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## **Mini Review**

# Prospect of Intercropping Chickpea in Autumn Planted Sugarcane in Barind Tract of Bangladesh

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## Abstract

Intercrop chickpea with sugarcane is well adopted in water deficit barind region in Bangladesh where ground water table is lowering by affecting with climate change. Intercropping technology is popular and challenges to make it more benefit to the incumbent. A Drought tolerant sugarcane variety with the high water use efficient chickpea is combined for drought prone barind region. Different varietal comparison lsd 32 is better in respect of yield 64.70 t ha-1 for barind region and intercropping with chickpea is 85.62 t ha-1 and only chickpea yield 0.79 t ha-1 is alarming. Considering the economic benefit intercropping chickpea with sugarcane gives 3.5 times compare to solely cultivated chickpea. Among the chickpea cultivars BARI chickpea is well adopted for barind region.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

T. Aman: Transplanted Aman; BSRI: Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute; PRC: Pared Row Cane; BARI: Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute; DAE: Department of Agriculture Extension

## **INTRODUCTION**

In Bangladesh, major cultivated area of High Barind Tract (>85%) is still under rain fed condition. Sugarcane is a relatively drought tolerant crop and it may be grown at low rainfall zones but germination failure is the main limiting factor for sugarcane cultivation in rain fed condition. If germination can be ensured it is possible to grow sugarcane successfully in High Barind Tract under rainfed condition just after harvesting of T. Aman. Pulses are a major and cheap source of protein in the daily diet of the people. Autumn planted sugarcane occupies the land for more than a year and competes with Rabi crops and, therefore, area under autumn planted sugarcane can only be increased at the cost of other Rabi crops. This problem can only be overcome by intercropping some suitable Rabi crops in autumn planted sugarcane. On global basis, Chickpea (Cicer arietinum) is the third important pulse crop after dry beans and dry peas in Bangladesh [1]. It is an important source of human food and animal feed, it also helps in the management of soil fertility, particularly in dry lands [2,3] .Chickpea is found to be a suitable dry land rabi crop with residual soil moisture after harvesting T.

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- BCR

Aman in High Barind Tract. The High Barind tract is driest part of the country, which occupies an area of 16000 m<sup>2</sup>constituting 10% of the whole Barindh tract. Here the average temperature is 35-40 °C and Rainfall 1000-1200 mm and having 0.6-0.8% organic matter in soil. Peoples have no work after harvesting T.Aman rice. Under rain fed condition farmers mainly grow single T. Aman rice. Growing rabi crops in Barind Soil under rain fed situation after harvesting long durated T. Aman is difficult due to moisture stress. Within this adverse situation chickpea acreage is increasing gradually. BARI chickpea adoption is also observed to

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

be increasing.

Table 1 shows that no significant difference was found in germination, tiller production among the tested varieties but differences were observed in millable cane where Isd 33 produced the higher number of millable cane ( $81.71 \times 10^3$  ha<sup>-1</sup>) followed by Isd 34 ( $81.09 \times 103$  ha<sup>-1</sup>) but it was at per statistically. The lowest number of millable canes was recorded in Isd 30 ( $51.29 \times 10^3$  ha<sup>-1</sup>), which differed significantly over all other varieties. In case of yield, the higher cane yield was recorded in Isd 32 (64.70 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) followed by Isd 33 (57.40 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and that differed significantly. But nosignificant yield difference was observed among Isd 34, Isd 35 and Isd 36. The higher brix percent 21.85% was recorded in Isd 35 which significantly differed among all other varieties. However lowest Brix of 17.87% was recorded in Isd 32 [4].

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Result presented in Table 2 reveals that, the tested varieties showed significant differences in percent germination, number of tiller production, number of millable cane, yield and percent Brix in cane. Among the test varieties Isd 34 showed the higher germination of 41.37 % followed by 40.96 % in Isd 36 and 40.47 % in Isd 35 which were statistically at per but differed statistically over Isd 33, Isd 32 and Isd 30. The higher number of tillers (224.80  $\times 10^3$  ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in Isd 35 followed (212.10  $\times 10^3$  ha<sup>-1</sup>) in Isd 36 which were statistically identical but significantly differed over Isd 30, Isd 32, Isd 34 and Isd 36. However cane variety Isd 32 produced higher number of millable cane( $110.68 \times 10^3$  ha<sup>-1</sup>) followed by Isd 34 (92.70 x10<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup>) and Isd 35 (91.71 10<sup>3</sup>x ha<sup>-1</sup>) <sup>1</sup>). The lowest number of millable cane was recorded in Isd 30 (76.35 x10<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup>) whose effect statistically significant over all other varieties. Again highest yield of 72.39 t ha-1 was obtained in Isd 32 followed by 64.00 t ha<sup>-1</sup> in Isd 35. The yields of Isd 33, Isd 34 and Isd 35 were 63.38, 62.57 and 64.00 t ha<sup>-1</sup> respectively and showed statistically similar. The lowest yield was found in Isd 36 (57.37 t ha-1). In case of percentage of Brix, Isd 35 was superior (20.20%) followed by Isd 36 (19.95%), which was statistically identical but they significantly differed over Isd 30, Isd 32, Isd 33 and Isd 34 [4].

