Regional System of Rice Intensification Training of Trainers and Technical Exchange

Hôtel Cristal | Kpalimé, Togo
02-10 August, 2014

Workshop Report
Prepared by SRI-Rice\(^1\) and CNS-Riz\(^2\)

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Cover Image: Harouna Ibrahima, center, and other participants watch as a local farmers explains the lowland rainfed management system he is evaluating in his field. (D. Jenkins)
1. Introduction
This report covers a regional training of trainers and technical exchange workshop for the project *Improving and Scaling up the System of Rice Intensification in West Africa,* a part of the broader West African Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP).

This was the first technical workshop to be convened, occurring seven months into the first year of the project’s 3-year timeline. Participants from all 13 participating countries were invited, with 12 being able to attend.

The System of Rice Intensification, or SRI, is an agro-ecological rice-growing methodology in use in over 50 countries around the world. SRI focuses on soil and plant management, allowing farmers to increase yields while at the same time reducing inputs such as seed, purchased fertilizers and water.

As part of the WAAPP, SRI was chosen as an appropriate strategy for increasing rice yields across the 13-country project area: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

2. Justification
During and in the seven months following the February 2014 launching workshop in Porto Novo, Benin, participants and the Regional Coordination Unit identified several areas to be addressed for the project to get well underway, including the:

- Reinforcement of technical knowledge and capacity in each country;
- Sharing of and reflecting on communication strategy proposals;
- Development of a regional roadmap to address mechanization constraints and opportunities;
- Creation of regional mapping components of the baseline data set;
- Feedback from project actors on the Monitoring and Evaluation System (M&E) and reinforcing capacity for technical data collection;
- Sharing of pedagogical and extension best practices.

3. Objectives
The general objective of this workshop was to advance the technical and training capacity of the WAAPP countries in SRI. The specific objectives were to:

1) Provide and share a detailed technical understanding of SRI;
2) Bring key actors together to share and elaborate on SRI knowledge, techniques, methodologies, innovations, ideas and resources;
3) Further develop communications protocols and platforms;
4) Explain and collect participant feedback on the M&E System Manual and the data collection tools and procedures;
5) Geographically locate and document project activities, rice production systems and project target zones for each country;
6) Refine and clarify project protocols, policies, roles and responsibilities, particularly in relation to monitoring and evaluation activities;
7) Identify mechanization constraints, bottlenecks and opportunities in each country; and,
8) Update and advance country-level project plans for 2015 and the remaining portion of 2014.

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3 More information on this specific project can be found on the project website, at www.sriwestafrica.org/about

4 The WAAPP is administered by CORAF/WECARD, with financing from the World Bank.

5 The ongoing Ebola crisis in the region prevented the Sierra Leone team from being able to enter the country upon arrival in Lomé, and after a delay they were repatriated without being able to attend the workshop.

6 More information on SRI in general can be found at www.sriwestafrica.org/sri
4. Expected Results

This workshop was expected to result in the following outcomes:

- Establishment of a common technical knowledge and understanding of SRI principles across the entire region, shared among all agro-ecozones and among all degrees of technical implementation;
- Solid and practical technical knowledge obtained by project actors that they can apply in their countries;
- Identification of adaptation strategies that apply to similar agro-ecozones and rice productions systems in each country;
- Strengthening or forming of new connections between actors in different countries, resulting in better regional dialog and exchange;
- Identification of mechanization constraints and opportunities, and creation of a mechanization roadmap;
- Development of pedagogical best practices shared among trainers from different countries;
- Sharing of and collecting participant feedback on new communication strategies/tools;
- Preparation and presentation of country-level SRI maps, detailing project activities and rice production characteristics, and demarcating project target zones;
- Creation of new/updated country plans.

5. Workshop Design

The workshop was divided into two sections—the first for participants from Francophone countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo), and the second for participants from Anglophone countries (The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone). The same agenda was used for each group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Francophone group</th>
<th>Anglophone group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 – 03 August</td>
<td>Participants arrive in Lomé</td>
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<tr>
<td>03 August</td>
<td>Field visits / travel to Kpalimé</td>
<td>Participants arrive in Lomé</td>
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<tr>
<td>04 August</td>
<td>Workshop Day 1</td>
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<td>05 August</td>
<td>Workshop Day 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>06 August</td>
<td>Workshop Day 3</td>
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<td>07 August</td>
<td>Travel back to Lomé</td>
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<tr>
<td>08 August</td>
<td>Participants return home</td>
<td>Travel to Kpalimé</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 August</td>
<td>Workshop Day 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 August</td>
<td>Workshop Day 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 August</td>
<td>Workshop Day 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 August</td>
<td>Field visit / travel back to Lomé</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 – 15 August</td>
<td>Participants return home</td>
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Workshop facilitation was led by:

- Dr. Erika Styger – Director of Programs, SRI-Rice Center, Cornell University  
  *Project Technical Lead*
- Dr. Minamba Bagayoko – CNS-Riz, Mali  
  *Assistant Regional Coordinator*
- Devon Jenkins – West Africa Program Specialist, SRI-Rice Center, Cornell University  
  *Project Technical Specialist*
Logistical support for the workshop was provided by WAAPP Togo, and a delegation from CNS-Riz, in Mali.

Sessions were a combination of presentations and group work, with an emphasis on participatory discussion. The approach was designed to facilitate the workshop’s objectives, particularly in relation to sharing of knowledge and resources amongst project actors, creation of linkages and establishment of regional networks.

