

# Effect of Irrigation Regimes and Staggered Transplanting on Growth and Yield of Summer Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) in South Odisha

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## ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted at Agriculture Research Farm, Bagusala, M.S. Swaminathan School of Agriculture, Centurion University of Technology and Management, Paralakhemundi, Odisha during summer season, 2018-19. The soil of experimental field was sandy clay loam in texture, slightly acidic in reaction (pH 6.4) low in available nitrogen (208 kg/ha) and high in both phosphorus (139 kg/ha) and potassium (390 kg/ha). The field experiment was laid out in split-plot design with three replications and 12 treatments combination. The treatments were comprised of three water regimes assigned in main plot (Continuous ponding, continuous soil saturation and saturation after hair crack) and four transplanting dates in sub plots (Transplanting on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January, 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February). The experimental results revealed that irrigation treatments failed to exhibit significant effect on growth parameters like plant height, tillers/clump, LAI, dry matter production and CGR until the peak crop growing period up to 60 DAT excepting plant height at 60 DAT. Crop growth parameters except LAI were significantly influenced by irrigation regimes at harvest. Irrigation regimes had the remarkably effect of grain yield and WUE but it had no significant effect on straw yield. Irrigation with continuous ponding produced the highest grain yield (4.57 t/ha) which was at par with continuous soil saturation (4.30 t/ha). The WUE was significantly increased with saturation after hair (49.62 kg/ha/cm). Dates of transplanting significantly reflected all the crop growth parameters throughout the crop growing period. Transplanting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January significantly recorded the highest grain yield (4.72 t/ha) and maximum straw yield was obtained in 31<sup>st</sup> January (7.99 t/ha) being at par with 23<sup>rd</sup> January (7.63 t/ha). Significantly the highest WUE was obtained in transplanting date of 23<sup>rd</sup> January (47.09 kg/ha/cm).

## Highlights

- ① The transplanted rice applied with irrigation regime of continuous ponding at the depth of 5±2 cm and continuous saturation with the depth of 3 cm during summer improved the crop growth parameters and enhanced the yield and WUE was positively increased under reduced irrigation of saturation after hair crack with 3 cm depth.
- ② Transplanting of rice on 23<sup>rd</sup> January increased all crop growth parameters, grain yield and WUE over other dates of transplanting.

**Keywords:** Saturation, Leaf area index, Crop growth rate, Water use efficiency

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is most important staple food crop of South-East Asia and major food source for more than one third of global population (Sarkar *et al.* 2017). In India, it is cultivated in an average area of 4.16 million ha with the total production of 13.70 million t with an average yield of 3.294 t/

ha taking the 5years mean from 2012-13 to 2016-17 during summer season (DES, 2018). Irrigated rice requires effective water management during the entire crop cycle as rice is very sensitive to water stress. Any attempts to reduce irrigation water results in yield reduction that threaten food security.



Farmers generally follow the conventional method of transplanting as a way of crop establishment technique for rice in order to get the assured yield. Rice requires more amounts of water inputs as compared to other cereal crops. Maximum extent of the world's rice is produced under the conventional irrigation practice of continuous flooding. The growth and yield of transplanted rice are increased under continuous ponding as reported earlier by Marimuthu *et al.* (2010). But with continuous ponding, there is greater chance of high surface runoff, seepage and percolation. It is resulted in much lower WUE of rice than other crops. The WUE of rice will be improved by applying only the precise amount of water needed for the consumptive use. The beneficial effect of saturation in improving the grain yield of rice is being reported by Sudhakara *et al.* (2017). It is a challenging task to obtain optimum yield with less amount of water to meet food, social, economic and water security. To achieve this situation, the technique lies with increase in yield per unit transpiration, reducing the various irrigation losses, use of effective rainfall and application of irrigation water based on visible observation after disappearance of saturation. In this concept, irrigation water is applied to bring the saturation and afterwards, irrigation is provided after development of hair crack in the field. Several water management scientists revealed the maximization of WUE through application of deficit irrigation (Chowdhury *et al.* 2014; Reddy and Bandopadhyay, 2015; Kumar *et al.* 2015 and Diproshan *et al.* 2015).

