



Why pay attention to sustainable rice?

by

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UNEP / Sustainable Rice Platform

Presentation to

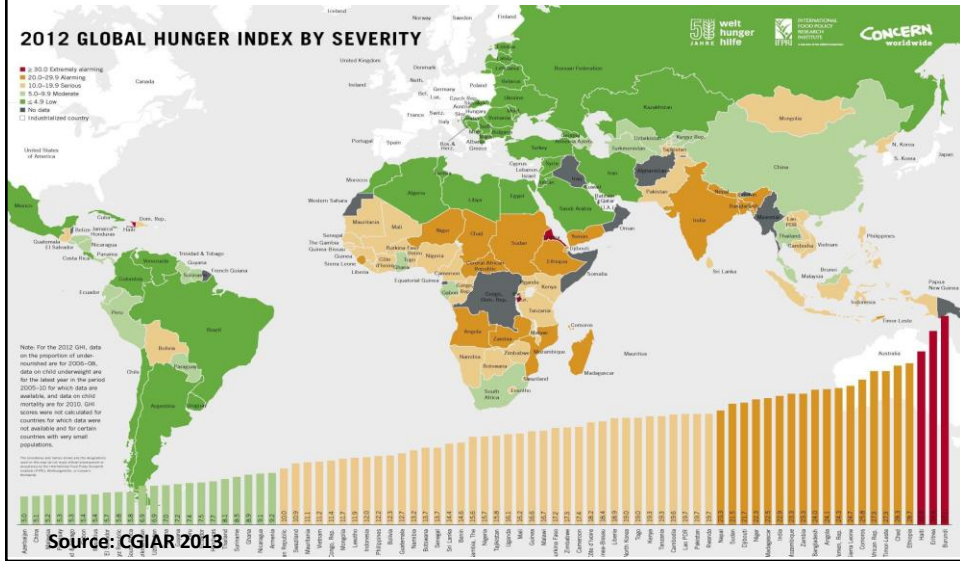
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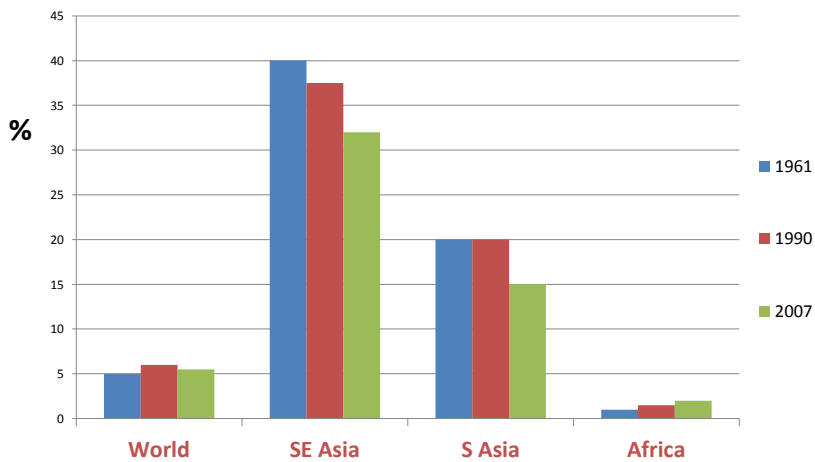
Contents

- Role of rice in food security
- Rice sustainability challenges
- Overview of the Sustainable Rice Platform

Food insecurity and undernutrition remain persistent: 850m go hungry



Share of rice in world agriculture (%)



Source: Bishwajit et al, 2013

Role of rice in Asian food security

- 90% of Asia's population depend on rice as a source of their calories.
- 90% of rice is grown and consumed in Asia, with China and India accounting for half of world production and consumption (2011)
- 2.2 billion rice farmers in Asia

Challenges: Rising demand, falling productivity

- Slowing growth in production
- Diminishing marginal returns to inputs
- Urbanization
- Competition for water, land, labour
- Rising energy and fertilizer prices
- Climate change

Rice sustainability- key challenges



Livelihoods and poverty alleviation

- Grown on 160 million ha, 90% in Asia, 144 million smallholders
- 20% of the world's population depends on rice cultivation for their livelihoods

Food security

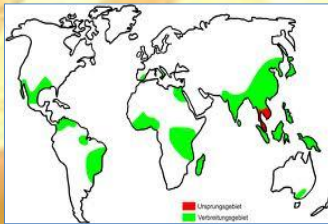
- Rice is the staple for > 3.5 billion people
- Declining productivity growth (from 2.2% during 1970-90 to < 0.8% since)

Resource use efficiency (water, soil, fertilizers, pesticides, labour)

- Rice production uses 34-43% of the world's irrigation water
- Declining global rice area due to land conversion, salinization and water scarcity

Environment, biodiversity, climate change

- Rice is responsible for 5% to 10% of global CH4 emissions.



