

# Erika Styger

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

- **36 years of experience** in tropical agronomy, crop and soil science, agroforestry, natural resources management, land degradation, and participatory approaches in research and development. Focus on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) for the past 19 years. Lived **more than 11 years in Africa**, working directly with rural communities in humid, semi-arid, arid, and highland ecozones across the continent.
- **Designed, implemented, and evaluated** research and development programs at local, national, and international levels in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- **Strong analytical skills** to understand complex farming system problems and design participatory pathways for practical solutions.
- **Broad experience working in multicultural environments**; excellent leadership, social, and communication skills; and the ability to build effective working relationships with diverse stakeholders and collaborators.
- **Founder and Director of SRI Rice Solutions, LLC** since 2026.
- **Professor of Practice at Cornell University, Director SRI International Network and Resources Center (SRI-Rice)** (2010-2016); **Director Climate-Resilient Farming Systems Program** (2017-2025).
- Preceding to that, worked with the **World Bank, FAO, UNDP, CGIAR Centers ICRAF** (World Agroforestry Centre) and **IITA** (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture); **the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**; U.S. consulting firms (**Chemonics Inc., Development Alternatives Inc., Abt Associates Inc.**); the MDG Center for West and Central Africa (Earth Institute, Columbia University); and international NGOs **Africare, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and SRI Global Inc.**
- **PhD from Cornell University** in Crop and Soil Sciences, and **MSc from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich)** in Agronomy (*Diplomierter Ingenieur-Agronom*).

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### SRI RICE SOLUTIONS LLC

#### Founder and Director

Jan 2026 – present; Ithaca, New York, USA; <https://www.sriricesolutions.com>

### CORNELL UNIVERSITY - Professor of Practice

#### Director, Climate-Resilient Farming Systems

Jan 2017 – Dec 2026; Department of Global Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Ithaca, New York, USA; <https://www.climateresilientfarmingsystems.org/>

**Designed and lead the program.** Responsible for program development, management, finances, fundraising, administration, planning, and reporting.

**Mission:** Improve tropical smallholder farming systems for greater productivity and resilience to climate change through ecological approaches.

## Operational strategy

- Integrate agro-ecological and climate-resilient approaches according to farmer needs, constraints and opportunities, focusing on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), System of Crop Intensification (SCI), Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM), Agrobiodiversity Management and Agroforestry.
- Combine scientific knowledge with local knowledge, using participatory research approaches together with farming communities to create innovative solutions that benefit and empower farmers.

## Projects

- [ClimateRice](#) is a collaborative initiative with [CarbonFarm](#), a tech start-up company from France. The goal is to transform global rice production by harnessing carbon credits to create a self-financing mechanism to scale up the System of Rice Intensification for the benefit of smallholder rice producers. We received start-up funds (2023-2025) from [Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability](#), to develop our operational service model. In 2025, two diagnostic trips to Senegal and Egypt for developing a ClimateRice project.
- [RICOWAS Project: Scaling-up climate-resilient rice production in 13 countries of West Africa](#); Participating countries are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo; Executed by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), Tunisia and funded by the Adaptation Fund. The project duration is from 2023- 2028. We were the strategic technical partner to the regional coordination of the project. I lead two large Training of Trainers for the 13 countries' Master Trainers and National Coordinators in 2024 and 2025; Set up the Regional Technical Innovation Group (GRIT) with 26 members to identify best climate-resilient rice production practices across West Africa; Developed eleven training modules for the master trainers and coordinated technical exchange according to climate-zone and rice systems across West Africa.
- **Regenerative rice farming with Black farming communities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, and South Carolina** (since 2020), [Jubilee Justice](#), LA. I was and still am the technical lead to develop together with ten farmers across the US South four distinct organic, regenerative and non-flooded rice systems based on the System of Rice Intensification. We identified specialty rice varieties and researched their adaptability to the different organic growing methods. Each farmer managed a different set up (experimentation), which we complemented with experiments on the Jubilee Justice research farm in Alexandria, LA (see also [Impact Brief CALS](#)).
- **Improving fonio (*Digitaria exilis*) productivity with SRI principles in Douentza, Mopti, Mali** (2018-2025); collaboration with NGOs 3-A Sahel Mali and SRI Global Inc; Multi-year initiative with several donors.
  - **2023-2024: Evaluation of new agronomic methods to improve fonio productivity in organic production systems in Mali**; PI on Feasibility Study in 4 regions of Mali, funded by [Catalytic Finance](#) and [Subnational Climate Fund](#). In partnership with i) Sustainable African Foods (SAF), a Malian agro-processor, ii) [Yolélé Foods Inc](#), an African food company based in the United States, iii) [3A-Sahel](#), a Malian NGO and iv) [SRI Global Inc.](#), a New York based NGO.
  - **Polson Institute for Global Development, Collaborative Grant**: Evaluation survey design by three students in GDEV 4075 class, Program Evaluation for Community Development Organizations; PI on GDEV undergraduate summer internship for two students to analyze fonio survey.
  - **2020-2024: Farmer-led experimentation on organic fonio intensification based on SRI principles**, collaboration with NGOs 3-A Sahel Mali and SRI Global Inc. **Douentza, Mopti, Mali**
  - **2018: Research trials on fonio intensification**, in collaboration with Institute d'Economie Rurale (IER) Mali, and Yolélé Foods Inc at Cinzana research station, **Cinzana, Segou, Mali**.

## Previous projects

- [2023 Solving World Hunger: EY Open Science Data Challenge](#), Technical expert on Cornell's team in the Design and Judging of the EY Open Science Data Challenge for 2023; led by the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future.

- **Diversity and in-situ conservation of rice by the Saamaka people of Suriname** (2018-2023), Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability, Cornell University. Research project with Susan McCouch, Chelsea Specht and Jacob Landis, (PI).
- [Evaluation of nursery methods on plant development and grain yield of rice in the Hudson Valley, New York](#), SARE Farmer Grant (2019-2020), Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), USA. (Technical Advisor); F
- [New Tech for an Ancient Food Project](#); **Use of 3D printing technology to improve smallholder rice production equipment** (2016-2018); Atkinson Center Academic Venture Fund Grant; PI Prof Derek Warner, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University; Robert Shepherd, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and I were Co-PIs.
- **Improved use and conservation of Africa rice (*Oryza glaberrima*) by West African smallholder farmers** (2016-2017); Inventory of varieties grown and crop management field research with farmers in Togo and Timbuktu, Mali (PI)
- **Improving and scaling up SRI in West Africa** (<http://sriwestafrica.org>) (2014-2018) (Technical lead); Finalizing the project started under previous position: see under West Africa Initiative next page.

#### In the News

- 56 News Articles published about my work (2018-2025):  
<https://www.climateresilientfarmingsystems.org/in-the-news>

### CORNELL UNIVERSITY - Director, SRI International Network and Resources Center (SRI-Rice)

August 2010-December 2016; International Programs (IP-CALS), College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Ithaca, New York, USA; <http://sririce.org>

**Started and led SRI-Rice**; Responsible for program development, management, finances, fundraising, administration, planning, and reporting.

**Mission:** To advance and share knowledge about the System of Rice Intensification, to improve the technical implementation of the SRI methodology, and to support networking among interested organizations agencies, and individuals around the globe.

