

Original Research Article

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Influence of Different Establishment methods, Varieties and N levels on Growth and Yield of Late Sown Rice in Telangana State

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Crop establishment, direct seeding, transplanting, broadcasting, drum seeder, varieties

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A field experiment was carried out during *kharif*, 2017 on clay loam soil at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Polasa, Jagtial. The experiment was laid out in a split plot design with three replications and twelve treatments with three main plots *viz.*, M₁: Sowing of nursery (July 20th) and transplanting of seedlings at 25 DAS (August 16th), M₂: Direct seeding by Broadcasting on August 16th, M₃: Direct seeding by Drum seeder on August 16th and four subplots *viz.*, S₁: RNR-15048 with 100% Recommended N, S₂: RNR-15048 with 150% Recommended N, S₃: JGL-18047 with 100% Recommended N and S₄: JGL-18047 with 150% Recommended N. Results of the experiment revealed that, higher growth parameters and yield were observed in direct seeding by drum seeder over direct seeding by broadcasting and the least were observed in conventional transplanting under late sown conditions. Application of 100 % recommended nitrogen *i.e.*, (120 kg ha⁻¹) for both varieties (RNR-15048 and JGL-18047) was found to be optimum even under late sown conditions.

Introduction

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.), is the most important cereal crop and staple food for one third of the world population. The total area of rice in India is 44.10 M ha, with a production and productivity of 104.3 MT and 2.38 t ha⁻¹, respectively. (Directorate of Economics and Statistics, GOI, 2015-16). Rice yields are highly variable due to aberration in weather like late onset of monsoon, heavy continuous rains, intermittent dry spell and heavy rains at the time of harvesting, etc. Time of sowing is the most important factor in influencing the crop yield. Performance of a genotype entirely

depends upon the time of planting. Delay in planting generally results in yield reduction which cannot be compensated by any other means.

Another reason for low profitability of rice cultivation is increased cost of cultivation. Rice transplanting is usually done by hired labour, and is becoming increasingly difficult due to massive migration of labour. A shortage of labour during peak periods increase labour wages and make transplanting operation costly (Mahajan *et al.*, 2009). The event of delayed release of water from the canal, invariably causes delay in farm

operations. The late planted crop has low productivity per plant due to restricted vegetative growth. In water scarce areas, the farmers prefer direct seeding method as an alternative to traditional method of transplanting. Direct-seeded rice occupies 26% of the total rice area in South Asia (Gupta *et al.*, 2006). Direct seeding of rice avoids transplanting and nursery maintenance, and crop also matures 7-12 days earlier thus reduces the overall water demand for rice culture and also saves the time, labour and energy. Recently, an effort has been made to fabricate very simple machine like manually operated drum seeder which helps in reducing the investment on labour for planting as it does not consume huge labour force. Nitrogen is one of the most important nutritional elements contributing for higher productivity of cereal crops and a major factor that limits agricultural yields (Balasubramanian *et al.*, 2000 and Islam, 2009). The application of nitrogen fertilizer either in excess or less than optimum rate affects both yield and quality of rice to remarkable extent, hence proper management of crop nutrition is of immense importance (Manzoor *et al.*, 2006).

Recommendation of best establishment method and nitrogen requirement for recently released high yielding medium duration varieties under late sown conditions is necessary in order to achieve optimum yields. Keeping this in view, the present study was undertaken to investigate the effect of establishment methods, varieties and N levels on growth and yield of late sown rice in Telangana State.

