



BNKR-1 (Dhiren) – A newly released late duration high-yielding rice variety an alternative to Swarna (MTU 7029) for West Bengal, India

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Abstract: BNKR – I (Dhiren), a new late duration high yielding rice variety developed at Rice Research Station, Bankura, West Bengal, India was released by “State Variety Release Committee” (SVRC), West Bengal in 2011 for cultivation in irrigated late areas of West Bengal, India. Before release as BNKR – I (Dhiren), this rice culture completed three years of national testing (2008-2010) in the designation of CN 1340-76-1-BNKR 23-7-1 (IET 20760) and had been recommended for release in irrigated areas of Bihar and West Bengal under transplanted condition in 46th National Group Meeting on Rice organized by Directorate of Rice Research (ICAR), Hyderabad, India during April 2011. It gave 7.65 to 12.12% yield advantage over national check in national level. Not only that this culture of rice tested extensively in the farm of Rice research Station, Bankura, West Bengal and farmer’s field. It showed 11.64% and 19.30% yield advantage during 2006 and 2007 in observational trial, 10.44 to 14.38% yield advantage in on station yield trial during 2008-2010 and 12.51 to 17.93% yield advantage in farmer’s field during 2009 and 2010 over Swarna (MTU 7029), which is the most popular rice variety of West Bengal. BNKR – I (Dhiren) is non-lodging, non-shattering and late maturing variety (seed to seed : 142 days). It is moderately resistant to leaf blast, neck blast, brown spot, sheath rot and leaf folder. It’s average yield is 5000 – 5500 kg ha⁻¹. Grain type is short bold. It is expected that BNKR – I (Dhiren) can be able to replace Swarna (MTU 7029), the most popular rice variety of West Bengal, India.

Keywords: Bankura, BNKR – I (Dhiren), IET 20760, late duration, Rice Variety, Swarna (MTU 7029)

Swarna (MTU 7029) is the most popular late duration rice variety of West Bengal, India. This variety has been extensively grown by the farmer’s of West Bengal for a long time. Farmer’s want to replace Swarna as it has become susceptible to different pest and diseases, but due to lack of suitable alternative farmer’s till now continuing the cultivation of Swarna (MTU 7029) (Saha *et al.* 2008). There is a need to develop an alternative to Swarna (MTU 7029) with more yield and more resistant to different pest and diseases.

Since the systematic research on rice started, mostly hybridization and pedigree selection and to some extent backcross breeding have been adopted on developing improved HYV’s (Shobha Rani *et al.*, 2011). Previously many rice varieties developed in India through pedigree selection namely Vivek Dhan 82 (Sharma *et al.*, 2003), Santosh (Thakur *et al.*, 2003), Rajendra Mahsuri 1 (Sahai *et al.* 2004) etc. To develop a rice variety with high yield for irrigated late situation a cross was made in 2000 between IR42 (Female parent) and Patnai 23 (Male parent). A promising rice culture CN 1340-76-1-BNKR 23-7-1, was developed through the pedigree selection method. Before being nominated to the All India Coordinated trial for testing

under Initial Varietal Trial (Late) as IET 20760 in 2008, this rice culture was tested for consecutive two years for its yield during *Kharif* 2006 and *Kharif* 2007 in observational trials at the farm of Rice Research Station, Bankura, West Bengal, India. It showed 11.64% and 19.30% yield advantage over Swarna during *Kharif* 2006 and 2007 respectively. (Table 2).

It was tested for three years (IVT-L, 2008; AVT-IL, 2009; and AVT-2L 2010) through “All India Co-ordinated Rice Improvement Project” at 59 locations all over the country under the supervision of Directorate of Rice Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. On the basis of All India Mean yield IET 20760 gave 7.65 to 12.12%, 9.30 to 16.57% and 5.20 to 17.27% more yield than National, Regional and Local check respectively (Table 1). After three years of testing IET 20760 was recommended for release in irrigated areas of Bihar and West Bengal under transplanted condition in 46th National Group Meeting on rice organized by Directorate of Rice Research (ICAR), Hyderabad in April, 2011. It was tested at Rice Research Station, Bankura, West Bengal through on-station yield trial for three years (2008 to 2010) and gave 10.44 to 14.38% yield advantage over Swarna (MTU 7029). Not only that it was also tested on

Table 1. Yield Performance of IET 20760 (CN 1340-76-1-BNKR 23-7-1) in All India Coordinated Trials (Mean Basis) from 2008-2010 in comparison with checks.