6. Agenda
6.1 – Field Visits
Field visits to three nearby sites were conducted the day before the workshop (August 3rd) for the Francophone group (see the table below, detailing each of the sites), and on the day after the workshop (August 11th) for the Anglophone group, who visited only the third site (Totou). These visits covered an SRI project site implemented with local farmers under the support and training of GRAPHE, a farmer training and demonstration site for a project of AfricaRice, called ‘Sawah, Market Access and Rice Technologies for Inland Valleys’ (SMART-IV), and fields where farmers were implementing the SMART-IV approach on their own plots.7

Visits to the two SMART-IV sites were intended to present a low-cost example of improving water control in lowland rainfed rice systems, which would greatly facilitate effective adoption of SRI. The visit to the GRAPHE site (fields of farmers who had been trained in SRI by GRAPHE) was chosen to demonstrate SRI adaptation to the local rice production system / agroecology, and provide for some exchange between the farmers and the workshop participants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Observations</th>
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| 1) Avetonou| 3km from Avetonou, heading toward CREAT/DJAMA, about 95km from Lomé (RN3 – Lomé/Kpalimé) | Discussion and field visit with Mr. Thomas AMOUZOU, a small-scale rice farmer and member of a cooperative that runs a farm school for lowland rainfed rice production, using AfricaRice’s SMART-IV (Sawah) approach for improving lowland rainfed rice production:  
   - Extending SMART-IV approach to other farmers  
   - View a farmer’s field using the SMART-IV approach during the vegetative growth phase, demonstrating the effects of this approach during a season with unusually low rainfall.  
Thomas and his cooperative are part of the SRI relay training for WAAPP Togo | • Visit Thomas’ parcel  
• Demonstration of water management (drainage canals, bunds, planting beds)  
• Exchange with Thomas on the approach and the advantages of this type of management |

The purpose of this project is to improve lowland rainfed rice production through a collaborative, participatory water management process using water flow mapping and construction of watering canals, drainage canals and bunds. More information on the SMART-IV project is available at: http://smartiv.wordpress.com/
### Improving and Scaling up the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in West Africa

2) Bémé  
24km from Kpalimé heading toward Atakpamé (RN3), roughly 150km from Lomé  
Visit to a model/training site for improving lowland rainfed rice production using AfricaRice’s SMART-IV (Sawah) system, an approach that is designed to be simple, participatory and inexpensive:  
- The 5 steps of the approach  
- Exchange with rice farmers practicing the SMART-IV approach

3) Toutou  
27km from Kpalimé, roughly 3km to the east of the road, roughly 153km of Lomé  
Visit with SRI farmers working with GRAPHE, a local NGO that is part of the WAAPP SRI consortium for Togo:  
- 2 parcels at maturation  
- 2 parcels recently harvested  
- Discussion about water management challenges  
- SRI Champions

### 6.2 – Workshop Agenda
The agenda below was presented first for the Francophone group from Aug 04th to Aug 06th, then for the Anglophone group, from August 08th to August 10th. Program hours for each day were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Morning Sessions</th>
<th>8am – 10am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
<td>10am – 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Morning Sessions</td>
<td>10:30am – 12:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>12:30pm – 2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afternoon Sessions</td>
<td>2pm – 5:30pm</td>
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### Workshop Session Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day 1 (Francophone: Aug 04/Anglophone: August 08)</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AM</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1) Opening</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Participant introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Overview of the workshop objectives and content</td>
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<tr>
<td>4) Detailed introduction to SRI</td>
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<tr>
<td>• SRI Conceptual Framework</td>
<td>Adou Rahim – WAAPP Togo Coordinator, Minamba, Erika</td>
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<tr>
<td>• SRI practices and adaptations: Presentation of the technical manual</td>
<td>Erika</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Introduction to rice production systems in West Africa</td>
<td>Erika</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PM</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5) Country groups: SRI project area identification and characterization</td>
<td>Devon/Erika</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Identify current areas of SRI and project target zones on large maps, draw areas on the maps and describe rice production systems</td>
<td>Erika</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Analyze the maps for each country, and identify similar production systems/zones between countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>6) Adaptation exercise for rice production systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Group work by rice production system: Propose adaptations for SRI in each rice production system, and identify constraints and potential solutions</td>
<td>Erika/Devon</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Presentation of results</td>
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## Improving and Scaling up the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in West Africa

### Day 2 (Aug 05/09)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AM</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7) M&amp;E System Review</td>
<td>Erika</td>
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<tr>
<td>8) Data Collection Procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Presentation of the Data Collection Guide</td>
<td>Erika</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Discussion about their practicality/feasibility</td>
<td>Erika/Minamba</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Coming to agreement on data collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>9) Participatory mapping of results</td>
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<tr>
<td>• GIS – Presentation of using a regional mapping platform for sharing results</td>
<td>Devon</td>
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<tr>
<td>PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>10) Mechanization exchange and discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Presentation on available equipment, particularly in Asia</td>
<td>Minamba</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Country group work:</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Evaluation of equipment available in each country (cost, location, type, distribution, quality)</td>
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<tr>
<td>o What are the most appropriate equipment types for each rice system and environment?</td>
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<td>o Identify equipment needs for each country</td>
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<td>• Discussion: finding a practical means for organizing ourselves/what are the next steps?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Recommendations for mechanization for the regional project</td>
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<tr>
<td>11) Training Approach: working successfully with farmers</td>
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<tr>
<td>• How do you go about setting up trials with farmers?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Champion presentations about what works and what doesn’t</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Plenary: identification of common points of agreement and strategies</td>
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### Day 3 (Aug 06/10)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>AM</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tr>
<td>12) Communications Strategy Session (regional and national level)</td>
<td>Devon/Erika</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Presentation of a preliminary communications strategy</td>
<td>Minamba</td>
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<tr>
<td>13) WAAPP Operational Session: Roles, responsibilities of National Facilitators and Champions</td>
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<tr>
<td>• How is the project framework working for participants?</td>
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<td>PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>14) Country Plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Country group work to elaborate national action plans (for the rest of year 1 and for year 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Integrating the activities of the past three days into the national plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Identification of training and other needs in terms of support for the rest of this year and year 2 (integrating the plan of activities, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Revision of the Technical Manual</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Country plan presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Discussion and national/regional road maps</td>
<td>Minamba/Erika</td>
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7. Workshop Sessions

