

# ENHANCING SOIL HEALTH FOR RICE GROWTH



**ISWANDI Anas<sup>1</sup>, N. K. Megasari<sup>1</sup>, T. Hutabarat<sup>2</sup>, M. Bakrie<sup>3</sup>, M.P. Utami<sup>1</sup> and Norman Uphoff<sup>4</sup>**

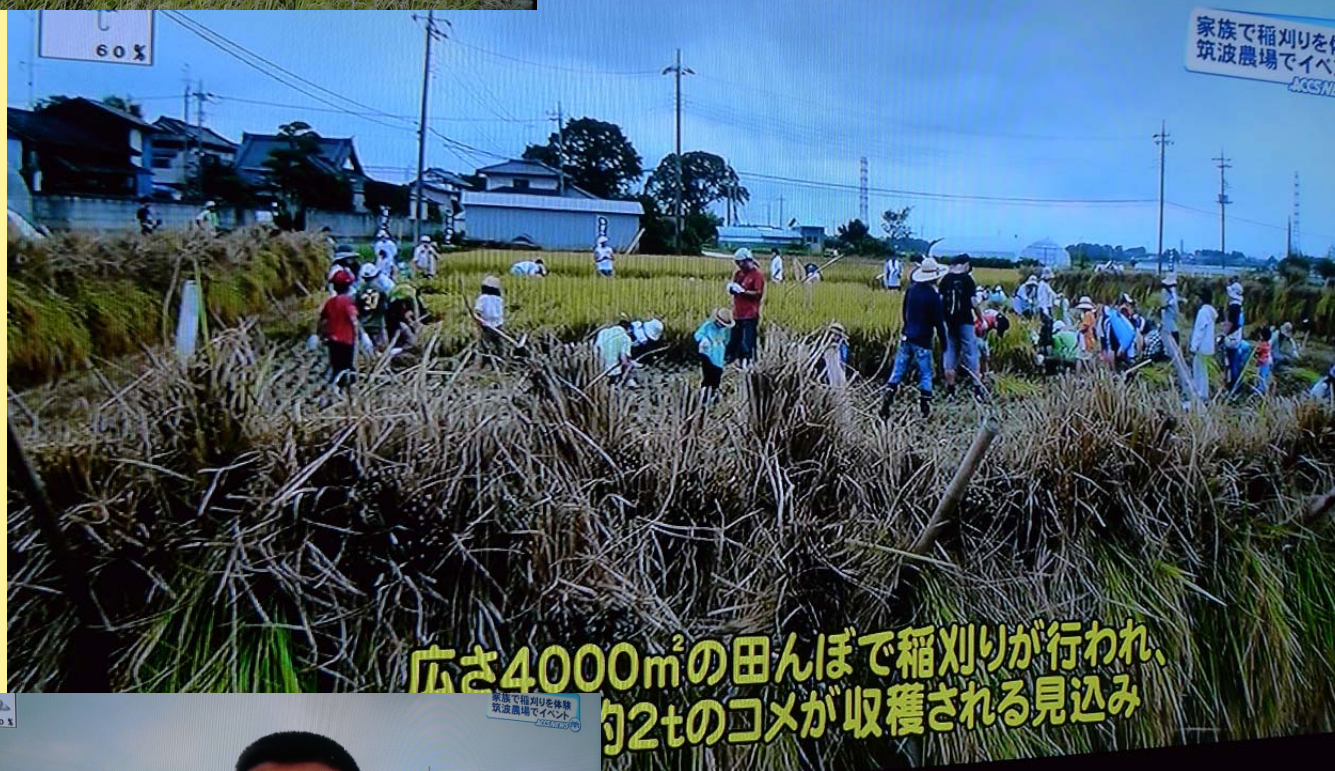
<sup>1</sup>Laboratory of Soil Biotechnology, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB), Jl. Meranti Bogor 16680, INDONESIA, [iswandi742@yahoo.com](mailto:iswandi742@yahoo.com) or [iswandianas@ipb.ac.id](mailto:iswandianas@ipb.ac.id); Phone: +62-81310750540

<sup>2</sup>Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Indonesia; <sup>3</sup>Ternate Regional Ministry of Agriculture Office;

<sup>4</sup>SRI-Rice, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA 14853

Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012

## CHILDREN ARE INTRODUCED TO AGRICULTURE



NAGANO-UEDA



Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012



# SRI in Indonesia 2012

- 29 PROVINCES (2012)
- 196 DISTRICTS
- >80,000 HA, **PROJECT (?)** MOA
- 4.9 TONS/HA ---- 7.25 TONS/HA

- 
- LARGER AREA : NGO FARMERS
  - CSR COMPANIES: GARUDA,  
SAMPURNA, OIL COMPANY



Is rice field soil healthy?

## Soil health?



- Continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living system, within ecosystem and land-use boundaries, to sustain biological productivity, to promote the quality of soil, water and air environment, and to maintain plant, animal and human health

*Why rice is soo important in ASIA?*

*It is the staple food for more than half of the world's population*

➤ *A billion people depend for their livelihoods on rice cultivation*

➤ *Most rice is cultivated according to these standard methods:*

- flooded conditions,*
- transplanting of older rice seedling*
- narrow distance between plants*
- using mostly inorganic NPK fertilizers.*



**FLOODED CONDITIONS: HEALTHY SOIL CONDITIONS?**

# **SRI practices enhance soil health for rice to grow better! Why?**

- Moist soil conditions, not continuously flooded, so mostly aerobic soil conditions support they grow of beneficial soil microbes
- Weeding by using rotary weeder, aerates the soil as it controls weeds
- Application of good quality of organic fertilizers is recommended, to 'feed the soil' so that the soil can then feed the plant
- All these practices enhance soil health for rice to grow
- Why?

