

Presentations for spreading acquaintance with SRI system in Iraq during 2007

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The SRI Extension Committee in Iraq has been moving widely to acquaint people with the SRI system: what is SRI ? how does SRI work? Particularly the time has come to focus on restoring soil fertility to rice-growing areas given the decline in soil fertility as a result of growing wheat in rotation with rice. The two crops with present practices are exhausting the soil, which leads to reductions in rice productivity and quality in Iraq .

Lectures were organized by the State Board of Agricultural Extension and Cooperation and Al-Mishkhab Rice Research Station to technical staff and rice farmers in 8 provinces. Also the lectures contained training for use of mechanical transplanting for the next rice season in many provinces to spread transplanting culture because transplanting is not common in Iraq. Also, transplanting is one of the SRI practices which include using organic materials and early transplanting. The lectures were as follow:

1. State Board of Agricultural Extension and Cooperation and MRRS provided a training course for five days, 9-13 September 2007, at the Agriculture Extension and Training Center in Diwaniya province. Flayeh Abed Jaber, MRRS director, and Khidir made presentations to 28 agricultural staff from 8 provinces (Baghdad, Messan, Babel, Diwaniya, Muthanna, Thi Qar, Basrah, and Najaf). The training included the theoretical and practical parts on using new mechanical transplanting, its benefits and economic analysis. The lectures were filmed.



Flayeh Abed Jaber, Director of MRRS



Khidir Abbas Hameed, MRRS



Practical parts of the training course



Group participating in the training course

- On 22 May, 2007, Khidhir gave a lecture to 25 rice farmers in agriculture extension and training center in Al-Haydariya sub-district north of Najaf. The lecture showed many pictures as a demonstration means. The presentation treated also the benefits of SRI. The farmers were shown the desirability of planting a clover crop after rice as a green manure to increase soil fertility and to reduce the amount of chemical fertilizer needed.



Lecture in Al-Haydariya sub-district

3. On 27 August, 2007, the Directorate of Agriculture in Al-Muthanna and MRRS organized an extension lecture to the Agriculture Department's staff and to farmers (25) about SRI applications, particularly cultivation of clover crop as a green manure. Miss Eman Hussein gave the lecture on SRI instead of the SRI Committee because it was difficult to reach the place at that time. The lecture had a good response and was published in one of local magazines in the province.



Miss Eman Hussein gave a lecture to the Agriculture Department staff and farmers on SRI for the Directorate of Agriculture training program in Al-Muthanna province