

## SRI at Agriculture Fair in Najaf Province, Iraq

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The Agriculture Engineers Association (AEA) in Najaf province organized their 6<sup>th</sup> agriculture fair, held November 19-21, 2009. AEA invited the Al-Mishkhab Rice Research Station (MRRS) to participate in the fair, to present new technologies from its rice research.

Flayeh Abed Jaber showed pictures of SRI activities over the past five years to visitors. The provincial governor opened the fair with other government officials in Najaf. Flayeh explained MRRS activities with SRI methodology to the governor, and he suggested organizing a rice conference to discuss with farmers and others the best ways to promote the rice sector in the province.

Many farmers and College of Agriculture students visited the fair. Reporters for the Al-Hurra Satellite television channel met with me and showed the interview on the main news program that day. I reported on the contribution of SRI to reducing water use for rice irrigation by 40%, important because Iraq is suffering from water scarcity, and we must conserve our natural resources to best advantage.