# FLOODED CONDITIONS: ARE THEY REALLY HEALTHY FOR RICE TO GROW?

- LESS O<sub>2</sub> IN THE SOIL, WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR ROOTS TO GET THE NEEDED O<sub>2</sub>
- - REDOX POTENTIAL IS LOW - 200 mV
- - TOXIC ELEMENTS BUILD UP such as Fe<sup>2+</sup>
- - UNFAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR MOST BENEFICIAL (MICRO) BIOTA
- IS THIS FAVOURABLE FOR RICE PLANT TO GROW?

# RICE CULTIVATION

## CONVENTIONAL

- FLOODED SOIL CONDITION
- MORE SEED: 40 KG/HA, SYNTHETIC FERT @ 500-600 KG/HA, PESTICIDE
- 6-8 SEEDLINGS/HILL
- SEEDLINGS 30 DAYS OLD
- NARROW PLANTING DISTANCE: 20 X 20 CM



## S.R.I.

MOIST SOIL, NOT ALWAYS FLOODED

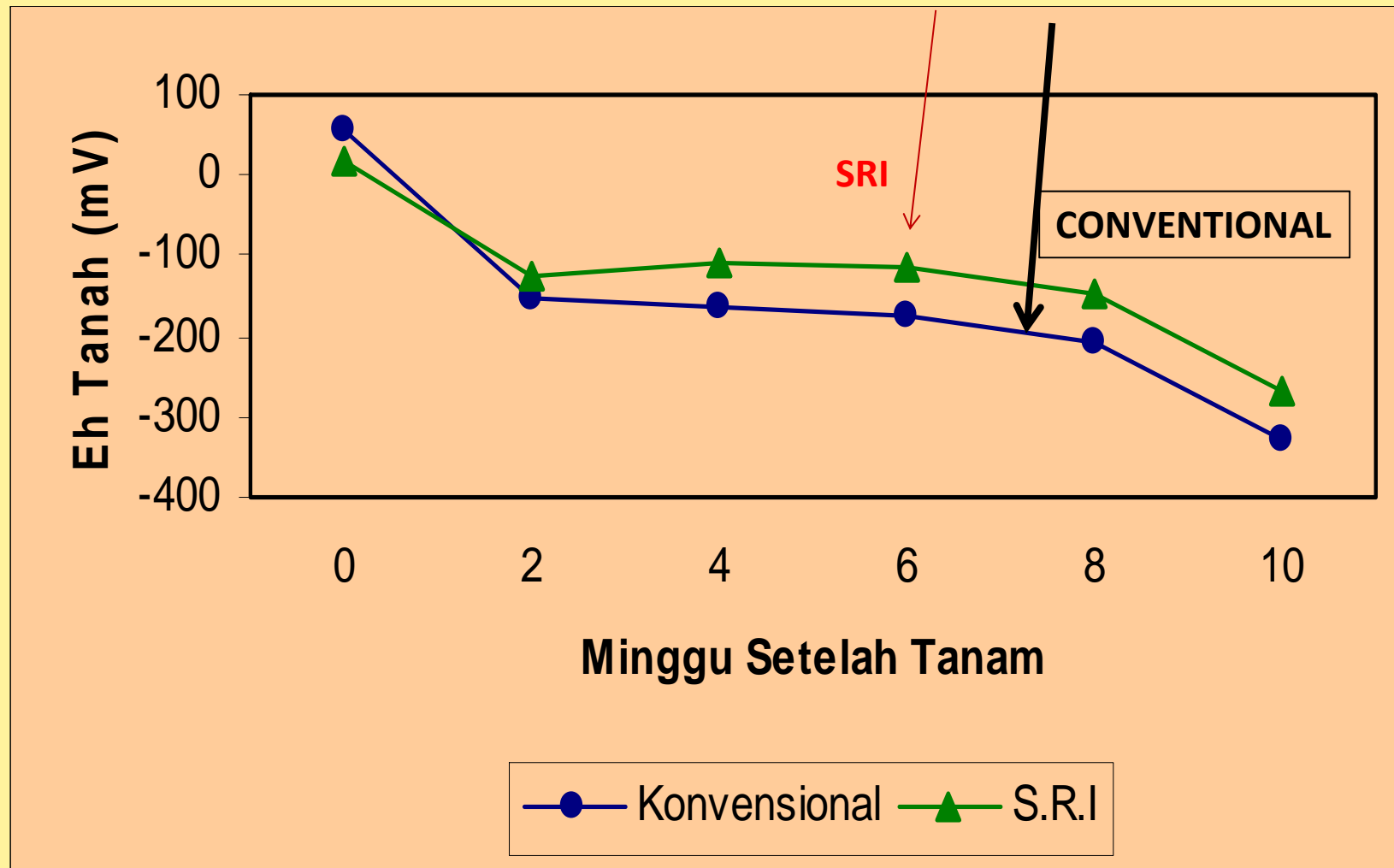
LESS SEEDS, EFFICIENT FERTILIZER