In Table 3 among the different treatments PRC + Chickpea show higher (122.18 X10<sup>3</sup>ha<sup>-1</sup>) Tiller production. PRC + Chickpea intercropping shows 83.64 Millable Cane (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and 75.62 (tha<sup>-1</sup>) cane yield. Ultimately PRC + Chickpea intercropping shows higher 85.62 (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) [5].

The economic analysis of experiment under different treatment was shown in Table 4. Among the treatments PRC + Chickpea show highest cost of production (66,500.00Tk.) and lowest cost of production for chickpea as a sole crop. Highest gross return was observed for PRC + Chickpea is 1, 15,587.00 Tk. and lowest for Chickpea only 14,460.00 Tk. But benefit cost Ratio was highest (2.20) for growing only chickpea and lowest (1.74) for PRC + Chickpea [5].

In Table 5 Within the sampled farmers, average 0.26 ha/farm was covered by BARI chickpea which was 60% of their land. Total BARI chickpea coverage is 31.60 ha, which was 58% of total land. In case of Naogaon it shows less adoption i.e., 50% [6,7].

 Table 1: Performance of Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute bred sugarcane varieties in respect of yield and yield attributes at High Barind

 Tract of Rajshahi area under rain fed condition.

Varieties	Germination (%)	No. of Tillers (10 <sup>3</sup> ha <sup>-1</sup> )	No.of millable cane (10 <sup>3</sup> ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Yield (t ha <sup>.1</sup> )	Brix (%)
Isd 30	35.24	209.41	51.29c	55.50b	18.60c
Isd 32	37.15	210.00	68.64b	64.70a	17.87d
Isd 33	34.54	196.37	81.71a	57.40b	18.72c
Isd 34	35.41	204.53	81.09a	48.40c	18.60c
Isd 35	34.20	202.09	68.22b	46.80c	21.85a
Isd 36	35.76	192.62	68.58b	49.80c	20.68b
Lsd (5%)	NS	NS	6.75	5.26	0.60

In a column figures having similar letter do not differ significantly whereas figures with dissimilar letters differ significantly at 5% level.

 Table 2: Performance of Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute bred sugarcane varieties in respect of yield and yield attributes at High Barind Tract of Rajshahi area under rain fed condition, 2005-2006.

Varieties	Germination (%)	No. of Tillers (10 <sup>3</sup> ha <sup>-1</sup> )	No.of millable cane (10 <sup>3</sup> ha <sup>.1</sup> )	Yield (t ha <sup>.1</sup> )	Brix (%)
Isd 30	32.47c	166.20bc	76.35c	61.93bc	18.50b
Isd 32	37.83b	153.10c	110.68a	72.39a	17.25c
Isd 33	36.37b	126.50c	85.15bc	63.38b	18.75b
Isd 34         41.37a           Isd 35         40.47a		160.40c         92.70b           224.80a         91.71b		62.57b 64.00b	18.39b 20.20a
Lsd (5%)	2.53	46.26	11.93	4.56	1.00

\* In a column figures having similar letter do not differ significantly where as figures with dissimilar letters differ significantly at 5% level of significance.

Table 3: Number of till	ers, number of mi	llable canes, cane yield,	chickpea yield and a	djusted yield.		
Treatment	Tiller (×10³ha <sup>-</sup> ¹)	Millable Cane (t/ha)	Cane Yield (t/ha)	Yield of Chickpea (t/ha)	Equivalent Cane Yield (t/ha)	Total adjusted Yield (t/ha)
PRC only	120.93	89.75	78.69	-	-	78.69b
PRC + Chickpea	122.18	83.64	75.62	0.30	10	85.62a
Chickpea only	-	-	-	0.79	-	0.79c

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Table 4: Economics and Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of Sugarcane and Intercropped Chickpea.						
Treatment	Total cost of production ( TK. ha <sup>.1</sup> )	Gross Return ( TK. ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross Margin ( TK. ha <sup>.1</sup> )	BCR		
PRC only	52,000.00	1,06,366.50	54,366.50	2.05		
PRC + Chickpea	66,500.00	1,15,587.00	49,087.00	1.74		
Chickpea only	6,543.00	14,460.00	13,070.00	2.20		

## Table 5: Adoption of BARI chickpea in high Barind Tract.

Item		Location	A		
		Rajshahi Nowabgonj		Naogaon	Average
Cultivated area:					
Average(ha/far)	BC	0.24	0.38	0.17	0.26
	L	0.26	0.11	0.15	0.18
Total (ha)	BC	9.60	15.20	6.8	31.60
	L	10.40	4.00	6.0	20.40
percent of adaptation:					
Area	BC	48	79	53	60
	L	52	21	47	40
Farmer	BC	62	62	50	58
	L	28	28	50	42

BC-BARI Chickpea, L-Local Variety

## **CONCLUSION**

In light of above discussion a few conclusions have been drawn. There is a scope of increase chickpea production by adoption the sugarcane - chickpea intercropping technology in barind area under rain fed condition. Farmers are interested to grow chickpea with sugarcane. Adoption is less in Noagaon, motivational programme like farmers trainings should be strengthened by BSRI in collaboration with of DAE.

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