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Evaluation of rice hybrids in terms of growth, productivity and grain quality under system of Rice Intensification

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Abstract

A field experiment was conducted at Palli Siksha Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, West Bengal to study the performance of five rice hybrids namely 6129 Gold, Tej Gold, 6444 Gold, Prima Gold and PHB 71 in terms of growth, productivity and grain quality under System of Rice Intensification (SRI) during *kharif* season. Observations revealed that 6129 Gold recorded highest hills m⁻² (17.3), no. of panicles m⁻² (215.5) and no. of filled grain per panicle (212.4). But owing to least 1000 grain weight (22.6 g) compared to other hybrid rice cultivars, 6129 Gold achieved lower grain yield (5.6 t ha⁻¹). By accounting higher 1000 grain weight (25 g) and other yield attributing characters, Prima Gold performed best in terms of grain yield (6.9 t ha⁻¹). Besides yield and yield attributing characters, grain quality (hulling, milling and head rice recovery) was also better in Prima Gold. Considering all the observations it can be concluded that Prima Gold and 6444 Gold performed better in moisture striven red lateritic zone of West Bengal under SRI.

Keywords: Growth attributes, grain quality, hybrid rice, SRI, yield

Introduction

Rice can be expressed as life blood for Asian population as the primary food security of 80% people (Kabir 2007)^[9]. From 43.19 m ha rice area India has produced 110.15 m tonnes rice with a productivity of about 2550 kg ha⁻¹ (DES, 2018) ^[3]. To meet the over helming demand of growing population, the production must be uplifted. As the natural resources are limited the only option left to provide food and nutritional security is to increase productivity per unit area. But unfortunately the challenge still persists after 50 years of green revolution.Cultivation of rice through traditional method involved lots of inputs and not an environment feasible option. Water management is a prime concern in rice cultivation as it is a limited resource in India today. Scientists are now-a-days advocate per drop more crop.Increase production with less utilization of natural resources, specifically water, is a great concern for today's agriculture. Among the various rice cultivation practices System of Rice Intensification (SRI) is one of the most energy efficient one (Ghosh et al., 2019)^[6]. It appears to be a good alternative of rice cultivation, that offers the opportunity to boost rice yield with less external inputs like water, seed, nutrients, pesticides etc. (Stoop et al., 2002; Uphoff and Randriamiharisoa 2002) [16, 19], improves soil health/quality and protects the environment substantially (Satyanarayana et al., 2007)^[15]. With sustainable management practices, varieties should be selected which have high yield potentiality. Hybrid rice has a yield advantage of about10-40% over existing high yielding varieties (Wanjari et al., 2006)^[22]. In this context hybrid rice cultivation under SRI may be a boon to boost rice yield with limited resources, as hybrid rice offers more yield advantage by adoption of SRI (Devi et al., 2009, Verma et al., 2014) [4, 21].

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted during *kharif* (rainy) season of 2015 at Agricultural Farm (23°39' N latitude, 87°42'E longitude and at an elevation of 58.9 m above mean sea level),

Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture), Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, West Bengal, India. The study was laid out in randomized complete block design comprising five hybrid rice varieties with four replications. Five rice hybrids – four Bayer's hybrids namely 6129 Gold, Tej Gold, 6444 Gold, Prima Gold and one hybrid check (PHB 71). 6129 Gold is India'sfirst BLB resistant short duration hybrid. Tej Gold performs well in moisture stress condition and 6444 Gold is highly suitable to direct seeded rice system. The hybrid PHB71 was released in 1997 by Pioneer Overseas Corporation (India branch) Andhra Pradesh, India. It was released for irrigated areas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana & Western U.P. the hybrid is non-shattering type and resistant to blast, BPH & gall midge.

12 days old seedlings were transplanted on beds with single seedlings at 25cm x 25cm spacing for 6129 Gold and 30cm x 30cm spacing for rest of the hybrids. The plots were supplied with well rotten FYM @ 10 tones ha⁻¹ at the time first ploughing. Chemical fertilizers was applied @ 60-30-30 kg N-P₂O₅-K₂O ha⁻¹, among which, $\frac{1}{3}$ N and full P₂O₅ and K₂O were applied as basal, rest of N was top-dressed in two equal levels at 21 and 42 days after transplanting (DAT). The hybrids 6129 Gold, Tej Gold were harvested at 90 DAT and other three hybrids were harvested at 100 DAT.

