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**Research Article**

# Accelerating public sector rice breeding with high-density KASP markers derived from whole genome sequencing of *indica* rice

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**Abstract**

Few public sector rice breeders have the capacity to use NGS-derived markers in their breeding programmes despite rapidly expanding repositories of rice genome sequence data. They rely on >18,000 mapped microsatellites (SSRs) for marker-assisted selection (MAS) using gel analysis. A lack of knowledge about target SNP and InDel variant loci has hampered their uptake of KASP, a proprietary technology of LGC genomics. KASP is a cost-effective single-step genotyping technology, cheaper than SSRs and more flexible than genotyping by sequencing (GBS) or array based genotyping when used in selection programmes. Before this study there were 2,015 rice KASP in the public domain, mainly identified by array-based screening leaving large proportions of the rice genome with no KASP marker coverage. Here we have addressed the urgent need for a wide choice of appropriate rice KASP markers, and demonstrated that NGS can provide full genome marker coverage. Through resequencing of nine *indica* rice breeding lines or released varieties, this study has identified 2.5 million variant sites. Stringent filtering of variants generated 1.3 million potential KASP assay designs, including 92,500 potential functional markers. This strategy delivers a 650-fold increase in potential selectable KASP markers at a density of 3.1 marker per 1 kb in the *indica* crosses analysed with 377,178 polymorphic KASP marker design sites on average per cross. This knowledge is available to breeders and has been utilised to improve the efficiency of public sector breeding in Nepal, enabling identification of polymorphic KASP at any mapped trait or QTL in relevant crosses. Validation of 39 new KASP was carried out by genotyping progeny from a range of crosses and detecting segregating alleles to aid trait selection during marker-assisted backcrossing, where target traits included rice blast and BLB resistance. Furthermore, we provide the software for plant breeders to generate KASP designs from their own datasets.

**Keywords** Bacterial blight · genomic selection (GS) · kompetitive allele-specific PCR (KASP) · marker-assisted selection (MAS) · next generation sequencing (NGS) · physical mapping · rice blast · single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) · allele mining software

## Introduction

Cost is a major factor that determines whether or not marker assisted selection (MAS) is a viable breeding method for national programmes and smaller breeders. Despite advantages such as improved reliability, MAS will rarely be used if it is more expensive than phenotyping. Reducing the costs of markers increases the frequency of cases where MAS is more cost effective than phenotyping. KASP is a cost effective and flexible proprietary technology of LGC Genomics, however, public sector rice breeders have been slow to adopt it because KASP assays have not been widely published in linkage maps to the same extent as SSRs. Where costs permit, SSRs are still the marker technology most commonly used by most public sector breeders, especially for marker-assisted rice breeding (Miah et al., 2013) because they alone provide a sufficient choice of mapped markers. Breeders can choose from over 18,000 SSRs (Narshimulu et al., 2011) while the use of KASP markers is limited by the number publically available and these offer limited options in crosses between *indica* lines.

Prior to this study, 2,015 KASP assays were made publically available for rice (Pariasca-Tanaka et al., 2015) that were developed in rice using a arrray-based Illumina GoldenGate technology by the Generation Challenge Program of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to analyse crosses between *O. sativa indica* and *O. glaberrima*. The original 2,015 SNPs had been identified from the OryzaSNP project (McNally et al., 2009) and Sanger sequencing. OryzaSNP used 20 genetically diverse genotypes to discover SNPs via long range PCR and re-sequencing of microarrays. To date, and to our knowledge, no large scale SNP and InDel discovery effort has been published for rice where NGS whole genome re-sequencing was used specifically to identify potential KASP, yet there is an urgent need for large numbers of KASP markers in rice.