Detailed accounts of each session are provided below. For participant evaluations of the sessions, see the workshop evaluation, in the appendix.

Sessions 1-3 – Opening; Participant Introduction; Overview

Objective: The first three sessions related to the opening and establishment of protocols for the workshop. The official opening session was presided over by Adou Rahim, the WAAPP Coordinator for Togo; Erika Styger, Director of the SRI-Rice Center at Cornell University and Regional Technical Lead for the WAAPP SRI project; and Minamba Bagayoko, representative of CNS-Riz (Mali) and part of the Regional Coordination Unit. Togolese national television and local press outlets were present, and reported on the workshop.

Session 4 – Detailed Introduction to SRI

Objective: To give participants a detailed understanding of the SRI conceptual framework, how this informs SRI practices under differing conditions, the adaptation process, and best practices from different parts of the world.

Materials distributed and used: The Technical Manual was distributed in English and French in both digital and print versions; a PowerPoint presentation was given and distributed electronically.

Format: Presentation, Q&A, discussion

Observations: Both groups of participants engaged well with the material, and asked some informed and thoughtful questions and observations, including: concerns over competition for crop residues with pastoral systems; some confusion about the flexibility of interpreting SRI principles into practices; if mulching would interfere with the tillering process; and an observation from the Beninese researchers that in their own field trials, root development was crucial to plant tillering and grain production.

There was some discussion about whether SRI is the only sustainable rice intensification approach, and given the flexibility in interpreting SRI to different local conditions, if other approaches could fall under the same umbrella.

This session was one of the most widely appreciated by both the Francophone and Anglophone groups, with many participants saying that the conceptual framework gave them a more full understanding of SRI than they’d had before. There was a small amount of confusion for some about how SRI could be so flexible in its approach, potentially indicating that some of what was covered could have been explained in more detail.
Session 5 – SRI project area identification and characterization

With multiple organizations and dozens of actors in each of the 13 project countries, monitoring activities, collecting data, and distributing / disseminating information is a logistical challenge. To facilitate this, and create a more direct and user-friendly feedback loop for project sharing data, the Regional Coordination Unit is developing interactive mapping platform. The first step in this process is to begin mapping out current activities and rice production characteristics, including project target zones, which are the country-level areas where project actors will focus their M&E efforts.

Objective – To use participant mapping exercises to identify project target zones, rice production characteristics, and project activities in each country.

Materials used/distributed: Poster-sized geographic maps were pre-designed before the workshop for each country, and each country team was supplied with 1-2 maps for their country, with tracing paper and markers.

Format: Country group work session, followed by presentations from each country group.

Output: Each country produced 1-2 (depending on the physical size of the country) poster-sized geographic maps detailing the rice production systems, areas of SRI activities, and project target zones in their respective countries. These posters were then digitally reproduced, and distributed electronically to each country’s National Facilitator and to each of the workshop participants. The posters will be available soon on the project website, at http://sriwestafrica.org/documents/#maps. Images of the initial drafts are shown below:

Observations: The mapping session was well received by both workshop groups, and the maps they generated have already been well received by the regional coordination. These will be useful as starting points for further developing national and regional maps, and in communicating project activities to partner organizations, and outside agencies.

The SRI zones identified in the maps overlap mostly with the target zones that project participants would like to include into the WAAPP SRI project. Identification of these zones is important for the project baseline. The project’s successful implementation in these zones will also depend on the funding availability within the WAAPP in each country.
Session 6 – Adaptation Exercise for Rice Production Systems and Climate Zones

Adaptation is a key feature of SRI, and given 1) the broad diversity in rice production systems in the region, and 2) the fact that agroecosystems cut across national boundaries, the ability of technicians and farmers to learn from adaptations and innovations in other countries will be fundamentally important to the success of the project and its ability to create a lasting impact in the region.

Objective: To identifying and propose SRI practices adapted for each major agroecological zone and rice production system, (according to the identified SRI target zones of the project [session 5]) irrespective of country borders.

Materials used/distributed: Terms of references of the session were presented via the projector.

Format: Group work followed by group presentations. The groups divided as follows:

1. Francophone countries
   a. Semi-Arid / Irrigated – Niger, Burkina Faso, Northern Mali
   b. Humid / Irrigated – Côte d’Ivoire, Southern Togo, Southern Benin
   c. Semi-Arid / Lowland Rainfed – Northern Benin, Northern Togo, Southern Mali, Senegal
   d. Humid / Lowland Rainfed – Guinea, Benin, Togo
2. Anglophone countries
   b. Semi-Arid / Lowland rainfed – The Gambia, Northern Nigeria
   c. Humid / Lowland rainfed – Liberia, Southern Ghana, Southern Nigeria

The terms of reference for the group work instructed each rice production system group to complete the following:

1. Identification of current conventional practices in more detail
2. Reflection on SRI principles and available SRI practices
3. Proposal of adapted SRI practices for the specific systems
4. Identification of constraints and potential solutions

Output: Groups typed up the results directly, and were detailed in a table. Results were disseminated to the other groups.

