EFFECT OF SEEDLING AGE AND PLANT SPACING ON GROWTH CHARACTERS AND YIELD OF SOME RICE CULTIVARS

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ABSTRACT

Two field Experiments were carried out in summer seasons of 2008 and 2009 at the Experimental Farm of Rice Research section Agricultural Research station, El-Gemmiza, Gharbia Governorate. This investigation was conducted to study the response of two rice cultivars (Giza 178 and Egyptian Hybrid 1), Three seedling ages (15, 20 and 25 days after planting) and three transplanting spaces (20 × 20, 25 × 25 and 30 × 30 cm) as well as their interactions on growth characters, yield and its attributes. The main results could be summarized as follows: cultivars significantly differed for all traits, Egyptian Hybrid 1 variety produced the maximum number of tillers / m², number of panicle / m², panicle length (cm), number of total grains / panicle, 1000- grain weight (g) and grain yield (t/fed). While lowest values of these traits were recorded when using Giza 178 cultivar. Seedling ages had asignificant effect on all studied charactarist. Younger seedlings (15 day old) produced significantly the highest values. While the minimum values of the previous traits were obtained when plants were transplanting at (25 day old) seedlings. Plant spacing significantly differed for all traits. Wider spacing (30 × 30 cm) gave maximum number of tillers/ m2, number of panicle/ m2, panicle length (cm), number of total grains / panicle, 1000- grain weight (g), and grain yield (t/fed) While closer spacing (20 x 20 cm) gave the lowest values. Significant effect for the the interaction between the three factors under study. The highest values of all traits were recorded when using Egyptian Hybrid 1 cultivar, youngest seedling age (15 day old) and widest spacing between hills (30 × 30 cm). On the other hand, the lowest values were recorded when using Giza 178 cultivar, the oldest seedling age (25 day old) and closest spacing between hills (20×20cm)in the both seasons. In general it could be recommended that, using Egyptian Hybrid 1 with seedling age 15 days and plant spacing of 30 × 30 cm under transplanting.

Keywords: Rice cultivars, Seedling age, Transplanting spaces.

INTRODUCTION

Rice (*Oryza sativa L.*) is one of the important cereal crops in the worled as well as in Egypt and the principle food for more than half of the worldpeople. The need to raise grain yield of rice per unit land area is considered anative goal to meet the consistent demande from this crop. Among various factors affecting rice production, such as cultivars, seedling age, transplanting spacing between hills, planting methods, nitrogen fertilization and other most important agronomic practice.

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High yielding ability cultivars is very important to raise productivity. For this reason and other several traits are aming to evaluate the new promsing cultivars with the old traditional for scooping light on the best cultivar that can be used on a large scale .Many investiglators indicated that rice cultivars significantly differed in grain yield and its attributing characters, as reported by El-kassaby et al. 1991, Ibrahim 1995, El- Hissewy et al. 2002, Abdel-Rahmn et al. 2004. El-Bably et al. 2007, El-Maksoud 2008 and Zaki et al. 2009.

Seedling ages are considered in most cases the limiting factor for grain yield and quality. The youngest seedling recorded the highest significant values of grain yield and most of its components. In this regard Chopra et al. 2002 found that theirty- five day old seedlings had grater number of panical/hill, panical length, 1000 seed weight and seed yield than 55 to 65 day old seedlings. Kewat et al. 2002 indicated that transplanting seedlings of 21 and 28 day old recorded significantly higher grain and straw yilds. Upandhyay 2003 recorded that 20 and 30 day old seedlings produced significantly higher grain over growing of 40 and 50 day old seedlings. Mohammad et al. 2004 stated that rice yield decreased with transplanting the older seedlings. On the other hand, Molla 2001 found that twenty-eight day old seedlings produced more tillers, panicles/m² and grain yield than 21 days old seedlings.