Materials and Methods

Field experiment was carried out during *khari*f, 2017 at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Polasa, Jagtial which is geographically situated at an altitude of 243.4 m above mean sea level on 18°49'40" N

latitude and 78°56'45" E longitude in the Northern Telangana Zone of Telangana State. A rainfall of 254.2 mm was received in 17 rainy days during the entire crop growth period. The experimental soil was clay loam texture with slightly alkaline pH (8.2), EC (0.20 d Sm⁻¹) and low in OC (0.40 %). The soil was medium in available N (441 kg ha⁻¹), high in available P (43.1 kg ha⁻¹) and K (380 kg ha⁻¹). The cultivars RNR-15048 and JGL-18047 were used in the experiment. The experiment was laid out in a split plot design with three replications and twelve treatments with three main plots *viz.*, M₁: Sowing of nursery (July 20th) and transplanting of seedlings at 25 DAS (August 16th), M₂: Direct seeding by Broadcasting on August 16th and M₃: Direct seeding by Drum seeder on August 16th, and four subplots *viz.*, S₁: RNR-15048 with 100% Recommended N, S₂: RNR-15048 with 150% Recommended N, S₃: JGL-18047 with 100% Recommended N and S₄: JGL-18047 with 150% Recommended N.

In case of conventional transplanting method (M₁), nursery was raised by broadcasting the seeds @ 50 kg ha⁻¹. Transplanting was done using twenty five day old seedlings. Seedlings were uprooted and transplanted @ 2-3 seedlings hill⁻¹ about 2-3 cm deep in soil at 15 x 15 cm spacing manually. In direct seeding by broadcasting method (M₂), the seeds @ 37.5 kg ha⁻¹ were broadcasted into the puddled field manually. In direct seeding by drum seeder (M₃), the seeds @ 37.5 kg ha⁻¹ were sown into the puddled field by using a manually operated drum seeder consisting of drums made of fibre with a spacing of 20 cm between the rows and 8 cm between the plants of the rows. The drums were filled with the seed upto three fourth of their capacity. About 3-4 seeds can be placed in a hill with the help of the drum seeder at all row spacing. In all the planting methods, the seeds were soaked in water, drained and incubated for 24 hours before sowing.

For control of weeds, pretilachlor @ 1250 ml in 50 kg of sand ha⁻¹ was applied. The left over weeds are removed by hand weeding was done at 15 days interval. Irrigation was applied as per requirement to the plots. It was withheld 15 days before harvesting of the crop. A fertilizer dose of 60 kg ha⁻¹ P₂O₅ was applied to all the plots as basal dose in the form single super phosphate and 40 kg ha⁻¹ K₂O was applied in two equal splits *viz.*, as basal at the time of transplanting/sowing and panicle initiation stage in the form of muriate of potash, respectively. Nitrogen (120 and 150 kg ha⁻¹) was applied in the form of urea as per the treatments. It was applied in three equal splits *viz.*, as basal at the time of transplanting/sowing, 30 DAS (maximum tillering) and panicle initiation stage. Zinc was applied in the form of ZnSO₄ as foliar spray @ 2g lt⁻¹ to the plots at 20 DAS. Carbofuran 3G @ 25 kg ha⁻¹ were applied at 30 DAS. Other plant protection measures were taken up as and when required.

Data on the plant height (cm), number of tillers m⁻², dry matter production (kg ha⁻¹) at 30, 60, 90 DAS and harvest, SPAD and LCC readings at 50% flowering stage were recorded. The crop was harvested manually with the help of sickles. After harvesting the crop in each net plot of all treatments, threshing, cleaning and drying of the grain was done and weight of the grain and straw of each treatment was recorded and expressed as kg ha⁻¹.

Results and Discussion

Plant height

Among three different establishment methods, maximum plant height (48.9 cm) was recorded in conventional transplanting method (M₁) at 30 DAS/DAT (Table 1) over direct seeding by broadcasting (M₂) and direct seeding by drum seeder methods (M₃) i.e., 31.4 and 30.4 cm,

respectively which were on par with each other. However at 60, 90 DAS/DAT and harvest the plant height among all different establishment methods remained non-significant. Increase in average plant height was rather slow up to 30 DAS in direct seeded plots, thereafter it increased linearly up to 60 DAS and after that although it continued to increase until maturity it occurred at a diminishing rate.

