

## On-farm evaluation of production potential and economics of Wheat-Jute-T.aman rice-based cropping system

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### Abstract

The study was conducted to determine the yield and economic consequences of two cropping patterns viz. improved cropping pattern (Wheat-Jute-*T.aman* rice) and farmers, pattern (Wheat-Jute-*T.aman* rice) through incorporation of modern high yielding varieties and improved management practices for crop production. The experiment was laid out in randomized complete block design with five dispersed replications in farmers' condition in Faridpur during two consecutive years 2011-12 and 2012-13. Two years mean data showed that the improved management practices for the pattern provided significantly higher yield in Wheat, Jute and *T.aman* rice. The gross return (Tk. 265495/ha) and net return (Tk.123087/ha) of improved pattern were 9 % and 18 % higher, respectively compared to that of farmers' pattern with only 3% extra cost. The higher benefit cost ratio, land use efficiency, production efficiency and sustainable yield index indicated the superiority of the improved pattern over the farmers' practices.

**Keywords:** Agronomic performance, Land use efficiency, Production potential, Sustainable yield index

### Introduction

There are several cropping patterns involving wheat which are practiced in different Agro Ecological Zones of Bangladesh. Wheat- Jute-*T.aman* rice is one of the major cropping patterns under irrigated Medium High Land of Faridpur District. About 11% of the net cropped area under Low Ganges River Floodplain Agro-ecological Zones of Faridpur district (AEZ-12) of Bangladesh are cultivable with wheat based cropping patterns (BBS, 2012). Wheat-Jute-*T.aman* rice is one of the important and widely accepted pattern in some areas of Bangladesh. On-Farm trials with BARI Gom-26 in Faridpur region performed better than existing varieties. In order to increase production of wheat based cropping patterns BARI Gom-26 may be introduced as an alternative of farmers' one. However, the productivity of this pattern is low due to the use of local varieties and traditional management practices. Farmers' practices wheat-Jute-*T.aman* rice cropping pattern is greatly influenced by the distribution pattern of annual rainfall. But the nature of distribution and frequency of rainfall (Fig. 1) as recorded at the research site offers opportunity to introduce some modern varieties of wheat and *T.aman* rice in the cropping pattern. More than 95% of 9.11 million hectares of net cultivable area is now under cultivation (Alam *et al.*, 1998). There is no alternative to meet the ever increasing demand for food for fast growing population except increasing production from the existing available land in the country. In this context, not only the modern production technology and complementary inputs are essential but also the diversification of crops throughout the country is foremost. The important aspects in this regard are to explore the possibility to fit a new crop without disturbing the existing ones. Overall productivity as well as profitability of the farmers could be increased considerably by introducing modern varieties and improved management practices. A number of reports on different cropping pattern are available in Bangladesh and abroad (Azad *et al.*, 1982, Soni and Kaur, 1984, Malavia *et al.*, 1986, Khan *et al.*, 2005, Khan *et al.*, 2006 and Nazrul *et al.*, 2013) but little efforts have been made for on-farm evaluation of the improved technologies of Wheat-Jute-*T.aman* rice cropping pattern. The study was therefore, initiated with a view to finding out the agro-economic feasibility of an improved package of technologies over the existing farmers' practices.

### Materials and Methods

The study was conducted at Farming System Research and Development (FSRD) site of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) at Hatgobindapur, Faridpur during 2011-2013. It belongs to the Low Ganges River Floodplain Agro-ecological Zone of Bangladesh (AEZ-12). The experimental site belongs to tropical monsoon climate with unimodal rainfall. The most of the rainfall was received during the months of May to September. The annual rainfall of the study period were 1548 mm and 1623mm. Mean annual minimum and maximum temperature was 21.55/30.96°C and 21.28/30.83°C, respectively.