Transplanting spaces plays essential role in increasing rice crop productivity. Chopra and Chopra 2004 noteced that widder spacing of 20 × 15 and 30 × 15 cm recorded significantly higher number of panicles than the closer spacing of 15 x 15 cm. However, the seed yield was not affected due to different spacing Shinde et al 2005 indicated that wider spacing of 30 cm produced significantly higher grain (t/ha) attribated mainly due to significantly higher value of number of panicle / m², length of panicale and 1000 grain weight over the closer spacing of 25 cm. On other hand, Patra and Nayak 2001 found that closser spacing of 15 × 10 cm gave significantly higher panicale/ m², grain and straw yields as compare to wider spacing 20 × 10 cm. Hwever panicale length, panicale weight and 1000 grain weight did not influenced significantly by the spacing. Kewat et al. 2002 indicated that transplanting seedlings at closer spacing of 20 x 10 cm produced significantly highest grain and straw yields than the wider spacing of 20 × 15 cm but was comparable to 15 x 15 cm spacing. Shivay and Singh 2003 on hybrid rice PRH10, planting geometry of 20 × 15, 15 × 12 and 30 × 10 cm did not influnced significantly number of panicale/ hill, panicale linght, filled grains/ panicle, panicle weight, 1000 grain weight. This might be due to equal area was provided in each planting geometry / hill.Gunri et al. 2004 and Pol et al. 2005 recorded the same rasults.

The present investigation aimd to evaluate the effect of seedling age and spacing between plants on two cultivars and their interactions under the system of rice intensification (SRI) on yield and yield components.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Two field experiments were carried out at the Farm of Rice Research section Agricultural Research station, El-Gemmiza, Gharbia Governorate, during the two successive summer seasons of 2008 and 2009. The objective of these experiments was to evaluatte the influence of the seedling ages and spacing between transplanting seedlings on some rice cultivars on yield and its components.

Rice grains of the studied cultivar Giza 178 and Egyptian Hybrid 1 was obtained from Rice research section, El-Gemmiza Agricultural Research station, Gharbia Governorate.

The nursery seedbed preparations were well performed, the nursery land was fertilized with calcium super phosphate (15.5 % P2O5) at the rate of 4kg /kirat (175 m²) on the dray soil before ploughing. Nitrogen form of urea (46 % N) was added at the rate of 3 /kirat (175 m²) after the last ploughing and before leveling. Seeds of rice Giza 178 and Egyptian Hybrid 1 rice cultivars at the rate of 60 and 10 kg/fed, respectively. Were planted dry seed on dry soil and then irrigation on 6th May. Weeds were chemically controlled with Saturn (50%) at seven days after sowing. And then transplanting on 21st and 26th and 31st in 2008 and 2009 seasons, respectively.

The permanent field was well performed, calcium super phosphate (15.5 % P2O5) was added at the rate of 100kg /fed. On the dray soil before ploughing, the land was flushed with water. Nitrogen fertilizer in the form urea (46 % N) was added at the rate of 60 units/fed. The first part was added before transplanting the seedlings, the second was added after 30 days after 30 days from sowing, and the third was added after 20 days from the second one.

Transplanting was done by using 15, 20 and 25 day old seedlings under 20×20 , 25×25 and 30×30 cm spacing between hills, under the system of rice intensification (SRI). Weeds were chemically controlled with Saturn 50 % EC at the rate of 2 L/fed.

The experimental plot size was 3m width and 3.5m length, resulted an area of 10.5 m² (1/400 fed). The previous crop was Egyptian clover (*Trifolium alexandrinum*) in both seasons.

However, the common agricultural practices for growing rice according to the recommendations of Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation were followed, except the factors under study. SRI watering management was followed (Irrigation was when the onset of cracking of the soil, or once a week).

The experiments were carried out in split split plot design with three replications. The two cultivars (Giza 178 and Egyptian Hybrid 1) were randomly arranged in the main plots, while the sup plots received to three seedling ages (15, 20 and 25 days) and The sup sub plots were devoted to three transplanting spaces (20 × 20, 25 × 25 and 30 × 30 cm).

All data of this study were subjected to the statistical analyzed as the technique of analysis of variance (ANOVA) for the split split plot design as

mentioned by Gomez and Gomez 1984, by using means of "MSTAT-C" computer software package. Least Significant Difference (LSD) method was used to test the differences between treatment means at 5 % level of probability as described by Snedecor and Cochran 1980.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effect of cultivars:

In both seasons the results in Table 1 indicated that the two tested cultivars significantly differed in all studied characters. Egyptian Hybrid 1 rice cultivar significantly produced the highest number of tillers /m², number of panicles /m², panicle length (cm), number of total grains / panicle, 1000- grain weight and grain yield (t/fed),. While Giza 178 rice cultivar produced the lowest values. Differential performance of two cultivars may be attributed to differences in genetic back ground and constitution of these cultivars. These results were parallel with those reported by Abou khalifa et al 2009.

