



1st NATIONAL CONFERENCE on SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION (SRI) for Sustainable Rice Security and Heritage....

PERSIDANGAN KEBANGSAAN PERTAMA

SRI (SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION)

untuk Kelestarian Jaminan Bekalan Beras dan Warisan

5th - 6th July, 2011

Palm Garden Hotel IOI Resort, Putrajaya.

BACKGROUND

Rice security of Malaysia has come under scrutiny following the 2008 food crises. Rice for Malaysia is not only a matter of food security but also regarded as a matter of national security and roots of Malaysian culture and heritage. The issues and concerns related to making rice supply available, accessible and affordable to Malaysians have been frequently cited as the main reasons for increasing local rice production in the move towards achieving self-sufficiency goals. Hence, technology and methods of production have moved towards so-called “modern agriculture” and high-yielding rice varieties that can withstand climate change and promise high returns to farmers. In fact, rice production is one of the most highly subsidized sectors in the country. Today, some methods or technology used in producing rice has indirectly subjected Malaysia to compromise a lot on the socio-cultural benefits of rural rice farmers, on the environment, as well as, safety and health of both producers and consumers, posing potential threats to rice security and rice heritage of Malaysia.

Production of rice in Malaysia not only has its economic values but also important socio-cultural values. The other aspect of food security, i.e the “acceptability” aspect, which is closely related to the socio-cultural values, must be equally emphasized.

BACKGROUND ON SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION (SRI)

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI), which has been widely accepted, is practiced in many major rice producing countries. Based on natural farming philosophy and approaches, SRI pays high regards and respects for the local ecosystem and biodiversity, particularly in water conservation. SRI has been proven to be equally efficient to cope with the needs and demand for rice security and heritage values of rice production.

Professor Norman Uphoff of Cornell University, the Keynote Speaker at the Conference, shares that SRI is not considered as a ‘technology,’ and is not presented to farmers as a standard kind of technology. And so, this allows it to be applied to many adaptations and innovations by farmer-users. The SRI, which originated from Madagascar, has evolved over a 30-year period and has gained application internationally since 2000. More importantly, the SRI method has enabled farmers to raise their irrigated rice production substantially just by making changes in the way they manage their plants, soil, water and nutrients, rather than by increasing inputs such as fertilizer, water and agrochemicals. Getting more output with less cost enhances profitability.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE

The Conference will highlight the applicability of SRI Method for rice production in Malaysia to be considered and explored for its long-term socio-economic benefits. Understandably, this step would demand an action plan that involves stakeholders in rice production and consumption at all levels. A dynamic plan with a view to the future provided by expert speakers would provide insights into the dynamics of SRI and its relevance to Malaysian communities, for which this conference recognizes the need to:

- ❖ Address scientific, technical and political reasons intertwined in rice production,
- ❖ Ensure the livelihoods of rice farmers, farming communities and consumers
- ❖ Ensure sustainable use of natural resources and conserve the environment
- ❖ Integrate national policies into rural development programs
- ❖ Monitor the effectiveness of fiscal policies in ensuring rice and livelihoods security
- ❖ Create public awareness on rice production issues and the relevance of SRI

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This Conference generally aims at sharing of SRI knowledge and experiences, particularly from the SRI practitioners in Malaysia, with the discussion revolving around the means for positioning SRI as another option for advancing rice security in the country. The SRI Method is specifically highlighted due to its multi-faceted functions not only to address rice and food security challenges, but also to safeguard the very foundation of Malaysian cultural heritage, while embracing sustainable socio-economic benefits and sustainable rural development.

Specific aims of the Conference:

- Sharing and exchanging of knowledge and experiences on sustainable agriculture which is biodiversity- and ecological-based
- Highlighting key rice production factors such as soil, water, pest and diseases, seed varieties, climate, etc., and the impact of these factors on the sustainability of rice production
- Enhancing the capacity of rural rice farming communities to become more resilient through sustainable socio-economic development through the diversification of economic activities.
- Promoting and positioning SRI as one of the key strategies for sustainable food security for Malaysia.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

5 Julai 2011 (Selasa)

0810-0900	Pendaftaran
0900-0930	Kertas Plenari I: SRI for Community Development Prof Norman Uphoff, Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD)
0930-1000	Kertas Plenari II: Pertanian Ekologi Kaedah SRI Hj Anuar Hj Yahya & Ahmad Jatika, FELCRA Training and Consultancy (FTC), Nusantara Organic SRI Centre (NOSC)
1000-1015	Jamuan teh

SESI 1

1015-1030	Peranan Mikrob dalam Pertanian Ekologi dan SRI Prof Iswandi Anas, Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB)
1030-1045	Penjimatian Air Melalui Kaedah SRI Ir Mohamad Zaki Bin Mat, Jurutera Perunding Zakie Sdn Bhd
1045-1100	Menangani Perosak Melalui Pertanian Bersepadu Kaedah SRI Prof Maimon Abdullah, Dr Norela Sulaiman, PM Dr Anizan Isahak, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
1100-1115	Logam berat dalam padi Dr Habibah Hj Jamil & PM Dr Khairiah Jusoh, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
1115-1130	Penjaminan Kualiti Beras: Kajian SRI Prof Aminah Abdullah & Nur Haqim Ismail, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
1130-1145	The Future of Rice Production: Sustainable Rice Security and Rural Livelihoods for Malaysia? Anni Mitin, Southeast Asian Food Security and Fair Trade (SEACON)
1145-1230	Sesi tanya-jawab
1230 -1400	Business matching/roadshow SRI Jamuan tengahari

1400-1530 **Forum: Pengalaman SRI di Malaysia – Kelantan, P. Pinang, Sabah**

- Aep Saipudin b. Sukriadi, Sunnah Tani Enterprise-Kelantan
- Prof. Dr Asarudin Hj Ashari
- Lo Suet Lin, GQ1 Management Sdn Bhd

1530-1600 **Jamuan Teh**

1600-700 **Forum: Pengalaman SRI di Malaysia – Selangor, Kedah, Melaka**

- Hj Marzuki Mat Zain, Kedah Economic Development Authority (KEDA)
- Puan Noorazimah Taharim, Pembedaan Menteri Besar Selangor (MBI)
- PM Dr Anizan Isahak, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

6 Julai 2011 (Rabu)

SESI 2

0900-0915	Peranan IT dalam Penyebaran SRI Dr Zakirah Othman, Universiti Malaya (UM)
0915-0930	Peningkatan Upaya Generasi Muda Melalui Kaedah SRI Pn Salwati Mohd Ariffin, Kumpulan Peladangnya Unit Senak-Kelantan
0930-0945	Program Latihan untuk Sokongan kepada Pengembangan Pertanian Ekologi Kaedah SRI Hj Rohaizat Ahmad, FELCRA Training and Consultancy Sdn Bhd (FTC)
0945-1000	Sesi tanya-jawab
1000-015	Jamuan teh

SESI PERBINCANGAN

1015-1130	Perbincangan Cabaran SRI di Malaysia
1130-1145	Rumusan
1145 - 1230	Penyempurnaan Persidangan dan Pelancaran Gagasan SRI-Mas
1230 - 1400	Jamuan tengahari

REGISTRATION

Now open till **28TH June 2011**. Please contact the Secretariat for details.

Organizers:



Sponsors:



The 1st SRI Conference Secretariat

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