Observations:
Following the mapping exercise in Session 5, where participants identified SRI project areas, this session focused on developing adaptation strategies for the main climate zones and rice cropping systems of the project areas. For this first exercise, the participants adopted two broad categories of climate zones, humid and semi-arid, which will be further divided into more specific zones lateron. It also became clear that main cropping system in the project areas throughout the region are irrigated and rainfed lowland systems. The project will therefore focus on these two cropping systems, although some project sites do include upland zones, mangrove area etc.

The separation into these broad groups allowed for several countries to work together on broad adaptation strategies for the respective climates and systems. The output of this session is important for i) the project baseline information, and ii) further fine-tuning of technical adaptations for the specific environments. Site-specific technical recommendations, and technical manuals can be further developed based on this exercise. This will be one of the project activities in the upcoming year.
Session 7 – M&E System Review

The M&E System is a fundamental component of the project, and full buy-in from all the project actors is essential. Since the M&E System must be implemented in collaboration with the National Facilitators and the Champions, the updated version of the M&E System Manual needed to be explained, validated and signed off on by these actors.

Objective: To provide the workshop participants with both a thorough understanding of the current M&E System, and a chance to provide their feedback on the feasibility of this approach.

Materials used/distributed: The revised M&E System Manual was distributed in paper copy and electronically to all participants

Format: Discussion/Q&A using the M&E System Manual

Observations: As the M&E system and manual was developed by the M&E specialists of the Regional Coordination Unit and the WAAPP country programs, workshop participants did not yet have a chance to become familiar. The presentation of the M&E system with the various forms, and the interactive nature of the session, were participants could ask question and provide comments, was very useful for clarification and for a good understanding. The participants felt equipped to participate actively in the M&E system, as they have all the forms and tools at hand.

Session 8 – Data Collection Tools and Procedures

A thorough understanding and buy-in for the data collection techniques and forms by the project’s actors is the key to the success of the M&E approach and to demonstrate the impact of the project.

Objective: To facilitate an-depth understanding for all participants of the various data collection tools (cropping practices, economics, harvesting), including the discussion on the technical steps of the harvesting methodology.

Materials used/distributed: The data collection forms had already been distributed to participants as part of the M&E System Manual, and in section 10 of the Technical Manual. The tools were:

A. Yield Survey
B. Income Survey
C. Training Report Survey
D. Annual Institutional SRI Scale Up Capacity & Network Survey
E. Innovation Inventory Form (IIF)
F. SRI Tracker Survey
G. IP Checklist
H. Knowledge Product Inventory Form (KPIF)
K. Inventory of SRI Activities

Format: Discussion/Q&A using the data collection forms from the M&E Manual, and technical manual.

Observations: This session allowed participants to learn about the data collection tools in details, as each of the forms was discussed, and questions could be asked until the forms were clear to everyone. The participants also validated the forms, as many rice researchers were present who had a lot of experience in developing and working with forms. Some recommendations for improving the forms were noted and will be integrated in the final version, though they were not many. In-depth discussion on rice harvesting methodology followed, again in an interactive format, where questions and suggestions could be
discussed in details. Participants were very active in this session, and mentioned at the end of the session to have well understood the content.

**Session 9 – Participatory Mapping of Results**

As introduced under Session 4, above, mapping project data, activities, actors and linkages can increase the project’s impact and utility by: facilitating data collection and M&E activities; allowing outside parties to learn of the project; offering a user-friendly interface for learning about and engaging with the project; linking activities, actors and data along agroecological zones or rice cropping systems; giving researchers, technicians and farmers a user-friendly interface for analyzing and profiting from project data; connecting organizations and actors who have specific needs with appropriate resources; enabling project actors and organizations to better demonstrate the impacts of their work; etc.

**Objective:** To introduce and collect feedback on the participatory mapping approach that the Regional Coordination would like to develop for collecting and disseminating project data, network connections and activities.

**Materials used/distributed:** A PowerPoint presentation, which was distributed electronically to participants at the end of the workshop.

**Format:** PowerPoint presentation followed by a Q&A discussion session.

**Observations:** The Francophone group could largely see utility in this approach, particularly in terms of identifying resources (trainers, organizations, etc.), and sharing/promoting their work. There were some reservations however, about how this would work within the broader WAAPP structure and overlapping organizational structures outside of the WAAPP. This concern centered primarily on data reporting obligations, with participants questioning whether reporting to a platform like this would amount to circumventing their traditional protocol channels, thus causing problems for them.

The concerns voiced with the Francophone group did not come up at all in the Anglophone group, and participants largely thought that this type of platform would be quite useful for them in terms of sharing, accessing and interpreting their data, as well as in promoting the work that they are doing.

This is still at the conceptual level, so the feedback that was received will be incorporated into any proposals that are developed.