CGR (Crop Growth Rate), RGR (Relative Growth Rate), NAR (Net Assimilation Rate) and LAD (Leaf Area Duration) were calculated using the following formula:

$$CGR = \frac{W_2 - W_1}{T_2 - T_1}$$
 (Gardner 1985)

Where W_2 and W_1 were thedry weight at time T_2 and T_1 .

$$RGR = \frac{Ln W_2 - Ln W_1}{T_2 - T_1}$$
 (Radford 1967).

$$LAD = \frac{L1 + L2}{2}$$
 (Wei et al., 2016)

Where L_1 and L_2 are leaf area at time T_1 and T_2 respectively

$$NAR = \frac{(W2 - W1)(\log L2 - \log L1)}{(t2 - t1)(L2 - L1)}$$
(Gardner 1985)

Where W_2 and L_2 are dry weight and leaf area respectively at time T_2 and W_1 and L2 are dry weight and leaf area respectively at time T_1 .

$$GDD = \frac{T_{\text{max}} + T_{\text{min}}}{2} - T_b$$

Where Tmax and Tmin are maximum and minimum daily temperature. Tbase is threshold temperature of rice.

 $HTU = GDD \times BSSH$

Results and Discussion Growth attributes

The hybrid rice varieties significantly differed in terms of crop growth rate, relative growth rate, net assimilation rate and leaf area duration. Crop growth rate measures the efficiency of crop per unit of land area. The crop growth rate was maximum at 60 – 90 DAT. At initial growth stage (30 – 60 DAT), the variety 6129 Gold (23.7 g m⁻² day⁻¹) recorded highest crop growth rate followed by PHB 71 (20.1 g m⁻² day⁻¹) and 6444 Gold (19.6 g m⁻² day⁻¹). Whereas, the hybrid variety Prima Gold (47.5 g m⁻² day⁻¹) reached peak in crop growth rate at later growth stage (60 – 90 DAT) followed by 6444 Gold (40.1 g m⁻² day⁻¹).

Relative growth rate of the hybrid rice varieties was found higher at initial growth period (30 – 60 DAT). The relative growth rate was maximum in 6129 Gold (0.069 g g⁻¹ day⁻¹) at 30 – 60 DAT. Which was statistically at par with Prima Gold (0.065 g g⁻¹ day⁻¹) and PHB 71 (0.063 g g⁻¹ day⁻¹). At later growth period, the higher relative growth rate was obtained with Prima Gold (0.038 g g⁻¹ day⁻¹) followed by 6444 Gold (0.033 g g⁻¹ day⁻¹) and Tej Gold (0.033 g g⁻¹ day⁻¹). In case of crop growth rate, the variety 6129 Gold (23.1 g m⁻²day⁻¹) recorded least crop growth rate at 60 – 90 DAT.

Net assimilation rate represents plant photosynthetic efficiency. The trend of NAR was lower at initial growth stage (30 - 60 DAT) and higher at later growth stage (60 - 90 DAT). Due to higher LAI at 60 DAT, the NAR was higher at that growth stage. Since 6129 Gold matured earlier, the NAR was higher at both 30 - 60 and 60 - 90 DAT among the five hybrid rice cultivars.

Leaf area duration followed the similar trend among the cultivars except 6129 Gold. Leaf area duration was higher at 60 - 90 DAT than at early growth stage. Among the hybrid rice cultivars, 6444 Gold noted maximum LAD during its entire growth period followed by Prima Gold which was statistically at par (Table 1).

