

B9 THE EFFECT OF THE AGE OF 'DAPOG' SEEDLING  
ON THE GROWTH AND YIELD OF RICE IN LOW TEMPERATURE AREA

S.C.J.Dissanayake, R.Peiris, I.P.K.Jayawardene and S.D.G.Jayawardene  
Div. of Botany, Central Agricultural Research Inst.  
Gannoruwa, Peradeniya

Dapog seedlings are normally recommended to be transplanted between 9-14 days after sowing. But in low temperature areas 'Dapog' seedlings do not grow to a sufficient height at the recommended time for transplanting. However it was found that 'Dapog' seedlings grown in low temperature areas could be maintained in the nursery for a longer period than the recommended time for transplanting, and a height increase was also observed till about the 25th day after sowing.

An experiment was carried out during Maha 1985/86 season in Pussellawa (950 M elevation) to find out the effect on the growth and yield of rice crop grown 'Dapog' seedlings that were kept for a longer period in the nursery.

In this study, two rice varieties ( $H_4$  and Bg 400-1) and three seedling ages (12, 18 and 24 day old dapog seedlings) were tested using a randomized complete block design with three replications.

The results showed no significant difference in growth and yield among crops grown from 12, 18 and 24 day old 'Dapog' seedlings, suggesting that in low temperature areas 'Dapog' seedlings could be kept in the nursery till the 24th day after sowing and delayed planting has no significant effect on yield.