KASP is a single-step genotyping technology that reveals, via fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET), pre-identified co-codominant alleles for both SNP and InDel variations between parents and progeny in segregating crosses for MAS. KASP has the major advantage of improved cost-effectiveness because it is both cheaper and more reliable than other marker technologies, including other sequence-based markers, such as TaqMan (Patil et al, 2017). A resource of available genome-wide variations would facilitate KASP to be used for whole genome coverage in genomic selection (GS) which has been pioneered using and array-based technology. Array-based genotyping and NGS-based genotyping technologies (such as Genotyping by Sequencing) are not being taken up by public sector breeders because they lack the flexibility and ease afforded by SSRs. KASP offer the benefits of SSRs plus the added ability of being able to detect functional markers within target genes and

88 KASP are easier to use: either LGC Genomics can provide a full KASP genotyping service or the KASP reagents
89 can be ordered from them for carrying out assays in a basic molecular laboratory. KASP technology is more rapid
90 than SSRs and it has scalability that makes it suitable for a wide range of experimental designs with greatly varying
91 target loci and sample numbers (He et al., 2014). These can range from only a single marker, such as a selectable
92 marker for a specific gene, through to several thousands of markers for applications such GS. The effectiveness
93 of KASP has been demonstrated in plant-breeding applications, including quality control analysis of germplasm
94 (Semagn et al., 2012; Ertiro et al., 2015), screening for candidate alleles and genotyping (Mideros et al., 2013;
95 Pham et al., 2015), bulk segregant analysis and genetic mapping (Ramirez-Gonzalez et al., 2014; Mackay et al.,
96 2014), and MAS (Cabral et al., 2014; Leal-Bertioli et al., 2015).

97 Marker assisted breeding has been introduced in Nepal's national programmes, mainly based on SSRs
98 but recently incorporating existing KASP for background selection. However, few of the existing rice KASP were
99 suitable for selection at the breeders' targets of BLB and blast resistance genes and aroma QTLs. Therefore, the
100 objective of the work reported here was to identify appropriate SNPs and InDels, for this purpose, in order to
101 facilitate the uptake of KASP for greater efficiency of rice breeding. At current rates the KASP genotyping service
102 is estimated to be 60% cheaper than running SSRs in-house at NARC's laboratories in Kathmandhu, Nepal:
103 Genotyping 475 samples with 10 assays costs $0.20 per data point with KASP (full genotyping service, including
104 shipping costs), $0.39 with in-house KASP and $0.53 with in-house SSRs.

105 This study used whole genome NGS specifically to identify large numbers of SNP and InDel variations
106 and used bioinformatics filtering of NGS reads to discover potential KASP assays throughout the rice genome.
107 We re-sequenced nine *indica* rice lines and aligned the sequences to the *indica* reference genome to maximise the
108 identification of applicable loci. The study provides new evidence on the effectiveness of using NGS sequence
109 data from a limited number of lines and makes comparisons between the new potential KASP and those that were
110 available prior to this work for density and genomic distribution throughout the physical map in a range of crosses.
111

## Materials and methods

### Sequence data generation

#### *Plant materials and DNA extraction for NGS*

Nine *indica* rice lines (Table S1) were selected for sequencing. Three (Sunaulo Sugandha, Anamol Masuli and Sugandha-1) were from a breeding programme in Nepal (Witcombe et al., 2013) and one (Khumal-4) is a widely grown mid-hill variety in Nepal. They are all being used as recurrent parents for rice breeding in Nepal. Sunaulo Sugandha and Sugandha-1 are aromatic. Four (IR64, IR71033, IR65482, IRBB60 and Loktantra) were chosen as donors of resistance to the diseases bacteria blight (caused by *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae*) and blast (caused by *Magnaporthe oryzae*). Seedlings were grown in a controlled environment room at Bangor University (BU) and DNA extracted at BU from the leaves of one representative seedling per variety using Qiagen DNEasy kits (Qiagen, Manchester, UK). The plants were grown to maturity and visually checked for phenotypic uniformity within each variety.

#### *NGS, read processing and read alignment*

Paired-end sequencing, using the Illumina HiSeq 2000 platform, and read processing was carried out at LGC Genomics (Berlin, Germany). For bioinformatics analysis Illumina adaptor sequences were removed and quality trimming of adaptor-clipped reads was performed, removing reads containing Ns, and 3'-end trimming reads to get a minimum average Phred quality score of 20 over a window of ten bases. Reads with a final length of less than 20 bases were discarded. The sequences have been submitted to the NCBI Sequence Read Archive under BioProject accession PRJNA395505 (available at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/395505).