**Session 10 – Mechanization Exchange and Discussion**

*Mechanization is a key bottleneck for SRI adoption in many communities across the region, and around the world.*

**Objectives:** 1) to introduce the participant to a broad range of mechanization and equipment prototypes used in other parts of the world for SRI; 2) for each of the countries to identify the SRI equipment available in their countries, and further identify constraints, needs and opportunities; 3) to obtain recommendations on how to address these issues on a regional level.

**Materials used/distributed:** A PowerPoint presentation, which was distributed to participants at the end of the workshop.

**Format:** A PowerPoint presentation followed by country group work, and group presentations with a discussion/Q&A. The terms of reference for the group work instructed each country group to detail the following:

1. Current availability of equipment per country (cost, location, type, distribution, quality)
2. What tools are appropriate for what rice system/environment
3. Identify equipment needs per country
4. Synthesize: discussion how to ideally get organized, what next steps should be taken
5. Recommendations for mechanization for regional project

Output: Each country group submitted their answers in tables.

Observations: This session was especially useful for the Regional Coordination Unit to obtain a more detailed understanding of existing mechanization and equipment sources in each of the countries. This information is critical to develop a regional strategy for support access to mechanization. It might have been a bit dry for the participants, and this session was not as well perceived in the evaluation as other session.

Session 11 – Training Approach: Working Successfully with Farmers

Pedagogy and farmer extension are both subjects that are difficult to teach from a manual, but essential to a successful implementation of the project, and to achieving lasting results. Exchanges between trainers and technicians offers a forum for sharing best practices.

Objective: To create an exchange for the sharing of pedagogical best practices, and encourage innovative farmer training and extension practices amongst the participants.

Materials used/distributed: No materials were distributed for this session.

Format: Guided discussion with opportunities for Champions to relate their approaches toward working with farmers, how they enter into a new community, and what works/doesn’t work based off their experience. The Francophone started out with a skit performed by several Champions from Benin and Mali, using humor to highlight some good and not-so-good approaches.

Output: Videos were taken of the presentations and the Francophone skit.

Observations: This session focused on bringing out the experiences that are already present within the group of champions (including national facilitators, who are also champions). The skit was fairly well received, though participants seemed to find the champion self-presentation to be far more useful. Starting out with a few champions in the Francophone group, who stood in front of the room, and shared their efficient and successful approaches working with farmers, more and more participants joined them and shared their personal experiences. At the end of the session, most participants stood upfront and shared their stories. The session seemed to be clear favorite and seemed to be empowering. It also showed that a lot of experience exists already within this group and mobilizing each other’s expertise might be a good way for strengthening the implementation of this project. The Anglophone group didn’t do a skit. As the number of the group was much smaller (11 instead of 33 in the Francophone group) their session took a very different form, where the microphone was simply passed around the room.

Session 12 – Communication Strategy Session

As was discussed in several of the proceeding sessions, the ability of various actors to effectively communicate innovations, activities, results, adaptations, best practices, etc., will be a key determinant in the success of this project.

Objective: To introduce various communication tools (including project websites in French and English, Facebook groups, quarterly newsletters, and innovation bulletins) which are currently under development or proposed by the Regional Coordination’s Technical Team to the country-level actors and collect their feedback and impressions.

Materials used/distributed: A PowerPoint presentation was used for this session, and distributed electronically to participants at the end of the workshop.
Improving and Scaling up the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in West Africa

**Format:** PowerPoint presentation and Q&A discussion

**Observations:** In the Francophone group there was concern about protocol, and if WAAPP or their own host organizations would allow them to share information directly with the Regional Coordination’s Technical Team. Despite this concern, the utility of these tools seemed widely embraced by the participants.

Unlike the Francophone group, the Anglophone group didn’t voice any concerns with protocol or permission to share information, and seemed generally very optimistic about the idea of using the communication tools that were presented. The primary hesitation came from using Facebook, which was seen by some as being too closely associated with youth, and therefore not appropriate for professionals to use, though this point was to a large extent refuted by other participants. In any case, some participants are not on Facebook, and expressed a strong desire to remain distant from the service. Additional suggestions included creating a What’sApp presence, and a LinkedIn group, and several participants said that both are becoming quite common and quite useful.

**Session 13 – WAAPP Operational Session**

*Given the complex nature of a project of this scale and scope, particularly one with a plurality of organizations represented by many different types of actors, a thorough understanding of roles, responsibilities and protocol is all the more essential, and needs to be reinforced throughout the project life cycle.*

**Objective:** To clarify and answer questions about the operational side of the project as they pertain to WAAPP procedures, and the roles and responsibilities of each group of actors.

**Materials used/distributed:** A PowerPoint presentation was used and distributed to participants at the end of the workshop.

**Format:** PowerPoint presentation, followed by a Q&A/discussion.

**Observations:** Communication was a nearly universal issue, particularly with linking the national WAAPP and the FNs, between champions and the national WAAPP structure, and between FNs and champions in some cases. Another major issue involved the national WAAPP’s approval of financing for specific projects: many projects were either partially funded, or not funded at all, greatly limiting what champions could actually do in the field. Reasons for the incomplete or non-existent funding weren’t always clearly communicated. Champions also expressed a need for greater resources—it sounds like this might be a broader problem with the WAAPP. To resolve some of these issues, there was a suggestion to have a regional meeting that includes all actors of the project, including the national WAAPP coordinators, national facilitators, champions, the regional coordination unit, CORAF/WECARD, and the World Bank.

**Session 14 – Country Plans**

*As this project unfolds, the annual country planning process needs to be inclusive of different actors, roles and organizations, and updated periodically to reflect changes in partnership structures and activities in each country.*

**Description:** For country groups to revisit their action plans for the remainder of 2014 and for 2015, incorporating what was gained during the course of the workshop.