YOUNG SEEDLINGS 8-10 DAYS OLD,  
WITH ATTENTION TO ROOTS  
WIDER PLANTING DISTANCE: 25 X 25  
CM OR 30 X 30 CM





# SOIL Eh



FORMATION OF  $\text{CH}_4$  -150 mVlt Methanogens active

Eh: flooded vs SRI

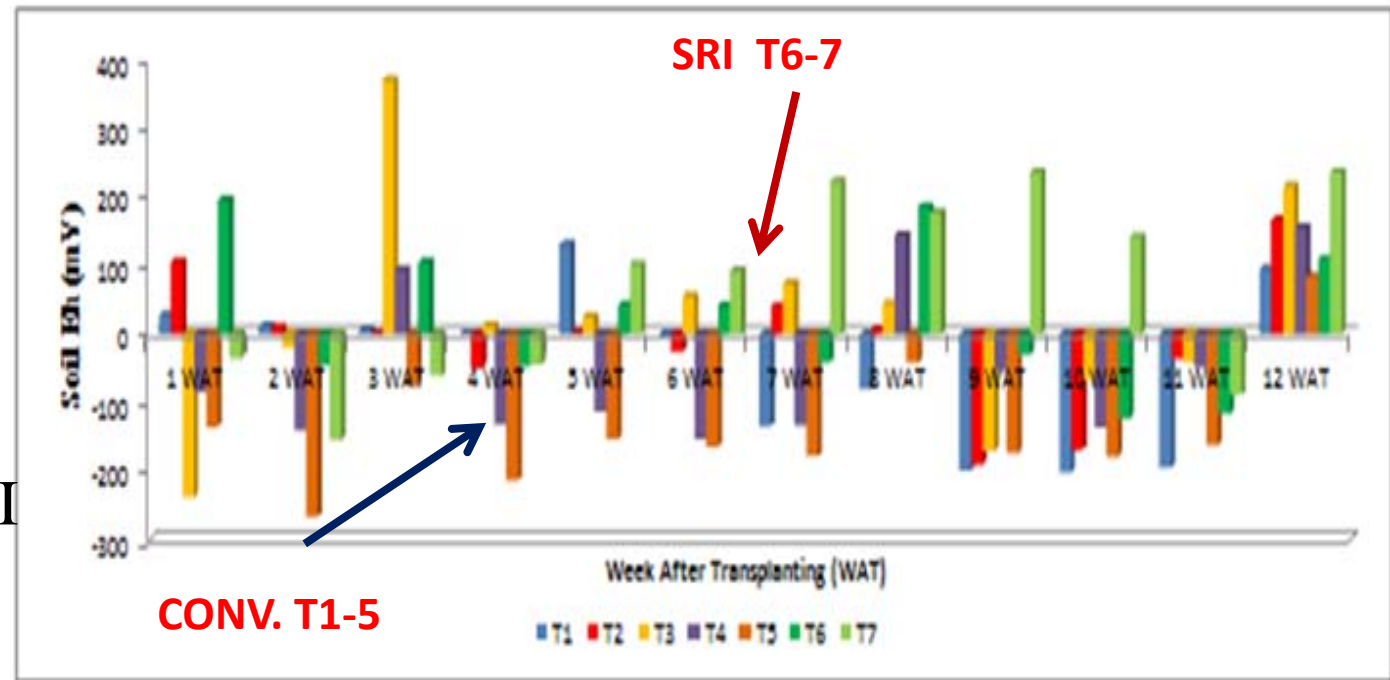
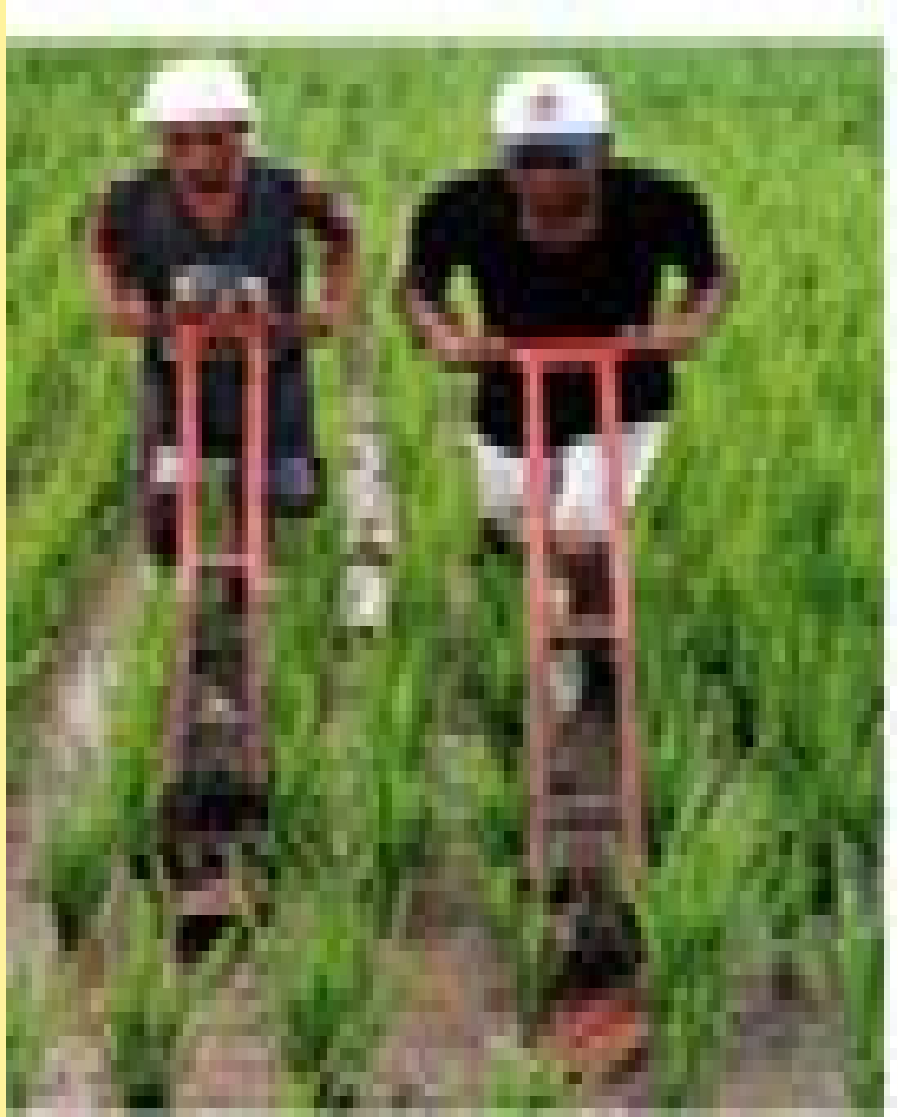


Figure 4. Effects of AgriPower (Slag and Minekal) to soil Eh (Including SRI trial)



Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012



**‘WEEDING Soil  
Aeration is  
inducing a better  
growth condition**

**GET RID OF  
WEEDS**

**SOIL AERATION**

**STIMULATE  
ROOT GROWTH**

Stimulate microbial  
activity and populations

*A review of studies on SRI effects  
on beneficial organisms in rice soil  
rhizospheres*