The plant height was not significantly influenced by the varieties at different nitrogen levels at 30 DAS/DAT. But the data collected at 60, 90 DAS/DAT and harvest revealed that maximum plant height was observed in JGL-18047 with 150 % recommended nitrogen (S₄) over RNR-15048 with both levels of nitrogen (S₁ and S₂) and was at par with JGL-18047 with 100% recommended nitrogen (S₃). This variation in plant height among varieties might be genetically inherent character of these varieties (Sharath) 2017.

No. of tillers m⁻²

Number of tillers m⁻² were significantly influenced by different establishment methods during the crop growth period (Table 2). Number of tillers m⁻² produced were statistically higher in conventional transplanting method (M₁) at 30 DAS/DAT (274) over other establishment methods (M₂ and M₃) (205 and 239, respectively). But, at 60 DAS/DAT the number of tillers m⁻² produced in conventional transplanting method (M₁) (334) were at par with direct seeding by drum seeder (M₃) (340). At 90 DAS/DAT and harvest maximum number of tillers were produced in direct seeding by drum seeder (M₃) (392 and 379, respectively) over direct seeding by broadcasting method (M₂) (353 and 340, respectively) and the least were produced in conventional transplanting method (M₁) (318 and 308, respectively).

Closer spacing of sprouted seeds which increased number of plants m^{-2} with early establishment of seedlings due to avoidance of root injury and transplantation shock coupled with higher root growth and activity and quicker tiller initiation leading to longer tillering period in direct sown sprouted seeds might be the reason for higher number of tillers m^{-2} than conventional method. These are in line with the findings of Manjunatha *et al.*, (2009), Dange *et al.*, (2014), Rana *et al.*, (2014) and Kumari and sudheer. (2015). Among the varieties at different nitrogen levels, the number of tillers m^{-2} remained non-significant during all the growth stages of the crop.

Dry matter production ($kg\ ha^{-1}$)

Drymatter production ($kg\ ha^{-1}$) at various stages of the crop was significantly influenced by different establishment methods (Table 3). At 30 and 60 DAS/DAT among the different establishment methods conventional transplanting method (M_1) recorded significantly higher drymatter production (1104, 4978 $kg\ ha^{-1}$, respectively) over direct seeding by broadcasting (M_2) and direct seeding by drum seeder (M_3) which were at par with each other (732, 3051 and 728, 3324, $kg\ ha^{-1}$, respectively). At 90 DAS/DAT, dry matter produced in conventional transplanting method was at par with direct seeding by drum seeder (7548 and 6905 $kg\ ha^{-1}$, respectively). However the data collected at harvest revealed that drum seeded plots produced significantly higher dry matter (11113 $kg\ ha^{-1}$) over broadcasted plots (10259 $kg\ ha^{-1}$) which was again superior to transplanted plots (8748 $kg\ ha^{-1}$). Consequence of favourable growing environment, earlier establishment of seedlings due to absence of transplantation shock which resulted in uptake of nutrients and water at faster rate helped the plants to boost their growth leading to produce more tillers (Table 2) through supply of more

synthates towards sink lead to production of higher dry matter under direct seeded methods (M_2 and M_3) over conventional transplanting method (M_1). Similar results of higher dry matter production from direct seeding by drum seeder and broadcasting method over conventional transplanting were recorded by Gangwar *et al.*, (2009), Halder *et al.*, (2009), Rana *et al.*, (2012) and Rana *et al.*, (2014).

Among the varieties at different nitrogen levels, dry matter production was not significantly influenced at 30 DAS/DAT but at, 60 and 90 DAS/DAT and harvest, JGL 18047 with 150% recommended nitrogen (S_4) recorded highest dry matter production (4107, 7167 and 11297 $kg\ ha^{-1}$, respectively) over RNR-15048 at both nitrogen levels (S_1 and S_2) (3417, 6573, 9042 $kg\ ha^{-1}$ and 3615, 6659, 9041 $kg\ ha^{-1}$, respectively) which was at par with JGL 18047 with 100 % recommended nitrogen (S_3) (3998, 7052 and 10847 $kg\ ha^{-1}$, respectively). Variation in dry matter production among varieties might be due to higher plant height (Table1) and genetically inherent character of the variety JGL-18047. These findings were in conformity with Sharath (2017).

