

## Characterization of conserved long age rice germplasm

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More than one thousand and two hundred rice cultivars including traditional, old improved, new improved and introductions are conserved at the Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI), Batalagoda, Ibbagamuwa. Most of these cultivars are not properly characterized according to International standards. Therefore a study was conducted to morphological characterization of long age (5-6 month) rice cultivars conserved at the RRDI. One hundred rice cultivars were used for the study. Seeds of each cultivar were sown in upland nursery and 18 days old seedlings were transplanted in the field as three row progenies as one seedling at each hill. All other management practices were carried out as recommended by Dept. of Agriculture. Some of the important characters (plant height, culm diameter, seed shape and pericarp color) were taken according to the procedure given by International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) descriptor.

Results obtained from the study related to seed shape (length/width ratio) 13 cultivars produced short round (samba) seeds. Eighty –seven cultivars produced intermediate bold and long medium (nadu) seeds. Out of 100 cultivars 34 having seeds with red pericarp and 66 produced seeds with white pericarp. Results showed 81% of cultivars having plant height in between 90-120 cm. and most of these cultivars were susceptible to lodging. Out of 100 cultivars 90% showed culm diameter less than 6 mm. Hence these results suggest that lodging susceptibility always negatively correlated with culm diameter. These findings can be used to select parental materials for future breeding programme.