Date of transplanting has profound influence on the performance of photo insensitive rice varieties. Date of transplanting plays a major role in influencing the growth, yield attributes, yield and grain quality of rice. Even though slight change to normal transplanting date leads to change the duration, growth and yield due to impact of environmental factors like air temperature and solar radiation. The growth parameters viz. plant height, tillers/clump, leaf area index (LAI), dry matter production and crop growth rate were significantly reflected by early date of transplanting compared to late transplanted crop (Bagul, 2012; Nila *et al.* 2018; Al-Amin *et al.* 2019 and Roy *et al.* 2019). The optimum date of transplanting varies from one region to another region due to variation in climate, soil and

the appropriate irrigation management practices. With keeping these facts in view, the present field experiment was undertaken to find out the appropriate irrigation regimes and the optimum date of transplanting for summer rice for South Odisha.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The field experiment was conducted during summer season in 2018-19 at Agriculture Research Farm, Bagusala of M.S. Swaminathan School of Agriculture, Centurion University of Technology and Management, Paralakhemundi, Odisha situated at 23°N latitude and 87°E longitude with an altitude of 182.9 m above the mean sea level. The soil of the experimental plot was sandy clay loam in texture, slightly acidic in reaction with pH of 6.4, low in available nitrogen (208 kg/ha) and high in available phosphorous (139 kg/ha) and potassium (390 kg/ha). During cropping season, the amount of rain fall received during January, February, March, April was 28.0, 34.4, 33.0 and 29.4 mm, respectively. The experiment was laid out in split plot design with three replications allocating irrigation treatments in main plot and dates of transplanting in subplots. The three main plot treatments were I<sub>1</sub> (continuous ponding with 5±2 cm depth), I<sub>2</sub> (continuous soil saturation with 3 cm depth) and I<sub>3</sub> (saturation after hair crack with 3 cm depth) and four sub plot treatments were D<sub>1</sub> (Transplanting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January), D<sub>2</sub> (Transplanting on 31<sup>st</sup> January), D<sub>3</sub> (Transplanting on 6<sup>th</sup> February) and D<sub>4</sub> (Transplanting on 13<sup>th</sup> February). Rice variety MTU 1010 (Cotton Dora Sannalu) was transplanted with 33 days old seedlings at the spacing of 20 cm row to row and 15 cm plant to plant at different dates as mentioned in treatments. The well decomposed farm yard manure @ 5 t/ha was applied just before final land preparation. The recommended fertilizer dose of 120:60:60 kg N: P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>:K<sub>2</sub>O ha<sup>-1</sup>. At basal, 50% N and total P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O were applied and incorporated in soil before transplanting. Remaining 50% N was applied as top dressing during tillering and panicle initiation stage in equal splits. Growth parameters like plant height, number of tillers/clump, leaf area index, dry matter accumulation and crop growth were recorded at 30 and 60 DAT and harvest. Crop was harvested at full maturity stage. Both grain and straw yield were recorded at harvest after perfect

sun drying. The water use efficiency (WUE) was calculated with standard formula. Finally collected data were statistically analysed as per procedures suggested by Gomez and Gomez (1984).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data pertaining to growth parameters like plant height, number of tillers/clump and leaf area index were presented in Table 1. The data in Table 2 were mentioned for the dry matter accumulation, crop growth rate, grain and straw yield and water use efficiency under different irrigation regimes and dates of transplanting.

### Plant height

#### Effect of irrigation

The significant difference was existed during 60 DAT and at harvest with different irrigation regimes regarding plant height but no significant difference was observed between irrigation treatments during 30 DAT. Maximum plant height was noticed in continuous ponding (43.37 cm, 82.99 cm and 84.03 cm) followed by saturation (42.70 cm, 78.03 cm and 78.65 cm) whereas minimum plant height was observed in saturation after hair crack (40.63 cm, 72.43 cm and 75.31 cm) at 30 DAT, 60 DAT and at

harvest, respectively. The continuous and sufficient availability of moisture under continuous ponding stimulate the cell division causing stem elongation that resulted in increased plant height. Similar favourable effect of irrigation was earlier reported by Rama Krishna *et al.* (2007) and Rahaman and Sinha (2013).

