

Effect of Planting Date on the Performance of High Yield Potential Varieties of Rice in Bangladesh

ABSTRACT

The experiment was conducted at the Agronomy Field Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh to investigate the effect of planting dates on the performance of high yield potential varieties of rice in Boro season. The experiment consisted of five dates of transplanting viz. 10 and 25 December 2015, 10 and 25 January and 10 February 2016: four high yield potential varieties viz. hybrid rice Sonar Bangla-1, Jagoran, BRRI Dhan-29 and BINA Dhan-6. Results indicated that there was a significant effect of date of transplanting on yield of potential varieties of rice in Boro season. It was observed that plant height, panicle length, grain yield, straw yield, number of tillers per hill¹ gradually increased up to 10 January. After 10 January transplanting yield were reduced. The highest grain yield 6.41 t ha⁻¹ was observed in hybrid rice Sonar Bangla-1. The result revealed that Sonar Bangla-1 emerged as the best variety in Boro season regarding grain and straw yields among the varieties studied and it should preferably be transplanted between 25 December to 10 January to obtain appreciable better yield.

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Keywords: Hybrid rice, planting date, growth, yield

1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the heart rhythm of Bangladesh which provides the ultimate entity of most of her population. The pressing issue of alarming population growth, rapid industrialization and urbanization has emerged as the biggest challenge for Bangladesh to ensure food security and socio-economic development. The economy of Bangladesh depends predominantly on agriculture sector accounting for about 31.08% of its gross domestic product [1]. Rice is grown in 11.79 million hectare of land with total production of 33.80 million tons [2]. Rice is extensively grown in Bangladesh in three season's viz. Aus, Aman and Boro and it covers 74.85 % of the total cultivable area of Bangladesh [2].

FAO considers hybrid rice technology as an important avenue for increasing global rice production. China's success with hybrid rice encourages the prospect of this technology for the tropics and subtropics. Realizing hybrid rice technology as an important option to increase rice yield, IRRI rejuvenated its research on its development and Bangladesh is no exception to it as it is the prime need to increase rice production in Bangladesh.

Planting date is an important factor for obtaining higher yields and there is an optimum planting date to obtain higher yield of a crop [3]. Generally Boro rice is transplanted from early December to mid-March [4, 5]. Early transplantation of Boro rice prolongs field duration due to low temperature and involves high cost of production, particularly for management practices including irrigation while delayed planting reduces the yield in some cases [6, 7]. A

36 compromise is therefore, needed between sacrificing grain yield by adjusting planting date or
37 incurring extra expenditure by irrigating the crop for a longer period in case of early planting.
38 Yield is the cumulative effect of the inherent characteristics of a variety as well as
39 management practices under which it is grown. Variety is one of the important factors for
40 increasing yield. In general, it is believed that there are differences in morpho-physiological
41 aspects among the traditional and modern varieties. Generally speaking modern inbred rice
42 varieties in Bangladesh have a longer growth duration of (150-160 days in Boro season) with
43 a low daily yield (lower than 30kg/ha/day) while the hybrid one because of its hybrid vigor
44 needs only 120-130 days to mature. If hybrid rice is cultivated, 20-40 days in crop duration
45 can be reduced. This may facilitates the accommodation of succeeding crop in the cropping
46 systems.
47 Boro rice has been gaining much importance by the farmers for its higher yield per hectare
48 than other rice crops. Recently several private seed traders are introducing rice seeds from
49 India and China. But as introduced plant materials, they need thorough evaluation under the
50 prevailing climatic conditions of Bangladesh for morphological and physiological
51 characteristic before they are going to the end users i.e., for large scale cultivation by the
52 farmers. As per available information regarding the yield and yield contributing characters,
53 both morphological and physiological characteristics of hybrid rice varieties are meager in
54 Bangladesh. That is why, it is a prime need to conduct more research work to find out and
55 develop sustainable technology of hybrid rice cultivation under the prevailing local edaphic
56 conditions. Therefore present study was undertaken to investigate the adaptability of high
57 yield potential rice varieties in boro season in relation to the effect of different planting dates
58 on higher growth and yield.