**Paddy and Water  
Environment**

ISSN 1611-2490  
Volume 9  
Number 1

Paddy Water Environ (2011)  
9:53-64  
DOI 10.1007/  
s10333-011-0260-8



Paddy Water Environ (2011) 9:53–64  
DOI 10.1007/s10333-011-0260-8

REVIEW

**A review of studies on SRI effects on beneficial organisms  
in rice soil rhizospheres**

Iswandi Anas • O. P. Rupela • T. M. Thiyagarajan •  
Norman Uphoff

Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012



**Table 7** Summary comparison of increases in number and activity of beneficial soil organisms in the rhizospheres of SRI rice plants compared to conventionally grown plants, from Indian and Indonesian evaluations

Increases in	TNAU study: Gyathry (2002)	ICRISAT study: <sup>a</sup> Rupela et al. (2006)	IPB study: Iswandi et al. (2010)
Total bacteria	312%	ND	65%
Total diazotrophs <sup>b</sup>	61%	6.4%**	NM
<i>Azospirillum</i> <sup>b</sup>	32%	NM	211%
<i>Azotobacter</i> <sup>b</sup>	36%	NM	94%
P-solubilizing microbes	53%	3.6%**	78%
Dehydrogenase ( $\mu\text{g TPF g}^{-1} 24 \text{ h}^{-1}$ )	140%	22.5%**	125%
Microbial biomass N ( $\text{mg kg}^{-1} \text{ soil}$ )	NM	20%**	NM

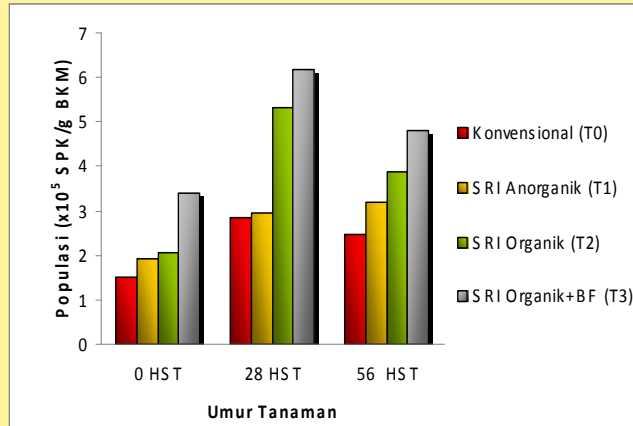
ND no difference, NM not measured

<sup>a</sup> These trials included wet-season results when water control was incomplete and therefore aerobic soil conditions were difficult to maintain

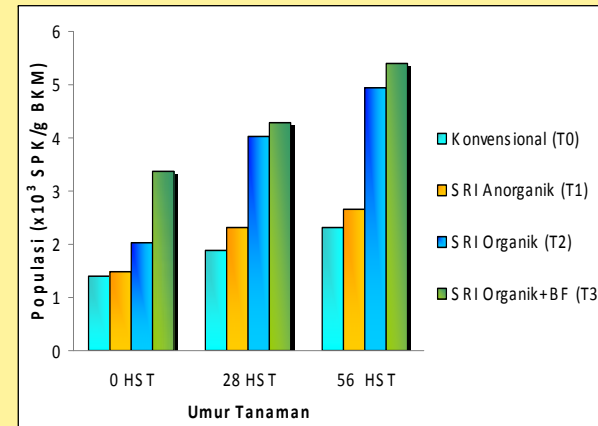
<sup>b</sup> N<sub>2</sub>-fixing bacteria

\*\* Significant at 0.05 level of confidence

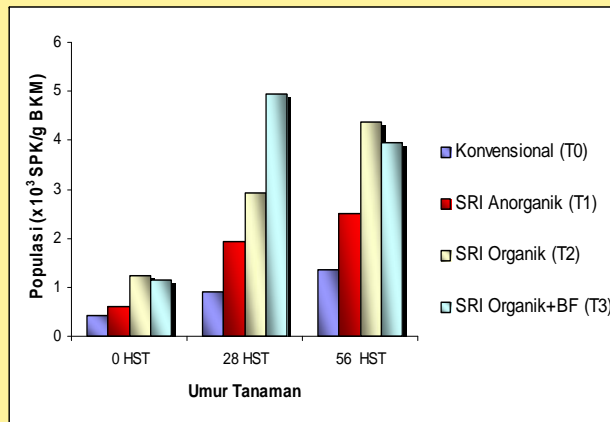
2008



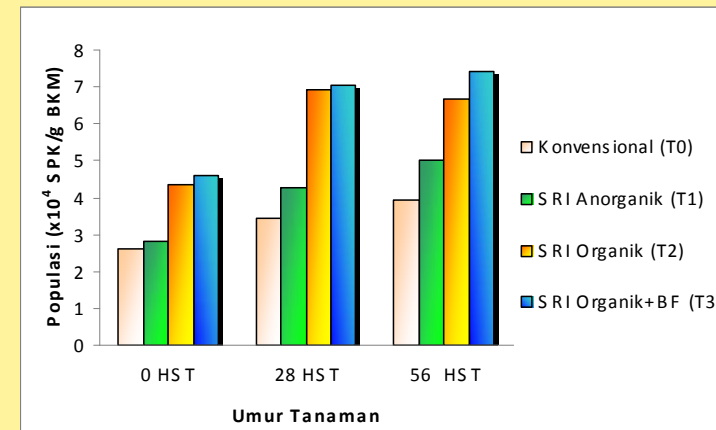
TOTAL



AZOTOBACTER



AZOSPIRILLUM



PSM

**Total microbes, numbers of beneficial soil microbes under Conventional and S.R.I Rice Cultivation Methods at Nagrak, Sukabumi (Iswandi *et al* 2008)**

Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012

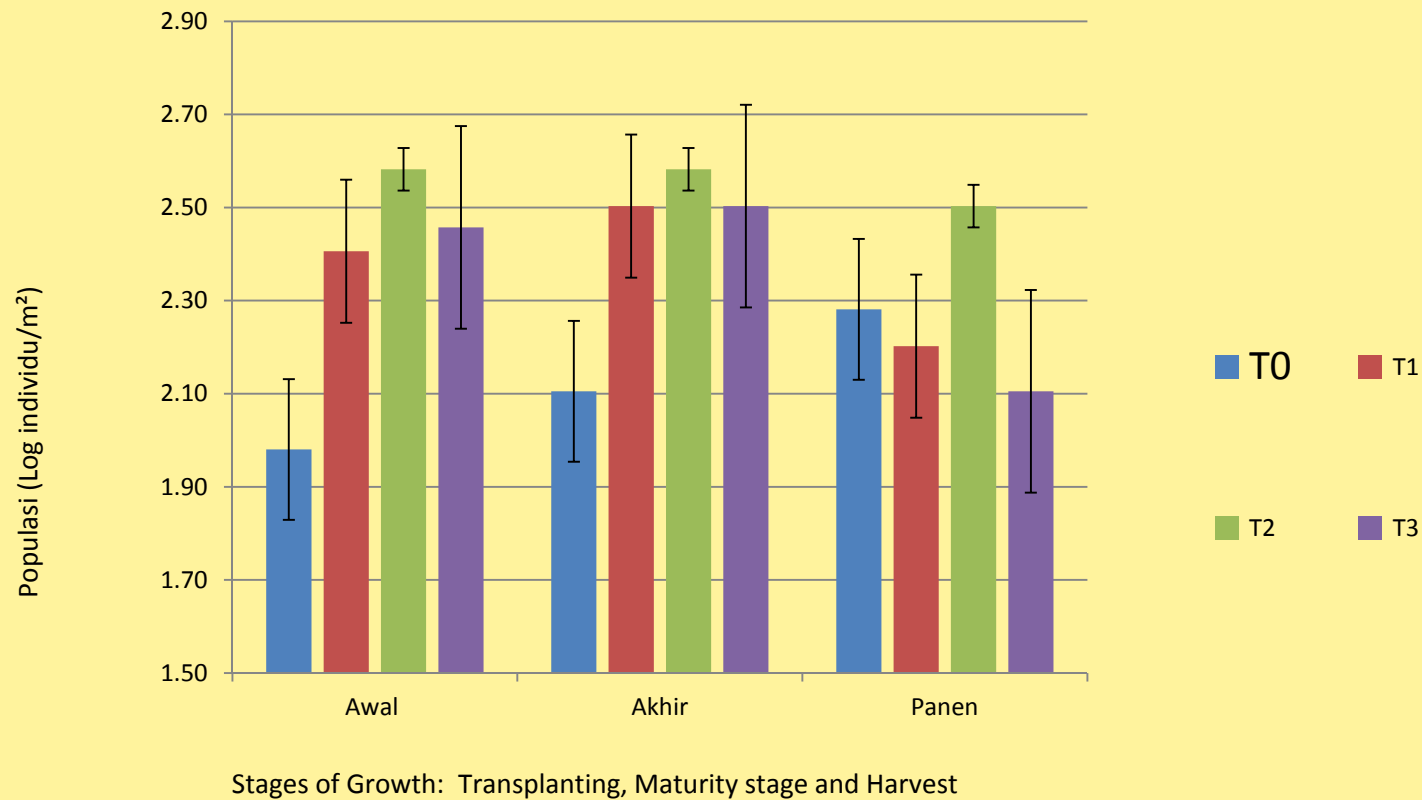
## 2009 - SOIL MICROBES

Treatments	Total Microbes* (x10 <sup>5</sup> )	<i>Azotobacter</i> * (x10 <sup>3</sup> )	<i>Azospirillum</i> * (x10 <sup>3</sup> )	PSM* (x10 <sup>4</sup> )
Conventional (T0)	2.3a	1.9a	0.9a	3.3a
In-Organic S.R.I (T1)	2.7a	2.2a	1.7ab	4.0a
Organic-S.R.I (T2)	3.8b	3.7b	2.8bc	5.9b
In-organic S.R.I + BF (T3)	4.8c	4.4b	3.3c	6.4b

\*CFU/g soil    PSM = Phosphate Solubilizing Microbes

**Total microbes and number of beneficial soil microbes under conventional and SRI rice cultivation methods at Tanjung Sari, Bogor (Iswandi *et al* 2009)**

## 2009 - SOIL FAUNA



**Population of soil fauna (numbers/m<sup>2</sup>) under conventional (T0) and SRI rice cultivation (T1, T2 and T3) (Iswandi *et al.* 2009)**

Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012



# AERENCHYMA? ARE THESE NEEDED?



Conventional Management  
(note hole in the middle)



Inorganic S.R.I.  
(more solid tissue)



Organic S.R.I.  
(most solid tissue)

**Photos by Iswandi Anas and Fakhrur Razie, 2009**

Photo by Iswandi and Fakhrur Razie 2009



CONVENTIONAL



INORGANIC S.R.I.



ORGANIC S.R.I.



Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012

## Root length (cm) (Iswandi *et al.* 2009)

Location	Method	Weeks after transplanting (WAT)		
		4	6	8
Sukabumi	Conventional	21.20	26.10	23.50 b
	Inorganic S.R.I	42.50	41.00	53.33 a
	Organic S.R.I	24.40	29.67	37.43 a
Depok	Conventional	16.57	21.27	20.20 b
	Inorganic S.R.I	33.63	42.00	47.40 a
	Organic S.R.I	20.20	21.10	24.33 a
Bogor	Conventional	25.67	27.07	31.67
	Inorganic S.R.I	36.00	46.53	54.83
	Organic S.R.I	25.50	33.73	33.13
Tanjung Sari	Conventional	22.30 a	73.07 a	24.83
	Inorganic S.R.I	75.00 b	48.50 b	49.93
	Organic S.R.I	70.43 b	30.83 b	30.13



## ROOT DRY WEIGHT (g)

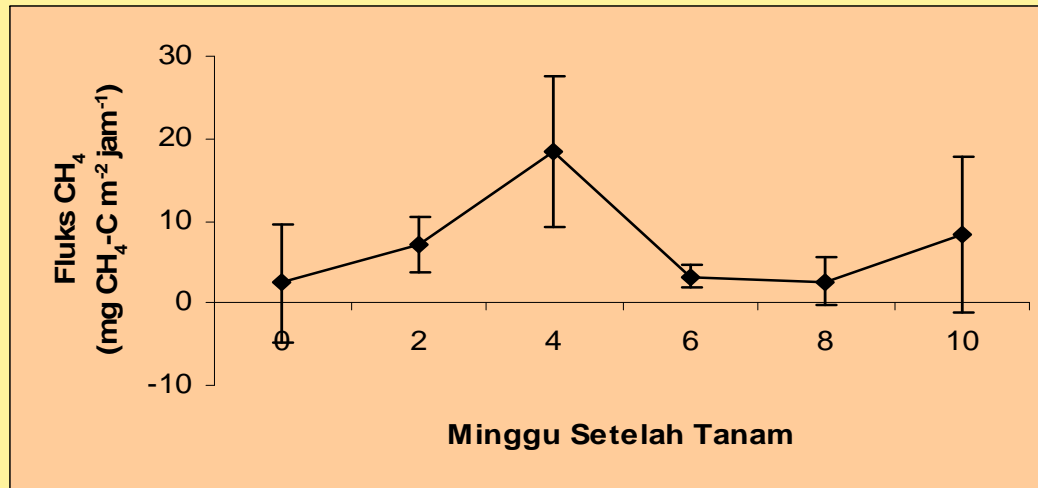
Location	Methods	Weeks after transplanting (WAT)		
		4	6	8
Sukabumi	Conventional	8.89	18.28	18.31b
	Inorganic S.R.I	<b>15.77</b>	<b>26.59</b>	<b>52.07a</b>
	Organic S.R.I	<b>6.70</b>	<b>20.83</b>	<b>32.96 ab</b>
Depok	Conventional	1.11 a	3.73 b	4.92
	Inorganic S.R.I	2.41 c	11.86 a	22.98
	Organic S.R.I	1.70 b	6.72 b	6.79
Bogor	Conventional	16.49	19.61	20.12
	Inorganic S.R.I	5.69	20.71	26.58
	Organic S.R.I	2.94	17.10	31.63
Tanjung Sari	Conventional	2.34	4.78 b	7.85 c
	Inorganic S.R.I	11.92	7.54 ab	51.25 a
	Organic S.R.I	5.99	14.22 a	27.07 b



# Other advantages of unflooded conditions

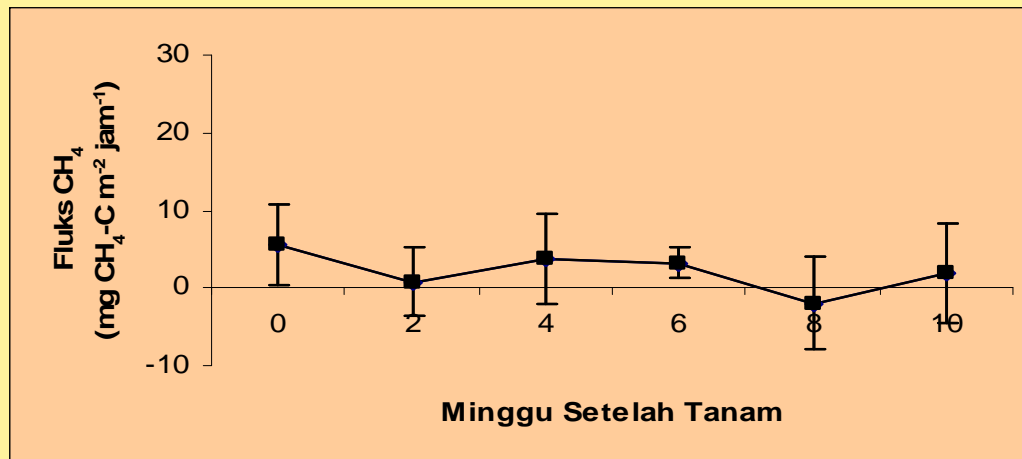
- Reduce methane emissions from rice field
- Reduce toxicity such as Fe toxicity
- It remains to be evaluated conclusively whether there is offsetting increase of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  in response to SRI management; so far, studies have shown little or no increase

## Methane Fluxes (Hutabarat, 2010)



(a)

**CONVENTIONAL**



**SRI**

Table 14. Effects of Slag (AgriPower and Minokal) on C-CH<sub>4</sub> emission

Treatment	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7
Average	4.363	7.848	4.945	7.299	3.383	0.462	1.253

\*T1=100% NPK; T2=100% NPK+500 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> AgriPower; T3=100% NPK+1000 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> Minokal; T4=100% NPK+Mid-Session Drainage; T5=50% NPK+500 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> AgriPower; T6=100% NPK as farmer' level + 1,000 kg Minokal (Particle Size : <3.3mm) + SRI; T7:100% NPK as farmer' level + SRI.

