

**B-42 : EVALUATION OF SOME MEDIUM -MATURITY RICE
INTRODUCTIONS IN VARIETAL IMPROVEMENT WORK**

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One hundred and twenty three rice varieties/lines introduced from 15 rice growing countries were evaluated with the local check variety, Bg 379-2 during Maha 90/91 at Central Rice Breeding Station, Batalagoda. The purpose of this study was to select best entries with local adaptability and identify different donor sources to widen the genetic base of the improved varieties.

These entries were planted in three 3 meter rows with a spacing of 20 x 15 cm and one seedling per hill. Fertilizer application and other cultural practices were done according to Departmental recommendations.

Based on morpho-agronomic characteristics, reactions to pests (Brown planthopper and Gallmidge) and diseases (Blast) and grain shape of the tested entries, 9 varieties namely: Cimandiri, CR 319-644, CT 6279-4-6-6-1, C3 CU 77-1CU-2CU-2CU-SM CU 2, IR 39485- 151-2-1-3, KK 15-36-C, P 3796F4-13-2, P 4733E2-15-1M-2P and P 5166-6F2-5-6 were identified. These selected varieties/lines were used for hybridization work in rice varietal development programme of the 4-4 1/2 maturity group.