Leaf colour chart (LCC) readings

The Leaf Colour Chart (LCC) readings were significantly influenced by the different crop establishment methods (Table 4). Lower LCC reading (3.13) was observed in direct seeding by broadcasting method (M_2) compared to other methods. This might be due to higher population and uneven distribution of nitrogen fertiliser among the plants. The LCC ratings in conventional transplanting (M_1) and direct seeding by drum seeder (M_3) method were at par with each other (3.35 and 3.50, respectively). The LCC ratings were significantly low (3.28) in RNR-15048 with 100% recommended nitrogen (S_1) over all other treatments.

Table.1 Plant height (cm) at 30, 60, 90 DAS/DAT and harvest as effected by different establishment methods and varieties with different levels of nitrogen in rice

Treatment	30 DAS/DAT	60 DAS/DAT	90 DAS/DAT	Harvest
Main plots: Establishment methods				
M ₁	48.9	85.8	89.7	90.2
M ₂	31.4	72.8	86.7	88.7
M ₃	30.4	74.8	87.4	90.5
SEm±	1.4	1.8	1.9	1.8
CD (P = 0.05)	5.5	7.3	NS	NS
Sub Plots: Varieties at different levels of nitrogen				
S ₁	35.1	73.8	83.3	85.0
S ₂	36.5	76.9	86.7	87.2
S ₃	37.3	78.7	89.9	92.8
S ₄	38.5	81.8	91.7	93.4
SEm±	0.8	1.4	1.9	1.9
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	4.3	5.9	7.6
Interaction				
S at same level of M				
SEm±	1.5	2.5	3.4	4.4
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS
M at same or different level of S				
SEm±	1.9	2.8	3.6	3.9
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS

Main plots:

M₁: Sowing of nursery (July 20th) and transplanting of seedlings at 25 DAS (August 16th)

M₂: Direct seeding by Broadcasting on August 16th

M₃: Direct seeding by Drum seeder on August 16th

Sub plots

S₁: RNR-15048 with 100% Recommended N

S₂: RNR-15048 with 150% Recommended N

S₃: JGL-18047 with 100% Recommended N

S₄: JGL-18047 with 150% Recommended N

Table.2 No. of tillers m⁻² at 30, 60, 90 DAS/DAT and harvest as effected by different establishment methods and varieties at different levels of nitrogen in rice

Treatment	30 DAS/DAT	60 DAS/DAT	90 DAS/DAT	Harvest
Main plots: Establishment methods				
M ₁	274	334	318	308
M ₂	205	300	353	340
M ₃	239	340	392	379
SEm±	7.6	7.6	8.3	8.3
CD (P = 0.05)	29.8	29.8	32.6	33.2
Sub Plots: Varieties at different levels of nitrogen				
S ₁	224	312	346	327
S ₂	236	321	358	340
S ₃	240	326	351	346
S ₄	256	337	363	356
SEm±	9.2	9.2	11.2	11.2
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS
Interaction				
S at same level of M				
SEm±	16.0	16.0	19.3	19.3
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS
M at same or different level of S				
SEm±	15.8	15.8	18.7	18.7
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS

Main plots:

M₁: Sowing of nursery (July 20th) and transplanting of seedlings at 25 DAS (August 16th)

M₂: Direct seeding by Broadcasting on August 16th

M₃: Direct seeding by Drum seeder on August 16th

Sub plots:

S₁: RNR-15048 with 100% Recommended N

S₂: RNR-15048 with 150% Recommended N

S₃: JGL-18047 with 100% Recommended N

S₄: JGL-18047 with 150% Recommended N

Table.3 Dry matter accumulation (kg ha^{-1}) 30, 60, 90 DAS/DAT and harvest as effected by different establishment methods and varieties at different levels of nitrogen in rice