The soil was clay loam with low organic matter content (1.24%) and soil pH ranged from 7.0 to 8.1 neutral to slightly alkaline in nature. The statuses of N, P, K, S, Zn and B were very low, low, medium and low, respectively. (Table 1) General soil types predominantly include Calcareous Dark Grey soils and Calcareous Brown Floodplain soils. The improved cropping pattern (IP) was tested and compared against the farmers' pattern (FP) with five dispersed replications under irrigated condition. Two plots of 600m<sup>2</sup> were selected for each replication. One plot was under the improved pattern and the other one was farmers' pattern. In the improved pattern, BARI Gom-26 and BRR1 dhan39 were introduced against BARI Gom-21 and BRR1 dhan33. The jute variety JRO 524 was used in both the patterns. The agronomic practices and cultural operations for crop production under improved and farmers' practices are presented in Table 2. All field operations and management practices of both improved and farmers' patterns were closely monitored and data were recorded for agro-economic performance. The yield differences between the practices were statistically analyzed by 't'-test. Agronomic performance like field duration, land use efficiency, production efficiency, sustainable yield index and rice equivalent yield of cropping patterns were calculated. Land use efficiency was worked-out by taking total duration of crops in an individual cropping pattern divided by 365 days. It was calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{Land Use Efficiency (\%)} = \frac{d_1 + d_2 + d_3}{365} \times 100$$

Where  $d_1$ ,  $d_2$  and  $d_3$  the duration of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> crop of the pattern

Production efficiency value in terms of  $\text{kg ha}^{-1} \text{day}^{-1}$  was calculated by total main product in a cropping pattern divided by total duration of crops in that pattern (Tomar and Tiwari, 1990).

$$\text{Production Efficiency} = \frac{Y_1 + Y_2 + Y_3}{d_1 + d_2 + d_3}$$

Where,  $Y_1$ = Yield of 1<sup>st</sup> crop and  $d_1$ = Duration of 1<sup>st</sup> crop of the pattern  
 $Y_2$ = Yield of 2<sup>nd</sup> crop and  $d_2$ = Duration of 2<sup>nd</sup> crop of the pattern  
 $Y_3$ = Yield of 3<sup>rd</sup> crop and  $d_3$ = Duration of 3<sup>rd</sup> crop of the pattern

**Table 1. Soil nutrient status of the experimental area (AEZ-12) of Faridpur, during 2011-2013**

Parameters	OM (%)	pH	Total N (%)	K (meq/100 g of soil)	P	S	Zn	B
					(µg/g soil)			
Range	0.96-1.52	7.0-8.1	0.05-0.08	0.17-0.26	1.90-21.00	3.90-41.00	0.30-1.60	0.16-0.25
Average	1.24	-	0.063	0.21	8.25	22.48	1.00	0.19
Critical limit	-	-	0.12	0.12	10.00	10.00	0.6	0.2
Interpretation	Low	Neutral to slightly alkaline	Very low	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Low

**Sustainable Yield Index (SYI):** It was worked out by the following formula suggested by Krishna and Reddy (1997).

$$\text{Sustainable Yield Index SYI (\%)} = \frac{Y_{\text{mean}} - SD}{Y_{\text{max}}} \times 100$$

Where,  $Y_{\text{mean}}$  = Mean yield from a practice over years, SD = Standard deviation of the treatment and  $Y_{\text{max}}$  = Maximum yield obtained with any practice.

