

Original Research Article

COMPARATIVE EFFECT OF FUNGICIDES AGAINST BLAST DISEASE OF RICE

ABSTRACT

Keeping in view the importance of rice blast disease, an experiment was conducted in the Laboratory of dept. of Plant Pathology & Seed Science, Sylhet Agricultural University, Sylhet Bangladesh and at the field of regional BADC Seed Production farm, Khadimnagar, Sylhet, Bangladesh to evaluate seed health status of the collected samples and effectiveness of fungicides against blast disease of rice. Treatments viz T₁: Edifen 50 EC (Edifenphos), T₂: Karisma 28 SC (Azoxystrobin 20% + Cyproconazole 8%), T₃: Nativo 75 WP (Tebuconazole 50% +Trifloxystrobin 25%), T₄: Trooper 75WP (Tricyclazole), T₅: Stanza 75WP (Imidazole), T₆: Amister top (Azoxystrobin 20% + Difenconazole 12.5%), T₇: Control (water) were used both in laboratory and field condition. In laboratory, different seed borne fungi like *Aspergillus*, *Fusarium*, *Curvularia*, *Penicillium*, *Pyricularia*, *Bipolaris*, *Alternaria*, were detected from the collected seed sample by blotter method. In the field, treatments were applied as foliar spray for three times with ten days interval. The lowest blast disease incidence (34.0%), lowest severity (31.6%) was found in T₂: Karisma 28 SC treated plots and gave best result in term of yield (6.3 ton/ha) in comparison to other treatments. The results of the present studies suggested that use of T₂ = Karisma 28 SC is the best choice against rice blast with lowest disease incidence and highest yield.

Keywords: Rice blast, *Pyricularia grisea*, seed borne pathogens, fungicidal control

1. INTRODUCTION

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is an important crop to provide staple food and food security to millions population of the world and is one of the main foodstuffs in Asia. It is central to Bangladesh's economy, accounting for nearly 20 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) and providing about one-sixth of the national income of Bangladesh [18]. Every year production of rice is affected by different factors of which disease play a vital role. In Bangladesh, 43 diseases are known to occur on the rice crop, among these diseases 27 are seed borne of which 14 are of major importance. Of the seed borne diseases of rice, 22 are caused by fungi [3]. Among all the seed borne diseases of rice, blast is a major and one of the most devastating diseases caused by *Pyricularia grisea*. Outbreaks of rice blast are a serious and recurrent problem in all rice growing regions of the world. Rice blast is the most harmful fungal disease in Bangladesh, which can lead to losses in rice yield up to 70 to 80% [13, 14]. Blast is known to attack nearly all above ground parts as well as during all growth stages of plant. Incidence and severity of blast disease is increasing especially in the Boro season. In recent years, in Bangladesh, frequency of blast occurrence has increased with invasion into new areas (north and northwest parts of the country). The most popular and

33 mega varieties BRR1 dhan29 and BRR1 dhan28 are recognized highly susceptible to blast
34 disease [1]. For blast disease management at field level chemical control is mainly practiced
35 and other options particularly water management is mostly difficult to practice [9, 11]. Due to
36 non availability of location specific resistant varieties for blast disease, the chemical control
37 is the alternate strategy for the farmers to harvest economic yield. Moreover, poor bio-
38 efficacy of the bio control agents under the severe epidemic condition makes the chemical
39 control is an inevitable and ultimate solution for blast disease management.

40 To combat with this most devastating and recurrent disease, efforts have been made to find
41 out the efficacy of various fungicides on the management of rice blast disease and their
42 impact on grain yield.

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44 | **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

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46 **2.1 Description of the Study Area**

47 The experiment was conducted in the laboratory of dept. of Plant Pathology and Seed
48 Science, Sylhet Agricultural University, Sylhet, Bangladesh and in the field of regional BADC
49 farm, Sylhet, Bangladesh during Boro season from December 2016 to May 2017. The
50 experimental site falls under the Agroecological zone-22 named Northern and Eastern
51 Piedmont Plains. The climate of the area is subtropical in the month of December and
52 January the weather is cold but from February to June it is characterized by heavy rainfall,
53 high temperature and high humidity and scanty during rest of the year.

54 **2.2 Experimental Material and Design**

55 | A very commonly used mega rice variety BRR1 dhan_28 was used as the experimental unit.
56 This study was conducted in Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three
57 replications. There were 21unit plots altogether in the field experiment having plot size 2m².
58 In the laboratory Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with four replications was followed
59 where 28 experimental plates were used.