The reference genome sequence used was cultivar 93-11 of *Oryza sativa* ssp. *indica*. The Read Assembly version ASM465v1 of 93-11, sequenced and annotated by the Beijing Genome Institute (Yu et al., 2002; Zhao et al., 2004) was downloaded from EnsemblPlants (http://plants.ensembl.org). Sequencing reads were aligned against this reference using Bowtie2 (Langmead and Salzberg 2012). Discordant or mixed paired-read alignments were not permitted, with all other alignment parameters kept as default. Only read pairs with both reads aligning in the expected orientation were used in subsequent analyses.

### Variant calling

141 SAMtools (Li et al., 2009) was used to calculate genotype likelihoods and identify single nucleotide
142 polymorphisms (SNPs) and InDels between the aligned sequencing reads and the *O. sativa* ssp. *indica* reference.
143 SNPs or insertions with a read depth higher than 200 were filtered out (using vcfutils) due to likelihood of variable
144 copy number repeats influencing read mapping. Also, those with a read depth of less than five were removed.
145 Custom Perl scripts were used to identify variants between all pairwise combinations of the nine rice lines, based
146 on the variant calls made for each variety against the *indica* reference. The positions of the variants were
147 compared against the annotated gene and coding sequence positions to test whether they corresponded to
148 functional mutations.

149 Variant filtering for suitability as KASP markers

150 Variant Call Format (VCF) files generated by SAMtools (see above) were parsed using a custom Perl script
151 (Supplementary File S1) to retrieve the flanking sequences 50 bp either side of each variation site, and identify
152 variants suitable for KASP markers following a stepwise identification process (Figure. S1). The criteria for
153 selection were that the flanking sequences a) did not contain any InDels; b) contained a maximum of four
154 ambiguous bases; c) had a base coverage of at least five at any position; and d) had no more than four consecutive
155 repeats of any 1-5 nucleotide sequence. Variants that passed this filtering were defined as potential KASP markers.
156 The SNP positions of the potential KASP markers were used in the diversity analysis of potential KASP assays
157 below.

158 *In-silico* analysis of diversity using the new and existing KASP markers for the nine rice lines.

159

160 The sequence variants of each of the 1,329,325 potential KASP that passed the filtering (Figure. S1) were used to
161 make 45 comparisons - the 36 possible pairwise comparisons between these nine lines and the nine comparisons
162 to the *indica* reference cultivar. For the 2,015 existing KASP markers based on rice SNPs that had previously
163 been developed (Pariasca-Tanaka et al. 2015), the KASP primer sequences were aligned against the *indica*
164 reference using BLAST (Altschul et al., 1990) to determine if the sequence reliably aligned to *indica* (those with
165 at least 95% identity). This eliminated 205 KASPs specific to *japonica*. A further 731 KASP were at sites where
166 no polymorphism was detected between any of the nine lines and the *indica* reference. This left 1,159 existing
167 KASP markers that were used for the same 45 comparisons. The density and distribution of potential and existing
168 KASP were analysed for the nine lines compared tp *indica* reference genome, and for pairwise comparisons
169 between the resequenced lines, using the genome locations of the SNPs and InDels of the KASP marker targets.

170

171 Validation of KASP assays for genotyping in segregating populations

172

173 *Plant materials and DNA extraction for genotyping*

174 For KASP genotyping, plants representing the nine sequenced parental lines and progeny lines (at $F_1$ and $BC_1$)
175 derived from fifteen crosses between pairs of parents were grown in the field or polyhouse in Nepal, in October
176 2015 and October 2016. Leaf samples were collected from each plant using the LGC Genomics' Plant Sample
177 Collection Kits and delivered to LGC Genomics (Hoddesdon, Herts.,UK) for DNA extraction and KASP
178 genotyping (full service). All plants were from the marker-assisted breeding programmes of either Anamolbiu or
179 NARC and parental lines were used as controls for MAS. The first three plates were screened in the first round
180 (69 KASP including 21 new ones) and third round (with a further 5 new KASP). Five plates were screened with
181 in the second round with 86 KASP. Two plates containing only $BC_1$ material were screened with 40 KASP (39
182 new) in the fourth round.

