



# SRP 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Plenary and Virtual Rice Week

*Rice, Resilience and Transformation*

**29 March - 2 April 2021**

## Overview

### **SRP Virtual Rice Week: Rice, Resilience and Transformation**

#### **SRP 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Plenary and Extraordinary General Assembly**

**29 March-2 April 2021**

#### **Background**

The SRP Annual Plenary is convened as a gathering of SRP members and invited partners. The event aims to take stock of SRP's progress, showcase experiences and successes of its members in applying SRP tools, and facilitate new partnerships and opportunities to scale impact among rice smallholders. The Plenary offers a venue for key membership updates and for members to participate in shaping SRP's institutional and programmatic goals.

The Annual Plenary is open to all SRP members and invited guests free of charge. Opportunities for corporate sponsorships and exhibitions are offered to help defray costs and minimize the burden on membership dues.

#### **Announcing SRP Rice Week**

This year, in common with most major events, SRP's annual gathering for its members will be held via a virtual platform and is structured to leverage the additional flexibility and utility of the medium as compared with face-to-face meetings.

A series of webinar-style events will be held via an integrated web platform that will serve as a portal for all activities. This modality has been selected (a) to minimize webinar fatigue; (b) to eliminate the need for parallel tracks as practiced in previous events to deal with multiple thematic priorities; and (c) to boost visibility over a longer period- for participants, exhibitors and sponsors alike.

This modality maximizes flexibility and convenience for participants, eliminates the need for participants to travel and allows participation across time zones. Participants will also be able to view session recordings at leisure if they are unable to participate live.

#### **When?**

The SRP's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Plenary and Extraordinary General Assembly will be held as the 'Virtual Rice Week', to take place from 29 March – 2 April 2021, and will be managed by George P. Johnson Experience Marketing, a Digital Event Organizer (<http://www.gpjindia.com>).



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## Program mix

- Approximately 20 hours of webinar time will be dedicated to thematic topics
- Sessions to be structured as a mix of plenaries and panels
- Timing selected to facilitate live participation from Asia and Europe, with recordings available for other time zones
- Exhibition and lounge areas accessible throughout the week
- Exhibitor and sponsor booths
- Networking facility and social media wall
- Sponsorship opportunities.

## Programme

A preliminary draft of the 5-day programme is appended to this overview.

## Organization

The event will be managed by the Secretariat, guided by a small Steering Committee that will oversee the work of the Digital Event Organizer (George P. Johnson Experience Marketing).

## Contacts

- For further information or suggestions on the programme, contact Wyn Ellis at [Secretariat@sustainableice.org](mailto:Secretariat@sustainableice.org)
- For information on speaking opportunities, sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, communications and media, contact Namitha Baht (George P. Johnson) at [namitha.bhat@gpj.com](mailto:namitha.bhat@gpj.com).

**Executive Director**  
**27 January 2021**

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### Preliminary Programme

#### General

Each daily session will run from 08:00-11:00 CET (14:00-17:00 Bangkok time). Under an overarching theme set for each day, a series of related topics will be discussed in 3-4 Thematic Sessions, each covered through a combination of keynotes, presentations and panel discussions.

This Preliminary Programme will form the basis for the First Announcement/call for papers, sponsors and exhibitors, to be circulated on 3 February 2021. A detailed programme will then be compiled based on responses.

#### DAY 1 - Monday 29 March - Framing the dialogue: Rice, Resilience and Transformation

##### Opening speeches:

- Matthias Bickel, Chairperson of SRP (tbc)
- Jean Balié / Temina Lalani-Shariff, IRRI (tbc)
- Matthew Reddy, GEF (tbc)

##### Keynote Address

Mark Radka/Dechen Tsering, UNEP (tbc)

##### Thematic Sessions:

1. Sustainable food systems transformation: Food security / food safety / hidden hunger (UNEP); (incl. Rice ector Outlook for food and nutrition by Maximo Torero Cullen, FAO Chief Economist)
2. Rice and COVID-19, economic impact/ rice sector impact and responses
3. Our role: SRP Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and Action Plan 2021

*[Daily wrap-up]*

##### Overview

During the forthcoming 2021 Food Systems Summit, the UN is preparing to launch bold new actions to transform the way the world produces and consumes food in service of delivering progress on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. To achieve these global goals, transformation towards a new norm of sustainability in the global rice sector is more urgent than ever. Despite short-term disruptions the global rice sector has shown





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remarkable resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic. Disruptive technologies and innovations, including ICT-based real-time monitoring and analysis tools, have facilitated timely understanding of the pandemic's impact on rice value chains and made it possible to implement timely, coordinated responses.

