

Evaluation of Rice Genotypes for Yield Stability and Adaptability Across Multiple Environments Using AMMI and GGE Biplot Analysis

O Reshma a* , P Surendra ^b , S Bhaskar Reddy ^a and K M Shivaprasad a,c

^a Division of Genetics, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India. ^b Agricultural Research Station (Paddy) Sirsi, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka, India.

c Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Institute of Forest Biodiversity, Hyderabad, India.

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Authors OR and PS conceived and designed the analysis, Authors OR and SBR performed the analysis, Authors OR, SBR and KMS drafting the manuscript. All authors critical revision of the manuscript. All authors reviewed the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

DOI[: https://doi.org/10.9734/jabb/2024/v27i81239](https://doi.org/10.9734/jabb/2024/v27i81239)

Open Peer Review History:

This journal follows the Advanced Open Peer Review policy. Identity of the Reviewers, Editor(s) and additional Reviewers, peer review comments, different versions of the manuscript, comments of the editors, etc are available here: <https://www.sdiarticle5.com/review-history/120596>

> *Received: 01/06/2024 Accepted: 03/08/2024 Published: 08/08/2024*

Original Research Article

ABSTRACT

The study aimed to identify elite rice genotypes with the highest yield response and broad adaptability, as well as those with specific adaptability to unique or groups of environments. Three different environments were selected for the experiment with 23 rice genotypes in Dharwad, Malagi,

**Corresponding author: E-mail: oreshma10r@gmail.com;*

Cite as: Reshma, O, P Surendra, S Bhaskar Reddy, and K M Shivaprasad. 2024. "Evaluation of Rice Genotypes for Yield Stability and Adaptability Across Multiple Environments Using AMMI and GGE Biplot Analysis". Journal of Advances in Biology & Biotechnology 27 (8):1164-76. https://doi.org/10.9734/jabb/2024/v27i81239.

and Sirsi, Karnataka, during the year 2020 (Kharif season). The ANOVA revealed that environments contributed the highest (33.5%) to the total sum of squares, followed by genotypes \times environments (21.7%), indicating a major role played by environments and their interactions in realizing final yield. The AMMI 1 analysis identified rice genotypes BA04, BA07, BA10, BA09, and BD07 as highly stable, positioned near the origin of the biplot with smaller ASV and Di values. The AMMI2 model revealed a positive association of genotype BD08 with the Dharwad environment and BD05 with the Sirsi environment, consistent with the recorded grain yield data. The GGE biplot genotype view identified genotype BD08 as the ideal genotype, followed by BA08, with higher mean yield and good stability, while D6-2-2 and BD10 were found to be the most unstable. The GGE biplot environment view showed that Dharwad was the most ideal for adaptability and discriminating environment, followed by Sirsi, while Malagi was the least discriminating. What-won-where biplot indicated that all the three environments fell into two mega environments. Hence, BD08 was the winning genotype in mega environment 1 consisting of Dharwad and Malagi. While the genotype BD05 was the winner in mega environment 2 *i.e* Sirsi.

Keywords: Rice genotypes; AMMI; GGE-biplot; adaptability; stability.

1. INTRODUCTION

"Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is a short day annual selfpollinated angiosperm within the genus *Oryza* of family Poaceae with chromosome: 2n=2x=24 [1]. More than 40 per cent of the world's population depends on rice as one of the major source of calories" [2]. "Asia is considered as Rice basket of the world, as more than 90 per cent of the rice is produced and consumed in Asia, a region with high population density" [3]. "To meet the food demand of the growing population and to achieve self-sufficiency of food in the country, the present production levels should be increased by two million tonnes every year" [4]. "Globally, rice is cultivated in an area of 167.2 mha with an annual production of 769.6 mt and productivity of 4,600 Kg ha-1" [5]. "Rice is grown on 43.77 mha with an annual production of 117.47 mt and productivity of 2,570 Kg ha⁻¹ in India. In Karnataka it has the area of 1.24 mha and production of 3.54 mt with a productivity of 2,670 Kg ha-1 (INDIA STAT 2019-20). India occupied second place in the rice area however, its productivity per unit area is low in India" [5]. So, efforts are needed to increase rice productivity along with stability of
performance under diverse environments. under diverse environments. Stability in performance of a genotype over a wide range of environmental conditions is assessed for a genotype to be released for cultivation along with high yield. Yield, being a complex quantitative trait, is significantly affected by genotype-environment (G x E) interactions. A plant breeder's primary goal is to develop a stable genotype that not only yields well but also maintains good grain quality. However, a specific genotype may not exhibit the same phenotypic traits in all environments, and different genotypes can respond uniquely to the same environment.