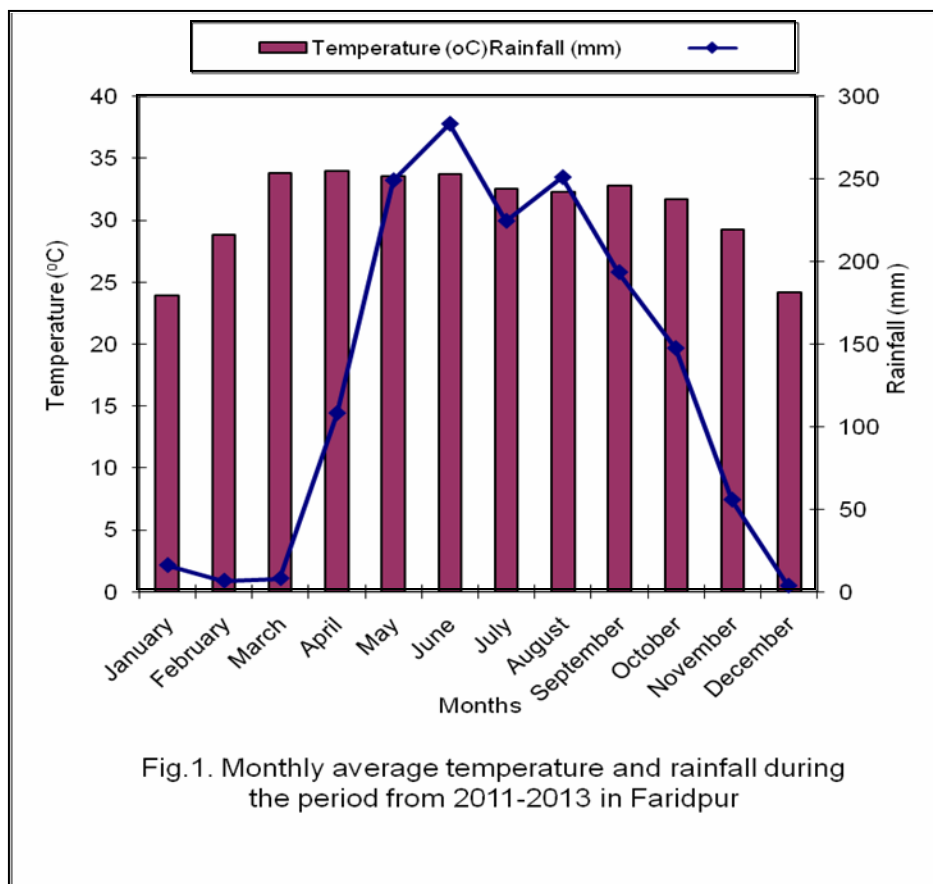
**Rice Equivalent Yield (REY):** For comparison between crop sequences, the yield of all crops was converted into rice equivalent on the basis of prevailing market prices of individual crop (Verma and Modgal, 1983). Rice equivalent yield (REY) was computed as yield of individual crop multiplied by market price of that crop divided by market price of rice.

$$\text{Rice equivalent yield (t/ha)} = \frac{\text{Yield of individual crop} \times \text{market price of that crop}}{\text{market price of rice}}$$

The economic indices like gross and net returns and benefit cost ratio were also calculated on the basis of prevailing market price of the produces.

Economic analysis involved collection of data on prices and quantities of inputs used and output produced. The inputs used included seed, fertilizer, labour and insecticides. The output and inputs were valued at market prices. The results were used to compute net income, benefit cost ratio and rice equivalent yield of crops. Net income was computed as the difference between management (Family labour and operator's) cost and gross margin. Benefit cost ratio was computed as gross return divided by total variable cost of cultivation.

$$\text{Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)} = \frac{\text{Gross return}}{\text{Total (variable) cost of cultivation}}$$



## Results and Discussion

### Grain and Fibre Yield of the Cropping Patterns

Results of the study have been presented in Table 3-5. It was revealed that all of the component crops of Wheat-Jute-T.aman rice cropping pattern under improved practices (IP) gave higher grain yield as well as by-product in both years (Table 3). On an average, the yield of wheat, jute and T.aman rice in improved pattern increased by 6.05%, 15.44% and 19.38%, respectively over the crops of the farmers' practices (FP). The yield of improved pattern was higher due to change of variety with improved production technologies for the component crops. Similar results were also obtained by Nazrul *et al.* (2013), Khan *et al.* (2006), Khan *et al.* (2005) and Hossain and Wahhab (1992). In both years, farmers' pattern gave lower grain yield of wheat and fibre yield of jute due to imbalance use of fertilizers and more population. BRRI dhan39 in improved pattern performed better than BRRI dhan33 in farmers' practices due to use of balance fertilizer and modern technology.

### By-product Yield of the Cropping Patterns

The improved cropping pattern produced higher by-product yield (12.73 t/ha) than the by-product yield of the crops of the farmers' pattern (11.42 t/ha). The by-product yield of improved pattern was higher due to change of variety with improved technologies for the component crops. In both years improved and farmers' pattern produced similar by-product yield of jute. But BARI Gom-26 and BRRI dhan39 performed better than BARI Gom-21 and BRRI dhan33 due to traditional farming.

### Field Duration

Field duration of cropping pattern mainly depends on the individual duration of component crops. The farmers' cropping pattern Wheat-Jute-T.aman rice had the longer field duration than the improved cropping pattern Wheat-Jute-T.aman rice in both years (Table 2). In farmers' cropping pattern BARI Gom-21 took longer field duration compared to BARI Gom-26 in improved pattern. As a result, production efficiency, land use efficiency and sustainable yield index were higher in improved pattern than farmers' pattern.

