

Fertilizer and Weed Management Options for Direct Wet Seeded Rice in Dry Season

R Shultana^{1*}, J C Biswas¹, M A A Mamun² and L Nahar¹

ABSTRACT

Direct seeding of rice is an emerging technology. However, direct seeded rice culture in the main field is hindered by enormous weed infestation and it lacks judicious fertilizer management. So, experiments were conducted during dry seasons of 2010 and 2012 with three fertilizer packages and four weed control measures. Rice seed was sown in the field using drum seeder in wet soil. The results revealed that weed density and weed biomass were strongly influenced by weed control methods and fertilizer rates. Weed density was higher in unweeded plots with 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹. Among the species *Echinochloa crusgalli* (L.) P. Beauv. was the dominant species. Three hand weeding controlled maximum weeds. Uses of herbicide for controlling weeds were above 80 and 70% effective. Strong negative correlation was recorded between grain yield and weed density. Herbicide with one hand weeding and BRRI weeder in combination with 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹ produced about 81- 104% higher grain yield than no weeding. Weed free plot produced 112% higher yield with 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹. Besides, herbicide with one hand weeding and BRRI weeder treated plot produced similar yield irrespective of fertilizer doses. The strong positive and linear relationship was found in case of yield and yield components. Herbicide with one hand weeding and 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ gave higher net return (1145 \$/ha). The benefit cost ratio was also higher in herbicide based weed management with reduced rate of fertilizer. Direct seeded culture using herbicide with one hand weeding and 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ could be an option for reducing production cost in dry season along with satisfactory grain yield.

Key words: Direct seeding, Boro rice, weed, fertilizer, benefit cost ratio

INTRODUCTION

Traditionally, rice is grown through transplanting on puddle soil, which needs huge labour as well as water. To combat with this situation, growers in many Asian countries shifting their production system from traditional puddle transplanted rice to direct seeded culture. Direct seeded rice (DSR) is less labour intensive, consumes less water, crop matures 7 to 10 days earlier than traditional transplanted rice. But, DSR faces multiple problems during its growth and development processes from sowing to maturity. Inconsistent plant population, injudicious use of fertilizer, water stress or

presence of weeds in the field often limit crop yield of DSR. Among the crop production constraints, judicious use of fertilizer and economic weed management are very important. The risk of yield loss from weeds in DSR is greater than transplanted culture (Rao *et al.*, 2007).

Grain yield reduction in DSR could be 35-91% depending on water and fertilizer management (Sunil *et al.*, 2010). However, different weed control options are available in rice production. Physical control are eco-friendly but labour-intensive (Roder and Keobulapha, 1997). Delayed weeding due to unavailability of labour is another constraint of physical control (Johnson, 1996). Biological

¹Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Gazipur; ²Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Gazipur, Bangladesh. *Corresponding author's E-mail : rakiba_83@yahoo.com

control by using different bio-agents (Smith, 1992) and mycoherbicides (Thi *et al.*, 1999) may not be effective under aerobic soil conditions. Worldwide Chemical control measures are becoming popular day by day. Many researchers working on weed management in direct seeded rice opined that herbicide may be considered to be a viable alternative to hand weeding (Anwar *et al.*, 2012). However, single weed control approach may not be able to keep weeds below economic threshold level, and may resulting in weed flora, resistance development and environmental hazards. Therefore, diverse weed management strategies need to be practiced for effective weed management.

Like weed management, imbalanced fertilizer rates cause yield reduction. Improper doses of fertilizer often stimulate higher weed prevalence in rice field. Management of weeds along with balanced fertilizers increased net income by reducing losses due to weeds, increasing fertilizer use efficiency and finally increasing the grain yield (Rana *et al.*, 2000).

Limited information on weed and fertilizer management options with DSR system is available for Asian regions. As DSR is an emerging production system, information on integrated effect of fertilizer and weed management on DSR may be helpful to achieve higher yield and to reduce production cost. It is, therefore, a need to explore the efficacy of the methods of weed control and fertilizer rates for augmenting the crop yield. The present study was, therefore, conducted to determine a suitable weed control method and fertilizer management option for obtaining higher grain yield and cost effectiveness under direct wet seeded rice culture.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Experimental site

Two field experiments were conducted at research field of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Gazipur (90°33' E longitude and 23°77' N latitude), Bangladesh during Boro season (January to May) in 2010 and 2012. The soil of the experimental field belongs to the Shallow Red Brown Terrace Soils. The soil was loamy having 47, 35 and 18% sand, silt and clay respectively. Initial soil pH, 6.13; organic matter, 1.4%; the total N, 0.133%; available P, 13.80 mg g⁻¹; exchangeable K, 0.126 meq 100 g⁻¹; available S, 20.27 mg g⁻¹ and Zn were, 0.582 mg g⁻¹. The average air temperature (°C) was almost similar during two reported years. However the highest rainfall was recorded in mid April during 2012 (Fig. 1).