60 **2.3 Determination of moisture content**

61 Moisture content of the seeds of each sample was determined by an electric digital moisture
62 meter immediately after seed collection.

63 **2.4 Purity Test**

64 Rice seed (40g) was taken from each original farmer's seed sample for conducting purity
65 test. Accordingly the seed was grouped into three categories following International Rules for
66 Testing Seeds (ISTA 2001) as a) pure seed b) other crop seed c) inert matter.

67 **2.5 Detection of seed borne pathogens by standard blotter method**

68 For the experiment, seeds were collected from farmers of different upazillas of sunamgonj
69 district. The farmer's stored seeds were subjected to blotter incubation test for detection and
70 identification of seed borne pathogens.

71 **2.6 Seed treatment with fungicide**

72 After blotter incubation test samples having highest *Pyricularia grisea* association were
73 treated with the treatment fungicides.

74 **2.7 Land preparation and Transplanting**

75 40 days old seedlings were uprooted from the seedbed and transplanted in the main field.
76 The selected experimental plot was opened in third week of November 2016. Before
77 transplanting harrowing, ploughing, cross ploughing, followed by laddering was done to
78 obtain a good tilth. Two seedlings per hill were transplanted where hill to hill and row to row
79 distance was 200cmx200cm. Transplanting was done at 21st December 2016.

80 **2.8 Intercultural operations**

81 Different intercultural operations such as weeding, irrigation, fertilization were done as per
82 requirements.

83 **2.9 Procedure of application of treatments in the field**

84 Treatments were applied as foliar spray for 3 times at 10 days intervals in the field.

85 **2.10 Assessment of disease incidence**

86 The experiment plots were being monitored after 10 days of interval for the first appearance
87 of blast disease. The incidence of disease was recorded for three times (35, 45 and 55
88 DAT). Percent disease incidence was measured by the following formula:

$$89 \text{ Disease incidence (\%)} = \frac{\text{Number of infected plant}}{\text{Total number of plant}} \times 100$$

90 **2.11 Assessment of disease severity**

91 The observations were recorded and scored at 35, 45 and 55 DAT according to disease
92 severity score (0-9) from IRRRI 1996; [5]. Five infected plants were selected randomly from
93 each plot.

- 94 > 0 = Leaf free from spot
- 95 > 1 = Small brown specks of pin point size.
- 96 > 2 = Small roundish to slightly elongated, necrotic gray spots, about 1-2 mm in
97 diameter, with a distinct brown margin, lesions are mostly
- 98 > 3 = Lesion type is the same as in 2, but significant number of lesion are on the upper
99 leaves.
- 100 > 4 = Typical susceptible blast lesions, 3 mm or longer, infecting less than 4% of the
101 leaf area.
- 102 > 5 = Typical susceptible blast lesions, 3 mm or longer, infecting less than 4-10% of
103 the leaf area.

- 104 > 6 = Typical susceptible blast lesions, 3 mm or longer, infecting less than 11-25% of
105 the leaf area.
- 106 > 7 = Typical susceptible blast lesions, 3 mm or longer, infecting less than 26-50% of
107 the leaf area.
- 108 > 8 = Typical susceptible blast lesions, 3 mm or longer, infecting less than 51-75% of
109 the leaf area, many leaves dead.
- 110 > 9 = Typical susceptible blast lesions, 3 mm or longer, infecting more than 75% of the
111 leaf area



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Plate 1: disease severity scale of rice blast

114 Disease severity was determined by using following formula [7].
 115
$$\text{Disease severity (\%)} = \frac{\text{Sum of total rating}}{\text{Total no.of observation} \times \text{highest grade in the scale}} \times 100$$

116 **2.12 Harvesting and recording of data**

117 The crop was harvested at full ripening stage. Following parameters were recorded from
 118 laboratory and each unit plot and analyzed statistically.