### Rice equivalent yield

The mean rice equivalent yield revealed that improved cropping pattern produced higher rice equivalent yield over farmers' traditional cropping pattern (Table 4). Inclusion of high yielding varieties and improvement of management practices in the improved pattern increased the rice equivalent yield. Lower rice equivalent yield was obtained in the farmers' pattern due to variety and traditional management practices.

### Production efficiency

Maximum production efficiency (32.80) in terms of kg/ha/day was obtained from improved pattern in 2012-2013 closely followed by improved pattern in 2011-2012 (Table 4). The higher production efficiency of improved cropping pattern might be due to the modern varieties and management practices. The lowest production efficiency was observed in farmers' pattern due to modern management practices was absent. Mean production efficiency (32.40) in terms of kg/ha/day was higher in improved pattern and lower (28.12) in farmers' pattern. Similar trend were noted by Nazrul *et al.* (2013), Khan *et al.* (2006), Khan *et al.* (2005) and Krishna and Reddy (1997).

### Land use efficiency

Land use efficiency is the effective use of land in a cropping year, which mostly depends on crop duration. Mean land use efficiency indicated that farmers' pattern used the land for 89 % period of the year, whereas improved pattern used the land for 87% period of the year (Table 4). The higher land use efficiency in farmers' pattern because this pattern occupied the field for longest duration (324 days), whereas the improved pattern occupied the field for 319 days of the year.

**Table 2. Agronomic parameters considered in Wheat-Jute-T.aman rice cropping pattern under farmers' and improved practices at Hatgobindapur, Faridpur, during 2011-2013**

Parameters	C <sub>1</sub> =Wheat C <sub>2</sub> =Jute C <sub>3</sub> =T.aman	Farmers' Practice (FP)		Improved Practice (IP)	
		2011-2012	2012-2013	2011-2012	2012-2013
Variety	C <sub>1</sub>	BARI Gom-21	BARI Gom-21	BARI Gom-26	BARI Gom-26
	C <sub>2</sub>	JRO-524	JRO-524	JRO-524	JRO-524
	C <sub>3</sub>	BRRRI dhan33	BRRRI dhan33	BRRRI dhan39	BRRRI dhan39
Sowing/ transplanting time	C <sub>1</sub>	01-05 Dec.	24-29 Nov.	02-05 Dec	24-28 Nov.
	C <sub>2</sub>	08-12 April	02-07 April	09-12 April	02-07 April
	C <sub>3</sub>	06-12 Aug.	7-16 Aug.	06-12 Aug.	07-16 Aug.
Seed rate (kg/ ha)	C <sub>1</sub>	120	120	120	120
	C <sub>2</sub>	7	7	5	5
	C <sub>3</sub>	50	50	40	40
Planting method	C <sub>1</sub>	Broad cast	Broad cast	Broad cast	Broad cast
	C <sub>2</sub>	Broad cast	Broad cast	Broad cast	Broad cast
	C <sub>3</sub>	Line	Line	Line	Line
Spacing (Rowxhill)	C <sub>1</sub>	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous
	C <sub>2</sub>	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous	Continuous
	C <sub>3</sub>	20x15	20x15	20x15	20x15
Seedling Age (days)	C <sub>1</sub>	-	-	-	-
	C <sub>2</sub>	-	-	-	-
	C <sub>3</sub>	30-40	30-40	30-35	30-35
Seedling No./hill	C <sub>1</sub>	-	-	-	-
	C <sub>2</sub>	-	-	-	-
	C <sub>3</sub>	3-4	3-4	2-3	2-3
Fertilizer dose (kg/ha) NPKSZnB	C <sub>1</sub>	45-30-40-22-3.5-2	45-30-40-22-3.5-2	115-35-50-20-5-1.5	115-35-50-20-5-1.5
	C <sub>2</sub>	80-10-50-0-0-0	80-10-50-0-0-0	148-12-46-6-0-0	148-12-46-6-0-0
	C <sub>3</sub>	73-13-25-10-0-0	73-13-25-10-0-0	86-7-14-6-1-0	86-7-14-6-1-0
Fertilizer application method	C <sub>1</sub>	All fertilizer applied as basal during final land preparation. one-third nitrogen (additional to basal) under irrigated condition	All fertilizer applied as basal during final land preparation. One-third nitrogen (additional to basal) under irrigated condition	Two-third of the nitrogen and all other fertilizers applied as basal during final land preparation. Remaining one-third of nitrogen applied at 17-21 days after sowing (DAS) after 1 <sup>st</sup> irrigation	Two-third of the nitrogen and all other fertilizers applied as basal during final land preparation. Remaining one-third of nitrogen applied at 17-21 days after sowing (DAS) after 1 <sup>st</sup> irrigation
	C <sub>2</sub>	Half of nitrogen and all other fertilizers applied as basal during final land preparation. Remaining nitrogen was top dressed at 40-45 DAS under moist soil condition	Half of nitrogen and all other fertilizers applied as basal during final land preparation. Remaining N <sub>2</sub> was top dressed at 40-45 DAS under moist soil condition	Half of nitrogen and all other fertilizers applied as basal during final land preparation. Remaining nitrogen was top dressed at 40-45 DAS under moist soil condition	Half of nitrogen and all other fertilizers applied as basal during final land preparation. Remaining nitrogen was top dressed at 40-45 DAS under moist soil condition
	C <sub>3</sub>	All PKS used as basal during final land preparation. N <sub>2</sub> used in 2 equal splits at 15-20 DAT and another one in 35-40 DAT.	All PKS used as basal during final land preparation. N <sub>2</sub> used in 2 equal splits at 15-20 DAT and another one in 35-40 DAT.	All PKSZn used as basal and N used in 3 equal splits, the first one after 15DAT, second one at 35-40 DAT and third one at 5-7 days before panicle initiation stage.	All PKSZn used as basal and N <sub>2</sub> used in 3 equal splits, the first one after 15 DAT, second one at 35-40 DAT and third one at 5-7 days before panicle initiation stage.
Weeding (no.)	C <sub>1</sub>	2 times	2 times	2 times	2 times
	C <sub>2</sub>	2 times, 1 <sup>st</sup> one at 20-30 DAS and 2 <sup>nd</sup> one at 50-60 DAS	2 times, 1 <sup>st</sup> one at 20-30 DAS and 2 <sup>nd</sup> one at 50-60 DAS	2 times, 1 <sup>st</sup> one at 20-25 DAS and 2 <sup>nd</sup> one at 40-45 DAS	2 times, 1 <sup>st</sup> one at 20-25 DAS and 2 <sup>nd</sup> one at 40-45 DAS
	C <sub>3</sub>	2 times weeding and mulching	2 times weeding and mulching	2 times, 1 <sup>st</sup> one at 20-25 DAT and 2 <sup>nd</sup> one at 40-45 DAT	2 times, 1 <sup>st</sup> one at 20-25 DAT and 2 <sup>nd</sup> one at 40-45 DAT