Execution of experiments

The treatments were assigned in a randomized complete block design with factorial arrangement and repeated thrice. Unit plot size was 4.6×3-m. Rice varieties BRRI dhan29 and BRRI dhan28 were used as test crops during 2010 and 2012 respectively. The experiment comprised of three fertilizers and four weed management options (Table 1).

The pre-germinated seeds were sown on puddled and leveled soil by drum seeder. The whole P and K and one third of N were applied at final land preparation. The remaining N was applied in two splits at tillering and panicle initiation equally. Herbicide, Sirius 10WP (pyrazosulfuran ethyl) was applied at 2-3 leaf stage of weed at 150 g ha⁻¹. BRRI developed rice weeder was applied at 20 and 45 DAS.

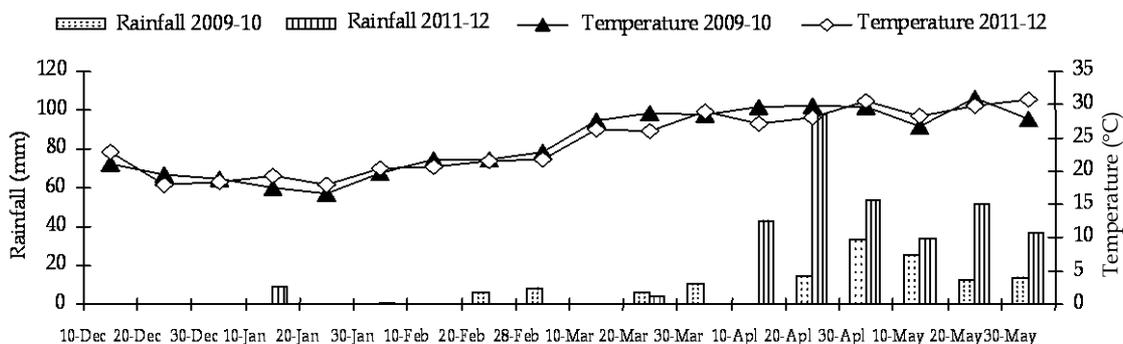


Fig. 1. Temperature and rainfall pattern during experimentation, BRR, Gazipur.

Collection of weed data

Weed samples were collected at 50 DAS. Plot wise weed species were counted and dry weights were taken after drying in oven (Perkin-Elmer Corporation, USA) at 60°C for 72 hours. Weed control efficiency (WCE) was calculated according to Rao (1985).

The contribution of an individual weed species to the weed community were determined by its two factor summed dominance ratio (SDR) (Janiya and Moody, 1989). This was calculated using Relative Weed Density (RWD) and Importance value (IV), as following:

$$RWD (\%) = \frac{\text{Density of individual weed species in the community}}{\text{Total density of all weed species in the community}} \times 100$$

$$IV (\%) = \frac{\text{Dry weight of a given oven dried weed species}}{\text{Dry weight of all oven dried weed species}} \times 100$$

$$SWD (\%) = \frac{RWD + IV}{2}$$

$$WCE (\%) = \frac{(\text{Dry weight of weeds in weedy check plots} - \text{Dry weight of weeds in treated plots})}{\text{Dry weight of weeds in weedy check plots}} \times 100$$

Statistical analysis

Data were analyzed following analysis of variance (ANOVA) and mean differences were depicted by multiple comparison test (Gomez and Gomez, 1984) using the statistical programme MSTAT-C (Russell 1986).

Gross return, net return and total variable cost were calculated and expressed as dollar (\$) ha⁻¹. Net return was calculated by (Gross return - Total variable cost). Benefit cost ratio (BCR) was calculated as:

$$\text{Benefit cost ratio (BCR)} = \frac{\text{Gross return}}{\text{Total variable cost}}$$

Economic analysis

Table 1. Description of treatments.