Phenotypic value of a trait such as yield has a dependency on the genetic architecture of the plant or the genotype (G), the growing environment (E) and an array of GE interactions (GEI) [6]. Out of these three terms (G, E and GEI), GEI plays an important role in the variable performance of the same genotype in different environments. Presence of strong GEI leads to cross over interactions or reversal of genotype ranks for trait variable such as yield in different environment [7]. Therefore, GEI imposes an impediment which complicates the selection of elite stable genotypes with wide adaptability & superior performance across a range of environments [6]. This complexity makes it challenging to select stable and adaptable genotypes with consistent performance across diverse environments. Thus, understanding GEI patterns is crucial for effectively evaluating crop varieties which are adaptable and stable across different environments and seasons [8,6,7]. Various methods and models, such as joint regression [9,10,11], AMMI, and GGEBiplot analysis, have been developed to study GEI patterns. In our work, we have used AMMI regression [9,10,11] and GGEBiplot [7] tools to investigate how GEI influences the adaptability and stability of grain yield in rice genotypes cultivated in different agroclimatic conditions in Karnataka, India.

This study aimed to examine the Multitrait Environment Trait (MET) data regarding yield for 23 rice genotypes cultivated across three distinct environments (Dharwad, Malagi, and Sirsi) in Karnataka during the *Kharif* season of 2020. The objectives included pinpointing elite genotypes with the highest yield response and broad adaptability, identifying genotypes with specific adaptability to individual or groups of

environments, and characterizing the three test
environments by analysing their environments by analysing their interrelationships and the efficacy of different environments in discriminating and representing genotypes based on yield response using tools like AMMI and GGEBiplot.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out on 23 genotypes consists of 20 advanced breeding lines and 3 parents of rice during the kharif season 2020. The list of genotypes used in the present study is provided in Table 1 along with their parentage and source of the material. All the 23 rice genotypes were sown during *kharif* 2020 in three locations i.e., Sirsi (Zone IX- Hilly zone-high rainfall area, transplanted), Malagi (Zone IX Hilly zone - low rainfall area, direct seeded) and Dharwad (Zone VIII- Northern transition zone, direct seeded) of Karnataka State. Experiment layout was a Completely Randomized Block Design consisted of 23 genotypes with two replications, each experimental plot comprised of five rows of five metres length, with a spacing of 20 x 15 cm between rows and plants respectively. The field was ploughed until fine tilth of soil was obtained in case of Dharwad and Malagi, puddled in cases of Sirsi. The crop was raised under rainfed conditions during *kharif* 2020. Then 25 days old seedlings were transplanted with the application of recommended dose of fertilizers.

2.1 Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

The average grain yield performance of each genotype during kharif 2020 was calculated and was used for individual-environment wise analysis of variance (ANOVA). Multienvironmental trial data for grain yield were pooled after testing the homogeneity of error variance across three different test sites using Bartlett test [12] which yielded a significant chi square statistic. A combined ANOVA analysis was performed after transformation of average grain yield data of each genotype at different locations to know the contribution of genotype (G), environment (E) and their interaction (GEI) using R-scripts by considering the effect of genotypes and environment as fixed and random, respectively, using following statistical model (Piepho, 1997): Ygsb=µ+Esb+Gg+Es+GEgs+ ϵ _{gsb}, Where, Y_{gsb} : Grain yield response of gth genotype in sth environment and bth block, µ: Grand mean, Esb: Effect of block within the sth environment and bth block, Gg: Effect of gth genotype, Es: Effect of sth environment, GE_{as} ; Effect due to the interaction of gth genotype and sth environment, and ε_{asb} : Experimental error.