At 60 DAT, the varieties stepped over vegetative growth stages, as a result the dry matter accumulation was less at that period. This study supports the findings of Rajput *et al.* (2017) ^[12], who stated that crop growth rate, relative growth rate and net assimilation rate of rice varieties was highest at 60 - 90 DAT followed by 30 - 60 DAT grown under SRI. Thorne (1961) ^[17] stated that RGR decreases due to shedding of lower leaves by upper leaves. Lower RGR in 6129 Gold in between 60- 90 DAT than 30- 60 DAT can be attributed to senescence of leaf in this early maturing variety (Awal 2000, Valero *et al.*, 2005) ^[1, 20] whereas, onset of panicle initiation and higher green leaves in case of other varieties in between 60 to 90 DAT recorded higher RGR (Ko *et al.*, 2017) ^[10]. Leaf area duration of 6129 Gold was also less in later growth stage due to the same reason as RGR.

Yield attributes and yield

The yield and yield attributing characters varied significantly among rice hybrid varieties except no. of filled grains per panicle (table 2). No. of hill m⁻² ranged from 11.7 -17.3.Among the five rice hybrid varieties, maximum no. of hills m⁻² was obtained with 6129 Gold.Number of panicle m⁻² varied to the tune of 195.1 - 215.5. No. of panicles m⁻² were maximum in 6129 Gold (215.5) which was statistically at par with Prima Gold (212.7) and 6444 Gold (210.8). Filled grain per panicle is an important yield determining character of rice. The present study revealed that the no. of filled grain per panicle varied from 186.9 - 212.4. There were no significant differences among the varieties in filled grain per panicle. Filled grain per panicle was also highest in 6129 Gold (212) followed by 6444 Gold (202), PHB 71 (199). 1000 grain weight varied between 23 g in 6129 Gold to 25 g for Prima Gold. Highest seed yield (table 3) was noted in medium to mid-late duration rice hybrid Prima Gold (6.9 t ha⁻¹) being at par with 6444 Gold (6.8 t ha^{-1}) and PHB 71 (6.7 t ha^{-1}). Lowest yield was recorded with Tej Gold (4.6 t ha^{-1}).

The effect of no. of panicles m^{-2} ($R^2 = 0.913$) and no. of filled grains panicle⁻¹ ($R^2 = 0.530$) on grain yield showed a positive polynomial relation with grain yield (Fig 1). Apart from the yield attributing characters, the associated yield parameters *viz.*, panicle length ($R^2 = 0.707$), panicle weight ($R^2 = 0.902$) and percent filled grain ($R^2 = 0.871$) also showed a strong polynomial relation with grain yield (Fig. 2). Straw yield was also maximum in variety Prima Gold (9.9 t ha⁻¹) followed by PHB 71 (8.3 t ha⁻¹) and 6444 Gold (8.2 t ha⁻¹). Harvest index varied from 0.54 (6129 Gold) to 0.40 (Prima Gold). The accumulated GDD ($R^2 = 0.875$) and HTU ($R^2 = 0.875$) of the five rice hybrid cultivars showed a positive linear relation with yield (Fig 3 and 4).

Lowest 1000 grain weight might be the reason of comparatively lower yield of 6129 Gold than Prima Gold and 6444 Gold instead of having higher no. of panicles m⁻² and filled grain panicle⁻¹. Similarly heavier grains (highest 1000 grain weight) coupled with a good number of panicle m⁻² and filled grain per panicle attributed to highest grain yield in Prima Gold. Higher yield also can be assigned with efficient resource utilization, less inter and intra plant competition and differences in heterosis. Salgotra (2005) ^[13] observed

significant heterosis for grain yield among hybrids when tested the performance of eight rice hybrids. Uphoff (2004) ^[18] reported more than 15 t ha⁻¹ yield from SRI with hybrid varieties whereas it was 6-12 t ha⁻¹ from traditional varieties under same set of management practice in Madagascar. Satyanaryan (2004) ^[14] and Jiaguo (2004) ^[8] evidenced superiority of rice hybrids with respect to straw yield. Prima Gold showed lowest harvest index as the straw yield was highest.

Grain quality

Highest hulling percentage was recorded with 6444 Gold (75.1%) closely followed by Prima Gold (73.5%). Whereas Prima Gold (71.0%) registered maximum milling percentage followed by 6444 Gold (70.6%) and PHB 71(68.0%) and lowest was recorded with 6129 Gold (64.2%). Head rice recovery also maintained the same trend like milling percentage i.e. highest value was recorded with Prima Gold (96.5%) followed by 6444 gold and PHB 71 (table 4).