Factor	Symbol used	Level of nutrients (kg ha ⁻¹)		
		Nitrogen (N)	Phosphorus (P)	Potassium (K)
Fertilizer package	F ₁ =120:26:33 kg NPK ha ⁻¹	120	26	33
	F ₂ =140:36:43 kg NPK ha ⁻¹	140	36	43
	F ₃ =160:46:53 kg NPK ha ⁻¹	160	46	53
Weed control	W ₁	Description of weeding		
	W ₂	Post emergence herbicide (Pyrazosulfuran ethyl)+one hand weeding at 45 days after sowing (DAS)		
	W ₃	Three hand weeding at 20, 35 and 45 DAS		
	W ₄	BRR weeder at 30 and 45 DAS		
		No weeding (control)		

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Weed vegetation

The dominant weed species were *Echinochloa crusgali* (L.), *Cynodon dactylon* (L.), *Scirpus maritimus* (L.) and *Monochoria vaginalis* belonging to family Poaceae, Cyperaceae and Pontederiaceae comprises three major classes Grass, Sedge and Broadleaf.

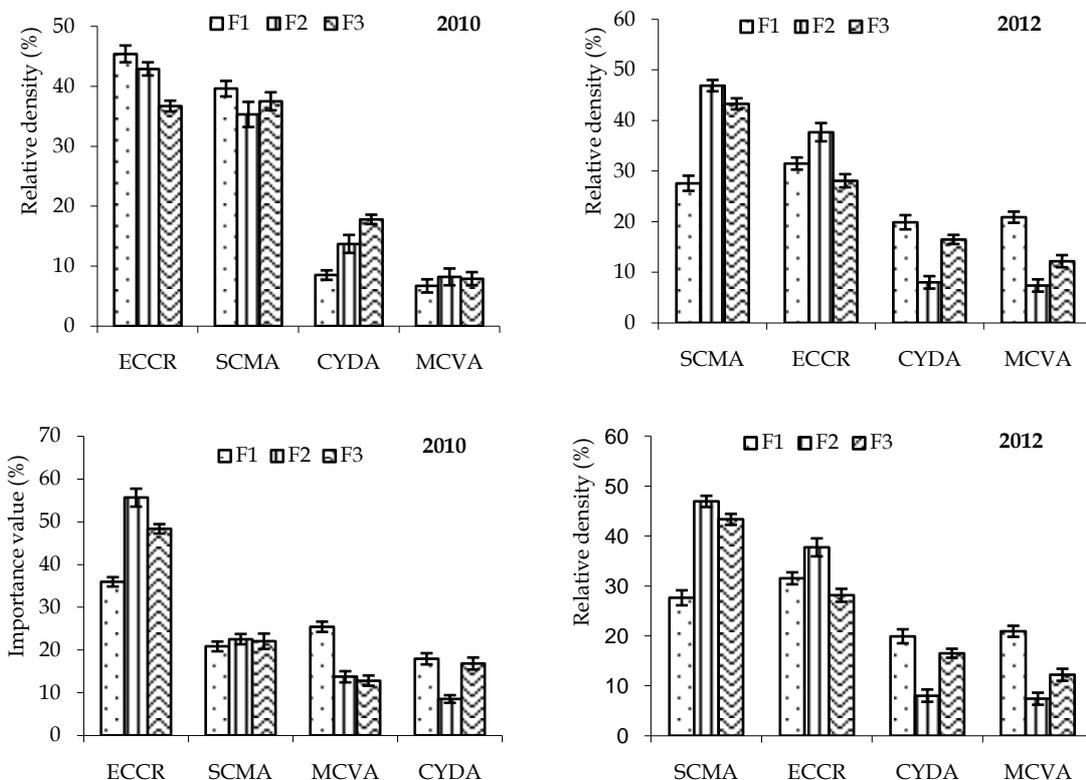
Weed density and biomass

In both the years, weed density and weed biomass were higher in no weeding treated plot with 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹. However, weed free plot with fertilizer doses 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ resulted 94.88% and 93.74% lower weed density and 97.57% and 97.99% lower weed biomass than 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹ treated no weeding plot in 1st and 2nd year, respectively. The plot received herbicide with one hand weeding and fertilizer doses 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ produced 74.56% and 75.40% lower weed density and 83.66% and 86.29% lower weed biomass in year 1 and

