

Effect of Different Level of Irrigation on Biometric Parameters and Estimation of Crop Water Requirement for Summer Rice Crop under Drip Irrigation in Tarai Region of Uttarakhand

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ABSTRACT

This study was undertaken to investigate the response of different level of irrigation on crop growth, yield and water use of summer rice crop. Further, field investigation was also undertaken to estimation of crop water requirement for summer rice under drip irrigation system. The results were compared with the surface irrigation treatments. The present study for summer rice crop shows that the total irrigation water applied throughout the growing period of crop for treatment T₁, T₂, T₃, T₄, T₅ and T₆ under drip irrigation was 75.76, 60.60, 90.88, 92.89, 74.31 and 111.47 mm respectively. Similarly, total water applied for T₇ (TPR) and T₈ (TPR) with submerged irrigation under surface irrigation was 1166 and 1555mm. The water saving in treatments T₁ to T₆ under drip irrigation over submerged irrigation was found to be 95.12 to 92.83 percent and water saving in treatment T₇ TPR with saturated level at 20 × 20 cm spacing under surface irrigation over TPR with submerged irrigation was found to be 25.01 percent. The result revealed that more water saving occurs in drip irrigation. The growth parameters such as plant height, number shoot per m² were found maximum in the treatments T₇ (TPR at 20 × 20 cm spacing under surface irrigation) at 30, 60 DAS and in treatment T₃ at 60, 90 DAS and at harvest respectively. The maximum tillers per plant was observed in treatment T₂ (0.8V (TPR) with drip irrigation 20×20cm spacing under drip irrigation) at 60, 90 DAS and at harvest. The maximum grain yield was observed 4.2 t/ha in treatment T₈ followed by treatment T₃ (3.05 t/ha), T₇ (4.1t/ha). The minimum yield was observed in T₆ (2.1 t/ha).whereas, the values of water use efficiency obtained ranges from 0.19 t/ha-cm to 0.44,t/ha-cm.

Key word: Drip Irrigation, Summer rice

INTRODUCTION

In the world, water resources are abundant. The increasing water demand for domestic use has adverse effects on agricultural development, as the knowledge of common

people on optimal water use is limited and common irrigation methods for most of the crops, like summer paddy, monsoon paddy, wheat etc.

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are wild flooding, border, basin, and furrow irrigation methods with very low irrigation efficiency and high water demand. Under such irrigation conditions, the crops especially paddy is regarded as a high water-consuming crop, hindering its development in areas with limited water resource availability. It is therefore, essential to formulate an economically viable water and other input management strategies in order to irrigate more land area with existing water resources and to enhance crop productivity. Also, the improper distribution of water is lowering the conveyance efficiency and field application and ultimately causing the loss of irrigation water. Thus, right amount and frequency of irrigation is vital for optimum use of limited water resources for crop production and management. Rice (*Oryza sativa*), member of grass family is the staple food and about 530 million ton per year rice is produced globally. It is an important target to provide food security and livelihoods for millions. More than 90% of the world's rice production is consumed in Asia and much of the rice crop is grown under irrigation. Over 80% of Asia's freshwater resources available for irrigation are used in crop production and about 50% of this is used in rice. It is a water-intensive crop and occupies just about 30% of the cultivable area but consumes nearly 70 % of available water. Also, when it comes to water productivity in paddy, India's is the lowest in the world, at 150 grams of paddy per 1,000 liters, resulting in an average output of 2.1 tonnes per hectare.

Drip irrigation

Drip irrigation is a method of irrigation with high frequency application of water in and around the root zone of plants (crop) and consist of network of pipes with suitable emitting device. It is also known as trickle irrigation was first used in mid 1960s but its wide scale adoption commenced in 1970s, when it was first used on 56,000ha area. Currently, more than 6 million hectares have been covered under micro irrigation world over. The highest coverage is in America (1.9 mha) followed by Europe and Asia (1.8 mha),

Africa (0.4 mha), and Oceania (0.2 mha).