Name of trial	Year of testing	No. of location	IET 20760 (kg ha ⁻¹)	National check (kg ha ⁻¹)	Regional check (kg ha ⁻¹)	Local check (kg ha ⁻¹)	C.D.
IVT – L	2008 (1 st year)	18	4893	4364	4305	4651	307
AVT 1 – L	2009 (2 nd year)	19	5403	4862	4635	4948	326
AVT 2 – L	2010 (3 rd year)	22	5358	4977	4902	4569	326
	Mean	59	5231	4753	4634	4716	
Percent increase or decrease over the checks	2008			+ 12.12 *	+ 13.65 *	+ 5.20	
	2009			+ 11.12 *	+ 16.57 *	+ 9.19 *	
	2010			+ 7.65 *	+ 9.30 *	+ 17.27 *	
	Mean			+ 10.06	+ 12.88	+ 11.11	
Frequency in top group (pooled for 3 years)			35/59	24/59	22/59	30/59	

Note: * observed difference is significant at 0.05 level.

1 = Savitri used as national check in 2008 and 2009 and Swarna (MTU 7029) in 2010.

2 = Regional checks were Pooja (Eastern region), Salivahana (Western region) and Samba mahsuri (Southern region)

3 = Mahanadi, Tapaswini, Ranjit, Karjat-2, SYE-5, Rajendra, Asha etc. used as local checks in different states of India.

Table 2. Yield performance of IET 20760 (CN 1340-76-1-BNKR 23-7-1) in Comparison with Swarna in different trials in West Bengal, India.

Year	Trial	IET 20760 (kg ha ⁻¹)	Swarna (kg ha ⁻¹)	Yield increase over Swarna (%)
2006	On-station observational trial	4813	4311	11.64
2007	On-station observational trial	6100	5113	19.30
2008	On-station yield trial	5473	4785	14.38
2009	On-station yield trial	5821	5250	10.87
2010	On-station yield trial	5604	5074	10.44
2009	On-farm trial (4 location) 20 farmer's field	6037	5119	17.93
2010	On-farm trial (4 location) 20 farmer's field	6005	5337	12.51

farmer's field during 2009 and 2010 through on-farm trials and gave 17.93% and 12.51% more yield than the farmer's choice variety Swarna.

State Variety Release Committee, West Bengal, India released IET 20760 as BNKR-1 (Dhiren) in 2011 for cultivation in irrigated areas under transplanted condition in West Bengal. BNKR-1 (Dhiren) is a non-lodging, non-shattering and late maturing variety. Its average yield is 5000-5500 kg ha⁻¹ and yield potentiality 10,793 kg ha⁻¹ (at Port Blair). Details morphological characteristics given in Table 3. It was tested through National Screening Nurseries for its reaction to different pest and diseases during *khari*

2008 and 2009. It showed moderate resistant against leaf blast, neck blast, sheath rot, brown spot and leaf folder.

BNKR-1 (Dhiren) yielding higher than the most popular HYV rice variety Swarna of same maturity group (late) is a boon for the farmer's of West Bengal, India. There is a great demand for seed of BNKR-1 (Dhiren) from farming community and gaining popularity day by day among the farmers of Bankura, Purulia and Paschim Medinipur districts of West Bengal. This variety has the potential to be an alternative/replacement for MTU 7029 (Swarna) in irrigated areas of West Bengal.

Table 3. Description of the rice variety BNKR – 1 (Dhiren) [IET 20760].

1	Plant height	129 cm
2	Plant Type	Semi-erect
3	No. of tillers / Plant	12.5
4	Leaf : Intensity of green colour	Light green
5	Average length of flag leaf	30.85 cm
6	Average length of second leaf	43.5 cm
7	Average breadth of flag leaf	1.69 cm
8	Average breadth of second leaf	2.08 cm
9	Flowering duration (50% flowering)	116 days
10	Average no. of grains per panicle	236
11	Awning	Awnless
12	Panicle exertion	Well exerted
13	Average length of panicle	25.7 cm
14	Lodging characteristics	Non lodging
15	1000 Grain Weight	22.92 gms
16	Kernel length (mm)	5.05 mm
17	Kernel breadth (mm)	2.48 mm
18	L / B ratio	2.036
19	Kernel appearance	Translucent, grain chalkiness – VOC
20	Grain type	SB
21	Milling recovery	69.70%
22	Amylose Content	22.50%

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