The results obtained regarding grain quality were harmonious to the report stated by Choudhary *et al.* (2013) ^[2] who reported 81%, 66.8% and 56.0% hulling percentage, milling percentage and head rice recovery in PHB 71 respectively.

Variety	Crop growth rate (g m ⁻² day ⁻¹)		Relative growth rate (g g ⁻¹ day ⁻¹)		Net assimilation rate (g m ⁻² day ⁻¹)		Leaf area duration	
	30 - 60 DAT	60 – 90 DAT	30 - 60 DAT	60 – 90 DAT	30 - 60 DAT	60 – 90 DAT	30 - 60 DAT	60 – 90 DAT
H1: 6129 Gold	23.7	23.1	0.069	0.020	0.016	0.018	73.0	65.2
H2: Tej Gold	18.2	35.5	0.062	0.033	0.009	0.017	75.3	75.7
H3: 6444 Gold	19.6	40.1	0.060	0.033	0.008	0.013	89.3	103.3
H4: Prima Gold	19.0	47.5	0.065	0.038	0.008	0.016	81.5	99.6
H5: PHB 71	20.1	38.9	0.063	0.032	0.009	0.015	76.2	89.0
S.Em (±)	1.00	1.85	0.002	0.002	0.0004	0.0013	2.25	3.66
CD 5%	3.03	5.65	0.007	0.005	0.0012	0.0039	6.93	11.29

Table 2: Yield attributes of hybrid rice varieties grown under SRI

Variaty	Hills m-2	No of	Filled grain	1000 grain
variety	mins in	panicles m ⁻²	panicle ⁻¹	weight(g)
H1: 6129 Gold	17.3	215.5	212.4	22.6
H2: Tej Gold	11.7	195.8	186.9	23.6
H3: 6444 Gold	11.7	210.8	202.0	23.5
H4: Prima Gold	11.7	212.7	192.5	25.0
H5: PHB 71	11.7	195.1	198.7	23.3
S.Em (±)	0.56	4.4	6.3	0.16
CD 5%	1.72	13.5	NS	0.49

NS: Non significant

 Table 3: Grain yield, straw yield and harvest index of hybrid rice varieties grown under SRI

Variety	Grain yield (t ha ⁻¹)	Straw yield (t ha ⁻¹)	Harvest Index (HI)
H1: 6129 Gold	5.6	4.5	0.54
H2: Tej Gold	4.6	5.9	0.41
H3: 6444 Gold	6.8	8.2	0.45
H4: Prima Gold	6.9	9.9	0.40
H5: PHB 71	6.7	8.3	0.44
S.Em (±)	0.27	0.41	0.011
CD 5%	0.84	1.25	0.035

Table 4: Hulling (%), milling (%) and head rice recovery (%) of hybrid rice varieties grown under SRI

Variety	Hulling %	Milling %	Head rice %
H1: 6129 Gold	8.48 (72.0)	8.01 (64.2)	9.44 (89.2)
H2: Tej Gold	8.41 (70.8)	8.08 (65.3)	9.61 (92.3)
H3: 6444 Gold	8.66 (75.1)	8.40 (70.6)	9.70 (94.2)
H4: Prima Gold	8.57 (73.5)	8.42 (71.0)	9.83 (96.5)
H5: PHB 71	8.52 (72.6)	8.25 (68.0)	9.68 (93.7)
S.Em (±)	0.08	0.90	0.06
CD 5%	NS	0.28	0.20

Square root transformed data. Data in parenthesis are original mean.







Fig 2: Relation among panicle length, Panicle weight and % filled grain with grain yield



Fig 3: Relation between Yield (kg/ha) and GDD



Fig 4: Relation between Yield (kg/ha) and HTU ~ 1839 ~

Conclusion

Comparing the performance of these hybrid rice varieties in terms of growth attributes, yield attributes, yield and grain quality, it was evident from the study that Prima Gold and 6444 Gold performed better under the moisture stress red laterite zone of West Bengal.

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