

Original Research Article

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Morphological and Nutritional Evaluation of Some Conserved Folk Rice Genotypes to Fight Back Against Micronutrient Deficiency

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ABSTRACT

Throughout the world more than 2 billion people affect due to micronutrient deficiency or hidden hunger, among them women and children put up with more because of their physiological needs. Impaired immune function, complications in pregnancy and childbirth, poor child growth as well as learning disability happen due to Iron and zinc deficiencies. Rice is the staple food of more than half the world's population and since ancient time it is being cultivated in Asia. Considering the importance of rice as dietary source and to fight back against micronutrient deficiency, in the present study the Zn, Fe and Ca content has been analyzed in 45 different folk rice along with some HYVs and hybrid rice. Out of the 45 different folk rice genotypes 25 were aromatic and 20 were non-aromatic in nature. These were evaluated with three high yielding varieties and two hybrid varieties to determine ways to conserve these indigenous genotypes ex-situ in active participation of such experienced farmers at Gontra village, Chakdah, Nadia, West Bengal. All the genotypes were evaluated during kharif season of 2017 and 2018 in Randomised Block Design in three replications following standard agronomic practices. Seed yield among the indigenous genotypes ranged from 227.33g m⁻² (*Tulsimanjari*) to 550 g m⁻² (*Chamarmani*). Other genotypes which recorded comparatively superior performance were *Sitashal* (525.17g m⁻²), *Kedargouri* (525.33g m⁻²), *Tilakkati* (514 g m⁻²), *Langalmuthi* (513.07 gm⁻²), *Dudkhas* (508.33 g m⁻²), *Dadshal* (497 g m⁻²), *Kalma* (485.33 g m⁻²), *Kanakchur* (471 g m⁻²), *Tulaipanji* (471.67 g m⁻²), *Chinikamini* (462 g m⁻²), *Chinigura* (459.33 g m⁻²), *Chinapakri* (485 g m⁻²). The standard semi-dwarf check variety *IET-4786* (*Satabdi*) and *IET-4094* (*Kshitish*) recorded 602.33 and 608.33 g m⁻². Morphological analysis revealed that among the tested genotypes the length varied from 5.13 mm to 10.13 mm, the breadth varied from 1.50 mm to 3.40 mm. Common cultivars contain about 12 mg Fe kg⁻¹ and around 25 mg Zn kg⁻¹ but some traditional varieties were found to possess those micronutrients in double amounts. It is interesting to note that the indigenous genotypes were rich in micro-nutrient compared to HYVs and hybrids tested in the study. Highest iron contents was found in *Sonajhuli* (70.30ppm) whereas highest calcium content was revealed in *Chinigura* (196.75ppm) and highest zinc content was recorded in *Raghushal* (26.45ppm). It is suggested that the indigenous genotypes having considerably high micro-nutrients like Fe, Zn, Ca may be considered as high value rice genotypes. The potentiality of these genotypes might be exploited further due to its commercial importance or through the utilization of their gene pool in the area of plant breeding to combat the hidden hunger.

Keywords

Folk rice, Iron, Zinc, Calcium, Bio-diversity

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Introduction

Rice is the staple food of more than half the world's population and has been cultivated in Asia since ancient time generation after generation. The farmers have conserved thousands of different varieties (Jackson, 1997) and these landraces, together with the 22 pantropical, wild species of *Oryza*, are the genetic base for the breeding efforts to increase the productivity of rice and sustain it. Besides the landrace varieties and wild species, the genetic resources of rice also include the natural hybrids and a range of different genetic stocks comprising commercial and absolute varieties (Biswas *et al.*, 2020). The ability to consistently produce improved varieties depends on availability of broad base of germplasm from which desirable characteristics can be selected. However, in this regards the erosion of agro-biodiversity often signals that continued availability can no longer be taken for granted. Nevertheless agro-biodiversity is a much larger issue, particularly the conservation part, both exsitu and insitu situation (Bordolui *et al.*, 2006a). In any breeding effort these diversity are important because the choice of genotype from such crop diversity is key to the improvement of that crop (Bordolui *et al.*, 2006b). While we can readily identify uses of biodiversity which directly support human life and commercial value we often overlook a most of hidden values which are equally important to human life. The value of micro nutrient in rice germplasm can be of considerable concern. In India, over 6,000 children below the age of five die every day mainly due to the lack of basic micronutrients like Vitamin A, iron, iodine, zinc and folic acid in their diet. An estimated 50,000 children are born deformed each year due to various vitamin and mineral deficiencies, according to studies (Lettington, 2001). The prevalence of iron deficiency is estimated to be about 30%o the world