year 2 respectively (Fig. 2). BRRi weeder treated plot with fertilizer doses 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ gave 72.22% and 75.29% lower weed density and 79.15% and 82.92% lower weed biomass compared to 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹ with no weeding treated plot in year 1 and year 2 respectively (Table 2). Weed density increases with the increased rate of fertilizer application. Weeds have a higher nutrient requirement than crops and compete strongly for nutrients when high fertilizer rates are applied (Burgos *et al.*, 2006; Chauhan and Johnson, 2010a and 2011a). Application of post emergence herbicide with single hand weeding plus minimum rate of fertilizer not only produces lower weed density but also lower weed biomass. This findings is supported by Chauhan and Ope`na (2013). They observed that additional yield in herbicide treated plot could be achieved by following one hand weeding after post emergence herbicide application.

Table 2. Interaction effect of fertilizer and weed management on weed density and biomass in direct wet seeded Boro rice 2010 and 2012, BRRi Gazipur.

Treatment	Boro 2010		Boro 2012	
	Weed no./m ²	Weed wt (g/m ²)	Weed no./m ²	Weed wt (g/m ²)
	<i>120:26:33 NPK kg ha⁻¹</i>			
Herbicide + 1 HW	58.00	14.81	56.67	12.47
Weed free	11.67	2.20	14.67	1.83
BRRi weeder	63.33	18.89	56.67	15.53
No weeding	191.997	82.01	189.00	82.50
	<i>140:36:43 NPK kg ha⁻¹</i>			
Herbicide + 1 HW	70.67	19.00	66.67	16.17
Weed free	16.00	3.40	18.00	2.80
BRRi weeder	81.33	40.54	82.00	39.83
No weeding	228.00	90.63	229.33	90.93
	<i>160:46:53 NPK kg ha⁻¹</i>			
Herbicide + 1 HW	66.00	42.38	67.67	42.70
Weed free	13.33	2.93	16.00	2.53
BRRi weeder	110.77	53.49	115.00	54.43
No weeding	190.00	65.04	152.00	65.30
CV (%)	10.19	12.18	19.90	12.48
LSD (0.05%)	16.04	7.580	30.25	7.618



ECCR = *Echinochloa crus-galli*, SCMA = *Scripus maritimus*, MCVA = *Monochoria vaginalis*, CYDA = *Cynodon dactylon*, F₁=120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹, F₂ = 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹, F₃= 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹. The vertical bars represent the standard error.

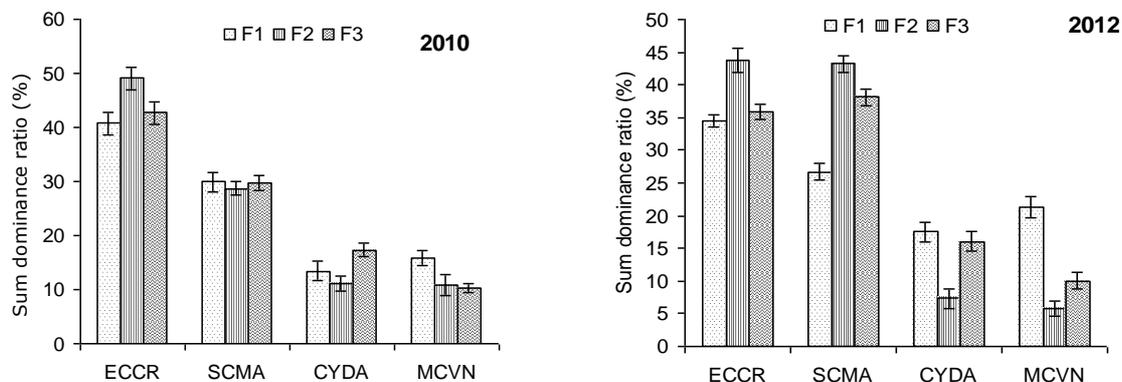
Fig. 2. Relative density and importance value of different weeds in direct wet seeded Boro rice 2010 and 2012, BRRI, Gazipur.

Relative density (RD) and importance value (IV) of weeds

Among the infesting weed species *E. crusgalli* showed maximum relative density with 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (45.4%) in year 1, while in year 2, *S. maritimus* showed maximum relative density with 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (46.9%). On the other hand *E. crusgalli* showed higher importance value with 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹ both in year 1 (55.6%) and Year 2 (49.7%). Among the weed species *E. crusgalli*, recognized as the most devastating weeds for its higher density and importance value.

