

THE FUTURE WE NEED: Upscaling climate-smart, sustainable best practice in the global rice sector

HIGHLIGHTS and KEY OUTCOMES

SRP 8th Plenary Meeting and General Assembly

22-24 January 2019

Siem Reap, Cambodia



Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP)
Secretariat
c/o UN Environment
Asia and the Pacific Office
United Nations Building
Rajdamnern Nok Ave.
Bangkok
Thailand



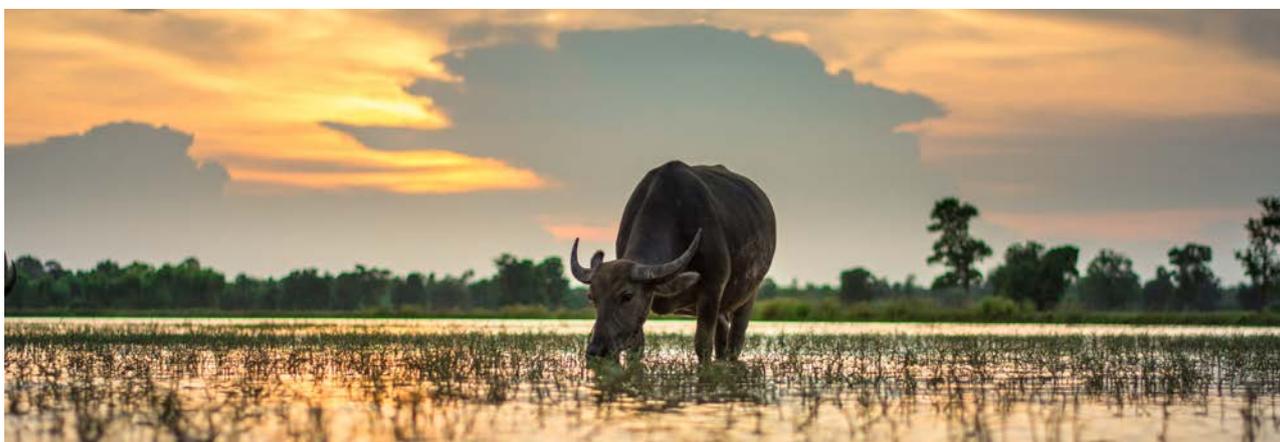
INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) Plenary Meeting and General Assembly serves as an annual gathering of SRP members and partners from governments, international organizations, research institutes, private sector, and civil society groups to discuss experiences and insights in upscaling adoption of climate-smart, sustainable best practices in rice production.

This event provides a venue for SRP members and stakeholders to learn about latest developments, interact and explore potential collaborative opportunities to contribute towards rice sector transformation

THE FUTURE WE NEED

This year's theme: "The Future We Need - Upscaling climate-smart, sustainable best practice in the global rice sector" reflects the SRP's goal of advancing wide-scale outreach by offering the global rice sector new tools, instruments and a collaborative platform to catalyze rice value chain transformation.



SUMMARY

- The SRP 8th Plenary Meeting and General Assembly was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 22-24 January 2019, in cooperation with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the International Finance Corporation (Cambodia), with support from IRRI (Cambodia Office).
- Over 140 delegates from 24 countries around the world discussed emerging multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilize the global rice sector towards sustainability
- His Excellency Veng Sakhon, Cambodia's Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries presided over the event, and a welcome address was delivered by Dr Jacqueline Hughes (Deputy Director General for Research, IRRI). The keynote speech was delivered by Ms Kundhavi Kadiresan (Assistant Director General and Regional Representative, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific).
- This year's event highlight was the launch of SRP's latest tools and programmes as cornerstones for upscaling initiatives in support of SRP's goal to encourage 1 million rice smallholder farmers to adopt sustainable best practices by 2021.



"Sustainable rice production provides many advantages including the increase of productivity and profit, promotion of people's living standard, decrease of vulnerability to climate change, promotion of ecosystem function and services, decrease of greenhouse gas emission, prevention of negative impact on human health and the environment, as well as participation of women, and protection of children's rights." - H.E. Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia



"The SRP has gone through a big evolution, and is serious about providing the means to produce rice that is better: better for farmers, better for the environment, and better for agribusiness." - Kundhavi Kadiresan, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



"As we face the challenges of an increasingly complex rice production system due to the threats of climate change, it is an opportune time for us to gather and share insights, experiences, and practices in improving crop production, in ensuring sustainable rice-based landscapes, and in helping in policy development. In this way, we are able to contribute and continuously improve our efforts in achieving development through climate-smart, sustainable best practices in the global rice sector."-Jacqueline Hughes, International Rice Research Institute

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 1 - 22 January 2019

Plenary session 1: Integrating SRP tools and programmes for broad-scale outreach and value chain transformation

SRP's latest tools and programmes were launched during the first plenary session. These included Version 2.0 of the SRP Standard and Performance Indicators, together with the SRP Assurance Scheme and Training Programmes, which offer a robust foundation for promoting sustainable rice production practices.