Table 1: Means of number of tillers /m², number of panicles /m², panicle length (cm), number of total grains/ panicle, 1000- grain weight and grain yield(tfied) of rice as affected by cultivar, seedling ages and transplanting spaces during 2008 and 2009 seasons

	ges and transplanting spaces during 2006 and 2009 season											
Characters	Number of tillers		Number of panicles /m²			e length m)	Numbe grains/	roftotal panide	1000- wei		Grain (vik	yield edi
Treatments	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009	2009	2008	2009	2008	
A-Rice cultivars:												
Giza178	407.82	405.64	384.49	395.43	21.78	22.07	141.03	13903	25.37	2527	3.96	3.64
Egyptian Hybrid 1	423.15	420.60	402.52	410.58	22.90	23.94	164.07	16203	26.38	2628	4.75	4.95
F. test	#	***	**	**	*	*	-	für	**	Ask	**	200
B seeding ages:												
15 day	427.03	425.72	406.44	415.63	23.48	24.12	166.61	164.55	26.91	26.80	4.61	4.45
20 day	41265	414.27	388.09	404.00	22.06	22.50	150.50	148.50	25.88	25.75	4.36	4.03
25 day	406.78	399.36	385.98	389.37	21.48	20.91	140.55	138.55	24.83	24.77	4.09	3.50
F. test	***	***	1	**	**	4			**	1	**	Sept
LSDat5%	4.17	3.08	250	3.16	0.22	0.13	7.50	7.4	0.26	8	0.14	0.05
C-Transplanting s			-									
20×20cm	403.48	403.15	382.58	393.09	21.67	21.81	149.50	147.50	2383	23.78	4.01_	338
25×25 cm	417.72	414.26	396.92	403.82	2231	22.48	153.00	15294	2582	25.78	4.30	4.10
30×30cm	42526	421.94	401.02	41209	23.04	2323	155.16	155.16	27,97	27.76	4.46	4.90
F. test	**	*	**		*	*	—**	**	4	*		*
LSDat5%	242	125	3.03	3.66	0.03	0.06	0.30	3.04	.026	0.24	0.14	0.11
D-The interaction	B:											
A×B	-	NS	NS	NS	-	•	-	***	*	NS	*	***
A×c	NS	*	NS	-	*	NS	NS	-	Ŋ	**	*	-
B×C	NS	**	-	_ **		_		*	NS	NS	**	**
A×B×C		**	*	**	NS_	29	T. *	*	*	*	NS_	NS

Effect of seedling ages:

The results in Table 1 indicated that all measured traits were significantly affected by seedling ages. The highest number of tillers /m², number of panicles /m², panicle length (cm), number of total grains / panicle, 1000- grain weight and grain yield (t/fed), were produced when using the youngest seedling 15 day old in the first and second seasons. On the other hand the oldest seedling age 25 day old gave the lowest values of these traits. These are in agreement with those obtained by Khusrul and Aminul

2009 Salem. et al 2011. On other hand, Molla 2001 found that twenty – eight day old seedlings produced more tillers, panicle / m² and grain yield than 21 day old seedlings. Similar results were also obtained by Mohammad et al. 2004.

Effect of transplanting spaces:

The statistical analyses of data in Table 1, recorded that all measured trait were significantly affected by transplanting spaces. The highest number of tillers $/m^2$, number of panicles $/m^2$, panicle length (cm), number of total grains / panicle, 1000- grain weight and grain yield (t/fed), Were produced when using the widest spacing between hills (30 × 30 cm) in both seasons. While the lowest values were obtained when using the closest spacing between hills (20 × 20 cm). These results are in agreement with those obtained by Srivastav and Tripathi 1998. These increases in all traits may be due to the regular space between plants that make solar radiation which enable to pass all canopies and make plants are well in photosynthesis process.