Despite the challenges, the Sustainable Rice Platform made significant progress and marked a number of milestones towards its goal to reach 10 million rice farmers by 2030. The SRP 5-year Strategic Plan, adopted during the December 2020 General Assembly, provides a coherent long-term roadmap to guide the organization in continued pursuit of our shared aspirations.

The first day of this Virtual Rice Week will contextualize the role of the rice sector as a critical driver of our global food system. Speakers will review the challenges of the past year -- most notably the wide-reaching impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic -- and the opportunities presented by technological advancement to overcome them. This will set the scene for more specific thematic discussions over the following days.

## **DAY 2 - Tuesday 30 March - Innovation, technology convergence and development**

### **Keynote address**

Paul Nicholson, Olam International (tbc)

### **Thematic Sessions**

1. Transformative innovations in rice research (IRRI)
2. Technologies for stewardship in rice at farm and landscape levels (AWS, WAPRO, IRRI)
3. ICT-driven technologies for monitoring and assessment (Technology convergence (including RIICE, IRRI), ICTs for impact assessment)

*[Daily wrap-up]*

### **Overview**

Research and development initiatives funded by both public and private sector actors are generating innovations and technologies with the potential to transform the global rice sector. Sessions will showcase examples of such innovative technologies, including GIS-driven technologies to support monitoring and evaluation and impact assessment as well as field-level approaches.

## **DAY 3 - Wednesday 31 March - From sustainable production to sustainable consumption**

### **Keynote Address**

TBD

### **Thematic Sessions:**

1. SRP Assurance Scheme: Overview and normative guidance, early experiences in auditing
2. SRP-Verified rice, and capacity building services (GLOBALGAP, NEPCon, Control Union)
3. Connecting the market to SRP farmers to deliver returns to growers (premiums and other incentives) (panel)

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4. Private sector perspectives (panel discussion on business case for sustainability in domestic and export markets), (panel)

*[Daily wrap-up]*

## Overview

Launched in September 2020, the SRP Assurance Scheme presents opportunities to de-risk supply chains, contribute to social and environmental goals and boost incomes for smallholder rice farmers around the world, as well as contributing to sustainable production and consumption. As SRP members continue to expand their outreach activities around the world, the emerging potential to connect SRP farmers to markets will be discussed, in addition to challenges at field level and in the market. Private sector market perspectives will be discussed during a panel discussion, including a review of early auditing experiences during a highly challenging field environment.

## DAY 4 - Thursday 1 April - Standards and governance

### Keynote Address

ISEAL (tbc)

### Thematic Sessions

1. The role of voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) in driving transformative change
2. Governance of international voluntary standards - best practice examples
3. Gender and diversity in standards governance (led by Oxfam/UN Women)

*[Daily wrap-up]*

## Overview

Emerging from a legacy of economic and production drivers over the past 30 years, certification through voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) has assumed a growing role as a form of transnational governance in transforming business practice across diverse commodity chains. With a wide range of business models and operational scales, certified labels have brought awareness and willingness to pay among consumers. However, measurement of social and environmental benefits of adopting best practice has not kept pace; without effective monitoring, some schemes have lost traction and relevance. Speakers and panelists will consider the broader context of international governance of VSS, including the role of standard-setting bodies such as ISO and ISEAL in providing best-practice guidance for governance, credibility and integrity of commodity standards, and the future of auditing in a GIS-enabled world. A session will also be held to highlight the need to embrace and advance the principles of women's empowerment and diversity in SRP's institutional governance and through its normative tools toward a gender-responsive approach to wider sectoral change.

## DAY 5 - Friday 2 April - Transformative action: Scaling best practice adoption

### Keynote Address

Matthew Reddy, Global Environment Facility (tbc)



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## Thematic Sessions

1. Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative (FAO / GEF / WBCSD / country projects)
2. Multilateral and bilateral approaches (World Bank, NORAD, GIZ (GCF, NAMA), SDC)
3. Green finance (Clarmondial, FAO, WBCSD)
4. SRP capacity building and awareness raising tools (#ChooseSustainableRice) (Meshminds)

*[Daily wrap-up]*

Closing Ceremony

## Overview

Scaling best practice adoption at landscape levels requires institutional and multi-stakeholder collaboration. The day's presentations and discussions will showcase a number of bilateral and multilateral initiatives, including SRP's participation in large-scale strategic partnerships. Complementing the role of the international development sector, innovative private sector approaches to financing sustainable rice will be vitally important to scaling out of SRP outreach initiatives. Underpinning SRP's scaling objectives, awareness, training and capacity building for climate-smart sustainable rice farming will play an important role- stay updated on the SRP authorized training programme and awareness-raising campaigns, and how they can help drive scale.

*Following the official closing ceremony, an Extraordinary General Assembly will be held (members and invited guests only).*

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