183

184 *Selection of 46 variants and development of new KASP assays*

185 The SNPs or InDels selected for validation in this study were either located near to/within target resistant gene
186 alleles (for BLB or blast) or to known fragrance QTLs, or they were useful as background markers in regions
187 where no existing KASP were suitable. They included 35 variants that passed the filtering criteria and 11 variants
188 that did not pass. All 46 new KASP assays gave *in-silico* validated primers in LGC's Kranken Software and KASP
189 primers were produced by LGC and used in their standard protocol for KASP validation. Here, we define
190 validation as where the KASP assay was successfully used for genotyping in at least one cross. In total, four
191 separate rounds of genotyping were carried out on different sets of segregating lines, each round having a different
192 combination of new and existing KASP assays.

193 Marker-level, cross-level, and assay-level validation of the KASP assays was carried out using
194 bioinformatics on genotype results from all four rounds. KASP markers were considered to be validated if they
195 successfully genotyped any of the tested progeny lines and identified both predicted parental alleles. Cross-level
196 validation assessed whether a marker could be validated at the marker level using only progeny lines originating
197 from a specific pair of parental lines. Assay-level validation tested whether or not each individual KASP assay
198 had produced genotyping results. Genotyping results from parental lines were not used for validation as they

199 would be expected to be homozygous for the tested alleles and thus the genotyping results could not be used to
200 validate successful binding of both of the KASP allele-specific primers.
201

202 *Identification and subsequent filtering of 'background' markers*

203 From the existing 1,159 KASP that reliably aligned to the *indica* reference genome we identified those that were
204 polymorphic *in-silico* in at least three of the bi-parental crosses used for this study. Of these, 75 were selected as
205 'background' markers for genotyping because they were distributed in genomic regions required for recurrent
206 parent selection. Of the 75 existing KASP, 48 met our filtering criteria (Figure. S1) for selecting variants
207 appropriate for marker generation. These existing KASP were used for genotyping in parental and progeny lines
208 by LGC Genomics (Hoddesdon, Herts., UK).
209

## Results

Sequencing read alignment and identification of variants

More sequencing reads of all of the nine re-sequenced rice lines aligned in the expected orientation to the *indica* reference (mean of 92.1% ± 0.96) than to the *japonica* reference (mean of 88% ± 0.69). Mean *indica* genome coverage was 89% with a mean sequencing depth of 59 for the nine lines (Table S2). We identified variations between the *indica* reference and at least one of the nine lines at 2,561,351 unique sites. For over half (56.5%) of these sites two or more lines were polymorphic against the reference genome and for 3.4% of sites all nine were polymorphic against the reference, whereas more than one-million variant sites were found in only a single line (Figure. S2). There was an average of 0.96 million homozygous variations (SNPs and InDels) between each of the nine rice lines compared with the *indica* reference variety 93-11 (Figure S3). IR71033 was the most similar line to the reference (0.78 million variations) and Sunaulo Sugandha the least similar (1.1 million variations).

Identification of potential KASP markers and functional markers

To identify KASP markers that would be informative for crosses between the nine lines and the *indica* reference, *in silico* filtering of the 2,561,351 variation sites was carried out, based on the composition of their flanking sequences (Figure. S1). The KASP marker sequences were determined for the 1,329,325 sites that passed the filtering criteria, i.e., a conversion rate of 51.9% of the total variation sites.

For each of the nine lines, those variations that were suitable for KASP markers were categorised according to the nature of the polymorphism against the *indica* reference (Table 1), determined according to the annotated gene and coding sequence positions. The majority of potential KASP were situated in non-coding portions of the genome, with 78% located in intergenic regions and 11% in introns. Of the remaining 11 % of variations located in the exons, 68% are predicted to result in functional differences due to changes in the amino acids encoded.