#### Effect of date of transplanting

At 30 DAT, the highest plant height was observed when transplanted on 31<sup>st</sup> January (44.22 cm) which was at par with 6<sup>th</sup> February (43.29 cm) but found superior over 13<sup>th</sup> February (41.02 cm) and 23<sup>rd</sup> January (40.39 cm). At 60 DAT, the tallest plant was recorded in transplanted date of 31<sup>st</sup> January (81.69 cm) followed by 23<sup>rd</sup> January (79.32 cm), 6<sup>th</sup> February (77.13 cm) where minimum plant height was observed at 13 February (73.12 cm). Plant height at harvest was in similar trend as that of 60 DAT recording 82.51 cm, 80.66 cm, 78.20 cm and 75.94 cm during 31<sup>st</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 6<sup>th</sup> February and 13<sup>th</sup> February, respectively. Shoot elongation continued to increase with the advancement of crop age and a rapid increase in plant height was noticed during earlier period of crop growth up to 60 DAT. Subsequent elongations was slower and thereafter, it decreased slowly up to maturity. Similar result in

**Table 1:** Effect of irrigation regimes and dates of transplanting on plant height, tillers/clump and leaf area index (LAI) of summer rice at different date after transplanting

Treatment	Plant height (cm)			Tillers/clump			LAI		
	30 DAT	60 DAT	Harvest	30 DAT	60 DAT	Harvest	30 DAT	60 DAT	Harvest
<b>Irrigation regimes</b>									
I <sub>1</sub>	43.37	82.99	84.03	11.39	14.03	11.63	1.95	5.37	2.81
I <sub>2</sub>	42.70	78.03	78.65	11.67	14.61	12.72	1.86	5.38	2.86
I <sub>3</sub>	40.63	72.43	75.31	11.36	13.36	11.32	1.88	5.36	2.74
SEm (±)	1.15	0.34	0.92	0.21	0.38	0.13	0.03	0.03	0.03
CD	NS	1.35	3.62	NS	NS	0.52	NS	NS	NS
<b>Date of transplanting</b>									
D <sub>1</sub>	40.39	79.32	80.66	11.00	14.15	12.51	1.97	5.55	2.96
D <sub>2</sub>	44.22	81.69	82.51	12.11	14.78	12.42	1.90	5.49	2.84
D <sub>3</sub>	43.29	77.13	78.20	11.63	13.81	11.62	1.88	5.29	2.76
D <sub>4</sub>	41.02	73.12	75.94	11.15	13.26	11.00	1.84	5.16	2.66
SEm (±)	0.99	0.59	0.41	0.27	0.23	0.14	0.03	0.03	0.03
CD	2.94	1.75	1.23	0.80	0.67	0.43	0.08	0.10	0.07

I<sub>1</sub> = continuous ponding with 5±2 cm depth; I<sub>2</sub> = continuous soil saturation with 3 cm depth; I<sub>3</sub> = saturation after hair crack with 3 cm depth; D<sub>1</sub> = Transplanting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January; D<sub>2</sub> = Transplanting on 31<sup>st</sup> January; D<sub>3</sub> = Transplanting on 6<sup>th</sup> February and D<sub>4</sub> = Transplanting on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

**Table 2:** Dry matter accumulation, crop growth rate (CGR), grain and straw yield and water use efficiency (WUE) as influenced by irrigation regimes and dates of transplanting in summer rice