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60 **2. MATERIAL AND METHODS**

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62 **2.1 Experimental site**

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64 The experiment was conducted at the Agronomy field, Bangladesh Agricultural University,
65 Bangladesh from November 2015 to June 2016 to study the effect of different planting date
66 on the performance of high yield potential varieties of rice in Boro season. The experimental
67 site is under the Old Brahmaputra Flood Plain of Agro-ecological Zone, AEZ 9 [8]. The land
68 was medium high with sandy loam in texture with pH value of 6.9. The experimental site was
69 under the subtropical climatic condition.

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71 **2.2 Planting material**

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73 Two inbred rice varieties (BRRI Dhan29 and BINA Dhan 6) and two hybrid rice (Sonar
74 bangla-1 and Jagoran) used as the test crops. Seeds were collected from BRRI, BINA for
75 the inbred varieties. Meanwhile Sonar Bangla-1 was imported from China and approved by
76 the National Seed Board Bangladesh. Jagoran was developed by India and marketed in
77 Bangladesh by BARC, Seed Ltd. Bangladesh.

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79 **2.3 Experimental Design and Treatments**

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81 The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three
82 replications. The treatments were comprised of two factors- Factor A: Variety viz. i) BRRI
83 Dhan29, ii) BINA Dhan6, iii) Sonar Bangla-1, iv) Jagoran and Factor B: Planting Date viz., i)
84 10 December 2015, ii) 25 December 2015, iii) 10 January 2016, iv) 25 January 2016 and v)
85 10 February 2016. There were 60 unit plots in the experiment. The size of the each plot was
86 5 m² where treatments were allotted at random.

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88 **2.4 Growth condition and measurement of parameters**

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90 Seeds of each cultivar were soaked in water in separate buckets for 24 hours and then
91 placed under gunny bag for sprouting. After sprouting seeds were sown after 72 hours in the
92 well prepared nursery bed. The 30 day old seedlings were then transplanted in the main field
93 as per planting dates. Fertilizers were applied at the rate of 270, 130, 120, 70, and 10 kg/ha
94 in the form of Urea, Triple Super Phosphate, Murate of Potash and Zinc Sulphate
95 respectively following standard application procedures. Intercultural operations were done as
96 per requirement. Maturity of crops was determined when some 90% of seeds became
97 golden yellow color. The harvest crops were threshed manually and the fresh weights of
98 grain and straw were recorded plot-wise. Finally, grain and straw yield per plot were
99 converted to t/ha.

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101 **2.5 Data collection and Statistical Analysis**

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103 Data on individual plant parameters were recorded from the sample hill¹ and those on grain
104 yield, straw yield, biological yield and harvest index were recorded from the whole plot at
105 harvest. The collected data were analyzed statistically by MSTAT C software. The mean
106 differences among the treatments were adjudged with Duncan's Multiple Range Test
107 (DMRT) at 5% level of probability [9].

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109 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

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111 **3.1 Plant height**

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113 Plant height differed significantly among the varieties (Table 1). Results showed that BINA
114 Dhan6 produced the tallest plants of 99.26 cm while Sonar Bangla-1 produced the shortest
115 plant stature of 84.39 cm which was statistically identical to that produced by BRR1
116 Dhan29. The results were consistent with [10,11] who also observed significant variation
117 among the varieties. This variation in plant height is probably due to the genetical makeup of
118 the varieties.

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120 Date of planting also exerted significant effect on plant height (Table 1). It was observed that
121 the longest plant height (95.10 cm) when transplanted on 10 January. Plant height gradually
122 decreased with delay in planting after 10 January. The shortest plant (85.47 cm) was
123 observed when transplanted on 10 December.

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124 Plant height was significantly affected by the combined effect of variety and planting time
125 (Table 2). The tallest plant height was recorded in BINA Dhan6, transplanted on 10 January.
126 The shortest plant height was observed in BRR1 Dhan29, transplanted on 10 December
127 which was statistically similar to that of Sonar Bangla-1, transplanted on 10 December.

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128 **3.2 Number of effective tillers hill¹**

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130 Number of effective tillers per hill varied significantly due to variety (Table 1). The results
131 showed that the highest number (11.63) of effective tillers per hill was produced by BRR1
132 Dhan29. Number of effective tillers per hill varied significantly for different date of planting
133 (Table1). It was observed that the highest number of effective tillers per hill (11.83) was
134 produced on 10 January transplanting. On the other hand, lowest number of effective tillers
135 per hill (8.46) was produced on 10 February planting. Effect of interaction of variety and
136 planting date on the number of effective tillers per hill (Table 2). Maximum number of
137 effective tillers per hill (15.73) was produced by BRR1 Dhan29 planted on 10 January.
138 Meanwhile the lowest number of effective tillers per hill (6.39) was produced from 10
139 February planting in hybrid rice Jagoran.