#### Accomplishments:

##### Made knowledge about SRI widely available

- Worlds' most comprehensive collection of SRI knowledge, available at <http://sririce.org>
- Personal outreach: traveled to 29 countries in 46 visits: provided technical assistance and trainings, undertook field visits; co-organized, co-facilitated and presented in meetings and conferences
  - Asia:* Cambodia, China, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam
  - W Africa:* Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo
  - E and S Africa:* Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia
  - Latin America:* Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico
  - Other:* Australia, France, England, Germany, Switzerland
- More than 50 presentations at international and national meetings and conferences (see selection below)
- Co-organized and co-facilitated 15 international meetings and conferences (see below)
- Teaching at Cornell University: 17 guest lectures to seven different classes, co-instructor for IARD 7830: *Farmer-Centered Research and Extension* in 2013

##### Generated and advanced knowledge and scientific understanding on SRI methodology

- Established SRI Research Database: open-source access to all scientific publications on SRI since 1993(> 1700 entries, 4/2020):

[https://www.zotero.org/groups/344232/system\\_of\\_rice\\_intensification\\_sri\\_research\\_network](https://www.zotero.org/groups/344232/system_of_rice_intensification_sri_research_network)

- Wrote 13 analytical and academic articles on SRI
- Research: *Reducing Inorganic Arsenic Levels in Rice by Appropriate Water Management*, Co-Principal Investigator with Prof L Derry, B Ahner and J Duxbury; funded by Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Cornell University, 2014/2015
- Research: *Farmer implementation of SRI in West Africa* (SRI West Africa scaling up project); Principal Investigator; funded by World Bank (2014-2016), [Book](#)

#### **Improved technical implementation of SRI in farmers' fields and research trials**

- [Developed training approach and materials for SRI](#): Wrote Technical Training Manual, developed data collection methodology and guidelines for conducting farmer trials, data visualization and mapping.
- [Led 13 trainings for more than 500 people from 16 countries](#) (13 countries in W Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Haiti): 2-4 day practical and theoretical training of trainers, each of whom in turn trained more farmers and technicians, e.g. in W Africa > 30,000 farmers and 1032 technicians trained (2014-2016)

#### **Created and promoted two large-scale regional SRI initiatives**

Formed alliances with donors and regional organizations to organize initiatives to meet needs for SRI interventions across an entire region (rather than limited to individual countries), as follows:

##### **i) West Africa Initiative**

- **Improving and Scaling-up SRI in West Africa (SRI WAAPP)**, 2013-2016 (<http://sriwestafrica.org>).  
**Principal Investigator** for Cornell University; **Strategic and technical partner** to project regional coordination unit managed by the National Center of Specialization in Rice (CNS-Riz), at the Government of Mali's *Institut d'Économie Rurale* (IER). Funded by the World Bank under the West Africa Agricultural Productivity Program (WAAPP), managed by the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD). I initiated this project in 2012 and built a coalition of project implementers and donors.  
Project objective to increase rice productivity and competitiveness throughout the 13-country Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.  
[Results](#) by June 2016:
  - 50,048 farmers (33% women) using SRI on 13,944 hectares at 1088 sites
  - > 30,000 farmers and 1032 technicians trained
  - Number of local Institutions working with SRI increased from 49 (2014) to 215 (2016)
  - Yield increases with SRI compared to conventional rice production by 56% averaging 6.6 t/ha for irrigated rice and by 85% averaging 4.71 t/ha for rainfed lowland rice.
  - Added value of increased rice production: 10 million USD/rice season.
- **Peace Corps (PC) West Africa Food Security Initiative**: I initiated and led two regional trainings for PC volunteers, counterparts and staff from Benin, The Gambia, Guinea, Senegal and Togo in 2012 and 2013; contributed to PC training material development on SRI.

##### **ii) Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative**

- **Co-organized first Latin America and Caribbean SRI workshop** with Better U Foundation and EARTH University: 27 SRI practitioners from 10 countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and the USA; at EARTH University Limon, Costa Rica, November 2011. [Conference Website](#)
- **Co-organized second Latin America and Caribbean SRI workshop** with Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the National Federation of Rice Growers of Colombia (FEDEARROZ), in Ibagué, Tolima, Colombia in 2017: [Summary report](#)
- **Advised Inter-American Institute for Cooperation (IICA)** in Spanish training material development, Dominican Republic (DR) field program, and project development for the DR and Colombia.

- **Advised projects and trained staff and farmers in Haiti**
  - **2010** for various non-profit organizations in three regions (undertook first introduction of SRI to Haiti),
  - **2013** for iF Foundation in northern region, and
  - **2016** for USAID-funded project *Change Lavi Plante* in St Marc/Artibonite.
- **Co-organized first national SRI workshop in Haiti** with Better U Foundation and USAID-funded WINNER project in March 2011.

## TEACHING (2010-2025 while at Cornell University)

### Instructor at Cornell University

- 2024-2025: [Tsujimoto Perspectives in Global Development Seminar series](#), GDEV 4961; Co-instructor with Dr E. Mabaya and Dr L. Buck; Fall 2024, Spring and Fall, 2025; 90 Students (1 credit)
- 2019: **Perspectives on International Agriculture and Rural Development**, DSCOC1100/IARD1100, Co-instructor with Dr S. Giroux and Dr R. Nelson; 48 students, (3 credit)
- 2011: **Farmer-Centered Research and Extension**, IARD 7830; Co-instructor with Dr T. Tucker.

### Lectures at Cornell University

- 2024: **Evaluation Plan for a Fonio Program in Mali**, Resource person for a student project, Professor Aubryn Sidle, Program Evaluation for Community Development Organizations, GDEV 4075/6075.
- 2022: **Sustainable Agriculture Development in the Context of Climate Change: Case Study of the System of Rice Intensification**; Professor Marecelis Acevedo; AGRO/PROC/HORT 5100; Manjeo Sostenibel de Sistemas Agrícolas; joint course University of Puerto Rico and Cornell University, March 11, 2022.
- 2022: **System of Rice Intensification (SRI) – Scaling-up climate resilient rice production**, Professor David Lee; AEM 6600: Natural Resources and Economic Development. February 2, 2022.
- 2011-2021: **Shifting cultivation and slash-and-burn agriculture and options for sustainable intensification**; Professor Hobbs; CSS IA 4030: Traditional Agriculture in Developing Countries
- 2011-2021: **Tropical Agroforestry: an Introduction**; Professor Hobbs Tropical Cropping system, CSS 4140
- 2011-2021: **Slash-and-burn agriculture and options for intensification**; Professor Hobbs Tropical Cropping system, CSS 4140
- 2014: **Participatory approaches working with farmers in Africa**, Professor Tucker, IARD 7830: Farmer-Centered Research and Extension
- 2013: **Evaluation plan for SRI-Rice**; Resource person for Student project, Mixed Methods for Public and Nonprofit Evaluation, HE 6014
- 2013: **Participatory Approaches to Introducing SRI to Timbuktu, Mali**, Professor R. Nelson, IARD 7830 Farmer-Centered Research and Extension
- 2012, 2013 and 2015: **Introduction to the System of Rice Intensification**; Professor Fick, CSS 190: Sustainable Agriculture.
- 2012: **Evaluation Framework for the SRI West Africa Initiative**, Student Project Resource Person; Introduction to Evaluation, HE 6012
- 2012: **The System of Rice Intensification – Case Study of Mali**; Professor Hobbs, IARD 4020: Agriculture in Developing Nations
- 2011: **Broad-based partnerships in development**, Professor Tucker, IARD 7830: Farmer-Centered Research and Extension

### Seminars at Cornell University

- 2025, **Research Design in Low-Resource Settings**, Global Development TADPOLE Event, reporting the results of Polson Institute funded undergraduate research project on the fonio farmer extension project in Mali; Presentations by: E. Styger, K. Mariko, L. Chuhta, and Y. Agoussi, January 29, 2025.
- 2023, **Developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Solutions for Global Food System Issues**, Panelist in Webinar October 27, 2023; organized by CALS for Alumni.