Effect of the interaction between cultivars and seedling ages:

The results in Table 2 indicated that the interaction between cultivars and seedling ages had a significant effect on some measured traits. The highest number of tillers /m² in the first season, panicle length (cm), number of total grains / panicle in the first and second seasons, respectively., 1000-grain weight in first season and grain yield (t/fed) in the first and second seasons, respectively, were recorded when using Egyptian Hybrid 1 cultivar and youngest seedling ages (15 day old). On the other hand, the lowest values of these characters were obtained when using Giza178 cultivar and oldest seedling ages 25 day.

Table 2: Means of number of tillers /m², number of panicles /m², panicle length (cm), number of total grains/ panicle, 1000- grain weight and grain yield (thed), of rice as affected by the interaction between cultivars and transplanting ages during 2008 and 2009 seasons:

		551151							
	Characters	Number of fillers im ²		le length cm)	Number grains/		1000-grain weight	(1/5	yield ed)
Treatments		2008	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2008	2009
cultivars	ages								
Giza178	15 day	418.7	229	23.7	13522	13322	2627	4.11	3.92
	20 day	4072	21.4	221	126.00	124.00	25.44	4.06	3.71
	25 day	397.5	20.9	20.3	111.88	109.88	24.38	3.71	3.30
Emerican	15 day	435.3	24.0	24.5	176.33	174.33	27.55	5.12	4.98
Egyptian Hybrid 1	20 day	418.0	227	228	153.11	151.11	26.33	4.66	4.36
i iyona i	25 day	416.0	21.9	21.4	144.11	142.11	2527	4.47	3.70
F. test			100	*	*	***		*	-
LSDat5%		228	0.11	0.18	5.87	5.87	0.27	021	0.12

Effect of the interaction between cultivars and transplanting spaces:

The results in Table 3 indicated that the interaction between cultivars and transplanting spaces on all measured traits had a significant effect. The highest number of tillers /m², number of panicles /m² in the second season, panicle length (cm) in the first season, number of total grains / panicle in the

second season, and 1000- grain weight in the second season and grain yield (t/fed) in the first and second seasons, respectively. Were recorded when using Egyptian Hybrid 1 and widest spacing between hills (30 × 30 cm). On the other hand, the lowest values of these traits were produced when using Giza178 and closest spacing between hills (20 × 20 cm).

Table 3: Means of number of tillers /m², number of panicles /m², panicle length (cm), number of total grains/ panicle, 1000- grain weight and grain yield of rice as affected by the interaction between cultivars and transplanting spaces during 2008 and 2009 seasons:

Treatments	Characters	tillers/m²	Number of panicles im	Panide length (cm)	Number of total grains/ panicle	1000-grain weight	Grainyie /lie	ld (t
		2009	2009	2008	2009	2009	2008	2009
cultivars	spaces							
Giza178	20×20cm	395.3	3852	21.1	121.66	3.90	291	23.46
	25×25cm	405.7	395.0	21.8	119.55	4.01	3.87	25.30
	30×30cm	4158	4059	22.3	125.88	3.97	4.14	27.06
Con antions	20×20cm	410.9	400.9	221	153.11	4.72	3.85	24.10
Egyptian Hybrid 1	25×25cm	4227	4125	227	155.22	4.58	4.33	2627
пушш	30×30cm	4280	4182	23.7	15922	4.95	4.86	28.46
F. test	_	*	*a*	**		**	*	**
LSDat5%		1.66	1.75	0.11	5.87	020	021	0.12

Effect of the interaction between seedling ages and transplanting spaces:

The results in Table 4 showed that, the interaction between seedling ages and transplanting spaces on some measured traits differ significantly. The highest number of tillers /m² in the second season, number of panicles /m², panicle length cm, number of total grains / panicle and grain yield (t/fed) in the first and second seasons, respectively.

Table 4: Means of number of tillers /m², number of panicles /m², panicle length (cm), number of total grains / panicle and grain yield of rice as affected by the interaction between transplanting ages and transplanting spaces during 2008 and 2009 seasons.