2.2 AMMI Analysis and GGEBiplot

All statistical analyses were conducted in the statistical software R (R Core Team) version 4.3.1. The "metan" package [13] was employed to conduct the analysis of variance, AMMI analysis of variance [14], genotype plus genotype by environment (GGE) biplot analysis [15] stability statistical analysis, and weighted average of absolute scores [16]. The AMMI analysis was conducted based on the following mathematical formula:

$$
y_{ij}^N = \mu + g_i + e_j + \Sigma \lambda_k Y_{ik} \alpha_{jk} + \epsilon_{ij}
$$

where y_{ii} is the yield of the ith genotype in the jth environment, N is the number of PCI in the AMMI model, u is the overall mean of the genotypes, and gⁱ and e^j are the genotype and environment diversions from the overall mean. λ_k is the eigenvalue of the PCA axis k, Y_{ik} and α_{jk} are the GE-PCs scores for axis k, and Σij is the remaining value. Meanwhile, the GGE model was considered by the following formula:

 $y_{ij}^N = \mu + e_j + \Sigma \lambda_k Y_{ik} \alpha_{jk} + \epsilon_{ij}$

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of individual environment-wise analysis of variance revealed significant differences among genotypes for grain yield (Table 2a). Among all the environments, higher yield performance has been recorded in Dharwad environment while poor yield was recorded for all genotypes except in BD08 in Malagi environment (Table 3a). Further, to know the significance of interaction between genotypes and environments, a combined analysis of variance was performed using grain yield response data which revealed that genotypes (G), environments (E), and GE interaction (GEI) contributed 17.3%, 33.5% and 21.7%, respectively, to the total sum of squares (TSS) (Table 2b). Combined ANOVA

analysis revealed that environmental factor (E) followed by GEI contributed to the maximum variability in the yield performance of genotypes which may be attributed to the diverse nature of three environments representing different zones of Karnataka and differential sensitivities of different genotypes to the different test environments, respectively. High degree of GEI is in line with the variable yield performance of genotypes including cross-over interactions or reversal of genotype ranking in three different test environments.

3.1 Ammi Analysis

To deepen the understanding of GE interaction (GEI), an AMMI analysis was performed which retained two interaction principal component axes (IPCAs) namely IPCA1, and IPCA2 explaining 86.9% and 13.1% of total sum of squares due to interactions, respectively (Table 2c). Cumulatively, both IPCA1 and IPCA2 captured most of the structural patterns of SSGxE representing 100 % of total interaction variations in AMMI analysis and were statistically significant $(P \le 0.001)$ (Table 2c). Therefore, IPCA1 and IPCA2 were used for construction of AMMI1 and AMMI2 biplots.

Table 2a. Individual environment wise analysis of variance

Table 2b. Combined analysis of variance for grain yield response

***Significant at P 0.001, NS: Non-significant, DF: Degrees of freedom, TSS: Total Sum of Squares*

Table 2c. Analysis of variance and partitioning of multiplicative interaction component by AMMI method

***Significant at P 0.001, *ISS: Interaction sum of squares*

Table 3a. Mean yield performance (kg/ha) of each genotype in 3 different environments of Karnataka

Table 3b. Ranking of genotypes based on yield response and stability

3.2 AMMI Biplot Analysis

AMMI1 biplot model is a graphical representation of AMMI analysis in which main effects are represented in the abscissa while IPCA1 scores of genotypes and environments, simultaneously represented on the ordinate to describe the interaction effects. Displacement along the abscissa and along the ordinate is an indicative of the differences in the main effects and variation in the interaction effects, respectively [17]. The score and sign of IPCA1 reflect the magnitude of the contribution of both varieties and environments to GEI, where scores near zero are characteristic of stability, whereas higher score (absolute value) considered as unstable and specific adapted to environment. Based on AMMI1 biplot model (Fig. 1a), out of 23 genotypes tested BD08, BA08 and BD09 are generally showed high yield above the mean yield of the varieties with IPCA1 score. This indicated that these varieties are high yielding in high potential areas. Also, it was found that genotypes BA04, BA07, BA10, BA09 and BD07 were highly stable genotypes as they were positioned near to the origin of the biplot with smaller ASV values of 3.7, 11.8, 15.2, 26.7 and 30.5, respectively and relatively smaller Di values (Figs. 1a and 1b, Table 3b). Similar findings have been reported in literature in rice crop [17,18]. Genotypes with smaller AMMI Stability Values (ASVs) and AMMI stability index (ASI) values are generally stable genotypes [17]. Therefore, these genotypes are least influenced by the environments due to their smaller degree of interactions with the environment. In contrast, D6-2-2, BPT 5204, BA01 and BD01 genotypes were the most unstable as they were distantly positioned from the biplot origin and hence, they seemed to have environment-specific adaptations (Figs. 1a and 1b, Table 3b). Similar findings have been reported in sugarcane crop [19] and in hybrid rice [20].

