to invest in capacity-building
- Networks
- Flexibility and strategies for mainstreaming
- Innovation and experimentation

Civil society and SRI: Phase 3

Challenges emerging

- How to **scale up**?
- How to work with the **government**?
- How to work with **research agencies**?
- How to work with the **private sector**, especially for creating proper supply chain for implements
- How to influence **public policies** in favour of agroecological approaches?
- How not to ignore **cultural dimensions** of rice culture?
- How to present SRI in light of **climate change** as shaping agriculture of the future?
- How to document **impact** as a holistic phenomenon?

SRI Network Map using Social Network Analysis



Red	GOVT RES
Blue	PRIVATE
Black	GOVT
Orange	NGO
Magenta	NODATA
Green	COMMUNITY
Light Green	INTERRES
Cyan	CONSULTANT
Yellow	DONOR
Light Blue	INTER
Dark Red	ACAD

Reluctant Partners? NGO and government!

- The SRI innovation system is indeed quite complex
- One view: 'NGOs cannot do up-scaling. It can present an alternative and prove that it (organic or SRI) is feasible for large numbers... But for large-scale impact, the State has to take it into its agenda' - true?
- What mechanisms might enable greater collaboration among civil society, state and business? Can NFSM, RKVY help? How?
- When will civil society be involved in policy formulation? How can it?