population [WHO (1992)1], making iron by far the most widespread nutrient deficiency world-wide. In rice the problem of micro nutrient deficiency are of considerable importance, rice seeds, which are usually milled to remove the oil-rich aleurone layer that turns rancid upon storage, are distinguished by a very low content of iron (between 0.2 mg and 6.8 mg per 100 g rice) and by its very low bioavailability. Spence *et al.*, (1991) had been attempts to increase the iron content with the introduction of the ferritin gene from *Phaseolus vulgaris*. Pasamontes *et al.*, (1997) reported that thermo-tolerant phytase from *Aspergillus fumigatus* to over-express the endogenous cysteine-rich metallothionein-like protein. At IRRI Gregorio *et al.*, (2002) have been evaluating the genetic variability of Fe and Zn concentrations within the genotypes tested, suggesting the genetic potential of increasing the concentration of these micronutrients in rice and these lines also had the highest grain of Zn concentration (24-33mg Kg⁻¹). It was also exhibited that aromatic trait was pleiotropic for grain of Fe or Zn concentrations, and therefore, this trait could be well applied for selection of rice genotypes with high Zn and Fe levels. A high iron trait can be confined with high yielding trait (Chakraborty *et al.*, 2020). This has been demonstrated in an improved line IR68144-3b-2-2-3 of rice developed at IRRI (Gregorio, 2002). It is interesting that this report also indicated that in their experiments, the aromatic rice was consistently higher in grain of Fe and/or Zn concentration than their non-aromatic counter parts (Hsieh *et al.*, 1995). With the above considerations, the present investigation has been undertaken to evaluate a collection of 25 aromatic genotypes, 20 non-aromatic genotypes, 3 high yielding varieties and 2 hybrid varieties of rice and document their various seed quality parameters including nutritional qualities and determine ways to conserve these indigenous

genotypes *ex-situ* with active participation of the farmers. The objectives of study were to compare indigenous genotypes with high yielding and hybrid varieties with reference to their morphological and bio-chemical characteristics and to select and identify superior genotypes for its commercial utilization.

Materials and Methods

Twenty five aromatic genotypes, twenty non-aromatic genotypes, three high yielding varieties and two hybrid varieties of rice were raised during Kharif season 2017 and 2018 at Gontra village, Chakdah, Nadia, West Bengal. In that new alluvial soil having at pH 7.07, organic carbon 0.8% soil type clay loam, EC 0.7m mhs cm⁻², available nitrogen 222.6 kg ha⁻¹, phosphorus 24.3 kg and potassium 189.7 kg ha⁻¹. Seedlings were raised in individual plots following standard agronomic practices and intercultural operations in the plot, 30 days old seedlings (one per hill) were transplanted in the experimental plots with three replications following Randomised Block Design. Spacing was 20 cm between the rows, 15 cm between the plants and 50 cm between the two plots. Each plot was 2m length and 1m breadth.

Fertilizer was applied in both the years as per standard recommendation. Field observation was taken on seed yield both the years. Laboratory experiment was carried out to elucidate the morphological and nutritional value (Zn, Fe and Ca) of those fifty rice genotypes at Seed testing laboratory and soil testing laboratory, BCKV, West Bengal during 2018. Observations were recorded on Seed length (mm), seed breadth (mm), seed thickness (mm), kernel length (mm), kernel breadth (mm), kernel thickness (mm), Zn (ppm), Fe (ppm) and Ca (ppm) of these rice genotypes.