Weed ranking

In year 1, the most dominating weed species was *E. crusgalli* (40.76-49.05%). In year 2, *E. crusgalli* (43.7%) and *S. maritimus* (43.2%) were dominating weeds with fertilizer doses 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹. However, the grasses (11.08-49.0% in year 1 and 7.3-43.7% in year 2) were the most dominating weeds. The weed dominance ranking expressed *E. crusgalli* first in position. It proves that due to low land ecosystem our soil is very much conducive for germination and growth of *E. crusgalli*. Besides, new seed drops to soil surface every year and increases its seed bank. This findings is supported by Mortimer and Riches (2001), Shultana *et al.* (2011), Al-Mamun *et al.* (2010) (Fig. 3).



2ECCR = *Echinochloa crus-galli*, SCMA = *Scripus maritimus*, MCVA = *Monochoria vaginalis*, CYDA = *Cynodon dactylon*, F₁=120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹, F₂ = 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹, F₃ = 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹. The vertical bars represent the standard error.

Fig. 3. Effect of fertilizer doses on weed dominance ranking in direct wet seeded Boro rice 2010 and 2012, BRRI, Gazipur.

Interaction effect of fertilizer and weeding method on WCE (%)

In both the years, the weed free plot had higher weed control efficiency than the other weeding methods. In year 1, the weed free plot with fertilizer doses 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹ had 90.97% weed control efficiency. In year 2, the weed free plot gave 87.82% weed control efficiency with fertilizer doses 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹. The plot treated with herbicide with one hand weeding gave above 80% weed control efficiency irrespective of fertilizer dose in year 1 and above 70% weed control efficiency irrespective of fertilizer dose in year 2. In both the years, BRRI weeder treated plot showed above 60% weed

control efficiency irrespective of fertilizer dose (Table 3).

Relationship of rice yield with weed density (plant m⁻²) and biomass (g m⁻²)

In both the years grain yield showed strong negative relation with weed number and weed biomass. Singh *et al.* (2008) observed irrespective of the stage of crop growth and type of weed group, a significant negative correlation of weed density and weed dry weight with rice grain and straw yield, indicating the need for minimizing weed density and dry weight to attain optimal rice grain yield (Fig. 4).

Table 3. Interaction effect of different fertilizer rate and weeding options on weed control efficiency (%) in direct wet seeded Boro rice 2010 and 2012, BRRI, Gazipur.

Treatment	Boro 2010			Boro 2012		
	120:26:33 kg NPK ha ⁻¹	140:36:43 kg NPK ha ⁻¹	160:46:53 kg NPK ha ⁻¹	120:26:33 kg NPK ha ⁻¹	140:36:43 kg NPK ha ⁻¹	160:46:53 kg NPK ha ⁻¹
Herbicide+one hand weeding	81.72	80.26	80.41	80.40	77.88	71.25
Weed free	90.25	91.28	90.97	87.82	85.71	82.51
BRRI weeder	73.04	74.70	68.86	67.32	66.63	67.83
No weeding	-	-	-	-	-	-

