

Webinar Summary: Agronomists' experience on implementing SRP in Asia

14 March 2022, 15.00-16.30h (Bangkok time)

SRP & Mars hosted a webinar for agronomists to exchange their personal experience of implementing SRP in Asia. The aim of the webinar was to foster greater pre-competitive collaboration and knowledge exchange across various Registered SRP Projects.

Guest Speakers:

- Mr Vikram Mehla (LT Foods, Manager)
- Mr Zafar Iqbal Bhatti (Rice Partners, Sustainability Manager)
- Dr. Atthawit Watcharapongchai (GIZ, Project Director of Sustainable Aromatic Rice Initiative)
- Mr Imran Sheikh, (Galaxy Rice & Project Manager, WAPRO Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation)

Opening & Closing Remarks: Vita Jarolimkova (Mars Global Food, Sustainable Sourcing Manager)

Participants: 30 attendees

Webinar Summary

Vita Jarolimkova (Mars Food) presented the audience with an overview. This was an opportunity for agronomists to share their learnings from leading Registered SRP Projects in the past several years.

Mr Vikram Mehla (LT Foods, India) shared his personal experience of implementing SRP in India, where adoption of SRP practices has shown to improve input efficiency, contributing to a more sustainable and safer world for the next generation. He reported that in 2021 LT Food's farmers earned 26% more while reducing water by 24%.

Mr Zafar Iqbal Bhatti (Rice Partners Ltd, Pakistan) then shared his own personal experience of implementing SRP in Pakistan, which demonstrated improved outcomes in terms of pesticide use and water efficiency. RPL field staff use the AKVO Flow app to collect information directly from the field via tablets or smartphones. This method of data collection has proven to be useful when tracing usage of pesticides and water.

Dr. Atthawit Watcharapongchai (GIZ Thailand) shared his experience of implementing SRP in Thailand. From 2018 to present, 7,334 MT of sustainability produced rice from SRP-trained farmers has been delivered to millers and there has been a 29% of water reduction in sustainable rice production.

Mr Imran Sheikh (Galaxy Rice, Pakistan) shared his experience with SRP in Pakistan. He described challenges in the areas of productivity, quality & marketing, that were managed through establishment of a digital platform (integrated with remote sensing & drones) to provide real time advisory services at scale. Digitizing the SRP Standard in an Android based app allowed efficient data collection & traceability from farm to fork. Adoption of

SRP led to a positive impact with water savings of 25%, 38% increase in net incomes, yield increases up to 19%. and reduction of GHG emissions of up to 48%.

If you are a SRP member and you would like to watch the webinar on demand, please contact info@sustainablerice.org.