Treatment	30 DAS/DAT	60 DAS/DAT	90DAS/DAT	Harvest
Main plots: Establishment methods				
M ₁	1104	4978	7548	8748
M ₂	732	3051	6135	10259
M ₃	728	3324	6905	11113
SEm±	27.8	120.2	161.2	209.0
CD (P = 0.05)	109.3	471.9	635.4	820.9
Sub Plots: Varieties at different levels of nitrogen				
S ₁	838	3417	6573	9042
S ₂	856	3615	6659	9041
S ₃	852	3998	7052	10847
S ₄	873	4107	7167	11297
SEm±	27.2	109.7	155.4	308.2
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	325.9	460.2	915.7
Interaction				
S at same level of M				
SEm±	47.2	190.0	268.6	533.8
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS
M at same or different level of S				
SEm±	49.4	203.7	283.5	507.4
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS

Main plots:

M₁: Sowing of nursery (July 20th) and transplanting of seedlings at 25 DAS (August 16th)

M₂: Direct seeding by Broadcasting on August 16th

M₃: Direct seeding by Drum seeder on August 16th

Sub plots:

S₁: RNR-15048 with 100% Recommended N

S₂: RNR-15048 with 150% Recommended N

S₃: JGL-18047 with 100% Recommended N

S₄: JGL-18047 with 150% Recommended N

Table.4 SPAD meter and LCC readings at 50% flowering stage as effected by different establishment methods and varieties at different levels of nitrogen in rice

Treatment	SPAD meter readings	LCC readings
Main plots: Establishment methods		
M ₁	34.5	3.35
M ₂	33.2	3.13
M ₃	34.7	3.50
SEm±	0.6	0.05
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	0.20
Sub Plots: varieties at different levels of nitrogen		
S ₁	33.9	3.28
S ₂	34.1	3.39
S ₃	34.2	3.26
S ₄	34.6	3.35
SEm±	0.3	0.03
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	0.09
Interaction		
S at same level of M		
SEm±	0.6	0.05
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	NS
M at same or different level of S		
SEm±	0.8	0.07
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	NS

Main plots:

M₁: Sowing of nursery (July 20th) and transplanting of seedlings at 25 DAS (August 16th)

M₂: Direct seeding by Broadcasting on August 16th

M₃: Direct seeding by Drum seeder on August 16th

Sub plots:

S₁: RNR-15048 with 100% Recommended N

S₂: RNR-15048 with 150% Recommended N

S₃: JGL-18047 with 100% Recommended N

S₄: JGL-18047 with 150% Recommended N

Table.5 Yield as influenced by different establishment methods, varieties at different levels of nitrogen in rice

Treatment	Grain yield (kg ha ⁻¹)	Straw yield (kg ha ⁻¹)
Main plots: Establishment methods		
M ₁	3901	5066
M ₂	4520	5863
M ₃	4949	6307
SEm±	103.1	107.9
CD (P = 0.05)	4040.9	423.7
Sub Plots: Varieties at different levels of nitrogen		
S ₁	3975	5139
S ₂	4010	5157
S ₃	4815	6228
S ₄	5027	6458
SEm±	152.1	162.3
CD (P = 0.05)	451.9	482.3
Interaction		
S at same level of M		
SEm±	263.4	281.3
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	NS
M at same or different level of S		
SEm±	250.4	266.3
CD (P = 0.05)	NS	NS

Main plots:

M₁: Sowing of nursery (July 20th) and transplanting of seedlings at 25 DAS (August 16th)

M₂: Direct seeding by Broadcasting on August 16th

M₃: Direct seeding by Drum seeder on August 16th

Sub plots:

S₁: RNR-15048 with 100% Recommended N

S₂: RNR-15048 with 150% Recommended N

S₃: JGL-18047 with 100% Recommended N

S₄: JGL-18047 with 150% Recommended N

This might be due to the poor uptake of nitrogen over other treatments.