[Table 1 about here]

Comparing diversity in nine *indica* lines at new KASP

This new approach of pair-wise comparisons for each of the nine resequenced lines against each other and against the *indica* reference genome identified many more potential new KASP than previously existed for rice (Table 2). The highest diversity in the pairwise comparisons was >511,000 in the new set (IR65482 with Sunaulo Sugandha) but only 522 in the existing set (Loktantra with Sunaulo Sugandha). The least informative number of KASP markers in the pairwise comparisons was >245,000 in the new set (IR64 with IR71033) compared with 361 in the existing set (IR64 with IR71033). A similar pattern was seen for comparisons with the *indica* reference where the average number of informative KASP markers was 388,540 in the new set and 451 in the existing set. The highest number of new markers against the reference genome was 459,229 for Sunaulo Sugandha, compared with a maximum of 496 for Loktantra with the existing markers.

[Table 2 about here]

The new KASP markers were distributed throughout the entire genome with high levels of marker density (Figure. 1). In a great majority of cases (86.9%) the distance between consecutive informative markers was less than 1 kb with a median distance of 127 bp in all pairwise combinations. Chromosomal distribution plots of markers informative for each pairwise combination of the sequenced lines show very few regions with no markers (Figure. S4).

[Figures 1 & 2 about here on two whole consecutive pages, use B&W for print and colour for online]

### Comparing diversity in nine *indica* lines at existing KASP

Of the 1,890 existing KASP markers that could be aligned against the *indica* reference, 1,159 (61%) were polymorphic between at least one of the sequenced lines and the *indica* reference genome. However, they were not evenly distributed throughout the genome nor across all lines (Figure. 2). In pairwise comparisons between the lines there were between 345 and 520 informative polymorphic markers for each cross combination (Table 2 and Figure. S5). There were some areas of the genome that had polymorphisms in all of the crosses (e.g, between 0.5 Mbp and 10 Mbp on Chromosome 6) but many regions had polymorphisms only in specific pairs of crosses. There were also many regions lacking any polymorphisms (e.g. on Chromosome 7 between 9 Mbp and 16 Mbp

270 there is only one polymorphic marker and it is only in crosses with Loktantra). Consecutive informative existing
271 KASP markers were not often close together, in only 1.1% of cases were they closer than 1 kb. The median
272 distance between markers of 353 kb across all pairwise combinations of lines was over 2,700 times longer than
273 that found for the new markers (Figure S6 and Tables S3 and S4).

274 The positions of the 1,159 markers that aligned to the indica reference and corresponded to polymorphic
275 sites in our lines were compared with the positions of the new KASP markers. Matches were found for 727
276 (62.7%) of the existing markers, with new markers not being identified at the other genomic positions due to the
277 filtering criteria applied by the marker detection algorithm (Figure. S1). The filtering method excluded 37% (432
278 of 1,159) existing KASP markers because they had InDels or repeats of five or more bases in their flanking
279 regions.

280

281 KASP validation for use in genotyping

282

283 KASP genotyping was carried out on $F_1$ and $BC_1$ progeny of fifteen crosses between pairs of the nine re-sequenced
284 lines. For the purposes of KASP validation, genotyped progeny of different generations were grouped according
285 to the parental lines initially crossed, with a KASP assay being considered validated for a particular cross group
286 if genotyping was successful in showing segregation of alleles for one or more progeny lines from any generation
287 of the cross. Eighty-three markers (35 new and 48 existing KASP) that passed our filtering criteria (Figure. S1)
288 were tested on at least one cross, with a total of 412 unique marker-cross combinations. Successful genotyping
289 results were obtained for 78 (94.0%) of these markers including 30 of the new markers, with 394 of 412 (95.6%)
290 marker-cross combinations being successful (Tables S5 and S6).

291 Genotyping was also carried out with 38 markers (11 new and 27 existing KASP) that did not meet our
292 filtering criteria, the 11 new markers were designed manually through visualisation of the aligned sequencing
293 reads at sequences for target traits. 31 (81.6%) of these markers gave genotyping results in at least one of the
294 progeny tested, including 9 of the new markers. 232 marker-cross combinations were tested, with 201 (86.6%)
295 being successful (Tables S5 and S6).