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141 **3.3 Number of non-effective tillers hill¹**

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143 The results showed that there were significant differences in the number of non-bearing
 144 tillers hill⁻¹ among the varieties studied (Table 1). The results revealed that the number of
 145 non-effective tillers hill⁻¹ ranged from 1.04 to 1.30. It was found that the highest number of
 146 non-effective tillers hill⁻¹ was produced by hybrid rice Jagoran whereas the lowest number of
 147 non-effective tillers hill⁻¹ was produced by BRRI Dhan29. This might be due to the genetic
 148 makeup of the varieties. This was reported by [12, 13]. Production of non-effective tillers per
 149 hill was found to be significantly affected by the date of planting (Table 1). A maximum
 150 number of non-effective tillers per hill (2.03) were produced when planting was done on 10
 151 February whereas production of non-effective tillers was minimum when transplanted on 10
 152 January. Number of non-effective tillers per hill was significantly affected by the interaction
 153 between variety and planting date (Table 2). Maximum number of non-effective tillers per hill
 154 (2.04) was produced by Sonar Bangla-1 transplanted on 10 February.

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156 3.4 Length of Panicle

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158 Length of panicle was not significantly affected by the variety and the planting date (Table 1).
 159 Effect of interaction of variety and planting date was found to be insignificant on panicle
 160 length (Table 2).

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162 **Table1: Effect of variety and date of planting on the crop characters of rice in Boro**
 163 **season**

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| Treatment | Plant height (cm) | Effective tillers hill ⁻¹ (no) | Non-effective tillers hill ⁻¹ (no) | Length of panicle (cm) |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| Variety | | | | |
| BRRI Dhan-29 | 86.03b | 11.63a | 1.04b | 22.19 |
| BINADhan-6 | 99.26a | 9.19c | 1.16ab | 22.06 |
| Sonar Bangla-1 | 84.39b | 9.96b | 1.10ab | 20.84 |
| Jagoran | 97.19a | 8.07d | 1.30a | 22.33 |
| Significance level | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.05 | NS |
| Transplanting date | | | | |
| 10 December | 85.47b | 9.49b | 1.23b | 22.00 |
| 25 December | 92.48a | 9.73b | 0.83c | 22.19 |
| 10 January | 95.01a | 11.83a | 0.63c | 22.53 |
| 25 January | 92.63a | 9.03bc | 1.04b | 21.62 |
| 10 February | 93.33a | 8.46c | 2.03a | 20.95 |
| Significance level | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.05 | NS |
| CV (%) | 5.27 | 10.20 | 15.13 | 9.76 |

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165 *Means in a same column followed by different letter (s) are significantly different at P<0.05*

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170 **Table 2: Combined effect of variety and date of planting on crop characters of rice in**
 171 **Boro season**