- 119 I. Purity (%)
- 120 II. Germination (%)
- 121 III. Moisture (%)
- 122 IV. Pathogen association with seeds
- 123 V. Disease incidence (%)
- 124 VI. Disease severity (%)
- 125 VII. Yield and yield contributing attributes
- 126

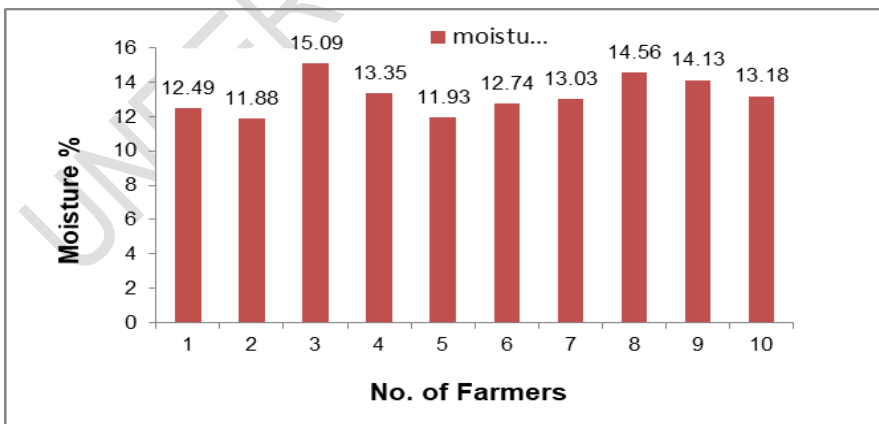
127 **2.13 Statistical analysis**

128 The data obtained for different parameters were statistically analyzed to find out the
 129 significant difference among the treatment. The analysis of variance was performed by using
 130 r program. The difference among the treatment means was estimated by lsd (least
 131 significance difference) test at 5% level of probability ([Gomez-Gomez](#) and [GomezGomez](#),
 132 1984) [1].

133 **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

134 **3.1 Determination of moisture content**

136 The moisture content of the seed samples varied from 11.88% to 15.09%. The average
 137 moisture content of the seed was 13.23 %. Only two samples had moisture content less than
 138 12% but remaining 8 samples had more than 12% moisture content (figure 1).



139
 140 **Figure 1: Moisture percentage of farmer's stored seed**

141 Farmers are not aware enough about the role of accurate moisture percentage on the
142 storage quality of the seed.

143 3.2 Purity analysis

144 In purity analysis, according to ISTA (International Seed Testing Association) rules, seeds
145 were categorized into three components such as pure seed, other seed and inert matter.
146 The percentage of pure seeds, other seeds and inert matter ranged 91.25- 95.75%, 2.96 –
147 7.5% and 1 - 2.36%, and the averages were 93.91%, 4.58% and 1.50%, respectively. Four
148 samples had more than 95% purity while the rest showed less than 95% (Table 2).

149 **Table 1. Purity percentage of farmers stored seeds**

No. of Farmers	Pure seed (%)	Other crop seed (%)	Inert matter (%)
1	95.75	2.96	1.29
2	95.00	3.50	1.5
3	94.20	3.70	2.1
4	91.25	7.50	1.25
5	93.75	4.38	1.87
6	92.13	6.63	1.24
7	95.00	3.72	1.28
8	93.90	5.10	1.00
9	95.45	3.40	1.15
10	92.70	4.94	2.36
Average	93.91	4.58	1.5

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151 3.3 Detection of fungal genera by blotter incubation method

152 After incubation of the sample seeds on blotter paper a total of 7 fungal genera were found
153 to be associated namely *Aspergillus*, *Fusarium*, *Curvularia*, *Penicillium*, *Pyricularia*, *Bipolaris*,
154 *Alternaria*. The fungi were detected through germinated conidia observation from sample
155 seed.



Alternaria sp.

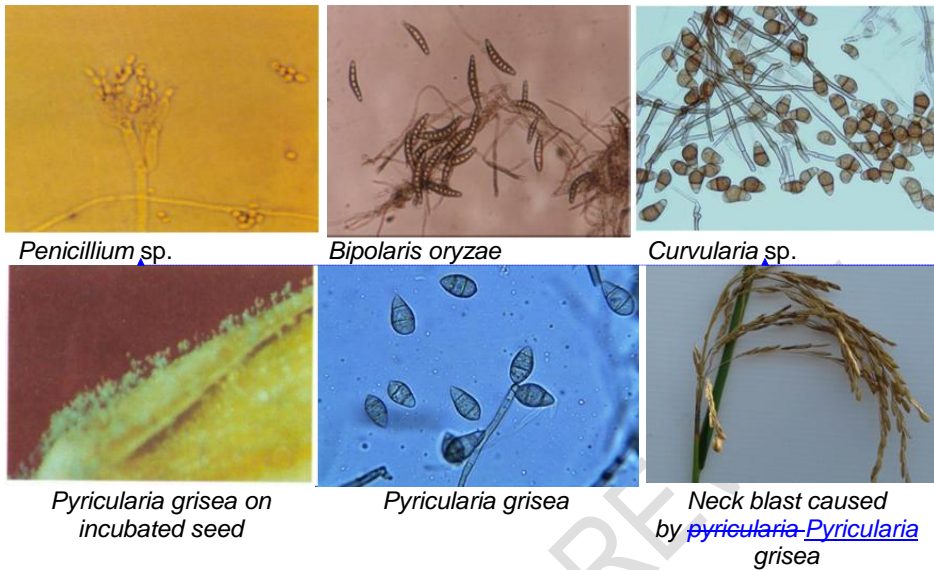
Fusarium sp.

