



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GRANT NO. 0235-LAO (SF)



# NORTHERN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR PROJECT (NRIDSP)

## NEWS LETTER No.2

March 2012

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### **Promotion of SRI in NRI Project**

Agricultural extension is a component of NRI to enhance the impact of the project. The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is planned to promote as one of key actions in the agricultural extension works. Outline of SRI is briefly explained.

#### **What is SRI ?:**

SRI is an innovative cultivation method of rice. The fundamental elements of SRI are:

- (1) Unique transplanting method to transplant young seedlings (younger than 14-day age after seeding) at wider spacing (25 cm x 25 cm or more). Number of seedling to transplant at a hill is one or two only.
- (2) Unique water management to keep paddy soil by wetting and drying cycle under intermittent irrigation.

SRI has different types. Basic SRI is to use chemical fertilizers (reduced quantity). Organic SRI is to use organic fertilizers. It is proposed to start from Basic SRI and then to be upgraded to Organic SRI reflecting local conditions.

Merit of SRI is yield increase (50% or more) with cost saving by reduction of external resources inputs (seeds, chemicals, water). In other words, SRI can raise productivity of rice and water. Furthermore SRI is environment-friendly by reduction of methane gas.



#### **SRI in the World:**

SRI was developed by Fr. Henri de Laulanié in Madagascar in 1983. Since 1999, SRI has been expanded in many countries owing to a great effort by Prof. Norman Uphoff, Cornell University USA. By 2011, 42 countries have reported SRI test results. Major countries with good progress of SRI practice are India, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Indonesia. Total area of SRI reached 1 million ha in

2010.

#### **SRI in Laos:**

In Laos, SRI was first introduced by OAus in 2001. However the National Agricultural Research Center, MAF issued a report with a conclusion that “SRI is hardly able to promote in Laos” in 2002.

In 2006, with a kind cooperation by Mr. Phaythoune, Irrigation Department of MAF, introduction of SRI has been started by a Japanese NPO (ProNet21) with JICA assistance and the Northern Community Managed Irrigation Sector Project (ADB finance). The results on SRI under these projects were attractive.

In response to the good results of SRI above, the Minister of MAF issued a “Circular Notice on Promotion of SRI Dissemination” to all 17 provincial Agriculture and Forestry Offices (PAFO) in September 2008. Furthermore, the Minister of MAF reported in the National Parliament about the MAF’s policy to promote SRI nationwide in September 2008. After the announcement, SRI promotion has been accelerated. Especially the progress of SRI dissemination has been great in Louangphabang Province by effective support by PAFO-LPB. The total SRI area and SRI farmers have reached 3,625 ha and 10,666 farmers, respectively, in 2009-10 dry season.

#### **SRI in NRI:**

It is scheduled to promote SRI in all subprojects of NRI in the provinces of Bokeo, Louang Namtha and Phongsali during the implementation of rehabilitation works for irrigation facilities. It is expected that the progress of SRI dissemination should be smooth under full cooperation by related organizations (province, district, and villages).



(Agriculture & SRI Specialist: Shuichi Sato / Khamphone Phanmalivong)



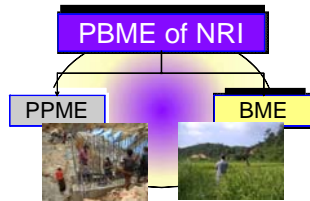
# NRIDSP NEWS LETTER

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### Provincial Project Benefit Monitoring and Evaluation Training

The establishment of appropriate mechanism and procedure for PBME is an integral part of NRI to monitor project benefits and evaluate them so that useful recommendations for ensuring the further project benefits will be ensured. The PBME of NRI consists of two major activities: (i) Project Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (PPME) and (ii) Benefit Monitoring and Evaluation (BME).



A good PBME system will help: (i) clarification of what impact the Project is expected to have, (ii) decision of how progress and impact will be assessed, (iii) gathering and analysis of the necessary information for following up progress and impact and (iv) explanation for the reasons for success and failure of project activities, and agreement on how to use such information to improve future actions.

An effective M&E will be able to: (i) provide managers with information needed for timely decisions, (ii) provide key stakeholders including National Project Management Office (NPMO), Provincial Project Offices (PPOs) and District Coordination Offices (DCOs) with information to guide the project strategy, (iii) provide early warnings of problems to take measures appropriately, (iv) help empower primary stakeholders particularly beneficiaries of the project and involve them more, (v) build understanding and capacity amongst those involved in the project and (vi) assess progress and so build accountability.

In February 2012, Provincial PBME Training was held at 3 provinces: Phongsaly, Luang Namtha, and Bokeo aiming at (i) reviewing the importance of PBME; (ii) understanding the methodology of PBME among PPOs and DCOs including PBME data collection format. Specifically, the trainings will establish PBME system at provincial and district level by enabling the PPOs and DOCs to monitor and evaluate project implementation activities; and ensuring preparation of project status report in timely and appropriate manner.

Twenty nine (29) participants in charge of PBME at provincial and district levels attended the series of training represented by PPOs (Project Coordinators & Planning Officers), DCOs (Implementation and Monitoring Officers).

Time	Agenda
08:30 – 08:50	Registration
08:50 – 09:00	Welcome
09:00 – 10:00	<b>Session 1: Introduction.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is PBME? - Review of Technical Orientation Workshop</li> <li>• Project Concept and Component – Because PBME is related with all the activities</li> <li>• PBME Works in NRI – Introductory part</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Break</b>
10:30 – 12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection forms</li> <li>• Basic analysis and reporting (how and when?)</li> <li>• Questions/discussions</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:00 – 16:00	<b>Session 2: Practical data collection</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice data collection forms</li> <li>• Question /Discussions</li> <li>• Evaluation</li> </ul>
16:00 – 16:15	Workshop closing

The training program consisted of two sessions. Session 1 through lecture style training was the introductory part of the training by explaining general concept and methodology of PBME to be utilized for NRI's PBME.



Session 2 focused on practice of using format. Interactive discussion method was applied between the resource persons and the participants in order to facilitate active participation of attendants in the discussion and the practice. The useful discussion extended not only for revision and/or improvement of PBME methodology and format but also detailed schedule of engineering, agricultural extension, institutional strengthening etc. under NRI and their coordination with PBME activities.

We, as PBME Consultants, wish to express our gratitude for those attending and contributing to the provincial PBME trainings. We are sure that the outcome from the training will help smooth implementation as well as sustainability of developed facilities of NRI.

(PBME Specialist: Shigeya Otsuka/Youngyer Kongchi)

#### NRIDSP Main Activity in March 2012

- Preparation of commencement of detailed design for 3 subprojects: (i) Nam Haad Irrigation Rehabilitation, (ii) Nam Dai Irrigation Rehabilitation and (iii) Mong Chao Rural Road Rehabilitation.
- Feasibility study for 6 candidates subproject under Year 1 including engineering, land use planning and socio-economy

#### From the Editor

How did you find the NRIDSP News Letter No.2? In this number, an innovative farming technique, SRI is introduced and Provincial PBME Training is reported. Do you know SRI? In response to good result obtained during Northern Community Managed Irrigation Sector Project (NCMI), SRI will be applied in agricultural extension in NRI. We will regularly report progress and output of NRI's trial in SRI. Kindly expect our report!