Objectives of the study

There are not many research studies and other related technical literature and standards regarding drip irrigation for summer rice. Therefore, some research is required to determine the water requirement at different level of drip irrigation for summer rice crop. Water is one of the most important inputs essential for plant growth. Right amount of water at right time in right manner at right place leads to improved water productivity and resource saving. Keeping above in view an attempt has been made to study the response of different level of irrigation for summer rice crop. Further, field investigation was also undertaken to estimate crop water requirement for summer paddy crop grown at experimental area of college of technology, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar under different level of irrigation. Keeping all the above cited issues in mind the present work has been undertaken with the following objectives:

- To compare the effects of different level of irrigation on crop growth, crop yield and water use efficiency of summer rice crop.
- To estimate crop water requirement for summer rice under drip irrigation system.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was undertaken with a view to compare the effects of different level of irrigation on crop growth, yield and water use efficiency for summer rice crop. The various field experiments were undertaken to study the response of drip irrigation on crop growth, yield, water saving, water use and water use efficiency for summer rice crop.

Study Area, Climate and Soil Characteristics

The study area comes under climatic zone of western Himalayan region and is located in the Shivalik foothills of the Himalayas and represents the *Tarai* region of Uttarakhand state. The study area comes under Agro-climatic zone 14 and 9. The field experiment was conducted at the college of technology GBPUA&T Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, located at

29°N latitude, 79°30'E longitude and at an altitude of 243.83 m above mean sea level. The meteorological data such as temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, sunshine hours, rainfall and pan evaporation during the crop period was obtained from the meteorological observatory located at Crop Research Centre, Pantnagar about 2 km away from the experimental site. The experimental site consists of silty clay loam with sand (14 %), silt (54 %) and clay (32 %). The average bulk density of the experimental site was determined using core sampler. The average bulk density was found to be 1.3 g/cm³. The field capacity was found to be 40 percent by weight basis.

Effect of Different Level of Irrigation on Crop Growth, Yield

To study the effect of different level of irrigation on crop growth, for summer rice an experimental set up and layout was created.

$$V = \sum (E_p \times K_c \times K_p \times S_p \times S_r \times WP + ER) \quad \dots(3.1)$$

Where,

V = estimated crop water requirement at 100% water use level, litre/day/plant

Epan = Pan Evaporation, mm

Kc = Crop coefficient

Kp = Pan coefficient

Sp = Plant to plant spacing, m

Sr = Row to row spacing, m

Wp = Percentage wetted area, 90%

ER = Effective rainfall, mm

The crop coefficient, K_c, for rice crop was calculated on the basis of Agromet Advisory Service Bulletin, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (Table.A.1). The crop coefficient K_c values are varying with the type of crop, its growing stage, growing season and prevailing weather

$$ER = P_t [] \text{ for } P_t < 250\text{mm} \quad \dots (3.1.1)$$

Where,

P_t - total rainfall, mm

The drip irrigation system was laid with a mainline of a PVC pipe of 40mm diameter having wall thickness of 1.8mm and pressure rating up to 4 Kg/cm². The 16 mm diameter pipes having inline drippers of 30cm spacing and emission rate of 1.3 l/h were used as

The details of experimental design and layout are presented in the following section.

Experimental plan and layout – Summer Rice

A field of 358 area was divided into eight equal plots of 20m x 1.8m. The experiment was laid out in randomized block design having 8 treatments. 0.5m meter gap between each plot was left to avoid the effect of irrigation treatments. The variety of the rice crop was HKR-47. The method used for summer rice sowing in all treatments was transplanted. The plant to plant and row to row spacing varied according to the treatments. Treatments 1 to 6 were grown under drip irrigation. The treatment details of the experiment are presented in Table 3.1.

Drip irrigation scheduling of summer rice crop The daily crop water requirement/volume of water to be applied was estimated using the following relationship as given in INCID. The total water applied to the crop is calculated as

conditions. The shape of the curve represents the changes in vegetation and ground cover during crop development and maturation that affect the ratio of ET_c or ET₀. The effective rainfall (ER) is calculated on monthly basis based on USDA. S.C.S method as:

dripline. The drip lines were laid parallel to the crop rows and each drip line served two rows of crop. The duration of delivery of water to each treatment was controlled with the help of valves provided at inlet of each laterals. In case of surface irrigation, scheduling for

transplanted rice (TPR) the crop was kept submerged in water. The discharge in both the irrigation was measured on volumetric basis.

Agronomic details

Test crop

Summer Rice (*Oryza sativa*), variety HKR-47 selected as test crop for the study. The variety released in November 2005 is a medium dwarf variety with long, sleek, golden yellow grains. Leaves are straight and dark green in colour. It is suitable for early as well as late sowing.