Aspergillus sp.

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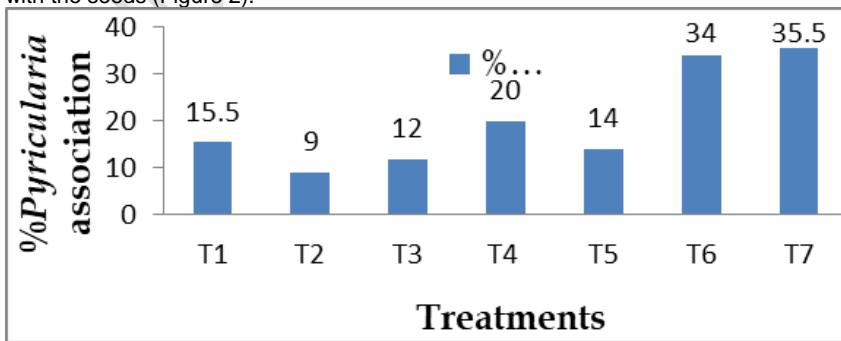
156 **Plate 2: Conidia of the detected fungi under stereo and compound microscope**

157 Seed borne fungal pathogens of rice are detected by many researchers through blotter
 158 incubation and agar plate method. Ibiyam *et al.* (2008) [1] found that *Fusarium moniliforme*,
 159 *Bipolaris oryzae*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Chaetomium globosum*, *Curvularia lunata*,
 160 *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus terreus*, *Alternaria tenuis* and *Penicillium sp.*
 161 were prevalent in storage [8].

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162 **3.4 Effect of Treatments on Pyricularia grisea association with sample seeds**

163 A composite sample was made having highest *Pyricularia grisea* association. Seeds were
 164 treated with the treatments and results observed. From the results it was revealed that
 165 treatments showed significant effect on the pathogen, T2 (Karisma 28 SC) resulted minimum
 166 association of the pathogen and T7 (Control) resulted maximum association of the pathogen
 167 with the seeds (Figure 2).



168
 169
 170 **Figure 2: Effect of Treatments on Pyricularia grisea association with seed samples**

171 | Manandhar *et al.* (1998) and Hajimo (2004) [11], reported that *P. oryzae* is one of the most
 172 | important fungal pathogen of rice because of its widespread occurrence and destructive
 173 | nature [6, 12]. They also suggested systemic transmission of the fungus from seeds to
 174 | seedlings.

175 | 3.5 Evaluation of different treatments on disease incidence of rice blast (leaf 176 | and neck) in field condition

177 | The results of field efficacy of different treatments on disease incidence of rice blast at 35, 45
 178 | and 55 days after transplanting (DAT) were observed and presented in the table 1. At 35
 179 | DAT, the maximum disease incidence (40.66%) was recorded in T₇ (Control) which was
 180 | statistically similar (38%) with T₅ (Stanza 75 WP) and also similar to T₆ (Amister Top;
 181 | 37.66%). Minimum blast incidence (20.66%) was recorded at T₂ (Karisma 28 SC) followed
 182 | by T₃ (Nativo 75 WP; 26%) then T₄ (Trooper 75WP; 29.33%). At 45 DAT highest incidence
 183 | was recorded in T₇ (Control 56.66%) and lowest incidence was recorded in T₂ (Karisma 28
 184 | SC 25.66%). Both the treatments were statistically different to all other treatments applied.
 185 | At 55 DAT disease incidence was minimum in T₂ (Karisma 28 SC 30.33%) followed by T₃
 186 | (Nativo WP 36%). Maximum incidence was found in T₇ (control 62.33%).

187 | The results revealed that in all parameters of incidence status Karisma 28 SC could
 188 | significantly reduce the incidence of the disease.