Table 2. Contd.

Parameters	C <sub>1</sub> =Wheat C <sub>2</sub> =Jute C <sub>3</sub> =T.aman	Farmers' Practice (FP)		Improved Practice (IP)	
		2011-2012	2012-2013	2011-2012	2012-2013
Irrigation	C <sub>1</sub>	2 times, 1 <sup>st</sup> one at 15-21 DAS and 2 <sup>nd</sup> one at 50-55 DAS	2 times, 1 <sup>st</sup> one at 15-21 DAS and 2 <sup>nd</sup> one at 50-55 DAS	2 times, 1 <sup>st</sup> one at 15-21 DAS and 2 <sup>nd</sup> one at 50-55 DAS	2 times, 1 <sup>st</sup> one at 15-21 DAS and 2 <sup>nd</sup> one at 50-55 DAS
	C <sub>2</sub>	-	-	-	-
	C <sub>3</sub>	One or two supplemental irrigation	One or two supplemental irrigation	One or two supplemental irrigation	One or two supplemental irrigation
Insect/ Rodent control	C <sub>1</sub>	Chemical	Chemical	IPM	IPM
	C <sub>2</sub>	-	-	IPM	IPM
	C <sub>3</sub>	Chemical	Chemical	IPM	IPM
Harvest time	C <sub>1</sub>	29 Mar. to 04 April	23-28 March	26-30 March	20-26 March
	C <sub>2</sub>	01-10 August	29-31 July	25-31 July	28-31 July
	C <sub>3</sub>	04-12 Nov.	03-09 Nov.	04-14 Nov.	05-10 Nov.
Field duration (days)	C <sub>1</sub>	113	114	108	107
	C <sub>2</sub>	121	123	118	120
	C <sub>3</sub>	88	90	92	94
Grain/ Fibre yield (t/ha)	C <sub>1</sub>	3.39	3.55	3.56	3.80
	C <sub>2</sub>	2.44	2.48	2.82	2.85
	C <sub>3</sub>	3.25	3.14	3.76	3.88
By-product yield (t/ha)	C <sub>1</sub>	4.15	4.08	3.99	4.54
	C <sub>2</sub>	3.94	3.76	4.37	4.24
	C <sub>3</sub>	3.37	3.53	3.95	4.34