Preparation of land

The field was ploughed deep (20-25 cm) with soil turning plough. Thereafter the plots were prepared manually by spade. The layout of the experiment was prepared according to the experimental plan.

Transplanting

The rice seeds were sowing in the nursery on 4th feb 2015. Later the nursery raised rice seedlings were transplanted on 15th march 2015 with the spacing according to the treatment.

Fertigation

Based on soil analysis recommended dose of N:P₂O₅:K₂O, 120:60:40 kg/ha were supplied during the crop period. The 25% of recommended dose of N and total quantities of P₂O₅ and K₂O along with 25 kg/ha of Zn were applied at the time of sowing and just before transplanting. The remaining quantity of N was supplied in two equal instalments at active tillering and 5-7 days before panicle initiation stage. After 60 days of sowing 4 kg of N:P₂O₅:K₂O (20:20:20) and 2 kg of urea were supplied and broadcasted as per treatments. 1 kg of urea was broadcasted and 4 kg of urea was supplied through drip after 75 and 95 days after sowing.

Weed control

Submergence of rice field by irrigation helps in weed control therefore, for the treatments in which rice crop was grown under drip irrigation, weed control happened to be an important acultural operation. A chemical

pendimethalin @ 5ml/l of water was sprayed immediately after sowing for the control of weeds and 6 times the hand weeding was done in all the plots which were under drip irrigation in the interval of 15 days after sowing. There were hardly any weeds in the plots under surface irrigation

Crop protection measures

The crop was supervised regularly. Based on observed symptoms for fungus, bacteria and insects the protection or control measures were taken.

Observations recorded in summer rice crop

Five plants were randomly selected from each plot and selected plants were tagged by aluminium tag for identification. For taking biometric observations different parameters of vegetative growth such as plant height, number of shoots per m², number of tillers per plant and yield and yield contributing characters were recorded.

Plant height

The plant height of selected plants was recorded at 30 days interval in each replication of different treatments. The plant height was recorded from the bottom of the plant to the highest leaf of the individual plant. The plant height was recorded at 30 DAS, 60 DAS, 90 DAS and at harvest.

Number of shoots per m²

One m² area was marked in each treatment and number shoots within that area were recorded at 30 DAS, 60 DAS, 90 DAS and at harvest.

Number of tillers per plant

The number of tillers in selected plants was recorded at 30 DAS, 60 DAS, 90 DAS and at harvest in each replication of different treatments.

Yield and yield contributing characters

Number of productive tillers, panicles per plant, number of grains per plant, ear length and 1000 grains weight were recorded at and after harvest in each replication of different treatments.

Table 3.1. Experimental details of drip and surface method of irrigation in rice crop

Irrigation Treatments	Details of irrigation
T ₁	V at 20 × 20 cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation
T ₂	0.8V at 20 × 20cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation
T ₃	1.2V at 20 × 20 cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation
T ₄	V at 15 × 20 cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation
T ₅	0.8 V at 15 × 20cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation
T ₆	1.2Vat 15 × 20 cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation
T ₇	TPR with saturated level of soil moisture at 20 × 20 cm spacing under surface irrigation
T ₈	TPR with submerged irrigation at 20 × 10 cm spacing under surface irrigation

**Summer Rice crop under Drip Irrigation at 15 DAS****Summer Rice crop under Drip Irrigation at 90 DAS****RESULTS AND DISCUSSION****Water requirement and water economy of summer rice crop under different level of irrigation****Water requirement**

The experiment was started for summer rice in the month of March 2015. Various level of

irrigation water was applied according to the estimated daily crop water requirement/volume of water, for the drip irrigation treatments. Table 4.1 represents amount of irrigation water applied at different level of irrigation. The total irrigation water applied throughout the growing period of crop

for treatment T₁, T₂, T₃, T₄, T₅ and T₆ under drip irrigation was 75.76, 60.60, 90.88, 92.89, 74.31 and 111.47 mm respectively. Similarly, total water applied for T₇ TPR and T₈ TPR with submerged irrigation under surface irrigation was 1166 and 1555mm.

