

Diffusion of Farmers' Innovation: A Case of System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

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ABSTRACT

System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is one of the few innovations developed by the farmers that have resulted in greater level of interest and enthusiasm not only among the farmers but also among scientists. However, there is a need to document as to how SRI diffused and adopted across different countries and various States in India. The initial diffusion of SRI was mainly through literature. SRI was experimented for about 15 years within Madagascar Island. The spread and improvement of Laulanié's innovation was initially undertaken by a Malagasy NGO, *Association Tefy Saina*. Dr. Norman Uphoff former Director of Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD), Ithaca, USA, has taken this method to the notice of outside world in the late 1990s. Articles published in *Tropicultura* by Laulanié (1993) and by Rabenandrasana (1999) in *ILIEA Newsletter*, were the important sources of information for diffusion of SRI. At present, SRI has diffused to 43 countries out of the 113 rice-growing nations. In India, SRI has been diffused to 163 districts out of the 564 rice-growing districts. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were the innovator States to adopt SRI. Its performance is good in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, Jharkhand and Tripura. The acceptance and performance of SRI mainly depends on the support of the Government and co-operation of farmers.

Key words : Adoption, CIIFAD, Diffusion, SRI.