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SCREENING OF RICE FOR SALT TOLERANCE

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ABSTRACT

Hydroponics studies were conducted to test ten rice cultivars against the salinity levels of 0, 5 and 10 dS m^{-1} at a pH of 5. The salinity levels were developed 3 days after transplantation in three increments to avoid any salinity shock. The plants were harvested 28 days after transplantation. Sodium and K^+ in cell sap were determined and fresh weights of shoot and root, and no. of tillers were recorded. Higher K^+ and lower Na^+ concentration in plants reflected the higher tolerance of plants against salinity and vice versa. The high no. of tillers per plant and fresh weight of root and shoot, indirectly indicated the tolerant and resistant rice cultivars.