Treatment	Dry matter (g/m <sup>2</sup> )			CGR (g/m <sup>2</sup> /day)			Grain yield (t/ha)	Straw yield (t/ha)	WUE (kg/ha/cm)
	30 DAT	60 DAT	Harvest	0-30 DAT	30-60 DAT	60 DAT-Harvest			
<b>Irrigation regimes</b>									
I <sub>1</sub>	210.60	983.92	1201.75	6.90	25.78	7.47	4.57	7.58	37.01
I <sub>2</sub>	208.23	981.88	1192.08	6.82	25.79	7.52	4.30	7.62	39.39
I <sub>3</sub>	210.21	974.88	1089.08	6.88	25.49	4.12	3.38	7.51	49.62
SEm (±)	0.58	3.21	11.43	0.02	0.10	0.44	0.09	0.06	1.07
CD	NS	NS	44.88	NS	NS	1.74	0.35	NS	4.22
<b>Date of transplanting</b>									
D <sub>1</sub>	212.52	983.00	1217.89	6.96	25.68	7.26	4.72	7.63	47.09
D <sub>2</sub>	215.56	1005.72	1248.67	7.06	26.34	8.26	4.50	7.99	44.50
D <sub>3</sub>	206.54	975.72	1123.33	6.76	25.64	5.73	3.78	7.46	39.37
D <sub>4</sub>	204.08	956.44	1054.00	6.68	25.08	4.24	3.34	7.20	37.09
SEm (±)	0.66	3.49	10.02	0.02	0.11	0.41	0.07	0.13	0.81
CD	1.96	10.37	29.78	0.07	0.33	1.21	0.21	0.38	2.42

I<sub>1</sub>= continuous ponding with 5±2 cm depth; I<sub>2</sub>= continuous soil saturation with 3 cm depth; I<sub>3</sub>= saturation after hair crack with 3 cm depth; D<sub>1</sub>= Transplanting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January; D<sub>2</sub>= Transplanting on 31<sup>st</sup> January; D<sub>3</sub>= Transplanting on 6<sup>th</sup> February and D<sub>4</sub>= Transplanting on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

increase of plant height with transplanting on 31<sup>st</sup> January was reported by Roy *et al.* (2019).

## Tillers/clump

### Effect of irrigation

Irrigation treatments failed to exhibit the significant effect on number of tillers/clump during 30 DAT and 60 DAT. Rather it had positive impact at harvest. The maximum tillers/clump was noticed in saturation condition (11.67, 14.61 and 12.72) followed by continuous ponding (11.39, 14.03 and 11.63) while minimum tillers/clump was in saturation after hair crack (11.36, 13.36 and 11.32) during 30 DAT, 60 DAT and harvest, respectively. At saturation level, the depth of the water is less and continuous maintenance of it provides better aeration and uptake of nutrients thereby facilitating the production of more tillers.

### Effect of date of transplanting

The tillers/clump was significantly influenced by different dates of transplanting throughout the growth stages. The highest tillers/clump was noticed in transplanting date of 31<sup>st</sup> January (12.11 and 14.78) during 30 and 60 DAT, respectively. It remained at par with 6<sup>th</sup> February (11.63) and 23<sup>rd</sup>

January (14.15) during 30 and 60 DAT, respectively. At harvest, 23<sup>rd</sup> January (12.51) produced more tillers/clump which was at par with 31<sup>st</sup> January (12.42). The lowest tillers/clump was observed in 13<sup>th</sup> February with the values of 11.15, 13.26 and 11.00 during 30 and 60 DAT and at harvest, respectively. These results are in conformity with the findings of Al-amin *et al.* (2019) who reported that number of total tillers/clump was drastically reduced when transplanted in late due to temperature variation.

## Leaf area index

### Effect of irrigation

At 30 DAT, 60 DAT and harvest, there was no significant difference among the irrigation regimes. Maximum LAI was noticed in continues ponding (1.95) followed by saturation after hair crack (1.88) and minimum LAI with saturation (1.86) during 30 DAT. At 60 DAT, LAI at saturation (5.38) was the highest closely followed by continues ponding (5.37) and the lowest LAI being noticed in saturation after hair crack (5.36). During harvest, the LAI behaved the exact trend as observed at 60 DAT. This was possible due to adequate moisture supply which influenced the growth of leaves and production of more number of larger sized leaves. Thus, it



increased in number of green leaves and number of shoots per-unit area resulted in better nutrition under saturation water regime consequently reflected the LAI. It was also observed that LAI increased up to 60 DAT thereafter, it decreased due to aging, senescence, mortality and leaf drying. It is in agreement with the findings of Kumar *et al.* (2015).