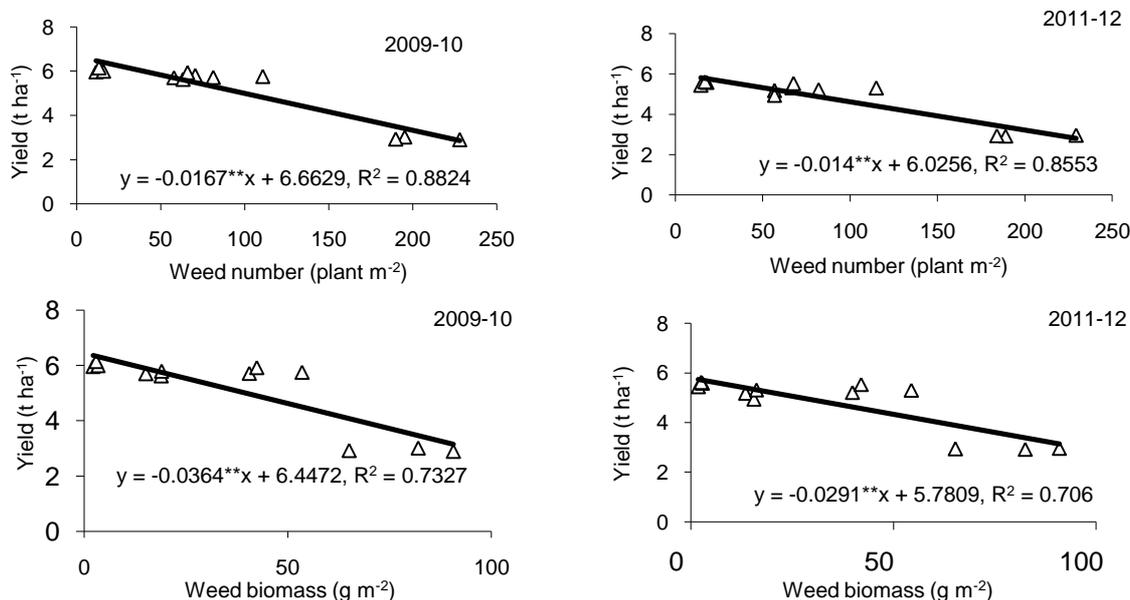


Fig. 4. Relationship of rice yield with weed density (plant m⁻²) and biomass (g m⁻²) in Boro season during 2010 and 2012.

Interaction effect of fertilizer and weeding options on yield contributing characters

In both the years, insignificant interaction effect was found in case of panicle m⁻². Although grains panicle⁻¹ was significant in year 1, insignificant interaction effect was observed in year 2. Thousand-grain weight (TGW) varied significantly both in year 1 and year 2. In year 1, significantly higher grain panicle⁻¹ were found in weed free treatment with 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (85) and 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (85), which was statistically similar to herbicide + 1 HW with 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (83). The lowest grain panicle⁻¹ was recorded in no weeding plot with 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (43). However, in year 2, treatment effect was insignificant. The highest TGW in year 1 was recorded in weed free treatment with 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (20.10g) which was statistically similar to weed free with 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (20.02g), 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (20.07) and herbicide plus one hand weeding with 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (20.08g) treatment and the lowest was found in no weeding with fertilizer doses 160:46:53 kg

NPK ha⁻¹ (18.08g). In year 2, the highest TGW was found in herbicide + 1HW with fertilizer doses 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (21.47). In year 1, weed free plot with 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹ produced significantly higher yield, which was 112% higher than 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹ with no weeding plot.

The plot received herbicide with one hand weeding and BRRRI weeder were statistically similar irrespective of fertilizer rate. The plot treated with 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹ and herbicide with one hand weeding and BRRRI weeder with same fertilizer dose produced 104.45% and 98.62% higher than no weeding plot with 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹. In year 2, weed free with 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹ produced significantly higher yield, which was statistically similar to weed free with 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ and 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹ and shows 92.12% higher yield than 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ treated with no weeding plot. However, herbicide with one hand weeding and BRRRI weeder treated plot gave higher yield with 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹. This is 89.38% and 81.51% higher than

120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ with no weeding plot (Table 4). Significant interaction effect of fertilizer and weeding method on grain yield was observed in both the years. Among the treatment combination no weeding plot with higher rate of fertilizer produced significantly lower yield. It reveals that higher doses of fertilizer enhanced higher weed pressure. However, weed free plot, herbicide with one hand weeding and BRRRI weeder treated plot produced statistically similar yield irrespective of fertilizer dose. Two times application of BRRRI weeder resulted lower weed biomass. Due to lower rice weed competition, the maximum fertilizer effect was exhibited on herbicide based weed management and BRRRI weeder treated plot. Weed prevalence was comparatively lower where the plot treated with post emergence

herbicide at 1-2 leaf stages of weed with additional one hand weeding (43 DAS). Increased N dose for yield maximization was reported by Singh and Prasad (1999). These results were also supported by Kamara *et al.* (2011) and Oikeh *et al.* (2008). They reported that number of grains panicle⁻¹ increased with increased in N rates and also found number of grains panicle⁻¹ was positively correlated with grain yield and subsequently produced higher grain yields of NERICA 1 rice. Increase in grain yield for application of N was mainly due to improvement in yield components i.e. number of effective tillers and grains panicle⁻¹.

Relationship between yield and yield components

Based on two years data, yield showed significantly strong positive correlation with yield components. (Fig. 5).

Table 4. Interaction effect of fertilizer and weeding options on yield and yield components in direct wet seeded Boro rice 2010 and 2012, BRRRI, Gazipur.