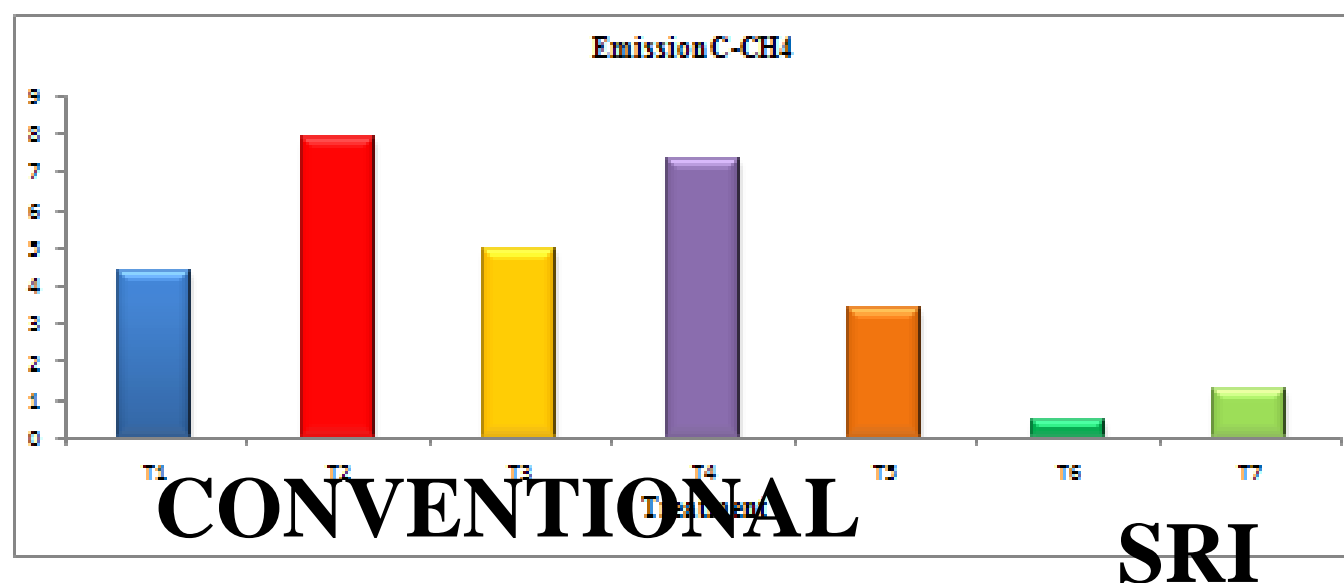


Figure 12. Effects of AgriPower (Slag and Minokal) to C-CH<sub>4</sub> emission

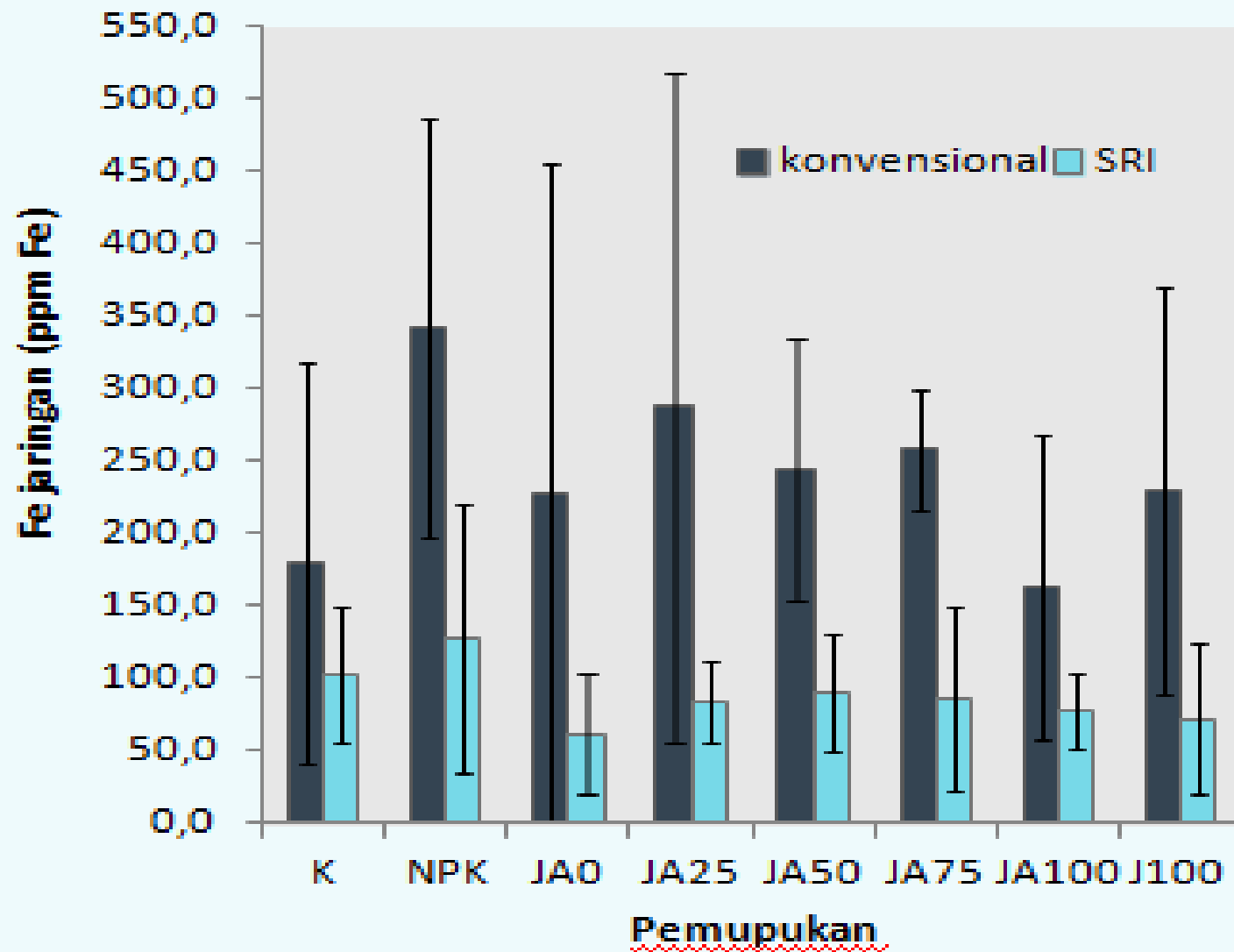
## Fe-toxicity In ACID SULFATE SOILS



Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012



Fakhrur Razie, 2012



Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012

CONVENTIONAL

SRI

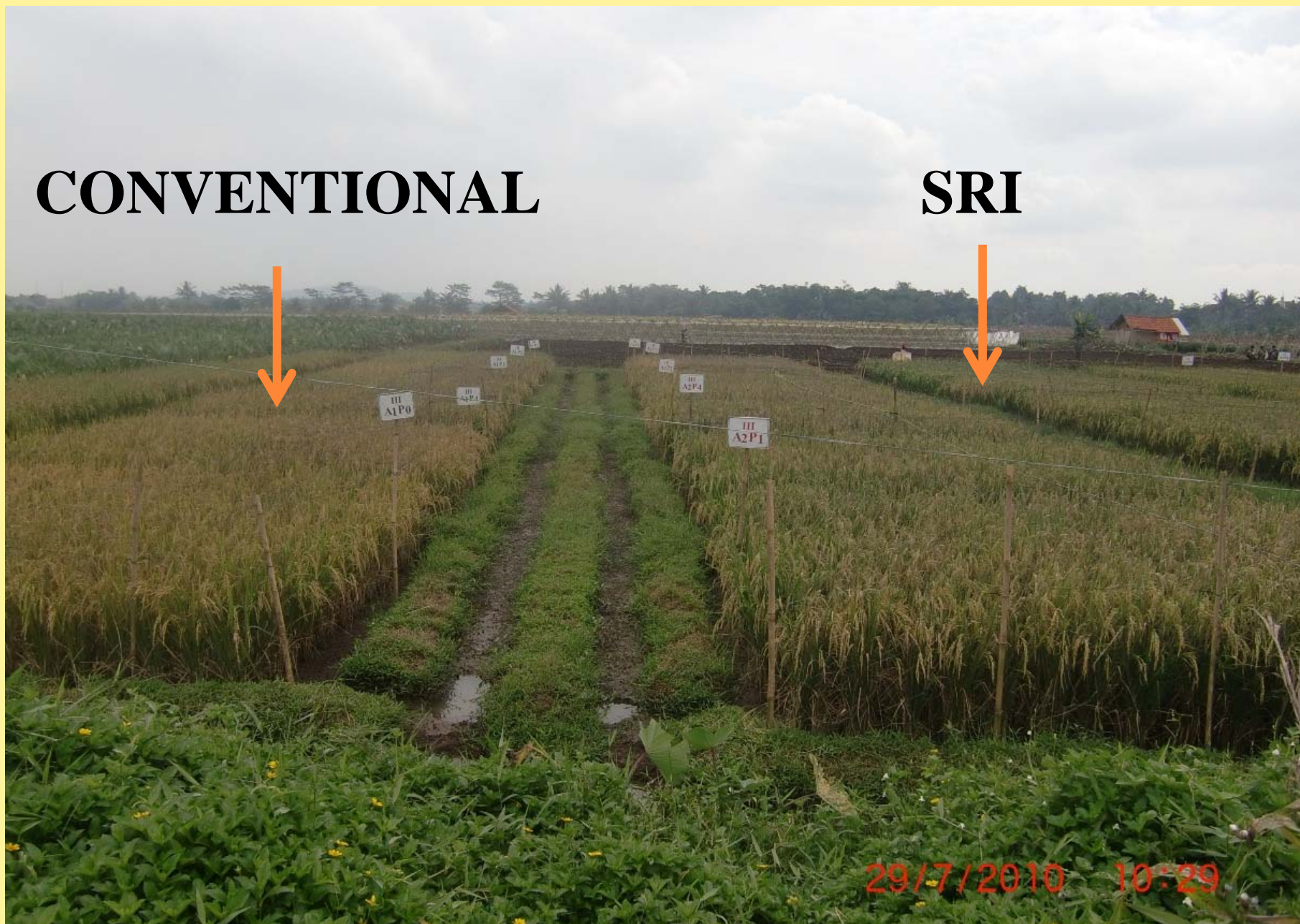


Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012



**CONVENTIONAL**

**SRI**



Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012





**YIELD INCREASE  
63% average in the  
studies reported  
below**

	CONVENTIONAL	SRI
	(TON/HA)	
SUGIYANTA (2008)	5.0	7.5
HERODIAN ET AL. (2008)	5.5	8.9
KASIM ET AL (2007-2008)	-	9.7
ISWANDI ET AL. (2008)	4.5	6.5

# SRI – MOA PROGRAM

- 29 PROVINCES (2012)
- 196 DISTRICTS
- >80,000 HA
- LARGER AREA :  
NGO FARMERS

Year	Area (Ha)
2007	1,100
2008	1,320
2009	1,840
2010	1,240
2011	1,140
2012	60,000

**SRI AVERAGE YIELD                      7.25 TONS/HA**  
**NATIONAL AVERAGE YIELD        4.90 TONS/HA**  
**AVERAGE INCREASE OF 48%**



## **S.R.I NEEDS MORE STUDY:**

**AGRONOMY  
SOIL AND SOIL BIOLOGY  
MANAGEMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS  
PEST AND DISEASES  
WEED SCIENCE: WEEDERS, ETC.  
POST-HARVEST  
NUTRITIONAL VALUES  
SOCIAL-ECONOMY ASPECTS  
FARMER INCOMES  
CULTURE  
GENDER**







PROF DR ISWANDI ANAS KULIAH UMUM DIES NATALIES UND 30 JULI 2011



Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012





**IPM-SRI WORKSHOP IN UKM MALAYSIA 12-13 SEPTEMBER  
2012 ORGANIZED BY SRI-MAS ATTENDED BY 202  
PARTICIPANTS**



Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012





NOSC,  
website



Presented at NOSC Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012





Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012





Presidential Candidate for 2014-  
2019 Prabowo Subianto



Presented at J-SRI Meeting at University of Tokyo, Japan, 27 September 2012