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| Treatment | Plant height (cm) | No. of total tillers hill ⁻¹ | No. of Effective tillers hill ⁻¹ | No. of Non-Effective tillers hill ⁻¹ | Length of panicle(cm) |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| V ₁ D ₁ | 77.01e | 11.66cd | 11.00bcd | 1.20efg | 22.63 |
| V ₁ D ₂ | 88.45cd | 13.27b | 11.20bc | 0.66hij | 22.98 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------|
| V ₁ D ₃ | 90.56c | 16.93a | 15.73a | 0.66hij | 23.41 |
| V ₁ D ₄ | 85.49cd | 10.86cde | 10.27bcde | 0.66hij | 21.36 |
| V ₁ D ₅ | 89.99c | 10.26defg | 9.93bcdef | 2.06ab | 20.60 |
| V ₂ D ₁ | 96.68b | 10.40def | 9.13defgh | 1.40def | 22.12 |
| V ₂ D ₂ | 98.55b | 10.93cde | 9.20defgh | 0.60hij | 22.24 |
| V ₂ D ₃ | 105.60a | 11.20cde | 9.80bcdef | 0.40j | 22.24 |
| V ₂ D ₄ | 97.99b | 9.60efgh | 9.00efgh | 1.60cde | 21.96 |
| V ₂ D ₅ | 97.48b | 9.60efgh | 8.80efgh | 1.80bcd | 21.77 |
| V ₃ D ₁ | 77.87e | 11.06cde | 10.26bcde | 0.93fghi | 20.97 |
| V ₃ D ₂ | 85.03cd | 12.00bcd | 10.26bcde | 0.80fghi | 20.98 |
| V ₃ D ₃ | 84.26d | 12.53bc | 11.60b | 0.53ij | 21.26 |
| V ₃ D ₄ | 88.26cd | 10.80cde | 9.46cdefg | 0.86ghij | 20.91 |
| V ₃ D ₅ | 86.56cd | 9.06fgh | 8.20fghi | 2.40a | 20.10 |
| V ₄ D ₁ | 90.32c | 9.47efgh | 7.60ghi | 1.40cdef | 22.29 |
| V ₄ D ₂ | 97.92b | 9.66efgh | 8.26fghi | 1.26efg | 22.58 |
| V ₄ D ₃ | 99.65b | 11.13cde | 10.20bcde | 0.93fghi | 23.20 |
| V ₄ D ₄ | 98.80 b | 8.66gh | 7.00hi | 1.06fgh | 22.24 |
| V ₄ D ₅ | 99.30b | 8.00h | 6.93i | 1.86fgh | 21.33 |
| Significance level | 0.05 | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.01 | NS |
| CV (%) | 5.27 | 8.31 | 10.20 | 15.13 | 9.76 |

173 Means in a same column followed by different letter (s) are significantly different at $P < 0.05$; (V₁- Sonar
174 Bangla-1, V₂- Jagoran; V₃- BRRl Dhan-29; V₄- BINA Dhan-6 and D₁ -10 December, D₂ -25 December,
175 D₃ -10 January, D₄ -25 January; D₅ -10 February)

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177 3.5 Grain weight hill⁻¹

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179 Variety exerted significant influence on grain weight hill⁻¹ (Table 3). The highest grain weight
180 hill⁻¹ (26.31 g) was recorded in hybrid rice Jagoran whereas BINA Dhan6 gave the lowest
181 grain weight hill⁻¹ (21.86 g). The grain weight hill⁻¹ also varied due to different dates of
182 planting (Table 3). The highest weight (25.58 g) grains hill⁻¹ was produced from 10 January
183 whereas the lowest was recorded at 10 February planting. The variation due to interaction
184 between variety and planting date was significant for the parameter grain weight hill⁻¹ (Table
185 4). Maximum grain weight hill⁻¹ (27.34 g) was observed in Jagoran on 10 January planting
186 whereas minimum was observed from BRRl Dhan29 on 10 February planting.

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188 3.6 Weight of 1000-grains

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190 Varieties differed significantly among themselves regarding weight of 1000-grains (Table 3).
191 The results revealed that highest 1000-grain weight (30.18 g) was obtained from Sonar
192 Bangla-1. The lowest 1000-grain weight (22.68 g) was found in BRRl Dhan-29. This result is
193 in corroborate with the results of reported by [14, 15] who stated that 1000-grain weight
194 differed among the varieties. 1000-grain weight varied significantly due to different dates of
195 planting (Table 3). The highest grain weight was produced from 10 January planting that was
196 statistically at par with 25 December planting. The lowest 1000-grain weight was observed
197 from 10 February planting. However 1000-grain weight did not vary significantly due to the
198 interaction between variety and date of planting (Table 4).

