

SRI CHARACTERIZATION – BY KIND AND BY DEGREE (draft – NTU, to be further improved)

We have said that SRI is a matter of degree, not an either/or matter. But there are still demands to assess SRI practice, and having just a binary characterization (SRI/not SRI) presents many difficulties. We have an 'ideal type' of SRI practice, stemming from the work of Fr. Laulanié and confirmed by factorial-trial analysis. But many if not all farmers will find that set of practices too challenging to work with, at least at the start. So, the following 'assessment chart' could [with refinements from SRI colleagues] provide a scoring process that can help evaluate *the degree to which* the SRI methodology is being put into practice.

Practice	Ideal SRI (3)	Good SRI (2)	Minimal SRI (1)	Not SRI (0)
Land preparation	<i>Soil is well-worked and well-leveled (3)</i>	<i>Soil is reasonably well-worked and leveled (2)</i>	<i>Soil is minimally worked and leveled (1)</i>	<i>Soil is not well-worked and not well-leveled (0)</i>
Nursery management	<i>Nursery has good soil material and is well-drained (3)</i>	<i>Nursery has acceptable soil material and is not flooded (2)</i>	<i>Nursery has acceptable soil material but is flooded (1)</i>	<i>Nursery has poor soil and/or is kept continuously flooded (0)</i>
Transplanting practice	<i>Seedlings removed gently from nursery, transplanted gently within 30 minutes (3)</i>	<i>Seedlings carefully removed and transported, transplanted within 1 hour (2)</i>	<i>Seedlings removed with minimal care, transplanted within 3 hours (1)</i>	<i>Seedlings removed without care, transplanted more than 3 hours (0)</i>
Age of seedlings	8-10 days (3)	10-15 days (2)	15-20 days (1)	Over 20 days (0)
Number per hill	1 per hill (3)	2 per hill (2)	3 per hill (1)	4 or more per hill (0)
Spacing	9-16 plants/m³ (3)	17-25 plants/m³ (2)	26-40 plants/m³ (1)	Over 40 plants/m³ (0)
Water management	'Minimum of water' carefully applied (3)	Well-managed AWD (2)	AWD without careful management (1)	Continuous flooding (0)
Nutrient management	Full organic fertilization (3)	More organic than chemical fertilization (2)	More chemical than organic fertilization (1)	Full chemical fertilization (0)
Weed control	4 cono-weedings (3)	2-3 cono-weedings (2)	1 cono-weeding or manual weeding (1)	Herbicide use (0)

'Full' or ideal SRI would have a total score of 25-27 points; 'good' SRI could cover a range of 16-24 points; 'minimal' SRI would have a total of 10-15 points; below 10 points would be considered as 'not SRI.'