	Characters	Numberal tillers/m²	Numberofpanides Im²		Paniclelength (cm)		Numberofiotal grains/panide		Grain yield (Med)	
Treatments		2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2006	2009
Ages	Spaces									
15day	20×20cm	4196	3952	409.3	22.5	235	153.33	151.33	4.41	3.73
	25×25cm	424.3	407.9	414.0	232	24.0	144.66	14266	4.40	4.48
	30×30cm	433.2	416.1	4235	24.5	248	169.33	167.33	5.03	5.15
	20×20cm	401.7	380.1	391.9	21.7	21.9	151.83	14983	4.35	3.51
20 day	25×25cm	416.9	3940	406.0	222	225	137.83	13583	4.35	4.13
•	30×30cm	4241	390.0	414.0	222	230	129.00	127.00	4.40	4.46
	20×20cm	388.0	3723	378.0	20.7	199	122.16	12016	4.16	290
25 day	25×25cm	401.5	388.7	391.4	213	20.8	132.50	130.50	4.15	370
	30×30cm	4084	396.8	398.6	223	219	12933	127.33	396	390
F.test		*	*	-	*	-	*	*	-	-
LSD at 5	%	218	525	289	023	025	690	690	0.25	0.19

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Were recorded when using youngest seedling ages (15 day old) and widest spacing between hills (30 × 30 cm). On the other hand, the lowest values of these traits were obtained when using oldest seedling ages (25 day old) and closest spacing between hills (20 × 20 cm). These results are in good accordance with those reported by Chandrakar *et al.* 2008, as well as Sreedhar *et al.* 2010. Studied the effect of three seedling ages (12, 14 and 16 day old) under three spacing (30 × 30, 25 × 25 and 20 × 20 cm). They found that 16 day old seedlings and planted under (25 × 25 cm) spacing recorded the highest values for seed yield and its attributes.

Effect of the interaction between cultivars, seedling ages, and transplanting spaces:

The results in Table 5 indicated that the interaction between cultivars, seedling ages and transplanting spaces on some measured traits differ significantly. The highest number of tillers $/m^2$, number of panicles $/m^2$, number of total grains / panicle and 1000- grain weight in the first and second seasons, respectively. Were recorded when using Egyptian Hybrid 1 cultivar, youngest seedling ages (15 day old) and widest spacing between hills (30 × 30 cm). On the other hand, while the lowest values of these traits were obtained when using Giza178 cultivar, oldest seedling ages (25 day old) and closest spacing between hills (20 × 20 cm).

Table 5: Means of number of tillers /m², number of panicles /m², number of total grains/ panicle and 1000- grain weight of rice as affected by the interaction between cultivars, seedling ages and transplanting spaces during 2008 and 2009 seasons:

		nu transp								
	Creates		Number of tillers im		Numberorpanides im²		Numberoftotal grains/panide		1000-grain weight	
Treatments			2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2006	2009
Cultivars	Ages	Spaces								
	15day	20×20cm	406.86	412.10	38640	401.70	14233	140.66	24.16	24.30
		25×25cm	421.00	417.43	401.36	407.46	157.00	145.33	26.33	26.40
		30×30cm	42826	423.80	403.70	414.03	157.66	155.00	28.33	28.00
Giza178	20 day	20×20cm	396.43	39123	375.93	381.36	135.00	148.33	23.50	23.63
		25×25cm	412.36	409.96	38206	397.93	140.00	138.00	25.50	25.30
		30×30cm	41290	419.73	38233	409.66	150.33	133.00	27.33	27.03
	25 day	20×20cm	384.36	382.66	36266	372.73	119.66	117.66	2233	22.46
		25×25cm	396.90	389.86	375.93	379.80	131.33	129.33	24.50	24.20
Ĺ		30×30cm	411.33	404.00	390.03	394.16	136.00	134.00	26.33	26.16
	15day	20×20cm	425.16	427.13	404.10	416.90	166.66	166.66	25.50	25.06
		25×25cm	435.10	43120	414.46	420.60	178.66	174.66	27.30	27.16
		30×30cm	445.80	44270	428.63	433.13	197.33	195.00	29.86	29.90
Egyptian	20 day	20×20cm	406.00	41230	384.43	40250	144.00	148.00	24.33	24.20
Hybrid 1		25×25cm	420,66	423.86	397.70	405.06	159.66	157.66	26.16	26.10
	1	30×30cm	427.53	424.53	406.10	409.50	174.00	162.00	28.50	2826
	25 day	20×20cm	402.06	393.50	381.96	383.36	148.66	140.66	23.16	23.03
		25×25cm	420.33	413.26	401.60	403.10	150.66	148.66	25.16	25.56
	1	30×30cm	425.73	426.90	413.73	414.06	157.00	155.00	27.50	2723
F.test			-	***	**	**	*	***	•	*
LSDat5%)	_	3.95	2.87	7.03	3.03	9.71	9.75	0.46	0.36