### **Effect of date of transplanting**

Maximum LAI was noticed in transplanting date of 23<sup>rd</sup> January (1.97) which was at par with 31<sup>st</sup> January (1.90) at 30 DAT. It was followed by 6<sup>th</sup> February (1.88) and minimum LAI on 13<sup>th</sup> February (1.84). During 60 DAT, the highest LAI was recorded in 23<sup>rd</sup> January (5.55) which remained at par with 31<sup>st</sup> January (5.49) but were significantly superior over 6<sup>th</sup> February (5.29) and 13<sup>th</sup> February (5.16). The LAI at harvest followed the similar trend as that of 60 DAT. Throughout the growth stages, the lowest LAI was noticed with delayed transplanted date on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Dry matter Production**

#### **Effect of irrigation**

During harvest, dry matter production was remarkably influenced by irrigation treatments. At all the growth stages, the dry matter accumulation was increased in continuous ponding over saturation and saturation after hair crack. The continuous ponding with irrigation depth of 5±2 cm produced the maximum dry matter of 210.60 and 983.92 g/m<sup>2</sup> at 30 and 60 DAT, respectively. At harvesting stage, dry matter production in continuous ponding (1201.75 g/m<sup>2</sup>) was statistically at par with saturation (1192.08 g/m<sup>2</sup>) and minimum dry matter accumulated in saturation after hair crack (1089.08 g/m<sup>2</sup>). Increased growth under continuous submergence is due to effective uptake of water and nutrients under sufficient moisture condition resulting in increase in plant height, tiller number and dry matter accumulation. The results are in conformity with the findings of Maheswari *et al.* (2000) and Marimuthu *et al.* (2010).

#### **Effect of date of transplanting**

Significantly the highest dry matter production was recorded in 31<sup>st</sup> January at 30 DAT, 60 DAT and

harvest (215.56 g/m<sup>2</sup>, 1005.72 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 1248.67 g/m<sup>2</sup>, respectively). It was followed by 23<sup>rd</sup> January producing the dry matter of 212.52 g/m<sup>2</sup>, 983.00 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 1217.89 g/m<sup>2</sup> at 30 DAT, 60 DAT and harvest, respectively. Rice transplanted on 13<sup>th</sup> February gave the lowest dry matter of 204.08 g/m<sup>2</sup>, 956.44 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 1054 g/m<sup>2</sup> at 30 DAT, 60 DAT and harvest, respectively. Increase in plant height, tillers/clump and LAI resulted in better interception of sunlight and efficient photosynthesis thus provided favourable condition for enhancement of dry matter production during transplanting of rice in end of January.

### **Crop growth rate**

#### **Effect of irrigation**

Crop growth rate is a complex interaction between the plant growth and its environment. The CGR was non-significant in irrigation treatments during 0-30 DAT and 30-60 DAT. But CGR between 60 DAT to harvest was significantly different among irrigation treatments. Maximum CGR was noticed in continuous ponding (6.90 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) followed by saturation after hair crack (6.88 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) and minimum CGR found in saturation condition (6.82 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) during 0-30 DAT. At 30-60 DAT, the highest CGR was obtained in saturation (25.79 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) closely followed by continuous ponding (25.78 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) and the lowest was in saturation after hair crack (25.49 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day). The CGR during 60 DAT-harvest was significantly reflected with irrigation treatments in which maximum CGR was found with saturation (7.52 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day). It was at par with continuous ponding (7.47 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) and minimum CGR was noticed in saturation after hair crack (4.12 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day). These experimental results are in close conformity with the findings of Kumar *et al.* (2015).

#### **Effect of date of transplanting**

Significant variation in CGR was found on all four dates of transplanting. During 0-30 DAT, the CGR was significantly the highest with 31<sup>st</sup> January (7.06 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day). It was followed by 23<sup>rd</sup> January (6.96 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day), 6<sup>th</sup> February (6.76 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) and 13<sup>th</sup> February (6.68 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) which were significantly different from each other. Significant increase in CGR between 30-60 DAT was recorded in 31<sup>st</sup>



January (26.34 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day). It was followed by 23<sup>rd</sup> January (25.68 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) being at par with the 6<sup>th</sup> February (25.08 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day). Between 60 DAT-harvest, transplanting on 31<sup>st</sup> January recorded maximum CGR (8.26 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) which was statistically similar with 23<sup>rd</sup> January (7.26 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day). It was followed by 6<sup>th</sup> February (5.73 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) and 13<sup>th</sup> February (4.24 g/m<sup>2</sup>/day) which were found significantly different. The increase in CGR in 31<sup>st</sup> January was possible due to favourable environmental conditions such as temperature and relative humidity during its different phenophases compared to late planting. The enhancement of CGR in early transplanting crop has also been reported earlier by Yeasmin *et al.* (2008).

