

On-farm testing of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in lowlands ecology in Niger

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ABSTRACT:

Lowlands's ecology represents nearly half of the agro forestry region irrigated for rice in Niger. This research aimed at evaluating practices of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in these ecologies. On-farm testing was conducted in three (3) different regions (Tahoua, Zinder and Dosso). SRI practices in these regions were compared to conventional rice production system. Forty-five (45) producers were selected and each implemented the two (2) systems for comparison. Variables compared included tillers production and paddy yield. Results showed clearly that relative to conventional practice, SRI package increases tiller production by 45% and paddy yield by 58.2%. Furthermore, results showed that 55.5% of producers implemented thoroughly SRI package, and 11% of producers applied it moderately. Despite their moderate usage of SRI package, this last group of producers also got promising gain on their investment. Up scaling SRI practices of rice growers in lowlands ecology has a high potential of increasing rice growers returns.

Keywords:

System of Rice Intensification (SRI), On-farm testing, Lowlands, Niger, Rice field, Irrigation.