**Materials used/distributed:** A spreadsheet template was distributed to each country group, and these were filled out electronically.

**Format:** Collaborative group work, followed by country presentations.
Output: Country action plans, which are at the time of this report still provisional.

Observations: This exercise should immediately help the participants to capitalize on what was learned and how the new tools discussed in this workshop can be applied. Activities for 2014 and 2015 were identified that integrate new tools and information from this workshop. These country plans can be a good base in the development of each countries PTBA or activity plan that will need to be submitted to WAAPP soon for 2015.

8. List of all materials provided to participants

Presentations:

1. Technical SRI presentation – by Erika Styger
2. Communications strategy presentation – by Devon Jenkins
3. Mechanization presentation – by Minamba Bagayoko
4. GIS and participatory mapping presentation – by Devon Jenkins
5. WAAPP operational structure presentation – by Minamba Bagayoko

Handouts:

1. **SRI Technical Manual** (62 p. in French, 56 p. in English) – This exhaustive technical manual was prepared specifically for this project, and will be continually revised as the project progresses. Each country was tasked at this workshop to develop a customized version of the Technical Manual for their own local conditions.

2. **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System Manual** (26 p. in French, 33 p. in English) – The M&E Manual is also a work in progress at this point, and was thoroughly revised after a May workshop of country-level WAAPP M&E Officers in Lomé. This manual contains all the data collection tools for the project.
Improving and Scaling up the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in West Africa

Francophone Group Photo

Anglophone Group Photo

Photos (top and bottom): unknown
Appendix B. Workshop Evaluation – Anglophone Group

**Workshop Evaluation Results – English Group**

*SRI Training of Trainers*

Hôtel Cristal | Kpalimé, Togo | 08-10 August, 2014

*(11 out of 11 participants completed evaluation forms)*

(1=very bad; 3=sufficient; 5=excellent)

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<td>Meals</td>
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<td>Choice of location (Kpalimé / Togo)</td>
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<td>Communic. with Regional Coord. before the workshop</td>
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<td>Flights/travel arrangements</td>
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<td>Punctuality of sessions</td>
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<td>Choice of timing (early August)</td>
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<td>Technical Manual</td>
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<td>Monitoring and Evaluation Manual</td>
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<td>Terms of Reference: Champions/National Facilitators</td>
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<td>Introduction to SRI (Erika)</td>
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<td>SRI Conceptual Framework (E)</td>
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<td>SRI practices and adaptations (E/Minamba)</td>
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<td>Introduction to rice production systems (E)</td>
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<td>Group work: preparing country maps (E/Devon)</td>
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<td>Map presentations</td>
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<td>Adaptation exercise by production systems (E/M)</td>
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<td>Review of the Monitoring and Evaluation system (E)</td>
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<td>Data collection techniques (E/M)</td>
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<td>Presentation of data collection guides/forms (E)</td>
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<td>Participatory cartography presentation (D)</td>
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<td>Equipment presentation (M)</td>
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<td>Recommendations for mechanization in the project</td>
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Improving and Scaling up the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in West Africa

Sessions (cont.)

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<th>3rd day of the workshop</th>
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<td>Communication strategy presentation (D)</td>
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<td>Actor roles and responsibilities (M)</td>
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<td>Seeing is believing: working with farmers</td>
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<td>Country action plans</td>
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<td>Country action plan presentations</td>
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<td>Discussion and road map for country and regional levels</td>
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Qualitative evaluation

Facilities:
- The hotel was standard given the context
- Food was good

Logistics and Preparations:
- Flights arrangements were good, but arrangements at the airport were poor, and there should have been someone with a sign for WAAPP-Togo
- The communication was well done, and we were well informed about what would be happening at all times

Materials:
- The technical manual is a bit bulky, but can be adjusted to our local conditions; the manual will help us move forward with SRI in our country, as demonstrated in our TORs

Day 1:
- Very well done by Erika and her team

Day 2:
- The M&E went very well, as it’s a key document in the project

Day 3:
- The communication component/strategy is of great importance, especially where we highlighted the country plans

What did you best appreciate?
- Introduction to SRI; all of the sessions; the presentations; training sessions, especially the SRI methodology; the training methods and materials
- Technical Manual; all of the materials
- Communications components
- Country plans
- Trainer interaction/participatory style
- The composition and methods of the training
- Professionalism of resource persons and quality of delivering modules

What did you least appreciate?
- Transport and logistics (x2)
- The hotel rooms were not cleaned (x2)
Improving and Scaling up the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in West Africa

- The time was too short (x2)
- Holding the sessions on Sunday (x2)
- Recommendations for mechanization; the mechanization presentation

Where your objectives for the workshop realized? Why (yes or no)? [10 yes; 0 no; 1 did not reply]
- Yes, I understand the methodology better, and can better do my job as a Focal Point
- Yes, I deepened my knowledge of SRI
- Yes, because I have learned new ideas on SRI
- Yes and Yes – I am loaded with literature

What could we do better next time, or what should be covered that wasn’t?
- Increase the length of the workshop (x2)
- Transport and logistics should be better organized (x2); better communication with participants ahead of time about logistics for when they arrive at the airport
- A full-time translator (for the participant who did not speak English)
- I think every aspect of the training went well
- Sessions should not be held on Sundays (x2)
- More practical sessions should be incorporated into the training sessions
- The tools for SRI should be given more attention, and the data collection should take more time to be covered
- Everything well done
- The choice of participants to trainings and workshops should be critically looked into. Although the national office is necessary, the regional office should as well validate the choice of the participants
- The travel arrangements should be considered on individual convenience
Appendix B. Workshop Evaluation – Francophone Group