## Grain yield

### *Effect of irrigation*

The continuous ponding produced the highest grain yield (4.57 t/ha) which was at par with saturation (4.30 t/ha). They were found superior over saturation after hair crack (3.38 t/ha). Moisture stress condition for a long period causes reduced entry of CO<sub>2</sub> resulted in partial stomatal closing due to excessive evapotranspiration. Thus, scarcity of CO<sub>2</sub> and water ultimately hampers the process of photosynthesis resulting in poor translocation and accumulation of photosynthates which finally reduced crop yield. This result corroborates the findings of Chowdhury *et al.* (2012) and Rahman *et al.* (2014).

### *Effect of dates of transplanting*

The highest grain yield was recorded when transplanted on 23<sup>rd</sup> January (4.72 t/ha) followed by 31<sup>st</sup> January (4.50 t/ha) transplanting. The reduction in grain yield was observed with delayed transplanting of 6<sup>th</sup> February (3.78 t/ha) and 13<sup>th</sup> February (3.34 t/ha). Increase in number of tillers and LAI under earlier dates of transplanting resulted in better interception of sun light that enhanced the photosynthesis and dry matter production thus, favoured the translocation of photosynthates from source to sink there by augmented the grain yield. This result is in line with findings of Roy *et al.* (2019).

## Straw yield

### *Effect of irrigation*

It was evident from data that different water regimes had no positive effect on straw yield. The maximum straw yield was produced in saturation (7.62 t/ha) followed by continuous ponding (7.58 t/ha) and saturation after hair crack (7.51 t/ha). It happens so due to increase in plant height and number of tillers/clump which resulted in improvement of biomass production that ultimately reflected the straw yield.

### *Effect of date of transplanting*

The transplanting of rice on 31<sup>st</sup> January produced the maximum straw yield (7.99 t/ha) that remained at par with 23<sup>rd</sup> January (7.63 t/ha). The lowest straw yield noticed on 13<sup>th</sup> February (7.20 t/ha). It is ascribed to longer vegetative phase and conducive climatic conditions that exhibited the favourable effect in increasing the dry matter production leading to augmentation of straw yield. The results are in agreement with the findings of Assaduzzaman (2006).

## Water use efficiency (WUE)

### *Effect of irrigation*

Significant increase in WUE was recorded in saturation after hair crack (49.62 kg/ha/cm) over all the irrigation treatments. The next best result was obtained in saturation (39.3 kg/ha/cm) which remained at par with continuous ponding (37.0 kg/ha/cm). The WUE decreased with increase of irrigation frequency. Similar result was depicted by Kumar *et al.* (2015).

### *Effect of date of transplanting*

The maximum WUE was noticed in 23<sup>rd</sup> January (47.09 kg/ha/cm) that differed significantly from all other transplanting dates. The WUE was gradually reduced with delayed transplanting dates of 31<sup>st</sup> January (44.50 kg/ha/cm), 6<sup>th</sup> February (39.37 kg/ha/cm) and 13<sup>th</sup> February (37.09 kg/ha/cm). The WUE in transplanting date of 31<sup>st</sup> January was significantly higher than 6<sup>th</sup> February and 13<sup>th</sup> February and no significant variation was found between last two dates. Rainfall received during the crop development stages in early dates of transplanting curtailed the irrigation requirement that caused the enhancement of WUE.



## CONCLUSION

The irrigation regime of continuous ponding with the depth of 5±2 cm and continuous saturation with the depth of 3 cm during summer season resulted in enhancement of crop growth parameters in terms of plant height, number of tillers/clump, crop growth rate, leaf area index and dry matter production there by reflecting the yield in transplanted rice. The WUE was positively increased under reduced irrigation of saturation after hair crack with 3 cm depth. Transplanting of rice on 23<sup>rd</sup> January improved all crop growth parameters and produced the highest grain yield and WUE.

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