189 | **Table 2: Effect of different treatments on Rice Blast (leaf and neck) disease incidence
 190 | in the field**

Treatments	Disease Incidence (%)		
	35 DAT	45 DAT	55 DAT
T ₁ (Edifen 50 EC)	34 b	42.66 c	47.33 cd
T ₂ (Karisma 28 SC)	20.66 e	25.66 e	30.33 f
T ₃ (Nativo 75 WP)	26 d	36.33 d	36 e
T ₄ (Trooper 75WP)	29.33 c	47.33 b	49.33 c
T ₅ (Stanza 75 WP)	38 a	46.66 bc	55.66 b
T ₆ (Amister top)	37.66 a	43.33 bc	42.66 d
T ₇ (Control)	40.66 a	56.66 a	62.33 a
LSD(0.05)	3.12	4.60	5.02
CV (%)	5.44	6.07	6.11

191 | Note: Different letter (s) in the same column showed the significant difference at 0.05 level of probability

192 |
 193 | From the literature reviewed from previous records it was observed that the effect of different
 194 | fungicides on leaf blast disease under field conditions was significantly less (15.56%) in
 195 | tricyclazole sprayed plots followed by kitazin (17.63%) and edifenphos (18.03%) [4]. In this
 196 | experiment we can see that percent disease incidence was comparatively lower in T₂
 197 | =Karisma 28 SC (Azoxytrobino 20% + Cyproconazole 8%) than T₄= Trooper 75WP
 198 | (Tricyclazole).

199 | 3.6 Evaluation of different treatments on disease severity of rice blast (leaf 200 | and neck) in field condition

201 | Disease severity of rice blast at three different days after transplanting (DAT) under different
 202 | treatments was observed. All the treatments resulted significant effect on blast disease
 203 | control. At 35 DAT, the maximum disease severity (32.66%) was recorded in T₇ (Control)
 204 | which was statistically similar to T₁ (Edifen 50 EC 31.66%), T₅ (Stanza 75 WP 33.33%) and
 205 | T₆ (Amister Top 30.66%). Minimum blast severity (21.66%) was recorded at T₂ (Karisma 28
 206 | SC). At 45 DAT highest severity (40%) was recorded in T₇ (Control) and lowest severity
 207 | (24.33%) was recorded in T₂ (Karisma 28 SC). After T₂ (Karisma 28 SC), T₃ (Nativo 75 WP),

208 T₁ (Edifen 50 EC), and T₆ (Amister top) significantly reduced blast severity at 45DAT. At 55
 209 DAT, disease severity was minimum (27.66%) in T₂ (Karisma 28 SC). T₃ (Nativo WP
 210 30.66%) showed statistically similar result with T₄ (Trooper 75WP 34%) and T₂ (Karisma 28
 211 SC 27.66%) whereas T₂ (Trooper 75WP 27.66%) and T₄ (Karisma 28 SC 30.66%) are
 212 statistically different. Maximum severity was found in T₇ (control 42.33 %).

213 **Table 3: Effect of different treatments on Rice Blast (leaf and neck) disease severity in**
 214 **the field**

Treatments	Disease Severity (%)		
	35 DAT	45 DAT	55 DAT
T ₁ (Edifen 50 EC)	31.66 a	31.66 c	36 cd
T ₂ (Karisma 28 SC)	21.66 c	24.33 d	27.66 f
T ₃ (Nativo 75 WP)	25.66 bc	29.33 c	30.66 ef
T ₄ (Trooper 75WP)	29 ab	36 b	34 de
T ₅ (Stanza 75 WP)	33.33 a	37.66 ab	38.33
T ₆ (Amister top)	30.66 a	30.66 c	bc
T ₇ (Control)	32.66 a	40 a	40 ab
LSD(0.05)	4.33	3.79	42.33 a
CV (%)	8.33	6.50	3.93

215 Note: Different letter (s) in the same column showed the significant difference at 0.05 level of probability

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217 Researchers found that application of isoprothiolane and tricyclazole significantly reduced
 218 the blast severity by 19.5% and 20.06% respectively [2]. Sood and Kapoor (1997) found
 219 similar result where tricyclazole was the most effective in reducing leaf and neck blast [17].
 220 Now in recent years the pathogen *Pyricularia grisea* is showing resistance against Trooper
 221 75 WP (tricyclazole). In this experiment a new fungicide (Karisma 28 SC, Azoxystrobin 20%
 222 + Cyproconazole 8%) was used against the disease. The new fungicide showed best result
 223 in controlling the blast disease among all the fungicides used.

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225 3.7 Performance of different treatments on yield and yield contributing 226 attributes

227 Along with the all yield contributing characters Yield was assessed and compared within the
 228 treatments

229 3.7.1 Plant Height (cm)

230 The effect of different treatments on plant height were observed and presented in the (Table
 231 7). From the experiment we found that no any treatment significantly affected the height of
 232 the rice plant.