- 2023, **Communications to scale Climate-Smart Agriculture in Africa**: Design thinking workshop and panel discussion on building tools, networks and narratives for a more resilient future, Panel Speakers: Erika Styger, Rhys Bucknall-Williams (AICRRA), Tapan Parikh (Cornell Tech), and Farmer Narratives; Organized by Dr Eiseman, Brooks School of Public Policy, Sustainability, Cornell University September 19, 2023
- 2019, **Making Research and Extension work for Rice Farmers in West Africa**; IP-CALS Seminar Series, Cornell University, October 30, 2019 ([Video](#))
- 2016, **Scaling up Climate-Smart Rice Production in West Africa**, Institute for African Development Seminar Series, February 11, 2016
- 2015, **Improving and Scaling-up SRI in West Africa: A Success Story**; SRI-Rice Seminar Series, September 15, 2015
- 2011, **SRI 2.0: How is the System of Rice Intensification Evolving and What are We Learning?** Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development (CIIFAD) Seminar Series; November 9, 2011

#### The State University of New York at Cortland (SUNY Cortland)

- 2021, 2022: **Diversity and In-Situ Management of Rice by the Saamaka people of Suriname**; Professor Elizabeth McCarthy; SCI 304 Plants and People; October 2021 and 2022.

#### Université Haute-Alsace Mulhouse, France

- Two-day lecture-series at the Faculté de Sciences Economiques Sociales et Juridiques, Université Haute-Alsace Mulhouse. The theme was: System of Rice Intensification (SRI) –growing rice differently; Teaching Master Students: Ingénierie de Projets en Economie Sociale et Solidaire, 3-4 April, 2017.

#### Mentoring and Advising

- Hosted more than 40 students, who worked with hourly pay at our Cornell office with SRI-Rice and Climate-Resilient Farming Systems Program. The students assisted in project development and management, helped with the websites, gaining first-hand experience with managing overseas projects.
- Organized Study Trips (SMART program) and Internships for students, hosted by our SRI partners in various countries (among others: Cuba, Haiti, Liberia, India, Indonesia)
- Worked with students throughout the semester for several Evaluation classes, providing case studies for students to design evaluation tools for our partner projects in Africa.
- Collaborated with many of the Hubert Humphrey Fellows while at Cornell and later when they returned to their countries; helped many of them in international networking based on their interest.
- Mentored more than 100 students (undergraduate and graduate) on their study orientation, their research projects, and career paths.

### INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT - Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, System of Rice Intensification.

March 2007- April 2010

#### Bamako, Mali

SRI Specialist: Technical lead for introduction of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in four regions of Mali: Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti and Sikasso. USAID-funded project IICEM (*Initiative Intégrée de la Croissance Economique au Mali*); **Abt Associates Inc.** Bethesda, MD, USA. 2009/2010 agricultural season; [Report](#).

SRI Specialist: Technical lead for *Scaling-up SRI in Goundam and Dire, Timbuktu, Mali*; Technical lead of first trials on System of Wheat Intensification, [Report](#) ; **Africare**, Washington, DC. 2009/2010 agricultural season; [Report](#).

Land Management Specialist: Technical member for project document development for Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded part of World Bank USD 160 million *Fostering Agricultural Productivity Project (PAPAM)*, **The World Bank**, Bamako, Mali. Nov 2009-April 2010.

SRI Specialist: Technical lead for *Community-based assessment of SRI in 12 villages with 60 Farmers in 12 Villages in Goundam and Dire, Timbuktu, Mali*; First farmer test of System of Wheat Intensification (SWI); **Africare**, Washington, DC. 2008/2009 agricultural season. Final Report in [English](#) and [French](#).

Natural Resource Management Specialist for the elaboration of a preliminary *Country Strategic Investment Framework in Sustainable Land Management for Mali*, **FAO**, Rome. May/June 2008.

Sole evaluator of Final Project Evaluation of *Douentza Circle in Crisis*: an emergency relief project to improve short and long-term food security of households affected by locust invasion and drought of 2004 in northern Mali. Main project activities: Seed Fairs, Farmers Field Schools, Savings and Internal Lending Communities, funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; **Catholic Relief Services**, Baltimore, MD, USA. March/April 2008. [Report](#)

Land Management Specialist for the finalization of the Project Document *Madagascar Irrigation Improvement and Watershed Management*, GEF OP15 and SIP, **The World Bank**, Antananarivo, Madagascar. January-May 2008.

Constraints Analysis for the Timbuktu Food Security Initiatives: Multi Year Activity Proposal (MYAP) submitted to USAID/FFP; **Africare**, Washington, DC. December 2007.

Technical Advisor for SRI (System of Rice Intensification) Farmer Trials: **Africare**, Goundam, Timbuktu, Mali: agricultural season 2007/2008.

Concept Note Development: *Achieving Millennium Development Goal 1 through Agriculture in 166 Food Insecure Communes of Mali*; **Millennium Development Goal Alliance**, Bamako, Mali. October/Nov 2007.

Forestry and Agroforestry Analysis for MCC/MCA Alatona Irrigation Project, Mali: Conservation and management of existing wood resources; identification of wood product needs and design of agroforestry systems associated with a large-scale rice growing irrigation scheme; **Development Alternatives, Inc.** Washington, DC. May-June, 2007.

Presentation of Study Options pour une Elaboration d'un Programme de Gestion Durables des Terres au Mali at Sustainable Land Management Workshop, April 19, 2007 in Bamako, Mali organized by **TerrAfrica**, and the **World Bank**; **TCIW-FAO**, Rome. April, 2007.

Co-designing, writing and co-editing: *Sustainable Land Management Sourcebook*: Agriculture and Rural Development Department; **The World Bank**, Washington DC. Nov 2006 – June 2007.

## **THE WORLD BANK - Technical Consultant**

February 2004 – February 2007, at Agriculture and Rural Development Department (ARD), Africa Region (AFTS1), and the East Asia Rural Development and Natural Resources Sector Department (EASRD);  
**Washington, DC**

### **a. Operations**

**Land Management Specialist** in the World Bank project preparation team: technical responsibility for establishing the project concept, design of project preparation studies and submission of full project proposal of the GEF (Global Environment Facility) financed component that is fully integrated into the IDA project.

- 1) *Zambezi Valley Market-led Smallholder Development Project, Mozambique*; GEF Operational Program of Sustainable Land Management (OP15) and Strategic Priority of Adaptation to Climate Change (SPA); *WB Project ID: P093165; GEFSEC Project ID: P098040; IDA US\$20 million, GEF US\$ 6.2 million.*
- 2) *Irrigation Improvement and Watershed Management Project, Madagascar*; GEF Operational Program of Sustainable Land Management (OP15); *WB Project ID: P-074086; GEFSEC Project ID: 88887, IDA US\$ 30.0 million, GEF US\$ 6.0 million.*

**Natural Resources Management Specialist** for BioCarbon Fund with Environment Department, Carbon Finance (ENVCF)

Technical specialist for Madagascar BioCarbon Fund Project under Preparation: *Andasibe-Mantadia Biodiversity Corridor Restoration and Conservation Carbon Project*; Advised on conceptual carbon improvement opportunities, carbon baseline methodology and participatory approaches for project implementation.

#### **b. Analytical Work**

**Agricultural Specialist** at the *Agriculture and Rural Development Department (ARD)*

Co-author and co-editor of [Sustainable Land Management Sourcebook](#). 2008, Agriculture and Rural Development, The World Bank, Washington DC. 178 p.

Co-author of [Sustainable Land Management, Challenges, Opportunities and Trade-Offs](#), 2006, Agriculture and Rural Development, The World Bank, 87 p.

Presentation and Issue Note: Participatory and socially sustainable land use and management at the Distance Learning Course: *Sustainable Land Use and Land Management in South and East Asia*; November 16-19, 2004; organized by the World Bank Institute (WBI) and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). Connected to Distance Learning Centers in Bangkok (Thailand), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Dili (Timor Leste), and Hanoi (Vietnam). Issue notes in English, Vietnamese and Indonesian.

