

### **SRI success in Cambodia**

Rice production increased in rain-fed areas of Cambodia due to Systems of Rice Intensification, proving that there remain huge untapped potentials in cultivating rice the sustainable way. The introduction of SRI methods to 28 farmers with an average landholding of 1.57 ha yielded an average of 5 tons rice per ha, exceeding the national average for rain-fed areas of 1.65 - 1.8 tons per ha.

Around 500 farmers have adopted SRI in Cambodia since 2001 with the assistance of the Center for Cambodia Agricultural Development Studies, an agricultural program supported by the European Commission and GTZ. Data covering 393 of these farmers showed that close to half harvested over 3.0 T rice a ha. Around 57 got more than 5.0 T, while three farmers got more than 10 T per ha.

With the success of the SRI, CEDAC, together with 180 farmers, are now innovating the SRI into the System of Intensification and Diversification of production in the rice field, or SID, which is envisioned to not only maximize rice yields, but also diversify rice-based farming systems in rain-fed lowlands. (Grassroots Newsletter, September 2005)