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Select Theme	: Sustainable and equitable farming systems
Endorsement email	:
Keyword 1	: System of Rice Intensification (SRI)
Keyword 2	: Sustainable intensification
Keyword 3	: Farm diversification
Title of Entry	: Hybridizing Technology: The Case of Rice Farming in Nepal
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Select only one type of presentation	: 15 minute oral presentation
Abstract	: This paper is based on the findings of my PhD study from the Wageningen University. Study found that rice farmers used diversified field management strategies to incorporate SRI into their farming systems. Some farmers used all six of the SRI practices introduced during the training viz. young seedlings, single seedlings, wider spacing, alternate wetting and drying irrigation, mechanical weeding and use of compost. However, majority of them modified their methods to be appropriate for their farming situation. Land type and water availability greatly influenced farmers' management decisions. Farmers used younger

seedlings in areas where irrigation and drainage facility was better. Transplanting young seedlings in water-scarce areas is more risky, because water availability determines the timing of land preparation and transplanting. Use of mechanical weeding was very effective for higher yield, however, its use was not the same everywhere. Similarly, many farmers did not follow the advice to use compost (alone or with fertilizer), mainly because of its use as fuel in some communities who live far from the forest. Further transportation of compost to distant fields and uncertain land ownership negatively impacted the use of compost on rice fields. It was interesting to note that the poorly producing farmers in the study area used more fertilizers than required. By contrast, the farmers who attended the SRI training have reduced their fertilizer use. Average yield of those farmers who used SRI/modified SRI method was 5.7 tons/hectare, whereas the country's average hovers at 3 tons/hectare. In short, introduction of SRI method influenced traditional rice farming system. After some years of experiences, majority of farmers adjusted these practices to fit their personal farming situation. Most farmers who have changed their rice farming system were following neither SRI nor traditional but rather a hybrid of methods and develops a hybridizing system which is more feasible and productive in Nepal.

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