**Watershed Management Specialist** with Rural Development and Natural Resources Sector Department, East Asia (EASRD)

Keynote speaker:

Watershed Management Operations: Approaches and Emerging Lessons at the *World Bank Water Days*, March 6, 2006, Washington, DC.

The Bank's Experience with Watershed Management at the Workshop and Learning Module: Watershed Management: Lessons from Experience and Innovations in Design and Practice; February 24-25, 2005 at the World Bank, Washington, DC.

Co-author: [Watershed Management Approaches, Policies and Operations: Lessons for Scaling Up, 2008](#), Water Sector Board Discussion Paper No 11. The World Bank; Washington DC.

#### **CHEMONICS INC. LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTIONS (LDI) – Technical Advisor**

1999-2001 during Ph.D. research: Technical Advisor to LDI Program and CIIFAD (Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development).

**Moramanga, Madagascar**

Advised LDI leaders, program managers, field technicians and farmers regarding land degradation issues to reduce deforestation of primary forests through agricultural intensification, initiated knowledge sharing through field visits, meetings and presentations.

Organized farmers for active field research participation from experimental design and management to evaluation of the research activities.

## **SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION – Ethnobotany Study Leader**

1995-1996, at the National Tree Seed Center (Silo National des Graines Forestières, SNGF)

**Antananarivo, Madagascar**

Technical responsibility and team leader for an ethno-botanical study on indigenous fruit trees in Madagascar: Identified, characterized and prioritized indigenous fruit trees used by the local population.

Established research methodology framework and an operational strategy for indigenous tree domestication.

Collaborated with three regional Conservation and Development Projects (i) CARE, Masoala, (ii) VITA/APAM, Andasibe, (iii) PPNR (National Park Project), Ranomafana, and with the national institutions ANGAP and FOFIFA.

## **SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION – Director SAF-CO**

1994-1995, at agriculture development project SAF-CO (*Sauvegarde et Aménagement des Forêts de la Côte Ouest*),  
**Morondava, Madagascar**

Co-led with national counterpart a staff of 21 people: 3 agricultural experts (MS-level), 4 office staff, 4 field technicians and 10 farmer extension agents. Responsible for project finances, administration, planning, and reporting.

Responsible for the design, implementation and evaluation of agricultural and agroforestry research with goal to reduce deforestation pressure on the dryland forests of Western Madagascar: Introduced and tested new food and cash crop varieties with farmers; developed soil conservation techniques and new crop associations, introduced cover crops and agroforestry species and techniques, developed on-farm seed multiplication systems.

Initiated and coordinated a collaborative network between farmers' associations, the governmental agricultural research institution (FOFIFA), NGOs, the regional FAO project, the local extension service, and local churches, based on farmers' needs and ideas.

## **WORLD AGROFORESTRY CENTRE (ICRAF) – Associate Scientist**

1990-1993 at Agroforestry Research Project ICRAF/ISAR (*Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Rwanda*),

**Butare, Rwanda**

Core-team member of the ICRAF/ISAR project, composed of two international experts and national agroforestry program leader. The project was integrated into the national agricultural research institution ISAR.

Researched in agroforestry technology development: Diagnosed constraints and potentials for sustainable farming system production, designed and implemented new agroforestry technologies for the highlands of Rwanda. On-station and on-farm research on agroforestry species screening, hedgerow technologies for livestock-fodder production, soil fertility improvement, and erosion control.

Engaged in capacity and institution building and strengthening: Provided technical support to the extended agroforestry team of ISAR scientists. Collaborated in multi-disciplinary research activities across programs. Assured on-going training of field technicians. Hosted and supervised university students at BS and MS levels.

Advised NGOs on planning, realization and evaluation of their agroforestry activities, and assisted in national coordination of agroforestry research and extension activities.

Participated in annual research evaluation and planning workshops for the national agricultural research at ISAR, for the Agroforestry Research Network for Eastern and Central Africa (AFRENA-ECA) and for the worldwide research activities of ICRAF.

**1989** Collaborated with free-lance journalist **Al Imfeld, Zurich, Switzerland**; published multiple articles in Swiss and German newspapers and magazines on African development issues.

## ADDITIONAL SHORT-TERM ENGAGEMENTS

**April 2020 until now:** External Independent Expert in the field of agronomy, [World Coffee Research](#), Portland, Oregon.

**February-July 2020:** Study on Technical Guidelines for Food and Fodder Bank Management in Niger, **FAO, Rome and the World Bank, Washington DC.** (in French language)

**September 2018-September 2019:** Impact study lead: Adoption and Adaptation of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in the Northern Corridor of Haiti; AVANSE Project, Cap-Haitian, Haiti, **DAI Global LLC, USAID, Haiti.**

**July 2019- September 2019:** Le Système de Riziculture Intensive (SRI), Manuel Technique SRI pour Haïti; AVANSE Project, Cap-Haïtien, **DAI Global LLC, USAID, Haïti.**

**July 2016:** SRI Development Planning and Implementation in the St. Marc Commune, Haiti. Chanje Lavi Plante Project, Feed The Future, **Chemonics International/USAID; Port-au-Prince, Haiti.**

**July 2014:** Rice production diagnostic for Chinsali (Chinsali District, Northern Province) and Mfuwe (Mwambe District, Eastern Province), Zambia. **COMACO, Lusaka, Zambia** and David. R. Atkinson Center for Sustainable Development; Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 51 p.  
<http://sri.cals.cornell.edu/countries/zambia/ZambiaStygerRiceDiagnostic2014.pdf>

**June 2010:** Introducing the System of Rice Intensification to Haiti, Training programs with farmers in three regions of Haiti, **Better U Foundation, Los Angeles, USA**

**April 2006:** Diagnostic and Design GEF Project Proposal Control of Sand Dune Invasion of the Oasis Microbasins in the Departments of Gouré and Mainé-Soroa (PLECO), Niger, GEF OP15 (Sustainable Land Management Operational Program); **UNDP- GEF, Niamey, Niger.**

**July 2006:** Mid-term project evaluation of Agriculture Intensification Module for Madagascar Eco-Regional Initiatives to Promote Alternatives to Slash and Burn (**ERI Program**), **Fianarantsoa and Toamasina, Madagascar** for **DAI** (Development Alternatives, Inc) and **IRM** (Innovative Resources Management), **Washington, DC.**

**November 2000:** Edited Annual Research Report 1999/2000 of LDI (Landscape Development Intervention Program) and CIIFAD (Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development) in Madagascar for **Chemomics International, Washington DC.**

**January 1998:** Technical back stopping on the rainforest tree nursery in **Masoala, Madagascar** to be sourced for the [Masoala Rainforest Hall of the Zurich Zoo, Zurich](#), Switzerland (January 1998)

### **Teaching and Lectures from 1997 to 2003 Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**

- Teaching assistantships:
  - Tropical Cropping Systems, Cornell Fall Semester Course CSS 314 in 2002
  - Sustainable Agriculture, Cornell Fall Semester Course CSS 190 in 1997 and 1998
  - Plant/Microbe Interactions, Cornell Fall Semester Course CSS 666 in 2001
- Co-lead a working group in the Cornell Fall Semester Course: Problem Solving in the Tropics, INTAG/NTRES 694 in 2001
- Gave 9 lectures in various classes and five public seminars between 1997 to 2003, at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

### **1987 Agricultural Training Center, Mvuma, Zimbabwe**

Practical teaching of improved small-scale farming techniques to young farmers. Staff member of Agricultural Training Center (ATC), Mvuma, Zimbabwe, June-October, 1987.

## EDUCATION

### **2004 Ph.D. in Crop and Soil Sciences from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA**

Dissertation: *Fire-less alternatives to slash-and-burn agriculture (tavy) in the rainforest region of Madagascar.* 326 p.