233 3.7.2 Spikelet per panicle

234 Spikelet is the main yield contributing attribute of rice plant. If the number of spikelet is
 235 higher in each panicle, yield will be maximum. In this case T₂ (Karisma 28 SC) resulted
 236 highest number of spikelet per panicle. It is also statistically similar to T₃ (Nativo 75 WP). The
 237 lowest number of spikelet was recorded in T₇ (Control) (Table 7).

238 3.7.3 Unfilled grain per panicle

239 Rice blast specially panicle and node blast causes severe damage to the grain and panicle
 240 of rice. In severe node blast total panicle breaks down at the base point of the panicle.
 241 Panicle blast causes unfilled grain resulting poor yield. In the present study it is found that
 242 treatment seven (T₇) was unsuccessful to control the disease. Number of unfilled grain was
 243 maximum in T₇ (control). The lowest no. of unfilled grain was found in T₂ (Karisma 28 SC).
 244 All the other treatments showed significantly better result in comparison to control plot (Table
 245 7).

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248 **3.7.4 No. of effective tiller per hill**

249 Tiller number was not significantly differed among the treatments. Not a single treatment
250 showed any effect on the difference of number of effective tiller.

251 **3.7.5 Yield**

252 The grain yield was statistically different from one treatment to another treatment. The
253 minimum yield was recorded in T₇ (control) and maximum was found in T₂ (Karisma 28 SC).

254 Yield differed among the treatments due to disease severity, lower number of spikelet per
255 panicle, weather factors (table 7?).

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257 **Table 4: Effect of different treatments on yield and yield contributing attributes**

Treatments	Plant height (cm)	No. of spikelet/panicle	No. of unfilled grain/panicle	No. of effective tiller/hill	Yield/plot (kg/plot)	Yield (ton/ha)
T ₁ (Edifen 50 EC)	69.00 a	123 b	20 bc	15.66 ab	2.06 bc	5.15
T ₂ (Karisma 28 SC)	72.13 a	134 a	15.33 d	16.33 ab	2.52 a	6.3
T ₃ (Nativo 75 WP)	69.83 a	131 a	18 cd	17.33 a	2.18 b	5.45
T ₄ (Trooper 75WP)	68.40 a	118.66 bc	21.33 bc	14.66 b	2.02 c	5.05
T ₅ (Stanza 75 WP)	73.66 a	114.33 c	19 cd	17.33 a	2.02 c	5.05
T ₆ (Amister top)	69.23 a	122 b	23.66 b	16.66 ab	2.05 bc	5.12
T ₇ (Control)	73.50 a	105.66 d	34 a	17 ab	1.81 d	4.52
LSD(0.05)	6.78	6.14	4.14	2.66	0.14	
CV (%)	5.38	2.84	10.76	9.10	3.76	

Note: Different letter (s) in the same column showed the significant difference at 0.05 level of probability

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260 Prabhu *et al.* (2003) [1] reported that fungicides application increased the yield of rice [15].
261 Kumbhar, (2005) [1] found a maximum increase of 60.99% in grain yield was achieved with
262 tricyclazole 75 WP [10]. Similar results also shown by Prajapati *et al.* (2004) [1], and they
263 concluded that tricyclazole was significantly superior in decreasing the leaf blast and neck
264 blast by 62.9 and 64.1 percent, respectively with corresponding increase of 72.3 percent in
265 grain yield [16]. Here in the experiment Karisma 28 SC (combination of Azoxystrobin 20% +
266 Cyproconazole 8%) being newly introduced fungicide resulted higher grain yield (6.3 ton/ha)
267 in comparison to very commonly used fungicide Trooper 75 WP (Tricyclazole) (5.05ton/ha).

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4. CONCLUSION

270 Considering the over-all findings it was revealed that the seed health status of farmer's
271 stored boro rice seeds of BRR1 dhan28 is not at satisfactory level. Farmers are therefore
272 may be advised to collect the seeds from reliable source, and check the seed health status
273 before sowing in the main field. Since fungal diseases are most devastating on rice
274 worldwide, fungicides are important tools to control those. The trial on management of rice
275 blast disease by the use of different chemical fungicides reveals that Karisma 28 SC
276 (Azoxystrobin 20% + Cyproconazole 8%) is the most effective control of leaf and neck blast
277 of rice.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

280 The author has declared no competing interest.

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UNDER PEER REVIEW