Moderator: Wyn Ellis (Sustainable Rice Platform)

Speakers: Sarida Khananusit (GIZ), Buyung Hadi (IRRI), Peter Sprang (SRP), Ignacio Antequera (GLOBALG.A.P.) and Astari Dharma (GIZ)

Panel session 1: Upscaling impact through innovative and diverse financing mechanisms

Development partners and financial institutions involved in the SRP rice sector initiatives exchanged insights and experiences relating to financial solutions to accelerate sectoral transformation beyond individual value chains

Moderator:

Mark Radka (UN Environment)

Speakers:

Colin Taylor (IFC)

Margaret Williams (Winrock)

Jens Soth (Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation)

Matthias Bickel (GIZ)

Beau Damen (FAO)

Alvin Lopez (ADB)

Panel session 2: Mobilizing public and private partnerships for multi-stakeholder outreach initiatives

Panelists discussed challenges and best practices in establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable rice value chain development through the experiences of SRP members and partner-led outreach projects

Moderator:

Temina Lalani-Shariff (IRRI)

Speakers:

Diehan Pretorius (Ebro Foods)

German Mueller (GIZ)

Louke Koopmans (Mars Food)

Le Nguyet Minh (Oxfam)

Sanjay Sethi (Phoenix Group)

Natasha Straker (Westmill)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

DAY 2 - 23 January 2019

Plenary session 2: Strengthening national stakeholder engagement in SRP

In his keynote speech on Day 2, Dr Ngin Chhay, Director General, Directorate General for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia, reiterated the Cambodian government's commitment to supporting the SRP, and urged rice stakeholder partnerships to promote country-level outreach programmes in Cambodia.

Featured in Plenary Session 2 were SRP member-led initiatives and collaborative stakeholder partnerships to promote country-level outreach programmes in Cambodia.

Moderator: Claudius Bredehoeft (GIZ)

Speakers: Kann Kunthy (Amru Rice), Sarak Duong (IFC), Natacha Kim (Oxfam) and Simon Mahood (WCS)



Panel session 3: Moving towards landscape level approaches

Experts and thought leaders tackled several approaches to promote landscape-level sustainability and climate resilience for rice-based landscapes.

Moderator:

James Lomax (UN Environment)

Speakers:

H.E. Chan Sinath (MORAM)

Jon Hellin (IRRI)

Adrian Sym (AWS)

Arvind Narula (Urmatt)

Panel session 4: Understanding the role of ICTs for upscaling climate-smart agriculture in rice

The session explored game-changing technological trends and key areas where innovations could help advance SRP's goal in driving global rice sector transformation.

Moderator:

Paul Nicholson (Olam International)

Speakers:

Manuel Murrenhoff (Buhler)

Ruud Grim (Netherlands Space Office)

Stephen Edkins (Rice Exchange)

PROJECT SITE VISITS

DAY 3 - 24 January 2019

Location: Battambang Province

Organizer: International Finance Corporation (IFC) Cambodia

Project Highlights: Through cooperation in rice value chain development, IFC and partners aim to build the capacity of 1,200 (direct) farmers to grow rice in a sustainable way. IFC expects approximately 7,000 farmers will benefit, directly or indirectly, from the project's technical interventions.



Location: Kampong Thom Province

Organizer: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Cambodia

Project Highlights: An SRP trial project was first launched in April 2016 by WCS in partnership with Sansom Mlup Prey. The initiative implemented the SRP Standard in synergy with WCS' efforts to protect the critically endangered Bengal Florican birds in one of the few remaining sites in the world where the bird is still found. Reduction of chemical inputs, promotion of good agricultural practices and adoption of integrated pest management principles are already improving survival outcomes for the Bengal Florican population.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Key SRP tools and programmes were launched at the Opening Session, including Version 2.0 of the SRP Standard and Performance Indicators for Sustainable Rice Cultivation, the SRP Assurance Programme and the SRP Training Programme.
- At a meeting of the Cambodia National SRP Working Group, Dr Ngin Chhay, Director General of the Directorate General of Agriculture, accepted the role of Chair, and committed to establish a National Chapter for SRP in Cambodia.
- IRRI held a successful side event and reception on 'Greenhouse gas mitigation in rice value chain', which introduced the proposed IRRI-UNEP-SRP CCAC project: "Promoting Global Best Practices and Scaling of Low Emissions Technologies by Engaging the Private and Public Sector".
- Project site visits were organized and led by the International Finance Corporation and Wildlife Conservation Society to Battambang and Kampong Thom provinces, respectively.
- In its closed session on Day 2, the SRP General Assembly elected a new Interim Board for 2019. A Chair will be elected at its inaugural meeting.
- The General Assembly also agreed on the need to establish a new legal entity for SRP. Presentations were made and discussed relation to two potential options.
- SRP members, partners and international rice stakeholders were invited to SRP's next major event - the Second Global Sustainable Rice Conference and Exhibition, which will be held at the UN Conference Centre in Bangkok from 30 September to 2 October 2019.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

140

Participants from 24 countries, representing governments, international organizations, research institutes, private sector companies and civil society groups

6

Sessions combining plenary presentations and panel discussions, aimed at knowledge-sharing on the latest trends and collaborative initiatives and projects to upscale sustainable rice production

4

Side events organized and supported by SRP members and partners to promote collaborative opportunities

100

Yes! As of 24 January, SRP now has 100 member institutions

Contact us at Secretariat@sustainable-rice.org to learn about recent progress, partnership opportunities and ways to get involved.



See you at the Second Global Sustainable Rice
Conference and Exhibition!

30 September to 2 October 2019
Bangkok, Thailand

Contact laspinas@un.org for more details
or visit www.sustainable-riceconference.org

Sustainable Rice Platform

Led by UN Environment, the International Rice Research Institute and GIZ, the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) is a multi-stakeholder alliance to promote resource efficiency and sustainability both on-farm and throughout rice value chains.