Overall, among all the genotypes, BD07 had the highest yield of 4141.0 kg/ha with moderately smaller ASV and Di value of 30.5 and 3.9, respectively, was adjudged as the best genotypes followed by BA09 due to their higher yield response with wider adaptability among all the genotypes (Figs. 1a, 1b, Tables 3a and 3b). All the three environments like Dharwad, Malagi and Sirsi environments were highly responsive to the GEI. All these findings are in agreement with their respective IPCA1 scores as depicted in AMMI1 biplot (Fig. 1a). Among the environments, Dharwad environment had witnessed a large positive IPCA1 score and relatively high above average yield compared to other environments while, Malagi environment had the lowest mean yield with high negative IPCA1 score. These findings are consistent with the prevalence of favourable and unfavourable climatic regimes at Dharwad and Malagi, respectively.

Closer positioning of genotypes and environments to each other in biplots has been reported to have positive association between them, which helps in agronomic zoning of

genotypes for specific environments [19]. In AMMI2 biplot (Fig. 1b), we found the closer association between BD08 genotype with Dharwad environment, BD10 genotype with Malagi environment and, BD05 genotype with Sirsi environment. All these findings are in congruence with the recorded yield in different environment in terms of high yield winning genotypes with specific adaptation for a particular environment. Our AMMI2 model was clearly explained the positive association BD08 genotype with Dharwad environment and BD05 genotype with Sirsi environment, which were consistent with the recorded yield data. "In the AMMI2 biplot, environmental vectors are joined to the origin by side lines. The locations with short spokes do not exert strong interactive forces and had strong contribution to the stability of the variety, while those with long spokes have strong interaction. From the Fig. 1b environments like Dharwad, Malagi and Sirsi had the long spokes which indicated the high discriminating ability of these environments. The distances from the biplot origin are indicative of the amount of interaction that was exhibited by genotypes over environments or environments over genotypes" [21,22].

3.3 GGEBiplot Analysis

In addition to AMMI, GGE biplot analysis was performed to evaluate both genotypes and environments in order to select the elite stable genotypes, to identify the best responsive and adaptive genotypes for each environments or group of environments through the ranking of the genotypes and "Which-Won-Where" pattern analysis and to dissect the interrelationship among the different test environments in terms of their discriminatory power and representativeness ability in terms of graphical visualization for better interpretation. GGEBiplot explained 98.6% of total G and GE interaction effects for the yield data by its two principal components (PC1 and PC2). PC1 explained 85.78% while PC2 accounted for the 12.82% of total G and GE interaction effects.

3.4 Mean Grain Yield and Stability Performance

The magnitude of interaction can be visualized for each genotype and each environment using IPCA1 vs. mean yield and IPCA1 vs. IPCA2 biplot model [23]. The concentric circles help to rank the genotype based on their distances to the ideal genotype, and the genotypes evaluated in multi-environmental trials, shifts in the relative ranking of genotype by environment interaction occur [24,25,26,27]. Thus, Figs 2a and 2b indicated that genotype BD08 was identified as ideal genotype followed by BA08 with higher mean yield and good stability whereas, D6-2-2 and BD10 were found to be most unstable. Similarly, among environments Dharwad was identifies as the best location for realizing higher grain yields. Further, the genotype BD09 was identified as highly stable with the least dispersion from AEA axis and also recorded reasonably good mean grain yield. These results are in close correspondence with the results reported by Mohan et al*.* [26] and Siddi et al*.* [27].

Fig. 1a. AMMI 1 biplot showing the means of genotypes and environments for grain yield against their respective IPCA1 scores

Fig. 1b. AMMI2 biplot showing interaction of IPCA2 against IPCA1 scores for grain yield of 23 rice genotypes in three environments

Fig. 2a. GGE Biplot for grain yield of rice

Fig. 2b. GGE biplot of stability and mean performance of genotypes across average environments

Fig. 3. Ranking of genotypes based on mean grain yield and stability across environments

3.5 Ranking of Genotypes

An ideal genotype is characterized by high average performance and a high level of stability across various environments. Such a genotypes (BD08, BD09 and BA08) is situated at a point in the positive direction of the Average Environment Axis (AEA), aligning with the centre of concentric circles indicating "absolute stability." Additionally, it has the longest genotypic vector length, indicating superior mean genotypic performance, from the biplot origin compared to all other genotypes [7].