Weeding option	Panicle m ⁻²			Grain panicle ⁻¹			TWG (g)			Yield (t ha ⁻¹)		
	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃
<i>Boro 2010</i>												
W ₁	370	367	374	77	83	84	20.08	19.83	19.61	5.71	5.8	5.93
W ₂	375	377	372	83	85	85	20.10	20.02	20.07	5.97	6	6.15
W ₃	360	366	367	72	80	82	18.92	19.10	19.11	5.63	5.72	5.76
W ₄	314	319	315	43	53	68	18.63	18.72	18.08	3.02	2.9	2.93
LSD	NS			4.95			0.05			0.50		
CV%	10.18			3.87			0.38			9.05		
<i>Boro 2012</i>												
W ₁	365	371	368	72	75	81	21.01	21.43	21.47	5.18	5.31	5.53
W ₂	368	370	377	80	78	77	21.04	21.10	21.13	5.44	5.58	5.61
W ₃	363	364	363	67	75	71	20.73	20.67	21.01	4.94	5.21	5.3
W ₄	338	335	328	47	59	50	19.84	19.89	20.09	2.92	2.96	2.94
LSD	NS			NS			0.42			0.40		
CV%	8.04			6.73			1.19			5.03		

F₁= 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹, F₂ = 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹, F₃=160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹, W₁ = Herbicide+ 1HW, W₂ = Weed free, W₃ = BRRRI weeder, W₄ = No weeding.