- Conducted historical land degradation analysis, identified farmer's land use strategies.
- Identified indigenous knowledge on upland soils and fallows, leading to the creation of a fallow classification framework
- Biophysical characterization of fallows (carbon and nutrient stocks, soils, fallow growth)
- Field tested alternative agricultural techniques to slash-and-burn including slash-and-mulch with/without the application of locally available guano-phosphate for food and cash crops.

### **1989 Master of Science in Agronomy, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETHZ), Zurich, Switzerland**

Master Thesis: *Population dynamics of two stem borer species *Sesamia calamistis* Hmps. and *Eldana saccharina* Walker in sole and mixed infestations on maize and their influence on maize yield.* 87 p.

Institute of Crop Science, Field of Entomology, ETH, **Zurich, Switzerland** and **Biological Control Program, IITA, Cotonou, Benin.**

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- **CALS Outstanding Accomplishments in Extension/Outreach Award**, 2024-2025 CALS Faculty and Staff Awards, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- **Knowledge Matter Fellowship**, 2017/2018 awarded by Provost's Office of Faculty Development and Diversity, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
- **Olam Prize for Innovation in Food Security**, March 16, 2015; awarded to SRI-Rice by Olam International (\$50K)
- **Atkinson Center Faculty Fellow**, since 2014

- **Spot Award from Africa Region, the World Bank** on March 30, 2006  
*“For outstanding innovation in project design, a best practice results framework, and expedited project processing on the Mozambique Market-Let Smallholder Development Project”*; First World Bank Africa project that included GEF Adaptation to Climate Change Window (SPA), and first World Bank project that combines GEF Land Degradation Focal Area with Adaptation to Climate Change.
- **Graduate Student Award** of the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy and Soil Science Society of America, July 2003: one student is selected each year to receive this award.
- **Richard Bradfield Research Award** in 2001, Cornell University  
 This award supports research intended to enhance the well-being of small farmers and their families in third world countries

## BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

1996-2003 Roger Haus Foundation, Uster, Switzerland

Foundation mission: Provide relief for the poorest of the poor in Switzerland and in the developing world who have no access to other support systems; Yearly distribution of US\$120,000 with a range from US\$ 5000 to US\$ 20,000 per award.

2001 MacDonald/Musgrave Awards Committee, Cornell University, Ithaca

## MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Society of Agronomy  
 Crop Science Society of America  
 Soil Science Society of America

## JOURNAL PEER REVIEWER

Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment, Elsevier  
 Agricultural Systems, Elsevier

## REVIEWER

Food Planet Prize

## LANGUAGES

German: native  
 French, English: fluent reading, writing, speaking  
 Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Malagasy: beginner level

## COUNTRIES visited, worked, and **lived** in (61)

Asia: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam  
 W and C Africa: **Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo**  
 E and S Africa: **Burundi, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe**  
 Latin America: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Suriname  
 Others: Armenia, Australia, Canada, Egypt, Europe (A, Be, **CH**, D, Dan, Sp, F, Fin, GB, Hu, It, Lux, NL, Nor, Pol, Port, Sw), **USA**

## TECHNICAL SRI TRAININGS 2007-2025 (Selection)

As an agronomist, I worked directly with smallholder farmers in Africa for many years, gaining a deep experience in African crop production systems, including rice cultivation. Since 2007, I have focused my work on the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). I led at least 17 trainings for more than 700 participants from 18 countries (East and West Africa, Haiti and USA). It is estimated that subsequently the trainers trained more than 100,000 farmers and more than 3,000 agricultural technicians in Africa.

To adapt SRI to different environments, rice systems, and climate zones, I developed a new operational and conceptual framework for SRI that is now widely used globally. I also designed training approaches and materials, including technical training manuals, data-collection tools, and guidelines for conducting farmer trials. A selection of organized trainings (non-formal in the field-trainings are not included) is provided below:

2025

- 1-day training of farmer-cohort of Jubilee Justice; The Rice Life Cycle – Implications for Management, Jubilee Justice Farmer-Retreat; December 12-13, in **Alexandria, Louisiana, USA**.
- 5-day Training-of-Trainers workshop for the RICOWAS project; more than 60 trainees from 14 West African countries (RICOWAS members plus Guinea Bissau). Led the theoretical and practical training sessions on i) **Climate Change Impacts and Vulnerabilities for Rice Production in West Africa**; ii) **Quality Rice Seed Production using the SRI Method**; iii) **SRI Equipment**; iv) **Making Biochar to Improve Rice Soils in West Africa**; v) **Composting Techniques for Rice Farmers in West Africa**; vi) **Making Bio-Fertilizer and Bio-Pesticides for Rice Farming in West Africa**; vii) **Simple Soil Testing Methods for Rice Farmers in West Africa**; 26 Master Trainers (2 MTs per country) and 13 National RICOWAS coordinators; 7-11 July, 2025, **Bamako, Mali**.

2024

- 1-day training of farmer-cohort of Jubilee Justice; Synthesis of 2024 Farmers' experiments and learnings; Jubilee Justice Farmer-Retreat; November 11-14, in Alexandria, Louisiana, USA.
- 5-day Training-of-Trainers Workshop for the RICOWAS project; more than 50 trainees from 13 West African countries. Led the theoretical and practical sessions on: i) **Introduction to Climate-Resilient Rice Production and SRI**, ii) **SRI Practices and Field Implementation**, iii) **RICOWAS Training-of-Trainer Approach**, iv) **Planning of Farmer Trainings**; 26 Master Trainers (2 MTs per country) and 13 National RICOWAS coordinators; April 1-5, 2024, **Grand Lahou, Côte d'Ivoire**.

2023

- Training of farmer-cohort of Jubilee Justice; Four organic rice production systems without flooding in the USA South, Jubilee Justice Farmer-Retreat; November 13-17, 2023 in **Alexandria, Louisiana, USA**.

2016

- 3-Day Training-of-Trainers for USAID funded project Change Lavi Plantè; more than 30 project and Government staff trained in the SRI method; together with Joeli Barison; this was in support of the scaling-up plan for the St Marc Commune, July 7-9, 2016; **Montrouis, Haiti**.

2015

- 3-day National Training on SRI in The Gambia; organized by the Department of Agriculture, the Gambia. 60 Participants included farmers, researchers, extension / advisory agents, Peace Corps, and managers of the Presidential rice farms; Theoretical and practical training; Sapu Agricultural Research Center in Central River Region; December 14-16, 2015; **Sapu, the Gambia**. [Report](#)

- 3-day National Training-of-Trainers on SRI in Côte d'Ivoire; February 22-24, 2015; organized by [FIRCA](#) (Le Fonds Interprofessionnel pour la Recherche et le Conseil Agricoles) from in, trained more than 60 participants, extension staff and farmers from all the Departments of the country; **Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire.**

2014

- 9-day Regional SRI and climate-resilient rice production Training-of-Trainers for 13 countries of the SRI-WAAPP project; 5-days for Francophone countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo) August 3-7, 2014; and 4-days for Anglophone countries (The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone) August 8-11, 2014; **Conceptual Framework SRI; Technical Manual of SRI; Rice systems in West Africa; Adaptation of SRI to different rice systems; Introduction to the project monitoring and evaluation system; Data collection techniques; Regional mapping of SRI sites; Mechanization discussion and exchange; How to successfully train farmers; National and regional communication strategy; and Developing country plans.** Two field visits. August 3-11, 2014; **Kpalime, Togo.**
- 1-day practical training to farmers and technicians of the SRI-WAAPP project, February 24, 2014 at CHAP headquarters, Paynesville, **Monrovia Liberia.**