Résultats de l’Évaluation de l’Atelier – Groupe Francophone
Formation des formateurs et échange technique sur le SRI
Hôtel Cristal | Kpalimé, Togo | 04-06 août, 2014

[30 fiches étaient remplies]

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<th>Les facilités</th>
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<td>Le choix de l’hôtel</td>
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<td>Les repas</td>
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<td>Le choix de l’endroit (Kpalimé / Togo)</td>
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<th>Les logistiques et préparations</th>
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<td>Les vols</td>
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<td>La ponctualité des sessions</td>
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<td>La choix des temps (au début août)</td>
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<td>Manuel Suivi &amp; Évaluation</td>
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<td>TDR Champions et Facilitateurs Nationaux</td>
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<td>Les visites sur le terrain (pour eux qu’ils ont participés)</td>
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| 1<sup>ère</sup> jour de l’atelier                                           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Introduction au SRI (Erika)                                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Cadre conceptuel du SRI (E)                                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Les pratiques et les adaptations du SRI (E/Minamba)                         |   |   |   |   |   |
| Introduction aux systèmes de production du riz (E)                          |   |   |   |   |   |
| Travail en groupe: préparat° des cartes (E/Devon)                           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Présentation des cartes nationaux                                            |   |   |   |   |   |
| Exercice d’adaptat° par système de product° (E/M)                            |   |   |   |   |   |
| Présentation des résultats                                                  |   |   |   |   |   |

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<th>Les sessions (cont.)</th>
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| 2<sup>ème</sup> jour de l’atelier                                           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Revue du système de S&E (E)                                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Technique et collection des données (E/M)                                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Présentat° des guides pour la collecte des données (E)                      |   |   |   |   |   |
| Discussion de la praticabilité                                              |   |   |   |   |   |
| Présentation de la cartographie participative (D)                           |   |   |   |   |   |
| Présentation des équipements (M)                                            |   |   |   |   |   |
| Travail en groupe : évaluat° des équipements disponible                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| Approche vulgarisation : mise en scène                                      |   |   |   |   |   |
| Présentation des expériences des champions                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
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Les sessions (cont.)

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<td>Session opérationnelle PPAO : rôles/responsab. (M)</td>
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<td>Comment marche le cadre de fonctionnement ? (M)</td>
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<td>Plan des pays</td>
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<td>Présentations des plans des pays</td>
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<td>Discussion et feuille de route par pays et par région</td>
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Évaluation Qualitatif

Les Facilités :
- Pas de wifi
- L’hôtel n’avait pas refaire ma chambre
- Tout est bien choisi (x2)

Les logistiques et les préparations :
- Le temps pour l’atelier au moins 4 jours, avec plus de détails, et moins des tâches par jour
- Début mai est plus indiqué ; seul le mois d’août qui n’est pas bon

Les matériels techniques distribués :
- Très bien satisfait
- Je suis très satisfait de tous ces aspects précités, car mon engagement dans le SRI m’a permis de voyager par vol et connaître quel niveau se trouve le SRI en Afrique de l’Ouest
- Les rôles et responsabilités ont été clairs
- Il faut revoir les charges (?) allouées aux champions, et les mettre en adéquation avec les moyens des pays

1er jour :
- J’ai suivi toutes les sessions avec beaucoup d’intérêt, car ça été parti ... à tous les niveaux et les outils qui m’ont été donné me servira de cries et moyens pour former et bouger le SRI
- J’attendais plutôt à une formation sur comment faire une cartographie
- Les systèmes de production du riz ont été survolés
- C’est une équipe pédagogique
- Parfaite application du SRI

2ème jour :
- J’ai été beaucoup impressionné par la présentation des approches des champions par pays qui servira de référence pour tous les participants afin de s’approuver
- Guide simple et pratique
- Nous avons appréciés des nouvelles méthodes
- L’approche d’introduction de SRI du champion du Burkina Faso est la meilleur : faire le SRI avant de donner le nom SRI
- C’est vrai que la scène a mis en exergue la formation sur le SRI, mais pour les fois à venir, il faut tout faire positivité

3ème jour :

1ème jour :
- J’ai suivi toutes les sessions avec beaucoup d’intérêt, car ça été parti ... à tous les niveaux et les outils qui m’ont été donné me servira de cries et moyens pour former et bouger le SRI
- J’attendais plutôt à une formation sur comment faire une cartographie
- Les systèmes de production du riz ont été survolés
- C’est une équipe pédagogique
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2ème jour :
- J’ai été beaucoup impressionné par la présentation des approches des champions par pays qui servira de référence pour tous les participants afin de s’approuver
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3ème jour :

1ème jour :
- J’ai suivi toutes les sessions avec beaucoup d’intérêt, car ça été parti ... à tous les niveaux et les outils qui m’ont été donné me servira de cries et moyens pour former et bouger le SRI
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- Guide simple et pratique
- Nous avons appréciés des nouvelles méthodes
- L’approche d’introduction de SRI du champion du Burkina Faso est la meilleur : faire le SRI avant de donner le nom SRI
- C’est vrai que la scène a mis en exergue la formation sur le SRI, mais pour les fois à venir, il faut tout faire positivité