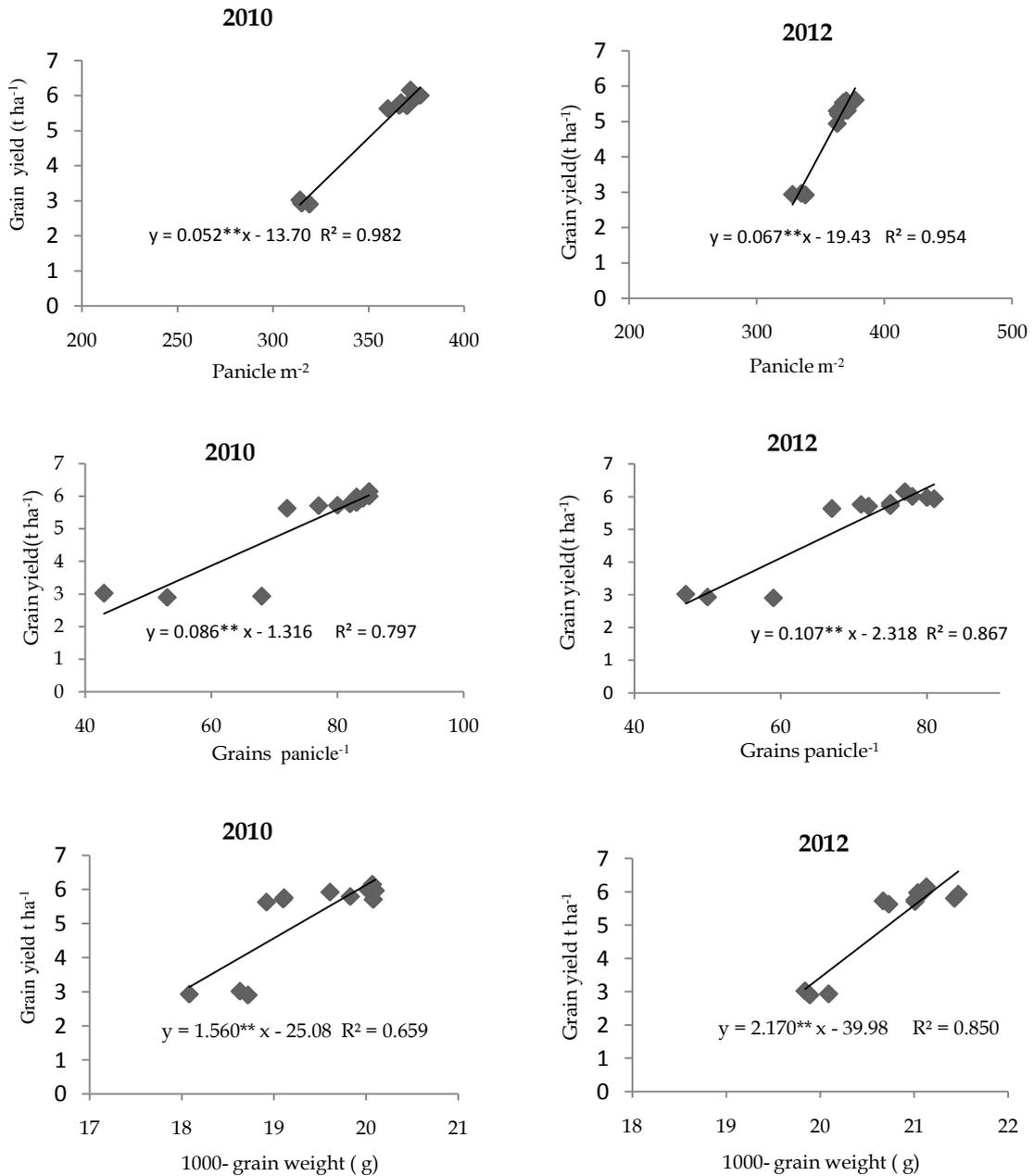


Fig. 5. Relationship of rice yield with panicle m⁻², grains panicle⁻¹ and 1000-grain weight in Boro season during 2010 and 2012.

Interaction effect of fertilizer and weeding options on economic performance

In year 1, higher gross return (1419.23 \$ ha⁻¹) was found in weed free plot with fertilizer

doses 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹ but the total variable cost was higher with this combination (362.21 \$ ha⁻¹). Although the

gross return was higher, it requires higher labour. Due to higher labour price and fertilizer cost the total variable cost increases. Higher net return was found in herbicide with one hand weeding with 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (1,145.004 \$/ha). Higher BCR (6.63) was found in herbicide plus one hand weeding with 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹. In year 2, higher gross return (1,295 \$/ha) was found in weed free with 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹. Total variable cost was higher in weed free with 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹(362 \$/ha). However, higher BCR (6.63) was found in herbicide plus one hand weeding with 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹ (5.92). Because herbicide based weed management requires less labour and less cost was involved due to reduced rate of fertilizer. The weed control by mechanical means (BRRI weeder two times) requires higher labour and it also failed to control weeds in between 2

hills. In consequence, the net return was low in BRRI weeder treatment, irrespective of fertilizer dose. (Table 5). These findings are supported by Khaliq *et al.* (2012) who stated that post emergence herbicide application appeared to be a viable strategy for weed control in direct seeded rice with higher economic returns.

CONCLUSION

The labour scarcity and fertilizer costs are increasing day by day. For profitable rice farming, reduction of production cost is very important. Direct were seeding of rice may reduce the production cost. Economically viable and satisfactory Boro rice yield under direct seeded culture could be obtained through herbicide use along with one hand weeding applying at 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹.

Table 5. Economic performance of fertilizer and weeding options in direct wet seeded boro rice, 2010 and 2012, BRRI, Gazipur.

Treatment	Gross return (\$ ha ⁻¹)			Variable cost (\$ ha ⁻¹)			Net return (\$ ha ⁻¹)			BCR		
	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃
<i>Boro 2010</i>												
W ₁	1318	1339	1369	173	201	229	1145	1138	1139	6.63	5.66	4.97
W ₂	1378	1385	1419	306	334	362	1072	1051	1057	3.51	3.15	2.92
W ₃	1299	1320	1329	229	257	285	1070	1063	1044	4.68	4.13	3.66
W ₄	697	669	676	344	257	285	353	412	391	1.02	1.60	1.37
<i>Boro 2012</i>												
W ₁	1195	1225	1276	173	201	229	1023	1024	1047	5.92	5.10	4.57
W ₂	1255	1288	1295	306	334	362	950	954	932	3.11	2.86	2.57
W ₃	1140	1202	1223	229	257	285	911	945	938	3.98	3.68	3.29
W ₄	674	683	678	344	257	285	329	426	393	0.96	1.66	1.38

*Only fertilizer and weeding costs were considered, Labour and material costs were considered based on the price of the reported year. F₁= 120:26:33 kg NPK ha⁻¹, F₂ = 140:36:43 kg NPK ha⁻¹, F₃ = 160:46:53 kg NPK ha⁻¹, W₁ = Herbicide+ 1HW at 45 DAS, W₂ = Weed free at 20, 35 and 45 DAS, W₃ = BRRI weeder at 30 and 45 DAS, W₄ = No weeding, BCR= Benefit Cost Ratio.

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