Water saving

The data pertaining to the water saving due to drip irrigation over surface method of irrigation is given in Table 4.1. The water saving in treatments T₁ to T₆ under drip irrigation over submerged irrigation was found to be 95.12 to 92.83 percent and water saving in treatment T₇ TPR with saturated level at 20 × 20 cm spacing under surface irrigation over TPR with submerged irrigation was found to be 25.01 percent. Water saving due to drip irrigation was obviously because of water application directly into plant root zone at frequent intervals through network of pipes with no water loss in field application.

Response of Different Level of Irrigation on Biometric Growth, Yield and Water use of summer Rice crop under Drip Irrigation Various crop biometric parameters, yield attributes, water use as influenced by different level of drip irrigation in combination with surface irrigation were investigated, which has been described in the following sections.

Effect of different level of irrigation on biometric parameters of summer rice under drip irrigation

The effect of different levels of irrigation on biometric parameters such as plant height, number of shoots per m², number of tillers per plant, yield were analyzed. The experimental results of these biometric observations are presented in Table 4.2 to 4.7

Plant height

The plant height of tagged plants was measured at 30, 60, 90 days after sowing (DAS) and at harvest (Table 4.2). The result revealed that the average plant height at 30 DAS and 60 DAS was significantly higher in treatment T₇ (TPR at 20 × 20 cm spacing under surface irrigation) compared with the rest of the treatments and treatment T₇ and T₈ (TPR with submerged irrigation at 20 × 10 cm

spacing under surface irrigation) showed significantly higher average plant height at 90 DAS and at harvest. There was significant influence of drip irrigation with larger spacing over submerged irrigation at 30 and 60 DAS on plant height while the TPR with saturated level of irrigation under surface irrigation showed significant influence on plant height throughout the growing period of crop.

Number of shoots per m²

Number of shoots was recorded within the marked 1 m² area at 30, 60, 90 days after sowing (DAS) and at harvest (Table 4.3). The effect of different treatments on shoot per m² was found to be significant at all different DAS. At 30 DAS the shoot per m² was observed maximum in the T₆ (1.2V at 15 × 20 cm (TPR) spacing under drip irrigation) which was 27.5 percent higher than T₈ (TPR with submerged irrigation at 20 × 10 cm spacing under surface irrigation). At 60, 90 DAS and at harvest T₃ (1.2V at 20 × 20 cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation) showed significantly higher shoots per m² which was 66.6, 45.9 and 41.6 percent respectively higher than T₈. Thus, the significant influence of drip irrigation over submerged irrigation on number shoots per m² was observed.

Number of tillers per plant

The data pertaining to number of tillers per plant are summarized in table 4.4. The effect of different treatments on tillers per plant was found to be significant at all different DAS. At 30 DAS maximum number of tillers per plant was observed in treatment T₃ (1.2V (TPR) with drip irrigation at 20×20cm spacing under drip irrigation) . At 60, 90 DAS and at harvest the maximum tillers per plant was observed in treatment T₂ (0.8V (TPR) with drip irrigation at 20×20cm spacing under drip irrigation).

Yield contributing characters

The data of yield contributing character that is number of productive tillers, number of panicles per plant, number of grains per plant, panicle length (cm) and 1000 grain weight (g) are presented in Table 4.5. The effects of treatments on all the characters were found to be significant. The data recorded for number

of productive tillers/hill and panicle length were found almost similar in all the treatments with maximum in treatment T₈ (16 productive tillers and 28 cm panicle length). The number of panicles and grains per plant were found to be maximum in treatment T₈ followed by T₇ and T₁. The last yield contribute, 1000 grain weight was also found to be maximum in treatment T₈ followed by T₃ and T₅. Thus, this result showed the significant influence of TPR with submerged irrigation on all the yield contributing characters over drip and TPR with saturated level of irrigation.

Grain yield, straw yield

The data of grain yield, straw yield are presented in Table 4.6. The effects of treatments on grain yield were found to be significant. The maximum grain yield observed was 4.2 t/ha in treatment T₈ followed

by (3.05 t/ha) T₇ (4.1t/ha). The minimum yield was observed in T₆ (2.1 t/ha). The straw yield was also found significant for all the effects of treatments and was observed maximum in T₅ (10.34 t/ha) followed by T₂ (9.34 t/ha) and the minimum was observed in T₆ (9.18 t/ha).