2013

- 5-day Training-of-Trainers for iF Foundation and Better U Foundation in Haiti; trained 17 technicians and eight lead farmers, installed SRI five demonstration plots; June 3-7, 2013; **Coronel Dubre, Haiti.** ([Cornell Chronicle Article](#))
- 1-day SRI training for Peace Corps (PC) Volunteers, newly recruited Cornell students about to depart for PC; May 21, 2013, Cornell University, **Ithaca, New York.**
- 3-day SRI training of Peace Corps Volunteers and their counterparts from Benin, the Gambia, Nigeria, Senegal (In English); Jointly organized by the West Africa Food Security Partnership (Peace Corps and USAID), SRI-Rice, and the West African Rice Farmers Network, September 11-13, 2012, at the Farm School Solidarité Agricole Intégrée (SAIN) in **Kakanitchoé, Ouémé, Benin.** [Report](#)

2012

- 3-day SRI training of Peace Corps Volunteers and their counterparts from Benin, Guinea, Senegal and Togo (in French); Jointly organized by the West Africa Food Security Partnership (WAFSP; Peace Corps and USAID), SRI-Rice, and the West African Rice Farmers Network, April 29-May 1, 2013, at the Farm School Solidarité Agricole Intégrée (SAIN) in **Kakanitchoé, Ouémé, Benin.** (I co-organized and co-led the training but I was not physically present). [Report](#)
- 1-day SRI training of 17 NAFKA and Kilombero Plantations Ltd technicians, organized by USAID funded NAFKA project, May 15, 2012, **Morogoro, Tanzania**

2011

- 1-day SRI training for farmer leaders and technicians, organized by Benin Rice Farmers Association (Conseil de Concertation des Riziculteurs du Benin, CCRB), February 1, 2011; **Adjohoun, Benin.**

2010

- First 10-day SRI training in Haiti for farmers in three sites: South Department, **Les Cayes**; Northeast Department, **Ferrier**; Artibonite Department, **Verrette.** Organized by Better U Foundation and USAID. June 7-16, **Haiti**

- 3-day SRI training for farmer leaders and technicians, organized by Africare, USAID's Integrated Initiatives for Economic Growth in Mali (IICEM) project, and the Ministry of Agriculture. First national training of trainers, 50 participants, January, 2010; **Timbuktu, Mali**.

2007-2010

- 3-years of in-field farmer trainings in four regions of Mali with Africare, USAID's Integrated Initiatives for Economic Growth in Mali (IICEM) project, and the Ministry of Agriculture (2007: 2 farmer fields, 2008: 60 farmer fields; 2009: 450 farmer fields), **Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti and Sikasso Regions, Mali**.

## SRI TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PROJECTS AND COUNTRY PROGRAMS 2011-2025 (Selection)

In addition to the projects I led or contributed to, listed above, I also provided technical assistance in the design of programs in multiple countries, as well as to several private-sector entities.

- **2025 Egypt:** Diagnostic Field Visit to the Nile Delta rice area to design a rice carbon project under ClimateRice, in collaboration with the Rice Research and Training Center (RRTC) Sakha, Kafr El-Sheikh, Egypt, and TerraMatra, August 5-14, 2025.
- **2025 Senegal:** Diagnostic Field Visit to the Senegal River Valley with the objective to design a rice carbon project under ClimateRice, in collaboration with Action Contre Faim, and CarbonFarm, May 3-14, 2025.
- **2020-2023: [Nice Rice](#)**; Provided technical support in developing the UK-based NICE RICE Business (from first ideas to launching the product in 2023); see [Our Story](#)
- **2010-2019: Haiti.**
  - **2010: Introduced SRI to Haiti:** I was fortunate to introduce SRI to Haiti in 2010, training a total of 123 farmers in three locations: Les Cayes (South), Ferrier (Northeast) and Verrette (Artibonite) from June 1-25 and August 30-September 10, 2010; funded by Jim Carrey's Better U Foundation and in collaboration with the USAID Winner project. Supported organizations included: International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Service of Evangelization, Education and Development (SEED) Center; World Hunger Relief, Inc., Organisation de Développement de la Vallée d'Artibonite (ODVA), Oxfam Intermon, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), the Church of Brethren, and Kore Pwodiksyon Lokal (KPL).
  - **2011: Co-organized First National SRI Conference in Haiti** with 120 participants in March 2011, funded by Better U Foundation and the USAID WINNER project
  - **2013: Led technical training** for farmers and technicians for iF Foundation's SRI program in the Coronel-Dubre.
  - **2016: Led project design** work for USAID CHANGE LAVI PLANTE project in St Marc/Artibonite.
  - **2018/2019: Led SRI Adoption Study** for the USAID AVANSE project in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti; and **produced an SRI Training Manual**.
- **2015 Senegal: Country program support** trip organized by ANCAR (Agence National de Conseil Agricole et Rural; National Extension Service) under the World Bank funded WAAPP project; I assisted country planning of SRI activities, visited SRI fields and activities in Kaolack, Tambacounda and Matam led by ANCAR, SAED and IFAD; March 19-22, 2015.
- **2015 The Gambia: Country program support** trip organized by the Ministry of Agriculture under the World Bank funded WAAPP project. I assisted country planning of SRI activities, visited SRI fields and farmers, and had meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Peace Corps, and the WAAPP Office in The Gambia; December 10-13, 2015.

- **2014 Zambia: Technical assistance to rice program of COMACO (Community Markets for Conservation):** rice system constraints diagnostic and developed an action plan to maintain production quality of marketed *Chama Rice*. Also, assisted in the design of a 4-year SRI project funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy. Funded by COMACO and the Atkinson Center, Cornell. April 15- May 1, 2014.
- **2014 Liberia: Country program assistance** trip organized by CHAP (Community of Hope Agriculture Project), under the World Bank funded SRI-WAAPP Project; Assisted country planning of SRI Activities; Undertook a 1-day practical training of farmers; Visited farmers and research sites; Met with the Liberia Agriculture Coordination Committee organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, and gave a presentation on SRI Opportunities for Liberia to 48 people from Government, multi-and bilateral partnerships, donors, NGOs, farmer organizations and private sector; February 22-March 2, 2014.
- **2013 Costa Rica:** Assisted in SRI Project design with EARTH University and technical advice for the setting up of mechanized SRI trials; funded by Ohrstrom Foundation; March 3-6, 2013; Earth University Campus, **Liberia, Costa Rica**.
- **2012 Tanzania:** Assisted in evaluation of 4-year SRI project and in design of an SRI scaling-up project organized by the USAID-funded NAFKA project in partnership with Kilombero Plantations Ltd. (KPL) in the Morogoro region of Tanzania; Extensive field visits evaluating the progress of the 100 installed demonstration plots, followed by the design of a strategy for scaling up SRI to 5000 farmers in the region. Meeting in capital with representatives from USAID, KPL, Ministry of Agriculture and Aga Kahn Foundation; May 8-22, 2012.
- **2012 Sierra Leone:** Assisted in a technical analysis, diagnostic and project design of a sustainable mechanized large-scale SRI project, for UK-based [West African Rice Company](#), in the Bunthe District, Sierra Leone, July 16-23, 2012.
- **2012 and 2013 Peace Corps West Africa:** Assisted in project design and implementation (held 2 regional trainings in 2012 and 2013) for **West Africa SRI Peace Corps Training Program**, under West Africa Food Security Partnership (Peace Corps/USAID) and in collaboration with Benin's Rice Producer Consultative Council (CCRB). Trip February 2012, March 2013.
- **2011-2013 Blue Moon Acres:** provided technical SRI support for Blue Moon Acres to start growing organic non-flooded rice in **New Jersey, USA**. First rice was sold in 2014. (see the [Rice Page](#))
- **2011 Dominican Republic:** Assisted in project design for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and provided technical advice to the Ministry of Agriculture and various organizations including FAO, USDA-FAS, Taiwan Technical Mission, INDRHI (National Institute for Water Resources); IAD (Agrarian Reform Institute) and IDIAF (National Agricultural Research Institute). Farmer visits and gave 4 presentations to large farmer groups in different locations across the DR; National trip; June 12-17, 2011.