Determination of Ca through Atomic Absorption Spectro Photometer Method

Diluate digest of dry ashing as 1:100 with the La-diluant (Add 6.235 gm La(NO₃), H₂O in 900 ml distilled water, make volume up to 1 liter, if nitric-perchloric acid digest is used, diluate it as 1:20). Then prepare standard either singly or in one solution. 0 to 3 mg K/L; 0 to 0.3mg/L in a 2000 mg La/L solution and read with AAS using an acetylene-air flame and condition given for the particular element in operator's manual. The amount of Ca (ppm) in seed tissue was calculated by AAS reading (mg L⁻¹) x dilution / 10000. (Where, dilution = Original dilution X final dilution = 20 x 100 (for dry ash digest))

Determination of Fe and Zn through Atomic Absorption Spectro Photometer Method

Half a gram of powdered rice seeds sample with 5 ml of di-acid mixture (9:4 Nitric acid:Parchloric acid) was kept for overnight digestion. The digested samples were kept on a hot plate till solution turned colourless. The extract was diluted to 100 ml and fed to the Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer. The concentration was expressed in ppm. The amount of Fe or Zn was calculated by Actual reading multiplied with dilution (Here dilution = 200, because 0.5 gm plant sample in 100 ml)

Results and Discussion

The immense genetic diversity rice landraces is similarly reflected by the multiplicity of nutritional characteristics. Appropriate rice varieties exist for enhancing the supply of various nutrients, including protein and certain minerals. Some genotypes may even be evaluated by a combination of favorable nutritional traits. More synergies between nutritional components may exist and have to

be clarified in further scientific work. The diversity of such favourable nutritional characteristics is not represented in the most wide-spread high yielding varieties currently prevailing in Asian rice cultivation. These have been evolved mainly to enhance the quantitative yields, and not the nutritional value. The high nutritional quality of indigenous rice can form a solid basis for

changing priorities in rice breeding, putting more emphasis on the grain nutritional value. Modern conventional breeding techniques, including molecular marker-assisted selection, may be very helpful in accelerating the development of more nutritious rice varieties. Combining high yields and high grain nutritional value thus emerges to be possible without any genetic manipulation.

Table.1 Seed, kernel characters and yield performance of some rice genotypes

Sl. No.	Name of the genotypes	Seed			kernel			Yield (g m ⁻¹)
		Length (mm)	Breadth (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Length (mm)	Breadth (mm)	Thickness (mm)	
1	Danaguri	5.77	1.50	1.45	4.13	1.37	1.30	340.33
2	Kalonunia	7.47	1.77	1.76	5.57	1.53	1.54	346.00
3	Badshabhog	5.93	1.95	1.68	3.80	1.62	1.26	324.67
4	Gobindobhog	6.50	1.92	1.55	4.14	1.75	1.63	300.33
5	Tulsimanjari	6.63	2.10	1.87	4.50	1.73	1.64	227.33
6	Gopalbhog	5.90	1.97	1.88	4.30	1.85	1.69	257.33
7	Khaskani	6.73	2.07	1.81	4.93	1.80	1.60	318.00
8	Radhunipagal	6.70	2.23	1.85	4.20	1.75	1.69	240.33
9	Mohanbhog	5.87	1.90	1.74	4.50	1.80	1.53	240.67
10	Agulha	10.13	2.12	1.90	7.70	1.97	1.63	403.67
11	Gayasur	6.90	2.78	1.93	6.30	2.52	1.49	393.67
12	Kalojira	7.60	2.12	1.77	5.70	1.79	1.56	374.67
13	Fulpakri	6.40	1.85	1.57	4.58	1.75	1.33	383.67
14	Rupsail	7.41	1.82	1.78	5.48	1.52	1.56	251.00
15	Sonajhuli	6.06	1.94	1.76	3.90	1.61	1.28	354.33
16	Chinapakri	6.35	2.11	1.87	4.21	1.75	1.67	485.00
17	Pakri	6.55	2.14	1.87	4.38	1.73	1.67	400.67
18	Raghushal	6.12	2.02	1.88	4.20	1.86	1.65	384.33
19	Chamarmani	6.80	2.01	1.75	4.40	1.75	1.63	550.00
20	Sitashal	6.20	2.26	1.85	4.25	1.77	1.68	525.17
21	Dudherswar	6.21	1.98	1.73	4.50	1.79	1.52	401.33
22	Jamainadu	8.00	2.08	1.86	5.90	1.72	1.66	292.83
23	Langalmuthi	7.01	2.72	1.73	6.03	1.89	1.48	513.07
24	Suanagra	7.61	2.14	1.76	5.75	1.79	1.57	424.00
25	Hamilton	7.69	2.15	1.87	5.55	1.95	1.62	449.33
26	Mocha	9.05	2.85	1.97	6.73	2.00	1.83	414.67
27	Tilakkati	9.10	3.03	2.08	7.15	2.81	1.86	514.33
28	Khejurchari	7.62	1.91	1.77	5.37	2.88	1.53	435.33
29	Vasamanik	8.37	2.69	1.96	5.87	1.97	1.77	383.67