Water use efficiency

The values obtained ranges from 0.19 t/ha-cm to 0.44 t/ha-cm (Table 4.7). The water use efficiency was highest (0.44 t/ha-cm) for treatment T₂ (0.8V at 20 x 20 cm under (TPR) drip irrigation) followed (0.42 t/ha-cm) for T₃ (1.2V at 20 x 20 cm (TPR) under drip irrigation) and lowest (0.19 t/ha-cm) for T₈ (TPR with submerged irrigation at 20 × 10 cm spacing under surface irrigation). The results clearly indicate that the drip irrigation method has significantly increased the water use efficiency.

Table 4.1. Amount of total irrigation water applied in summer rice at different level of irrigation and corresponding water saving as compared to submerged irrigation

Treatment	Total irrigation water applied (mm)	Water saving (%)
T ₁ V at 20 × 20 cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation	75.76	95.12
T ₂ 0.8V at 20 × 20cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation	60.60	96.10
T ₃ 1.2Vat 20 × 20 cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation	90.88	94.15
T ₄ V at 15 × 20 cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation	92.89	94.02
T ₅ 0.8V at 15 × 20cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation	74.31	95.22
T ₆ 1.2Vat 15 × 20 cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation	111.47	92.83
T ₇ TPR with saturated level of soil moisture at 20 × 20 cm spacing under surface irrigation	1166	25.01
T ₈ TPR with submerged irrigation at 20 × 10 cm spacing under surface irrigation	1555	

Table 4.2. Effect of various treatments on plant height of summer rice crop (cm) at different stages of crop growth

Treatment	Plant Height (cm)			
	Days after sowing (DAS)			
	30	60	90	At Harvest
T ₁	43	49	97	103
T ₂	43	54	92	99
T ₃	41	55	96	100
T ₄	42	54	98	102
T ₅	44	58	94	98
T ₆	42	55	98	101
T ₇	47	59	102	105
T ₈	46	58	104	107

Fig. 4.1. Effect of different levels of irrigation on plant height of summer rice crop

Fig. 4.2. Effect of different levels of irrigation on shoots per m² for summer rice crop

Table 4.3. Effect of various treatments on number of shoots per m² of summer rice crop at different stages of crop growth

Treatment	Number of Shoots per m ²			
	Days after sowing (DAS)			
	30	60	90	At Harvest
T ₁	27	127	87	82
T ₂	35	124	95	92
T ₃	31	145	108	102
T ₄	33	119	92	84
T ₅	32	114	96	92
T ₆	37	107	88	83
T ₇	34	122	100	95
T ₈	29	87	74	72

Table 4.4. Effect of various treatments on number of tillers per plant of summer rice crop at different stages of crop growth

Treatment	Number of tillers per plant			
	Days after sowing (DAS)			
	30	60	90	At harvest
T ₁	9	20	22	19
T ₂	10	29	31	27
T ₃	15	27	29	25
T ₄	10	26	24	22
T ₅	13	28	25	24
T ₆	10	24	28	26
T ₇	8	25	23	21
T ₈	11	15	18	16

Fig. 4.3. Effect of different levels of irrigation on tillers per plant for summer rice crop**Table 4.5. Effect of various treatments on yield contributing characters of summer rice crop at harvest**

Treatment	No. of productive tillers/hill	No. of panicles/plant	No. of grains/plant	Panicle length(cm)	1000 grain weight(g)
T ₁	11	117	337	21	23.6
T ₂	12	112	307	20	23.7
T ₃	10	111	298	21	24.3
T ₄	11	116	267	23	23
T ₅	11	112	257	24	23.9
T ₆	12	117	230	22	23.2
T ₇	11	118	351	21	34
T ₈	16	124	367	28	35

Table 4.6. Effect of various treatments on grain yield, straw yield and harvesting index of summer rice crop

Treatment	Grain yield (t/ha)	Straw yield (t/ha)
T ₁	2.8	8.49
T ₂	3	9.34
T ₃	3.01	9
T ₄	2.5	8.72
T ₅	2.45	10.34
T ₆	2.1	9.18
T ₇	4.1	8.42
T ₈	4.2	9.20

Table 4.7. Water use efficiency of summer rice under different level of irrigation

Treatment	Total irrigation water applied (mm)	Effective rainfall (mm)	Total amount of water applied (mm)	Water use efficiency (t/ha-cm)	amount of water to produce unit yield (l/kg)
T ₁	75.76	614.39	690.5	0.40	2466
T ₂	60.60	614.39	674.89	0.44	2249
T ₃	90.88	614.39	705.27	0.42	2343
T ₄	92.89	614.39	707.28	0.35	2829
T ₅	74.31	614.39	688.7	0.36	2811
T ₆	111.47	614.39	725.86	0.28	3456
T ₇	1166	614.39	1780.39	0.23	4342
T ₈	1555	614.39	2169.39	0.19	5165