Table 3. Productivity of Wheat-Jute-T.aman rice cropping pattern under farmers' and improved practices at Hatgobindapur, Faridpur, during 2011-2013

Year	Practice	Grain/ Fibre yield (t/ha)			By-product yield (t/ha)		
		Wheat	Jute	T.aman	Wheat	Jute	T.aman
2011-12	FP	3.19b	2.34b	3.25	4.15	3.94	3.37
	IP	3.66a	2.82a	3.76	3.99	4.37	3.95
2012-13	FP	3.15b	2.38b	3.14b	4.08	3.76	3.53
	IP	3.80a	2.85a	3.88a	4.54	4.24	4.34
Mean	FP	3.7b	2.36b	3.19b	4.12	3.85	3.45
	IP	3.83a	2.84a	3.82a	4.27	4.31	4.15

FP= Farmers' Practice, IP= Improved Practice, Different letter (s) with year-wise mean yield indicate significant at 5 % level

### Sustainable yield index

The sustainable yield index (SYI) of farmers' and improved cropping pattern are presented in Table 4. The sustainable yield index value as a measure of sustainability of the patterns which was higher in improved pattern (94%) and lower in farmers' pattern (89%). This indicated that improved pattern is therefore, more stable than farmers' pattern. The results are in agreement with the findings of Nazrul *et al.*(2013) and Khan *et al.* (2005).

### Cost benefit analysis

From the economic point of view, the improved cropping pattern showed its superiority over farmers' pattern during two consecutive years of cropping. On an average, gross return of the improved pattern was Tk.265495/ha which was more than 9% higher than farmers' pattern of TK. 242935/ha (Table 5). The production cost of the improved pattern (Tk. 142408/ha) was higher than farmers' pattern (Tk.138362/ha) due to labour intensive, cost of fertilizer and other inputs. The net return was substantially higher in the improved pattern (Tk.123087/ha) than farmers' pattern (Tk. 104573/ha). The higher net return of the improved pattern was achieved mainly higher yield advantages of the component crops. The 18 % additional net return was achieved by adding 3 % additional cost in the improved pattern. The higher cost benefit ratio further indicated the superiority of the improved pattern over the farmers' pattern.

**Table 4. Rice-equivalent yield, production efficiency, land use efficiency and sustainable yield index of farmers' and improved cropping pattern at Hatgobindapur, Faridpur during 2011-2013**

Year	Cropping pattern	Rice-equivalent yield (t/ha)	Production efficiency (kg/ha/day)	Land use efficiency (%)	Sustainable yield index (%)
2011-12	FP	13.35	28.20	88.22	88.24
	IP	14.97	31.99	86.85	92.88
2012-13	FP	13.55	28.04	89.59	89.30
	IP	15.47	32.80	87.95	95.47
Mean	FP	13.45	28.12	88.91	88.78
	IP	15.22	32.40	87.40	94.18

**Table 5. Cost benefit analysis of Wheat-Jute-T.aman rice cropping pattern under farmers' and improved practices at Hatgobindapur, Faridpur, during 2011-2013**

Year	Cropping pattern	Gross return (Tk/ha)	Cost of cultivation (Tk/ha)	Net return (Tk/ha)	BCR
2011-12	FP	234590	133240	101350	1.76
	IP	259950	138285	121665	1.88
2012-13	FP	251280	143484	107796	1.75
	IP	271040	146532	124508	1.85
Mean	FP	242935	138362	104573	1.76
	IP	265495	142408	123087	1.86

## Conclusion

Considering higher rice-equivalent yield, net monetary return and more sustainability of the improved cropping pattern (Wheat-Jute-T.aman) with modern variety BARI Gom-26 and BRRI djan39 with improved technologies could be suggested for medium high land of the Low Ganges River Floodplain Agro-ecological Zone (AEZ-12) of Bangladesh

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