In the present study, BD08, BD09 and BA08 were found to be an ideal genotype which were positioned in the centre of concentric circles compared to other genotypes among 23 genotypes studied (Fig. 3). The genotypes like D6-2-2, BD10, BD01, BA01, BA03 and BPT 5204 are showing poor performance with low mean yield across all the environments. These are unstable genotypes and are not suitable for further crop improvement.

3.6 Environment Evaluation

Discriminating power and representativeness behaviour of environments: The angles between environment vectors in biplots reveal their relationships, with the cosine of these angles indicating their correlation. An acute angle between two environment vectors signifies a positive correlation, an obtuse angle signifies a negative correlation, and a right angle indicates no correlation. Environments exhibit complex interrelationships. The ideal environment is represented by a small circle at the centre of the concentric rings. In the present study (Fig. 4a) Dharwad was found to be the most discriminating environment followed by Sirsi whereas, Malagi were found to be least discriminating. AEA which passes through the average environment containing average coordinates of all the test environments, and the biplot origin. A test environment having smaller angle with the AEA is the most representative environment compared to other test environments [7]. Thus, Dharwad and Malagi is showing smaller angle so, these two environments are considered as most representative compared to Sirsi. Similarly, Zewdu et al*.* [28] found that environments E6, E1, E3, and E2 were ideal, having short vectors,

while environments E4 and E5 had long spokes. indicating their high discriminating ability. Likewise, Kripa et al*.* [29] noted that biplot analysis is the most effective interpretive tool for AMMI models. They identified that environments E6 and E5 had short vectors, suggesting they did not exert strong interactive forces, whereas environments E1, E2, E3, and E4, with long vectors, were more differentiating.

Ranking of environment: An ideal test environment is defined by its high discriminating ability and high degree of representativeness. The environment is located on the Average Environment Axis (AEA) in the positive direction, indicating it is the "most representative," and its distance to the biplot origin equals the longest vector of all environments, making it the "most informative" [7] and sits at the centre of the concentric circles. In our analysis, no environment was identified as the ideal test environment. However, the Dharwad environment was relatively closer to the ideal test environment compared to others (Fig. 4b). Therefore, the Dharwad environment is suitable for selecting genotypes with general adaptability across all test environments. Conversely, Sirsi and Malagi environments are less suitable for selecting such genotypes, as they are positioned far from the ideal test environment i.e Dharwad.

Which-won-where biplot: The perpendicular line drawn from each side of the polygon from the origin divided the biplot into seven sections and three environments fall into two mega environments viz., Dharwad and Sirsi for grain yield (Fig. 3). Genotypes located on the vertices of the polygon performs either the best or the poorest in one or more environments. Vertex genotype BD08 was the winning genotype in mega environment 1 consisting of Dharwad and Malagi. While the genotype BD05 was the winner in mega environment 2 *i.e* Sirsi (Fig. 4c). It concludes that "different cultivars should be selected and deployed for each different environment". Similar results were reported by the rice workers viz., Akter et al*.* [18], Rukmini Devi et al*.* [30], Lingaiah et al*.* [31,26,27,32-35]. Whereas other vertex genotypes BD02, D6-2-2, BD01, BA01 and BPT 5204 fall in separate groups with poor performance in all the environments [36-39].

Reshma et al.; J. Adv. Biol. Biotechnol., vol. 27, no. 8, pp. 1164-1176, 2024; Article no.JABB.120596

Fig. 4a. Discriminating ability and representativeness behaviour of environments

Fig. 4b. Ranking of environments w.r.t an ideal environment

Fig. 4c. Which-Won-Where GGE biplot for yield

4. CONCLUSION

This study indicated the significance difference exhibited among the tested genotypes and its interaction with environments for grain yield. This is an indication of a wide variability among genotypes. The GGE and AMMI biplots are useful techniques that were able to effectively detect the existence of a significant amount of GE interaction between 23upland rice genotypes across three environments. As AMMI model revealed that genotypes like BA04, BA07, BA10, BA09 and BD07 are the stable genotypes across the environments. GGE biplot model revealed genotypes BD08 and BA08 outperformed among the tested genotypes and can be used for specific site production. In variety selection, genotypes with high mean yield and high stability is preferred. As a result, genotypes BD08, BA08, BA09, BD07 and BD09 gave high yield and good stability across environments and can be recommended for testing sites.

DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc) and text-to-image generators have been used during writing or editing of manuscripts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karanataka, India and Agricultural Research Station (Paddy) Sirsi, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka, India. And we thank Indian Council of Agricultural Research for financial support.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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