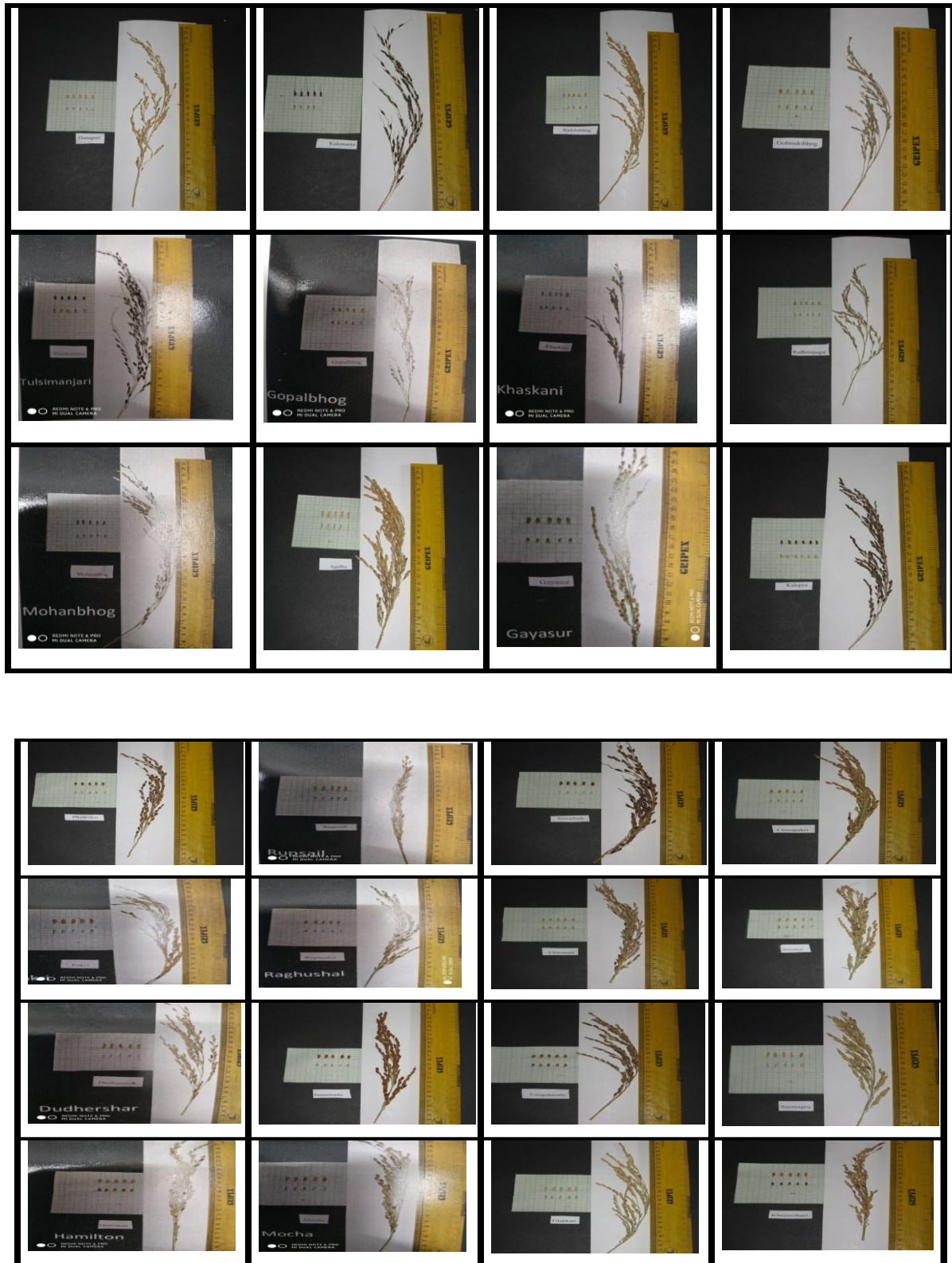
30	Jugal	8.77	2.34	1.85	6.30	1.89	1.74	540.67
31	Kalma	8.64	2.17	1.87	6.43	1.88	1.72	485.33
32	Tulsiphenu	5.75	2.06	1.86	5.00	1.70	1.65	295.33
33	BR-34	5.55	2.08	1.81	4.30	1.80	1.65	382.33
34	Parbatjira	5.13	2.05	1.55	3.90	1.89	1.48	403.67
35	Chinigura	7.84	2.95	2.54	5.80	2.25	1.83	459.33
36	Kalijira	9.82	2.39	1.89	7.23	1.90	1.65	376.67
37	Tulaipanji	5.30	2.50	2.08	4.33	2.07	1.88	471.67
38	Kalijoha	7.75	2.71	2.15	5.80	2.65	1.89	354.00
39	IET13544	8.93	3.40	2.20	7.15	2.92	1.79	406.67
40	Chinikamini	8.50	2.61	1.81	6.17	2.15	1.58	462.00
41	Kedargouri	7.65	2.35	1.80	6.80	2.10	1.45	525.33
42	Dudkhas	7.96	3.35	2.03	7.35	2.92	1.79	508.33
43	Dadshal	5.76	2.07	1.86	3.64	1.81	1.63	497.00
44	Gangajali	10.05	2.57	1.75	6.83	2.00	1.64	439.33
45	Kanakchur	6.67	2.50	1.85	5.27	2.13	1.64	471.00
46	IR-36	10.03	2.83	1.87	5.00	1.90	1.60	518.67
47	IET-4094	10.10	2.57	1.73	6.97	1.90	1.61	608.33
48	IET-4786	10.07	2.10	1.77	5.23	1.89	1.61	602.33
49	CNHR-7	9.87	2.70	1.77	5.27	1.91	1.60	708.67
50	PHB-71	9.87	2.40	1.43	5.27	1.95	1.59	711.00
Grand mean		7.4732	2.3021	1.8361	5.3367	1.9413	1.6176	426.15
SEm(±)		0.1627	0.0581	0.0967	0.2854	0.0475	0.0241	7.6462
LSD (0.05)		0.4721	0.1549	0.2615	0.6651	0.1214	0.0678	20.139