## CO-ORGANIZATION AND CO-FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS IN ASIA, AFRICA, LATIN AMERICA AND THE USA

2025

- Third Farmer-Retreat, Jubilee Justice, December 12-13, 2025, **Alexandria, Louisiana, USA**.
- Second Regional Training of Trainers Workshop, for the RICOWAS project, July 7-11, 2025, **Bamako, Mali**.

2024

- Second Farmer-Retreat, Jubilee Justice, November 11-14, 2024, **Alexandria, Louisiana, USA**.
- First Regional Training of Trainers Workshop, for the RICOWAS project, April 1-5, 2024, **Grand Lahou, Côte d'Ivoire**.

2023

- First Farmer-Retreat, Jubilee Justice, November 13-17, 2023, **Alexandria, Louisiana, USA**.
- Launch of the RICOWAS Project, January 16-18, 2023, **Bamako, Mali**.

2020

- Regional Remote Consultation Workshop, RICOWAS-Project, Scaling-up climate-resilient rice production in West Africa. Convened representatives from 13 West African countries; with the Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Tunis, Tunisia, April 14, 2020. **Online videoconference**.

2017

- Second Latin American SRI Conference: 10-12 October, **Ibagué, Tolima, Colombia**.

2016

- SRI WAAPP Methodology workshop for Impact Study: 14-18 March 2016; **Dakar, Senegal**.
- SRI WAAPP Final project results workshop: 30 May – 3 June 2016; **Bamako, Mali**.

2015

- SRI WAAPP Reporting and Planning Workshop: with project partners from 13 countries, 16-19 February 2015; **Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire**.
- First Southeast Asia Conference on SRI: co-organized with Malaysian Agroecology Society for Sustainable Resource Intensification (SRI-Mas) ([www.sri-mas.org](http://www.sri-mas.org)); > 100 participants from Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Nigeria and USA. 25-28 May 2015; **Alor Setar, Malaysia**.
- SRI WAAPP Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop: 30 May-5 June 2105; **Cotonou, Benin**.
- SRI WAAPP Annual Review and Planning Meeting: 4-9 Dec 2015; **Dakar, Senegal**.

2014

- SRI WAAPP Programming and Methodology Workshop and launch of the *Improving and Scaling up the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in West Africa* project, Songhai Center, 17-19 February 2014, **Porto Novo, Benin**.
- SRI WAAPP Training of Trainers and Technical Exchange Workshop: more than 50 trainees from 12 West African countries, 4-11 August 2014; **Kpalime, Togo**.
- Building Alliances Around SRI and Agro-Ecology Workshop: co-organized with Oxfam; 50 participants from 16 countries, 27-28 October 2014; **Bangkok, Thailand**.
- SRI Information Booth at the 4th International Rice Congress (IRC): Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Center (BITEC), co-organized with SRI Global Inc and Oxfam. SRI-Rice developed overall messaging, handouts, booth design and backdrops, and staffed the booth. 27-30 October 2014; **Bangkok Thailand**.
- Small-Scale Rice Production Equipment Workshop: co-organized with Asian Institute of Technology Conference Center (AITCC), 60 participants from 12 countries, 1-3 November 2014; **Bangkok, Thailand**.

2013

- Second West Africa Workshop: Preparation of SRI WAAPP project, Validation of project proposal by stakeholders from 13 countries, July 2013; **Saly, Senegal**.

2012

- First West Africa Workshop on SRI: Conceptual design and planning of SRI WAAPP project with stakeholders from 13 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, The Gambia, Guinea Liberia, Mali, Niger,

Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo; co-organized with the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), the National Center of Specialization for Rice (NCOS-Mali), and Oxfam America, July 2012; **Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso** .

2011

- First National SRI Conference in Haiti: 120 participants including rice growers, extension personnel, private sector, government researchers, NGOs and bilateral and multi-lateral donor organizations; Jim Carrey's Better U Foundation, Los Angeles, California, USA and the USAID-funded WINNER project, March 2011; **Montruis, Haiti**.
- First International Workshop on the SRI for Latin America and the Caribbean: EARTH University. 27 SRI practitioners from 10 countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, and the USA; Co-organized with Jim Carrey's Better U Foundation, California, USA and EARTH University, November 2011; **Limon, Costa Rica**. [Conference website](#)

2010

- First National SRI Conference in Mali: 80 participants (farmers, government, NGO, donors) sharing experiences from Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti, Segou and Sikasso region. Co-organized by Africare, IICEM (*Initiative Intégrée de la Croissance Economique au Mali*), Syngenta Foundation and *Institute d'Economie Rurale* (IER), February 2010, **Bamako, Mali**.

## PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS (Selection)

### Oral presentations

**Rice Life Cycle: Implications for Management**; Oral presentation at the Third Jubilee Justice Farmer Retreat; **Alexandria, Louisiana, USA**, December 12, 2025.

Panel presentations at the COP30 Climate Conference, **Vers une Adaptation Durable: Relier l'Approche Localement Pilotée (LLA) et le Mécanisme des Bénéfices d'Adaptation (ABM)**; Pavilion de la Francophonie, , **Belem, Brazil**, November 15, 2025.

**Rice: a Journey from Africa to South Carolina; Black Farmers reconnecting to their Legacy**, In-person oral presentation together with Konda Mason. SOWTH-conference hosted by Georgia Organics, Georgia World Congress Center, **Atlanta, Georgia, USA**. February 5, 2025.

**Creating a Successful and Self-sustaining Jubilee Justic Farmer Cohort with Short and Long-term Wins**. Oral presentation at the Second Jubilee Justice Farmer Retreat; November 12, 2024; **Alexandria, Louisiana, USA**

**Rice Decarbonization**, In-person oral presentation, at [HackSummit](#) 2024, in **Lausanne, Switzerland**, June 13, 2024.

**Jubilee Justice Black Farmers' Rice Project: Organic non-flooded rice production systems for the US South**; Oral presentation at the First Jubilee Justice Farmer Retreat; November 15, 2023; **Alexandria, Louisiana, USA**

**Diversity and In-Situ Management of Rice by the Saamaka people of Suriname**, Oral presentation,

- Accountability Seminar, IICA, Ministry of Agriculture, **Paramaribo, Suriname**, June 22, 2023.
- Debriefing seminar, Saamaka farmers, Kumalu, **Saamaka territory, Suriname**, June 28, 2023.

**Addressing climate change and food security in rice production**; Invitation by the Ministers of Agriculture from Chile and from Spain to give a presentation at the First Ministerial Conference on Low Emission Food Systems, Addressing the challenge of reducing methane in Agriculture, held in **Santiago de Chile, Chile** from April 13-14,

**Transforming global rice production by scaling up the System of Rice Intensification.** Oral presentation 1818 Society World Bank Group Alumni, Climate Smart Rice: The Know How and the How To (Do); Washington, DC. **Online** May 3, 2023

**Scaling-up the System of Rice Intensification in 13 West African Countries.** Oral Presentation, lead lecture over zoom. International Conference on System of Crop Intensification (ICSCI 2022) for climate-smart livelihood and nutritional security, organized by ICAR, Indian Institute for Rice Research, in Hyderabad, India. **Online**, December 12, 2022.

**Panel presentations at the COP27 Climate Conference, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt 2022**

- **SRI for food security and climate resilience**, Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas Pavilion, Nov. 8
- **Scaling regenerative agriculture: Lessons from around the World**, Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas Pavilion, Nov. 9
- **Increased climate ambition through voluntary cooperation under Article 6.2.** UNDP Pavilion, Nov. 12
- **Current efforts to reduce methane emissions in agriculture and launch of First Ministerial Summit on Net Zero Food Systems in Chile**, Chile Pavilion, Nov. 14

**Genomic diversity of Saamaka rice varieties in Suriname**, Oral presentation by J. Landis for the paper: Jacob B. Landis, Rosemary Glos, Margaret Royall, Yuna Seo, Sandra Harrington, Iriel E. Edwards, Chelsea D. Specht, Susan McCouch, and Erika Styger; International Plant and Animal Genome Conference, PAG, San Diego, January 13, 2020.