SPAD Chlorophyll Meter Readings

SPAD meter readings indicate chlorophyll content. SPAD chlorophyll meter readings at 50% flowering stage were not significantly influenced by the different establishment methods, varieties at different nitrogen levels (Table 4). These observations were in line with of Prathiksha (2016).

Grain yield

Among different establishment methods, direct seeding by drum seeder (M_3) has recorded significantly higher grain yield (4949 kg ha^{-1}) over direct seeding by broadcasting (M_2) (4520 kg ha^{-1}), which was again superior over conventional transplanting method (M_1) (3901 kg ha^{-1}) (Table 5).

Higher yield in direct seeding by drum seeder (M_3) might be attributed to row sowing facilitated optimum plant population, more space, sunlight, avoidance of root injury and transplantation shock, quicker establishment, effective tillering, more absorption of nutrients and reduced pest and disease incidence due to the improved microclimate over transplanting and broadcasting method. Line sowing in drum seeding method also facilitates to take up fertilizer application, plant protection measures and weed control in an efficient manner. These results are in accordance with the findings of Singh and Singh (2010), Dange *et al.*, (2014), Murumkur usha (2014) and Muralidharan *et al.*, (2015).

Higher yield in direct seeding by broadcasting of sprouted seeds (M_2) over conventional transplanting method (M_1) might be due to higher plant population, avoidance of root

injury and transplantation shock, quicker tiller initiation leading to longer tillering period. This impact has made it possible to record more number of effective tillers m^{-2} with heavier panicles, which might have contributed to higher grain yield. These results were in agreement with the findings of Manjunatha *et al.*, (2009) and Rana *et al.*, (2014). Further, both the direct sown methods (M_1 and M_2) escaped the cloudy weather and heavy rainfall during flowering which might have affected the fertilization and early grain development in conventional transplanting method.

Grain yield was also significantly differed among varieties at different nitrogen levels. Highest grain yield (5027 kg ha^{-1}) was recorded in JGL-18047 with 150% recommended N (S_4) over RNR-15048 at two different nitrogen levels (S_1 and S_2) (3975 and 4010 kg ha^{-1}) which was at par with JGL-18047 with 100% recommended N (S_3) (4815 kg ha^{-1}). The lower yield of RNR-15048 might be due to lower test weight as compared to JGL-18047. Similar results were reported by Sharath (2017).

Straw yield (kg ha^{-1})

The straw yield of rice was significantly influenced by different establishment methods and varieties with different nitrogen doses (Table 5). Significantly higher straw yield (6307 kg ha^{-1}) was realized from direct seeding by drum seeder (M_3) over direct seeding by broadcasting (M_2) (5863 kg ha^{-1}). Lowest straw yield (5066 kg ha^{-1}) was observed in conventional transplanting method (M_1). Higher straw yield was attributed to higher dry matter accumulation caused by better nutrient absorption from the soil, and the increased rate of metabolic processes, rate of light absorption and photosynthetic activity as well as more number of tillers. These results are in tune

with the findings of Sandhyakanthi *et al.*, (2014) and Kaur and Singh (2015).

Among the varieties with different doses of nitrogen, JGL-18047 with 150% recommended N (S₄) has recorded significantly higher straw yield (6458 kg ha⁻¹) over RNR-15047 at two different nitrogen levels (S₁ and S₂) and was at par with JGL-18047 with 100% recommended N (S₃) (6228 kg ha⁻¹). The lower straw yield of RNR-15047 might be due to lower plant height (Table 1) and low dry matter accumulation (Table 3) as compared to JGL-18047. These results are agreed with the findings of Sharath (2017).

There was no significant interaction effect between different establishment methods and rice varieties at different nitrogen levels with respect to growth parameters and crop yield.

Harvest Index

The harvest index was not significantly influenced by either of the individual factors nor their interaction (Table 5). Similar findings were reported by Barla and Kumar (2011) and Prathiksha *et al.*, (2017).

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