Finally, for improving the productivity of rice crop under the conditions of the present study it is suggested that is to sow Egyptian Hybrid 1 cultivar with youngest seedling ages (15 day old) and widest distance between hills (30 × 30 cm).

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تأثيركلا من عمر الشتلة والمسافة بين الشتلات على صفات النمو و المحصول لبعض أصناف الأرز

عوض طه القصبي ، محمد حسين غنيمه ،عبد الله عبد النبسى عبد الله وتسامر مسصطفى الحفناوي ...

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** مركز البحوث و التدريب في الأرز-معهد المحاصيل الحقلية - مركز البحوث الزراعيــة-

*** قسم بحوث الأرز- محطة البحوث الزراعية بالجميزة- مصر.

أقيمت تجربتان حقليتان في محطة البحوث الزراعية بالجميزة خلال موسمي الزراعـــة ٢٠٠٨ و ٢٠٠٩م وذلك لدراسة تأثيركلا من عمر الشئلة والمسافة بين الشئلات على المحسصول ومكوناته لصنفي جيزة ١٧٨ و هجين مصري١. تم تنفيذ التجربة في تصميم قطع منشقة مــرتين وضعت الأصناف (صنف جيزة ١٧٨ و هجين مصري١) في القطع الرئيسية وعمر الشتلة (١٥، ۲۰ و ۲۰ يوم من زراعة المشتل) في القطع المنشقة الأولى و المسافة بسين السشتلات (۲۰×۲۰. ٢٥× ٢٥ و ٣٠ ×٣٠سم) في القطع المنشقة الثانية. وتشير أهم النتائج المتحصل عليها إلى مايلي: اختلفت الأصناف فيما بينها في تأثيرها على كلا من عدد الأفرع القاعدية / م٢، عدد السنابل/ م٢، طول السنبلة سم، عند الحبوب الممتلئة بالسنبلة، وزن الألف حبة ومحصول الحبوب للفدان، وسجل صنف هجين مصرى ١ أعلى هذه القيم بينما أعطى الصنف جيزة ١٧٨ أقلها. أثر عمر الـشتلات على كل الصفات المدروسة ، فقد أعطى أقل عمر الشتلات (١٥ يوم من الزراعة) أعلى القيم بينما أعطى أكبر الشتلات عمرا (٢٥ يوم من الزراعة) لقلها. أثرت مسافات الزراعة بين الجور تأثيرا معنويا على كل الصفات المدروسة، وأعطت المسافات الواسعة (٣٠×٣٠سم) أعلى هذه القيم بينما كان أقلها عند إستخدام المسافات الضيقة (٢٠×٠٠سم) بين الجور. أثر التفاعل بين عوامل الدراسة تأثيرا معنويا على معظم الصفات تحت الدراسة وكان أعلى هذه القيم عند استخدام صنف الهجيين مصرى ١ والزراعة بأصغر الشتلات عمرا (١٥ يوم من الزراعة) وزراعتها على أوسع مــسافة (٣٠×٣٠سم). بينما كان أقل هذه القيم عند استخدام الصنف جيزة ١٧٨ وأكبر الشتلات عمرا (٢٥ يوم من الزراعة) والزراعة على أقل مسافة (٢٠×٢٠سم) بين الجور .

من النتائج المتحصل عليها في هذه الدراسة فإنه يمكن التوصية باستخدام صنف هجين مصرى ١، واستخدام شتلات صغيرة العمر (١٥ يوم من زراعة المشتل) وزراعتها على أوسع مسافة بين الجور (٣٠ × ٣٠٠مم). وذلك للحصول على أعلى ابتاجية من محصول الأرز تحت ظروف منطقة محطة البحوث الزراعية بالجميزة – محافظة الغربية.

قام بتحكيم البحث

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