Table.2 Zn, Fe and Ca contents of some rice genotypes

Sl. No.	Name of the genotypes	Desirable trait (s)	Zn (ppm)	Fe (ppm)	Ca (ppm)
1	Danaguri	Small grain, high aroma	16.43	25.53	110.86
2	Kalonunia	Small grain, high aroma	26.42	38.97	144.48
3	Badshabhog	Small grain, high aroma	21.75	25.33	141.28
4	Gobindobhog	Small grain, high aroma	18.23	21.00	175.65
5	Tulsimanjari	Small grain, high aroma	15.60	50.10	156.51
6	Gopalbhog	Small grain, high aroma	18.83	25.57	147.70
7	Khaskani	Quality parboiled rice	21.10	20.30	129.27
8	Radhunipagal	Small grain, high aroma	17.63	32.70	121.74
9	Mohanbhog	Small grain, high aroma	15.77	23.70	114.38
10	Agulha	Quality parboiled rice	15.47	21.13	171.44
11	Gayasur	Quality parboiled rice	14.40	56.40	150.34
12	Kalojira	Small grain, high aroma	19.50	23.30	110.90
13	Fulpakri	Quality parboiled rice	14.73	41.03	156.81

14	Rupsail	Quality parboiled rice	20.33	64.83	123.17
15	Sonajhuli	Quality parboiled rice	21.50	70.30	153.80
16	Chinapakri	Quality parboiled rice	22.72	56.60	122.96
17	Pakri	Quality parboiled rice	25.48	52.03	128.96
18	Raghushal	Quality parboiled rice	26.45	47.87	126.39
19	Chamarmani	Quality parboiled rice	23.47	63.60	157.05
20	Sitashal	Quality parboiled rice	21.03	43.37	120.23
21	Dudheswar	Quality parboiled rice	23.05	56.30	187.63
22	Jamainadu	Quality parboiled rice	21.78	58.53	156.83
23	Langalmuthi	Quality parboiled rice	25.10	64.97	119.91
24	Suanagra	Quality parboiled rice	23.23	56.60	181.56
25	Hamilton	Quality parboiled rice	23.47	65.73	172.24
26	Mocha	Quality parboiled rice	18.53	47.50	123.13
27	Tilakkati	Quality parboiled rice	22.48	35.70	175.58
28	Khejurchari	Quality parboiled rice	20.53	39.00	116.85
29	Vasamanik	Quality parboiled rice	21.77	34.90	187.93
30	Jugal	Quality parboiled rice	19.17	32.60	178.44
31	Kalma	Quality parboiled rice	21.32	36.07	150.72
32	Tulsiphenu	Quality parboiled rice	18.68	23.27	147.67
33	BR-34	Quality parboiled rice	20.72	24.63	157.76
34	Parbatjira	Small grain, high aroma	19.33	28.73	190.79
35	Chinigura	Quality parboiled rice	21.38	23.93	196.75
36	Kalijira	Small grain, high aroma	15.63	21.40	113.69
37	Tulaipanji	Small grain, high aroma	15.17	37.00	104.59
38	Kalijoha	Small grain, high aroma	16.57	20.77	126.12
39	IET13544	Small grain, high aroma	20.82	22.17	181.52
40	Chinikamini	Small grain, high aroma	14.37	27.87	172.33
41	Kedargouri	Quality parboiled rice	20.65	25.27	193.68
42	Dudkhas	Quality parboiled rice	14.94	40.57	144.61
43	Dadshal	Quality parboiled rice	17.30	44.47	120.00
44	Gangajali	Quality parboiled rice	16.77	33.70	116.79
45	Kanakchur	Quality parboiled rice	16.77	20.93	156.76
46	IR-36	High yielding variety	16.17	11.90	126.11
47	IET-4094	High yielding variety	17.37	13.47	110.73
48	IET-4786	High yielding variety	17.90	13.33	104.49
49	CNHR-7	Hybrid variety	18.27	11.57	104.67