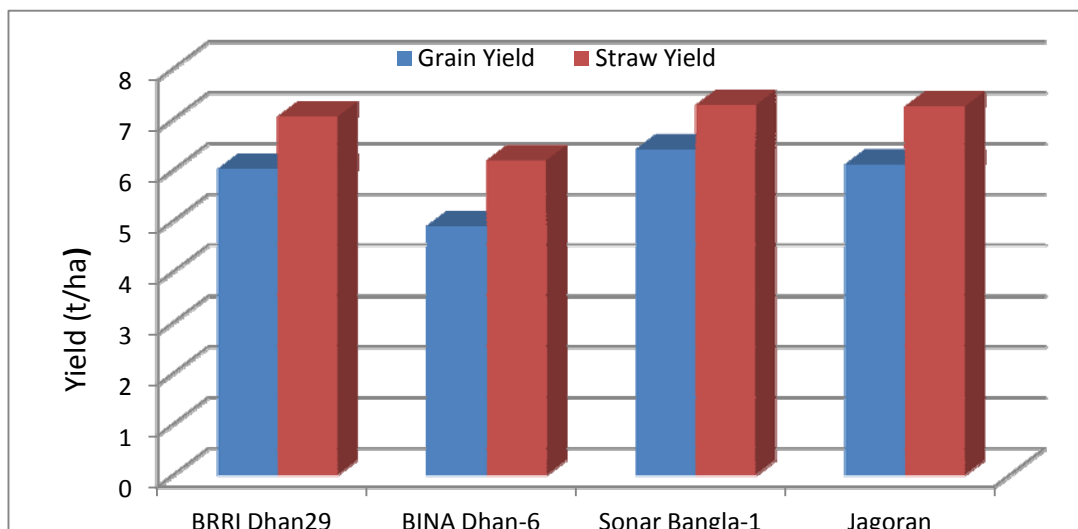
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200 3.7 Grain yield (t ha⁻¹)

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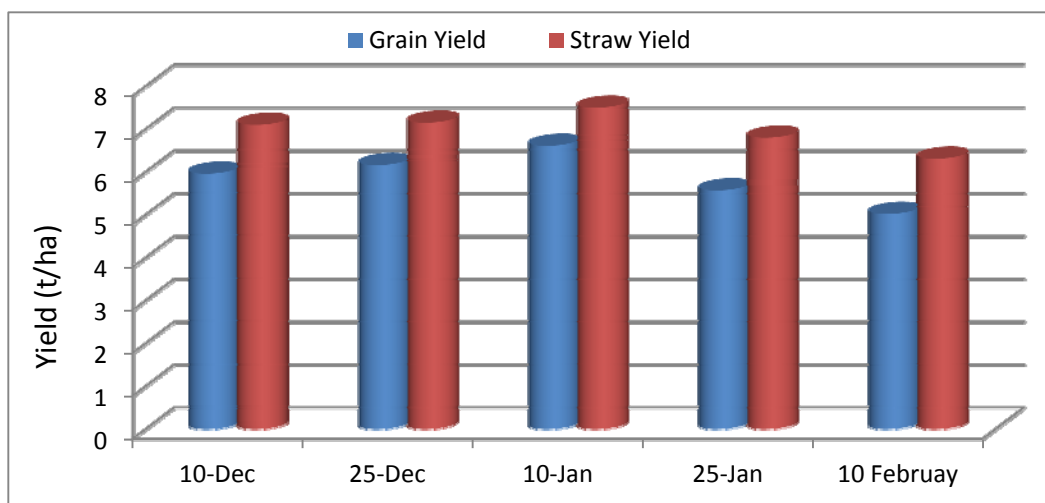
202 Grain yield varied significantly among the varieties (Fig 1). The results elicited that hybrid
203 rice variety Sonar Bangla-1 produced the maximum grain yield (6.41 t ha⁻¹) which was

204 statistically alike to that of hybrid variety Jagoran (6.11 t ha^{-1}). On the other hand BINA
 205 Dhan6 produced the minimum grain yield (4.9 t ha^{-1}). The highest grain yield of hybrid rice
 206 Sonar Banga-1 was the consequence of the maximum 1000-grains weight and the second
 207 highest number of productive tillers hill⁻¹. Though Jagoran produced the highest grain weight
 208 and second highest 1000-grains weight but failed to produce the highest yield because of
 209 mainly due to the minimum number of productive tillers hill⁻¹. This was also supported by [16,
 210 17, 18, 19].
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213 **Figure 1: Effect of variety on the grain yield and straw yield of rice in Boro season**
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216 Grain yield varied significantly due to different dates of planting (Fig 2). The highest grain
 217 yield (6.61 t ha^{-1}) was obtained at 10 January planting. The lowest (5.02 t ha^{-1}) yield was
 218 recorded on 10 February planting. The highest grain yield on 10 January might be due to the
 219 prevailing favorable temperature. The grain yield was significantly influenced by the
 220 interaction of variety and date of planting (Table 4). The highest grain yield (6.99 t ha^{-1}) was
 221 produced from the combination of Sonar Bangla-1 with 10 January Planted while the lowest
 222 (4.21 t ha^{-1}) was in BINA Dhan6 with planted on 10 February.
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Figure 2: Effect of planting dates on the grain yield and straw yield of rice in boro season