**Diversity and In-Situ Management of Rice by the Saamaka People of Suriname;** Oral presentation at the Carolina Gold Rice Foundation Fall Meeting, Middleton Place, **Charleston, South Carolina**, November 9, 2019

**Making Research and Extension work for Rice Farmers in West Africa;** Oral presentation IP-CALS Seminar Series, Cornell University, October 30, 2019, **Ithaca, New York**.

**Arriver à l'Autosuffisance en Riz avec une Riziculture Intelligente face au Climat ;** Oral Presentation at the Senegal Pavilion, UN Climate Change Conference, for the 24<sup>rd</sup> session of the Conference of Parties (COP23), in **Katowice, Poland**, December 12, 2018

**Feeding West Africa with Climate-Smart Rice Farming;** Oral Presentation at the Nigeria Pavilion, UN Climate Change Conference, for the 24<sup>rd</sup> session of the Conference of Parties (COP23), in **Katowice, Poland**, December 12, 2018

**Closing the Rice Production Gap in West Africa by Scaling-up the System of Rice Intensification (SR),** Oral presentation, International Rice Congress, **Singapore**, October 17, 2018.

**Changing the way rice is grown in West Africa: from 1 to 50,000 farmers,** Pecha Kucha Presentation at Knowledge Matters Fellowship Event, **Cornell University**, Ithaca, December 4, 2017

**Climate-Smart Rice Production: how to increase yields, adapt to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions,** Press conference at the **UN Climate Change Conference** for the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Conference of Parties (COP23), in **Bonn, Germany**, November 16, 2017

**Lessons learned with SRI data collection,** Oral presentation at the Second Regional SRI Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, **Ibague, Colombia**, 12 October 2017.

**Harnessing 3D Printing to Increase the Sustainability and Productivity of Smallholder Agriculture,** by Wenjia Gu, Erika Styger, Derek Warner, Oral presentation at the Second Regional SRI Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, **Ibague, Colombia**, 10 October 2017.

**Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) and System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Techniques for Sustainable Irrigated Rice Production;** Water in Agriculture Innovation Series. **The World Bank, Washington DC.**, June 8, 2017

**Scaling up Climate Smart Rice Production in West Africa;** Presentation at Issues in African Development Seminars, institute of African Development, **Cornell University**, February 11, 2016.

**System of Rice Intensifications: Opportunities for Latin America;** Video presentation to the Minister of Agriculture Luis Felipe Arauz Cavallini, **Costa Rica**, including key staff from INTA and CONARROZ, March 12, 2015.

**Scaling up SRI in Southeast Asia: How do we get there?** Keynote presentation; Southeast Asia Regional Conference on SRI 2015, **Alor Setar, Malaysia**. 25-28 May 2015.

**Improving and Scaling Up SRI in West Africa: Insights from a regional, 13-country project. Regional review and planning workshop for the project:** Sustaining and Enhancing the Momentum for Innovation and Learning around the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in the Lower Mekong River Basin (SRI-LMB); **Siem Reap, Cambodia**, June 2-3, 2015.

**System of Rice Intensification (SRI): Opportunities for Liberia;** Presentation to the Agriculture Coordination Committee Meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture, Gardnerville, **Monrovia, Liberia**, February 27, 2014

**System of Rice Intensification Research: A Review (1993-2013).** International Rice Congress (IRC), **Bangkok, Thailand**, October 31, 2014.

**System of Rice Intensification in China: Research Dynamics and Innovative Adaptations.** International Rice Congress (IRC), **Bangkok, Thailand**, October 31, 2014.

**Mechanization for climate-smart rice production and SRI.** Three public presentations during the Rice Special Exhibition Agritechnica, **Hannover, Germany**, November 2013.

**SRI: How a crop management approach lets farmers preserve and improve productivity of indigenous rice varieties in Asia and Africa.** Keynote to annual meeting of Carolina Gold Rice Foundation, Charleston, **South Carolina**, April 18, 2013.

Introduction to SRI; Lectures at the **Nanjing Agriculture University** and **Nanjing University of Finance and Economics, Nanjing, China**, September 2013,

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Niang A, Gahamanyi A and Styger E (Eds), 1991. **Actes de la Réunion Agroforestière organisée par le projet ICRAF/ISAF du 13. au 15. 09. 1990.** Workshop proceedings. Rapport AFRENA N° 36. ICRAF: Nairobi, Kenya.

## **Contributions CIIFAD Annual Reports (Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development)**

Styger E, 2002. **Retaining and regaining agricultural productivity of degrading uplands.** In: CIIFAD Annual report 2000-2001. CIIFAD (Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA, p. 88-89.

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Styger E, 1999. **Villagers learn to propagate high quality exotic and indigenous fruit trees.** In CIIFAD Annual report 1997-1998. CIIFAD (Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture and Development), Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA, p. 62-63.

## **Publications that feature my work (Selection)**

2018-2024: [56 News Articles](#) published on my work.

2023: Featured in book: The Simple Art of Rice: Recipes from Around the World for the Heart of Your Table, by JJ Johnson and D Novgorodoff, Flatiron Books, New York.

2023: Interview: **The Plant-ness of the Plant**; Acres USA, February 2023 edition; acresusa.com

2017 Book chapter in: **We Do Things Differently: The Outsiders Rebooting Our World**; by Mark Stevenson; **Chapter 4: Rice Wars** is fully dedicated to my work. Profile Books; London, UK; ISBN: 9781781253014.

2016: Report on my work: **International Call: Sambel Kunda, The Gambia**, by Amanda Garris, **PeriodICALS**, Vol 6 (1). 2026, p. 25.

2013: Interview: **An Interview with Cornell's Dr. Erika Styger about the System of Crop Intensification (SRI-Rice)**; Big Picture Agriculture (.com)

## **Video co-productions**

**SRI Video from Sierra Leone, 2015**, Co-produced video with Flooded Cellar: Mendesora Unites – SRI in Sierra Leone (13:11 min); Gerald Aruna and SRI in Sierra Leone: (3:51 min)

**SRI Video from Nepal, 2014**, Co-produced with Flooded Cellar Video production: Long version (12:28 min), short version: (4:53 min)

**SRI training videos for East Africa, 2013**; 1) SRI introduction: the spread of SRI in East Africa, 2) SRI Training 1: Seed Germination and Nursery Preparation, 3) SRI Training 2: Field Preparation and Transplanting, 4) SRI Training 3: Weeding and Water Management; co-produced with IFAD and Flooded Cellar Video production: (in French, English, Kinyarwanda, and Kirundi) <http://sri.ciifad.cornell.edu/news/features/2013/featured0213.html>

**Feeding West Africa with Climate-Smart Rice Farming:** 6 min video produced for Cornell booth at the UN Climate Change Conference for the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Conference of Parties (COP23), in Bonn, Germany, 6-17 November 2017

## PhD Dissertation

Styger E, 2004. **Fire-less Alternatives to Slash-and-Burn Agriculture (Tavy) in the Rainforest Region of Madagascar.** Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 326 p. [Download](#)

## Master Thesis

Styger E, 1989. **Population dynamics of two stemborer species *Sesamia calamistis* Hmps und *Eldana saccharina* Walker in sole and mixed infestations on maize and their influence on maize yield.** Institute of Crop Science, Field of Phytomedicine, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, (ETH) Zurich, Switzerland and Biological Control Program, IITA, Cotonou, Benin 87 p.