50	PHB-71	Hybrid variety	15.23	11.77	107.55
Grand mean			19.4782	36.121	143.83
SEm(±)			0.7051	0.7684	0.1953
LSD (0.05)			2.1333	2.2056	0.4868

Fig.1 Diagnostic characters of fifty rice genotypes





The current prevalence of milled rice on the market decreases the rice's nutritional value and essentially turns it into a simple carbohydrate food. Therefore, in addition to developing more nutritious varieties, realization of the benefits of eating brown rice should be uplifted among rice consumers (Bordolui *et al.*, 2006). Such a combined method would ultimately outcome in a sustainable enhancement of the essential nutrient supply in rice-based diets. So we have to conserve the traditional rice genotypes which have the high nutritional values for further breeding programme.

From this experiment it was found that highest seed length in *Agulha*, seed breadth in IET13544 and seed thickness in *Chinigura* than other genotypes. Seed length varied from 5.13 mm to 10.13 mm, the breadth varied from 1.50 mm to 3.40 mm. The lowest seed length was recorded in *Parbatjira* and highest in *Agulha* and lowest seed breadth was recorded in *Danaguri* and highest in IET13544. Seed thickness varied from 1.45 mm to 2.54 mm and it was lowest in *Danaguri* and highest in *Chinigura*. Seed lengths, seed breadths and seed thicknesses were highly significant difference between the genotypes. The kernel length ranged from 4.13 mm to 7.70mm. It was highest in *Agulha* and lowest in *Danaguri*. The kernel breadth varied from 1.37 mm to 2.92 mm. Highest was recorded in *Dudkhas* and lowest in *Danaguri*. Kernal thickness ranged from 1.30 mm to 1.89 mm and it was lowest in *Danaguri* and highest in *Kalijoha*. The genotypes *Agulha*, *Dudkhas* and *Kalijoha* had highest kernel length, kernel breadth and kernel thickness respectively among the genotypes. Here also these three parameters were highly significantly variation among the genotypes. These seed characters are comparable with the seed length of present day farmer chosen semi dwarf varieties. With respect to seed yield, the high yielding and

hybrids score the highest performance. It was recorded in the hybrids *CNHR7* and *PHB71* followed by the 3 high yielding varieties. Among the indigenous genotypes, *Chamarmani* (550g m^{-1}) was the best yielder followed by *Jugal* (540.67g m^{-1}), similar type of result was observed by Bordolui *et al.*, 2015. The genotypes had almost the same performance in both the years though the genotypes differed significantly. It shows the least environmental influence on seed yield. Normally seed yield fluctuates but here depending on the present investigation less environmental influence as most of the genotypes were traditional genotypes.