3ème jour :

1ème jour :
- J’ai suivi toutes les sessions avec beaucoup d’intérêt, car ça été parti ... à tous les niveaux et les outils qui m’ont été donné me servira de cries et moyens pour former et bouger le SRI
- J’attendais plutôt à une formation sur comment faire une cartographie
- Les systèmes de production du riz ont été survolés
- C’est une équipe pédagogique
- Parfaite application du SRI

2ème jour :
- J’ai été beaucoup impressionné par la présentation des approches des champions par pays qui servira de référence pour tous les participants afin de s’approuver
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3ème jour :
• Très satisfaisant et nous servira de référence pour bien actualiser les données de base
• Le discussion et feuille de route n’étaient pas fait
• Les efforts restent à fournir une bonne connexion entre le projet régional et les projets nationaux
• Il faut une meilleure communication entre les différents acteurs SRI
• Tout semble bien parti pour que les aux niveaux du SRI puissent bien marche mais au niveau des différents pays, il faut une réorganisation
• Faillait aider les pays à les orienter de façon concrète dans le cadre de fonctionnement

**Les guides technique et de suivi et évaluation**

• Le manuel suivi évaluation peut être amélioré par une bonne description des indicateurs mis en bas de page

**Qu’est-ce que vous avez mieux apprécié ?**

• Démarche méthodologique de l’atelier
• L’organisation de l’atelier
• La qualité des interventions des participants, notamment dans les groupes de travail, et aussi d’Erika par sa manière de faire
• Il est toujours dit que les paroles d’envolent, mais les écrit demeurent, la cartographie des données, et légendes accompagnée de tout commentaire
• L’expérience des participants
• L’exposé des champions
• La cartographie
• Le cadre de travail
• L’approche
• L’équipe cadre
• Nous avons appréciés la meilleure qualité des différents exposés des intervenant
• Les TDRs champions, facilitateur, etc.
• Discussion des plans/pays
• L’introduction et cadre conceptuel du SRI très bien, présenté et commenté avec des illustrations
• Contenu de l’atelier
• Le manuel technique et de suivi évaluation
• Les outils pour nous servir de former
• La méthodologie de présentation
• La présentation de la stratégie de communication
• La présentation des expériences des champions (x2)
• La qualité des sessions et des formateurs (Erika, Devon)
• Les échanges francs et directs entre tous les participants ont permis de rendre l’atelier très intéressant
• La session qui a consacré les réflexions sur les adaptations aux différentes systèmes de production du riz (irrigué, bas-fonds, pluvial)
• J’ai apprécié beaucoup la méthode participative
• La formation dans l’ensemble
• Présentation du guide SRI ; les différents outils et manuels de formation ; manuel technique et du suivi évaluation
• La facilitation de l’atelier, l’esprit d’ouverture des participants et surtout la facilité d’échange des information et documents
Les thèmes
- Le moyen de voyage
- La retrouvaille de voyage

Qu'est-ce que vous n'avez pas apprécié ?
- La choix du temps en août ; c’est le moment des travaux
- La présentation sur les techniques de collecte des données été très rapide
- L’absence du coordonnateur régional pour pouvoir donner toutes les clarifications ; L’absence du coordonnateur régional n’a pas permis la clarification des questions liées à la coordination
- Le fonctionnement du PPAAO
- Les différentes présentations ne font jamais allusion à l’évaluation économique du SRI
- Les documents de l’atelier sont parcourus en revue, il n’y a pas une explication profonde pouvant permettre de comprendre à fond
- Je n’ai pas trop apprécié la façon d’intervention de certain facilitateur qui ignore un peu le rôle joué par les champions SRI
- Néant
- Pas de reproche (x2)
- Le cadre conceptuel (x2)
- La gestion du temps (x2)
- Pas de connexion wifi (x3)
- Pas de sortie touristique

Est-ce que vos atteintes étaient réalisées ? Pourquoi oui ou non ?
- Oui, nous atteintes sont réalisés, nous avons beaucoup appris
- Oui, j’ai les bases théoriques et des outils pour assurer la formation des formateurs
- Oui, mes atteintes ont été réalisés. J’avais très peu d’expérience sur le SRI. Je repars très outillé
- Oui, mes atteintes sont réalisées, du fait que j’ai appris des techniques et pratiques nouvelles par les expériences des autres participants de la sous région, qui me permettre de me corriger
- Oui, mes atteintes sont réalisées, j’ai beaucoup appris
- Oui, parce que ma principe atteintes c’était de voir jusqu’à on peut opérer des adaptations du SRI aux conditions locales ; et j’ai bien appris que le SRI ne doit pas être considéré comme un système fermé
- Oui, car ayant été assez outillé pour mieux former et vulgariser le SRI dans mon pays
- Atteintes en partie réalisées, car je m’attendais à une présentation sur comment faire une cartographie
- J’ai mieux compris certains aspects de SRI
- Oui, parce que vous eu une belle formation pour les formateurs
- Oui ! Entre former et parmi des acteurs pour développer le SRI à grande échelle et partager les informations avec les autres pays
- J’ai améliorer la capacité et exposé mes expériences
- Partiellement, parce que le critère de flexibilité du SRI me porte confusion
- Partiellement, parce que l’absence du Coordinateur Régional n’a pas permis de nous situer clairement sur les approches de solutions aux différents problèmes d’absence ou de faiblesse de financement des activités par les PPAAO nationaux
- Non, nous demandons d’autres formations des formateurs (Guinée)