3.8 Straw yield

There was significant variation among the varieties in respect of straw yield (Fig 1.). It is evident that the highest straw yield (7.28 t ha^{-1}) was produced by Sonar Bangla-1 and BRR1 Dhan 29. On the other hand the lowest straw yield (6.19 t ha^{-1}) was produced by BINA Dhan6. Straw yield varied significantly due to date of transplanting (Fig 2). The highest straw yield followed the similar pattern of as that of grain yield. The highest straw yield (7.50 t ha^{-1}) was obtained for 10 January planting. Effect of interaction of variety and date of planting on straw yield was significant (Table 4). The highest straw yield (7.90 t ha^{-1}) was observed in interaction of BRR1 Dhan 29 planted on 25 January. The lowest (5.64 t ha^{-1}) straw yield of BRR1 Dhan29 planted on 10 February.

3.9 Biological yield

The varietal effect on biological yield was highly significant (Table 3). The highest biological yield (13.76 t ha^{-1}) was recorded from Sonar Bangla-1 which has the highest grain yield producer. The biological yield of Jagoran and BRR1 Dhan29 was statistically similar to the hybrid rice Sonar Bangla-1. The lowest biological yield (11.10 t ha^{-1}) was produced by BINA Dhan6. Biological yield was also significantly affected by the date of transplanting (Table 3). It was observed that the highest biological yield (14.12 t ha^{-1}) was obtained in 10 January planting. Meanwhile the lowest biological yield (11.34 t ha^{-1}) was obtained in 10 February planting. The result is in agreement with the findings of [20].

Effect of interaction of variety and date of planting was significant (Table 4). The highest biological yield (14.57 t ha^{-1}) was observed in interaction at Jagoran and on 10 January planting. The lowest biological yield was observed at BRR1 Dhan29 on 10 February planting.

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Table 3: Effect of variety and planting date on crop characters of rice in boro season

| Treatment | Grain weight hill ⁻¹ (g) | 1000-grain weight (g) | Biological yield (t ha ⁻¹) | Harvest Index (%) |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-------------------|
| Variety | | | | |
| BRR1 Dhan-29 | 22.68c | 21.49b | 13.32a | 44.60ab |
| BINADhan-6 | 21.79c | 26.02c | 11.09b | 43.60b |
| Sonar Bangla-1 | 24.39b | 30.18a | 13.75a | 46.20a |
| Jagoran | 26.31a | 28.35b | 13.37a | 45.20ab |
| Level of Significance | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | NS |
| Transplanting date | | | | |
| 10 December | 23.32b | 26.28b | 13.16bc | 44.75abc |
| 25 December | 25.18a | 27.01ab | 13.36ab | 44.75ab |
| 10 January | 25.58a | 27.71a | 14.10a | 46.50a |
| 25 January | 23.87b | 26.39b | 12.44c | 44.00bc |
| 10 February | 21.51c | 25.17c | 11.34d | 43.50c |
| Significance level | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.05 |
| CV (%) | 5.81 | 4.21 | 7.11 | 5.09 |

260 *Means in a same column followed by different letter (s) are significantly different at P<0.05*

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Table 4: Combined effect of variety and plating dates on crop characteristics of rice in Boro season