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The result revealed that the average plant height at 30 DAS and 60 DAS was significantly higher in treatment T₇ (TPR at 20 × 20 cm spacing under surface irrigation) compared with the rest of the treatments and treatment T₇ and T₈ (TPR with submerged irrigation at 20 × 10 cm spacing under surface irrigation) showed significantly higher average plant height at 90 DAS and at harvest. There was significant influence of drip irrigation with larger spacing over submerged irrigation at 30 and 60 DAS on plant height while the TPR with saturated level of irrigation under surface irrigation showed significant influence on plant height throughout the growing period of crop. The effect of different treatments on shoot per m² was found to be significant at all different DAS. At 30 DAS the shoot per m² was observed maximum in the T₆ (1.2V at 15 × 20 cm (TPR) spacing under drip irrigation) which was 27.5 percent higher than T₈ (TPR with submerged irrigation at 20 × 10 cm spacing under surface irrigation). At 60, 90 DAS and at harvest T₃ (1.2V at 20 × 20 cm spacing (TPR) under drip irrigation) showed significantly higher shoots per m² which was 66.6, 45.9 and 41.6 percent respectively higher than T₈. Thus, the significant influence of drip irrigation over submerged irrigation on number shoots per m² was observed. The effect of different treatments on tillers per plant was found to be significant at all different DAS. At 30 DAS maximum number of tillers per plant was observed in treatment T₃ (1.2V (TPR) with drip irrigation at 20×20cm spacing under drip irrigation) . At 60, 90 DAS and at harvest the maximum tillers per plant was observed in

treatment T₂ (0.8V (TPR) with drip irrigation at 20×20cm spacing under drip irrigation).The effects of treatments on all the characters were found to be significant. The data recorded for number of productive tillers/hill and panicle length were found almost similar in all the treatments with maximum in treatment T₈ (7 productive tillers and 26 cm panicle length). The number of panicles and grains per plant were found to be maximum in treatment T₈ followed by T₇ and T₁. The last yield contribute, 1000 grain weight was also found to be maximum in treatment T₈ followed by T₄ and T₁. Thus, this result showed the significant influence of TPR with submerged irrigation on all the yield contributing characters over drip and TPR with saturated level of irrigation.The maximum grain yield observed was 4.2 t/ha in treatment T₈ followed by (3.05 t/ha) T₇ (4.1t/ha). The minimum yield was observed in T₆ (2.1 t/ha). The straw yield was also found significant for all the effects of treatments and was observed maximum in T₅ (10.34 t/ha) followed by T₂ (9.34 t/ha) and the minimum was observed in T₆ (9.18 t/ha).The values obtained ranges from 0.19 t/ha-cm to 0.44 t/ha-cm. The water use efficiency was highest (0.44 t/ha-cm) for treatment T₂ (0.8V at 20 x 20 cm under (TPR) drip irrigation) followed (0.42 t/ha-cm) for T₃ (1.2V at 20 x 20 cm (TPR) under drip irrigation) and lowest (0.19 t/ha-cm) for T₈ (TPR with submerged irrigation at 20 × 10 cm spacing under surface irrigation). The results clearly indicate that the drip irrigation method has significantly increased the water use efficiency.The amount of water needed to grow one kg of rice was lowest under treatment T₂ with a value of 2249 litres of water, followed by

treatment T₃ with a value of 2343 litres and highest under treatment T₈ with a value of 5165 litres. The method of irrigation has significantly affected water use efficiency. The increased water use efficiency under drip irrigation is because of drip system that provides precise and measured quantity of water to individual plant. The saving of water combined with higher yield under drip irrigation are the reasons for increased water use efficiency. On the other hand surface irrigation has lowest water use efficiency. It is because of surface irrigation is associated with many losses like evaporation losses, seepage losses, deep percolation losses etc. In this study it was found that the drip irrigation system is not suitable for heavy soil like clay soil. Due to high soil moisture tension in summer season the soil was cracked under drip irrigation consequently less amount of irrigation water accumulated on the soil surface.

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