

**REPORT ON PARTICIPATION AT RNR ANNUAL EXPO 2006**  
**19<sup>th</sup> December to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2006**

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**Summary**

As per the invitation received from the Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) Department, I along with two students from the College participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual RNR Expo for the year 2006, held at Gedu Higher Secondary School's soccer field (about 700 km away from Kanglung) from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Our participation at the Expo included a poster presentation (photo included) on the results of our preliminary research on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) carried out during the rice-growing season of 2006 in Kanglung geog at four sites (Khangma, Thragom, Pangthang, and on campus).

We were allocated a space for our poster (1.2m x 1m size) at one of the stalls under the Horticulture and Field Crop Management Technologies section (photo). On the opening day of the Expo, His Excellency the Minister for Agriculture and many officials acknowledged our participation at such an event coming from Sherubtse College. His Excellency was particularly happy to see two of my research students doing something positive in the field outside of the classroom. This Expo, aimed at exhibiting new technologies and best practices in the field of agriculture, livestock and forestry, was actually organized for the rural people.

Our presentation on SRI method was received well by the participants (mostly farmers from 5 western districts) as this method of rice cultivation technique (i.e., getting more from less), which can be easily adopted after slight modification on present conventional practice, was totally new to many farmers. It was a sort of eye-opener to them. The big return, i.e. bountiful harvest, possible with a large number of fertile tillers concurrent with less use of resources such as seeds, water, and no use of chemical fertilizers at all, left many of our visitors in awe towards this technique. Besides, the farmers were also familiarized to the new way of raising healthy seedling/nursery by solarization technique.

Our participation at the Expo has so many good things to take back. Personally, it has been an enjoyable experience, teaching something to the people to make them aware of this innovative method of rice cultivation. Let's hope that this awareness on new method of rice cultivation bears good precedence. Besides the good exposure gained, it provided an opportunity to meet and interact with so many researchers and scientists in various fields who have contributed so much to the development of the nation and in particularly raising the standard of lives of our rural people. These interactions have been vital in broadening knowledge outside of what we already know. Also further follow-up study on SRI will be carried out in many regions of the country due to such interactions.



Chief Guest, Hon. Minister for Agriculture opening the Expo.



SRI poster together with field crops



Crowd being sensitized on SRI techniques by my students



Minister acknowledging me and my students. Self shaking hands with Minister.