In view of nutritional deficiency in diet, it is essential to find out high content of nutrients (like Fe, Zn and Ca) in indigenous rice genotypes. The genetically modified (GM) rice is too costly and it is very difficult for poor people to take their diet daily. There are some indigenous rice varieties which content high amount of Fe, Zn and Ca. the farmers are no longer interested to cultivate these low yielding and long duration varieties due to high ingress of high yielding varieties. It has been slowly realized that the green revolution package in developing country like India has not only replaced much of the indigenous crop varieties, but has mostly benefited the rich farmer, because the cost of high inputs fertilizer, pesticide and irrigation which remain beyond the means of poor, marginal and even economically middle group of farmers. The cost benefit ratio of growing HYV drastically has changed. The rice growing farmers have to look for alternative high value rice which can give them at least sustainable dividend. Another looming on them has been the biopiracy of local rice genetic diversity with corporate control of the seeds market, which is likely to destroy the crop diversity and eventually food security (Shiva, V. 2000). The issue of "intellectual property right" is not clear to many including

farmers but ahead a blunt attempt to establish exclusive marketing rights even in the country of origin of the genetic material has been evidence. Significantly highest zinc content was found in *Raghushal* (26.45ppm) followed by genotypes *Kalonunia* (26.42ppm), *Pakri* (25.48ppm), *Langalmuthi* (25.10ppm), *Hamilton* (23.47ppm), *Chamarmani* (23.47ppm), *Suanagra* (23.25ppm), and *Dudherswar* (23.05ppm), while lowest was in *Chinikamini* (14.37 ppm) preceded by genotypes *Gayasur* (14.40ppm), *Fulpakri* (14.73ppm), *Dudhkhas* (14.97ppm), *Tulaipanji* (15.17ppm), *PHB-71* (15.23ppm), *Agulha* (15.47ppm), *Tulsimanjari* (15.60ppm) and *Kalijira* (15.63 ppm).

It could be revealed that the genotypes varied significantly amongst it selves for iron content: highest value was recorded for *Sonajhuli* followed by genotypes *Hamilton* (65.73ppm), *Langalmuthi* (64.97ppm), *Rupsail* (64.83ppm), *Chamarmani* (63.60ppm), *Jamainadu* (58.53ppm), *Suanagra* (56.60ppm), *Chinapakri* (56.60ppm) and *Gayasur* (56.40 ppm). Lowest iron content was observed in *PHB-71* preceded by *CNHR7* (11.57ppm), *IR-36* (11.90ppm), *IET-4786* (13.33ppm), *IET-4094* (13.77ppm), *Gobindabhog* (21.00ppm), *Agulha* (21.13ppm) and *Kalijira* (21.40 ppm).

With regard to calcium content among these rice genotypes, it was ranged from 104.49ppm to 196.75ppm. Maximum value of calcium was found in *Chinigura* followed by genotypes *Kedargouri* (193.68ppm), *Parbatjira* (190.79ppm), *Vasamanik* (187.93ppm), *Dudheswar* (187.63ppm), *IET-13544* (181.52ppm), *Jugal* (178.44ppm), *Tilakkati* (175.58ppm), and minimum was in *IET-4786* (104.49ppm) preceded by *Tulaipanji* (104.59ppm), *CNHR7* (104.67ppm), *PHB-71* (107.55ppm), *IET-4094* (110.73ppm), *Danaguri* (110.86ppm), and *Kalijira* (110.90 ppm). The genotypes

varied highly significant for calcium content in rice. It is suggested that these group of genotypes can be utilized as well adopted high value rice. The commercial potential of these genotypes are encouraging.

In conclusion among 50 genotypes, the indigenous aromatic and non-aromatic genotypes had better performance for most of the phenotypic traits but they were long duration genotypes with low yield. The high yielding and hybrids score the highest seed yield with moderate duration. However, almost all genotypes were significantly different. But it is interesting to note that the indigenous genotypes were rich in micro-nutrient. Highest iron, zinc and calcium contents were found in *Sonajhuli*, *Raghushal* and *Chinigura* respectively. It is suggested that the indigenous genotypes having considerably high micro-nutrients like Fe, Zn and Ca content may be considered as high value rice genotypes. The potentiality of these genotypes may be exploited commercially.

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