Sustainable Rice Platform



A multi-stakeholder, membership-based initiative to drive adoption of sustainable best practice in rice



Mission



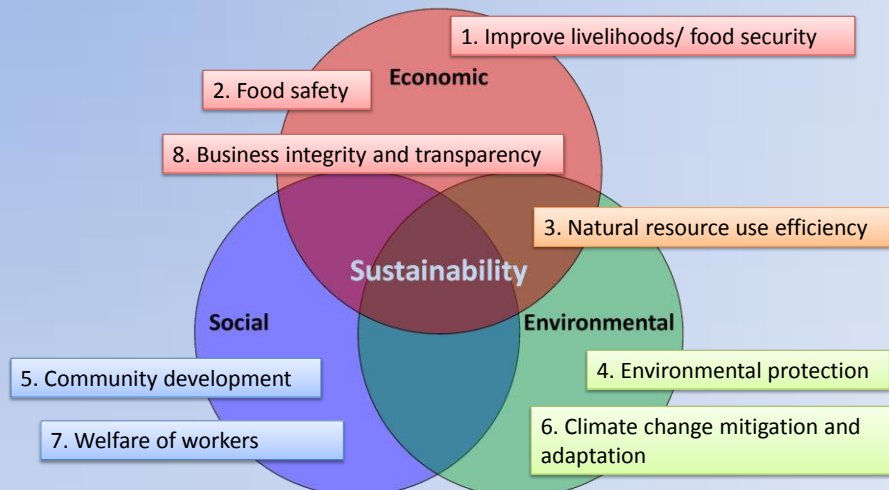
“To promote resource efficiency and sustainability in the global rice sector through an alliance that links research, production, policy making, trade and consumption.”

SRP Objectives: From principles to adoption

Aim: To build a robust and credible framework to facilitate large-scale adoption of sustainable practices in the rice value chain



SRP: 8 guiding principles; 32 criteria; 165 recommended practices



Do we need to provide incentives for farmers to adopt sustainable practices?

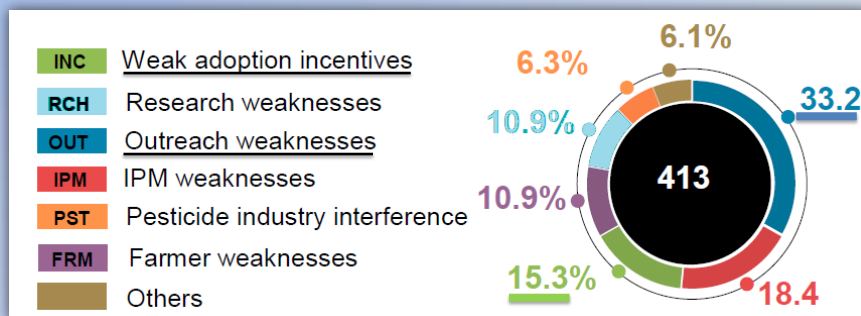
Not necessary

- Farmers should benefit from sustainable farming practices without external benefits (*increased yield, reduced inputs, improved health*)

However

- Education and training are necessary
- Changing practices can result in starting costs/risks
- Other incentives for unsustainable practices

Example: Constraints for integrated pest management



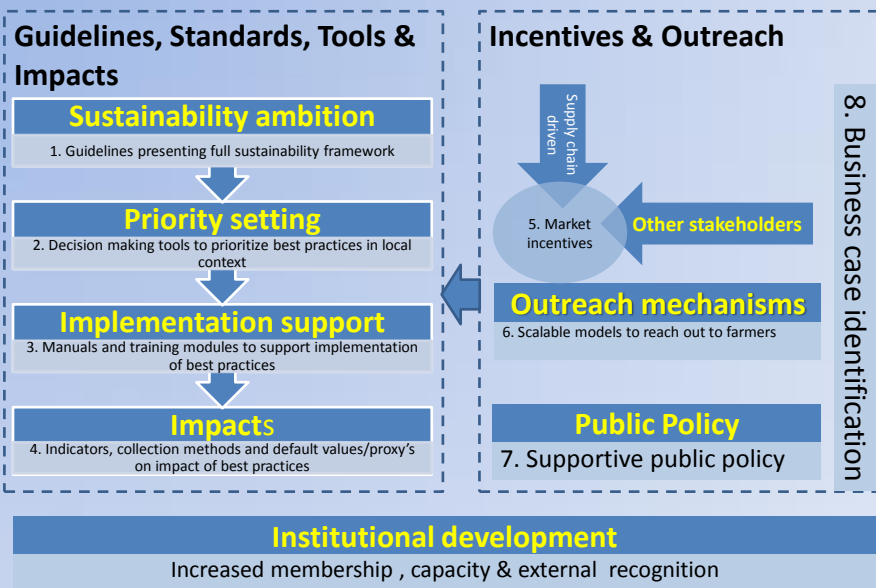
(Source: Parsa et al. 2014, PNAS, cited by S Beebout, 2014)

Two market-based incentive mechanisms

Segregation	Book and Claim
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For markets that demand segregated / labelled sustainable rice (e.g. OECD countries) Driven from within the rice value chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For bulk/mainstream market with low demand for sustainable rice Potential for drivers from outside rice value chain?



SRP core components



Current status / next steps

- **Secretariat established** at UNEP's ROAP, Bangkok
- **19 members:** commodity traders, input suppliers, research institutes, governments, non-profits
- **Rice sustainability guidelines and criteria available**
- **Field implementation strategy to develop and test SRP instruments** developed
- **Market incentives study**
- **Impact indicators under development**
- **Stakeholder outreach – CCAC / GRiSP**
- www.sustainablerice.org



For further information, or to participate in the SRP, contact
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