| Treatment | Grain weight hill ⁻¹ | 1000-grain weight (g) | Grain Yield (t ha ⁻¹) | Straw Yield (t ha ⁻¹) | Biological Yield (t ha ⁻¹) | Harvest Index (%) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| V ₁ D ₁ | 22.56 e-h | 21.46 | 6.27 bcd | 7.75 ab | 14.02 ab | 44.00 |
| V ₁ D ₂ | 23.11 efg | 22.03 | 6.55 abc | 7.54 abc | 14.09 ab | 46.00 |
| V ₁ D ₃ | 23.61 def | 22.62 | 6.74 ab | 7.52 abc | 14.26 ab | 47.00 |
| V ₁ D ₄ | 22.08 e-h | 21.34 | 6.18 b-e | 7.90 a | 14.08 ab | 43.00 |
| V ₁ D ₅ | 22.05 e-h | 20.04 | 4.45 h | 5.70 f | 10.15 e | 43.00 |
| V ₂ D ₁ | 20.49 hi | 26.00 | 4.81 gh | 6.10 ef | 10.91 de | 44.00 |
| V ₂ D ₂ | 24.57 b-e | 26.71 | 5.09 fg | 6.26 def | 11.35 cde | 44.00 |
| V ₂ D ₃ | 24.63 b-e | 26.76 | 5.96 cde | 7.17 abc | 13.13 ab | 45.00 |
| V ₂ D ₄ | 20.92gh | 25.62 | 4.47 h | 5.78 f | 10.25 e | 43.00 |
| V ₂ D ₅ | 18.34 i | 25.01 | 4.21 h | 5.64 f | 9.85 e | 42.00 |
| V ₃ D ₁ | 23.81 def | 29.41 | 6.63 ab | 7.60 abc | 14.23 ab | 46.00 |
| V ₃ D ₂ | 26.06 a-d | 30.77 | 6.69 ab | 7.32 abc | 14.31 ab | 47.00 |
| V ₃ D ₃ | 26.75 ab | 32.04 | 6.99 a | 7.52 abc | 14.51 a | 48.00 |
| V ₃ D ₄ | 23.55 def | 30.22 | 5.88 cde | 7.01 abcd | 12.89 abc | 45.00 |
| V ₃ D ₅ | 21.79 fgh | 28.46 | 5.88 cde | 6.96 bcd | 12.84 abc | 45.00 |
| V ₄ D ₁ | 26.41 abc | 28.23 | 6.16 bcde | 7.33 abc | 13.49 ab | 45.00 |
| V ₄ D ₂ | 26.98 ab | 28.54 | 6.33 ab | 7.38 abc | 13.71 ab | 46.00 |
| V ₄ D ₃ | 27.34 a | 29.43 | 6.76 ab | 7.81 ab | 14.57 a | 46.00 |
| V ₄ D ₄ | 26.96 ab | 28.40 | 5.77 de | 6.78 cde | 12.55 bcd | 45.00 |
| V ₄ D ₅ | 23.89 c-f | 27.71 | 5.56 ef | 6.97 bcd | 12.53 bcd | 44.00 |
| Significance level | 0.05 | NS | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | NS |
| CV (%) | 5.81 | 4.21 | 6.01 | 6.82 | 7.11 | 5.09 |

265 Means in a same column followed by different letter (s) are significantly different at $P < 0.05$; (V_1 - Sonar
266 Bangla-1, V_2 - Jagoran; V_3 - BRRI Dhan-29; V_4 - BINA Dhan-6 and D_1 -10 December, D_2 -25 December,
267 D_3 -10 January, D_4 -25 January; D_5 -10 February)

268 3.10 Harvest index

269 Varieties exerted a significant effect on harvest index (Table 3). It is evident that the highest
270 harvest index (46.20%) was recorded from Sonar Bangla-1 which was statistically similar
271 with Jagoran (44.60%) and BRRI Dhan29 (45.20 %). The lowest harvest index (43.60%) was
272 obtained from BINA Dhan6 which led to the lowest grain yield (5.6 t ha^{-1}).

273 Harvest index also varied significantly due to date of transplanting (Table 3). The highest
274 harvest index (46.50 %) was observed in 10 January planting which statistically similar with
275 25 December and 10 December planting. The lowest harvest index (43.50 %) was obtained
276 in 10 February planting. However, interaction of variety and date of planting on harvest index
277 was non-significant.

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280 4. CONCLUSION

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282 The result revealed that there was significant effect of date of transplanting on yield of
283 potential varieties of rice in Boro season. The highest grain yield (6.41 t ha^{-1}) was obtained
284 from Sonar Bangla-1. Therefore, it may be concluded that Sonar Bangla-1 has emerged as the
285 best variety in Boro season regarding grain and straw yields among the varieties studied
286 under the present investigation and it should be preferably be transplanted between 25
287 December to 10 January to have higher yield.

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