

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4050
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION
Ramasubbu Shri S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method is extensively used in various parts of the country to help farmers to increase the production of rice;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the features of the method and the estimated number of farmers presently using it, State-wise;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to popularise the method and educate the farmers in this regard as well as conservation of water and improving the productivity of crops;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b) to (e): The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is practiced to promote resource conservation wherein use of low inputs such as seeds, water, fertilizer as compared to conventional rice production system is focused. Seedlings are grown upto 10 – 12 days in the nurseries and are directly transplanted at specific distance. In this system of cultivation, use of conoweeders for weeding is practiced which also helps in better soil aeration and increased soil organic matter due to incorporation of weeds thereby producing more tillers and panicles per plant. This system is reported to have increased the production of rice by 30-40%.

Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas under Macro Management of Agriculture and National Food Security Mission, the technology of SRI is promoted through demonstrations and Farmers Field School to educate the farmers and promote the adoption of the SRI technology. As many as 39963 SRI demonstrations and 12664 number of the Farmers Field School have been organized till date during 009-10 under various Central schemes.

Apart from this, civil society organizations are also promoting SRI Technology.