296 Parental lines were genotyped with the KASP markers as controls and the results confirmed the presence
297 of the predicted alleles in the parents but also revealed within-line genetic variation for some of the parents at
298 some loci (data not shown). Expected allelic ratios were detected in segregating progeny for all successfully
299 genotyped crosses (data not shown) and the results informed selection of donor alleles and recurrent (background)

300 alleles for 70 existing KASP and 39 newly validated KASP (Table 3 and Table S7), of which 30 were discovered

301 from filtering and 9 identified by manual design.

302

303 **Discussion**

304 SNPs provide the highest genome-wide density of genetic variants and occur in both coding and non-coding
305 genomic regions. Due to their bi-allelic nature not all SNPs and InDels will be polymorphic for all cross
306 combinations. We showed that, for the existing 2,015 rice KASP markers (all SNPs) published by Pariasca-
307 Tanaka et al., 2015, in all cross combinations there were very large gaps between markers across the rice genome
308 (Figure. 2). Only 1,890 were applicable to *indica* and the number that were informative between any pair of nine
309 *indica* lines studied here varied from as few as 361 to, at most, 522. It is unsurprising that the existing set is
310 insufficient to meet all rice-breeding challenges because, apart from being less numerous than available SSRs,
311 they were derived from chip-based technologies based on SNPs nominated by the rice community to address
312 particular breeding targets. Hence, a much higher density of SNPs or InDel variants are needed in order to identify
313 suitable markers for selection in a broader range of specific crosses.

314 Thousands of SNPs have previously been employed in array-based platforms such as those used in the
315 Illumina Bead Array and the Affymetrix GeneChip (Thomson, 2014). However, unlike KASP, these fixed sets of
316 SNPs do not meet the need of breeders that wish to assay a small number of polymorphic markers known to be
317 linked to traits of interest in their breeding populations, and to have the opportunity to change the set of markers
318 used in subsequent generation. Next-generation sequencing (NGS) technologies have been used to re-sequence
319 of diverse rice genomes or directly for genotyping in technologies such as genotyping by sequencing (GBS)
320 (McCouch et al., 2010; Kumar et al., 2012), but most variants have only been made available as array-based
321 platforms.

322 Here, NGS was used for re-sequencing nine *indica* breeding lines, chosen with no deliberate effort to
323 select for high diversity, and it identified an average of 1.05 million SNP or InDel variants between any one of
324 the individual rice lines and the *indica* reference genome, out of a total of 2.5 million variants across the whole
325 set of lines (available at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bioproject/395505). By mining this data using bioinformatics
326 filtering we discovered hundreds of thousands of potential new KASP markers giving high resolution coverage
327 over the entire genome (Figure. 1, Table 1). This has vastly reduced the number of regions with no selectable
328 markers (compare Figures 1 and 2) and offers breeders access to over 1.3 million informative KASP with a
329 minimum of more than 245,000 for any paired combination of the 9 rice lines (Table 2) and has produced over
330 650 times more KASP marker sequences than were available in rice to date. Approximately 92,500 (7%) were
331 located in exons and altered the amino acid sequence encoded, so could be used as functional markers (Table 1).
332 For all pairwise comparisons between lines, over 98% of consecutive informative markers were less than 10 kb

333 apart, with over 85% being less than 1 kb apart (Figure S6). Some of these comparisons were between lines having
334 common recent ancestors (Table S1) so this data set should provide a high density of polymorphic KASP assays
335 across the genome in almost any cross. Moreover, these estimates are conservative, as many more KASP markers
336 would be identified if the filtering criteria were relaxed slightly to allow the detection of KASP markers in gaps
337 at target genomic regions. Relaxing the criteria is a practical option as they were very stringent; they provided a
338 52% conversion rate for new markers from identified variations but excluded 37% of the 1,159 existing KASP.

339 Early rice genome sequencing of *indica* and *japonica* revealed about 1 SNP per kb (Feltus et al., 2004)
340 and the material that is subsequently selected to be re-sequenced determines the density of NGS based markers
341 identified. Re-sequencing of 12 cultivated and wild accessions of *indica* that were chosen for gave an average of
342 5.7 nucleotide differences per kb diversity (Xu et al., 2012). Here, we found an average of 3.1 variations per kb
343 in *indica* lines used for breeding in Nepal. All lines were adapted to lowland or medium land and we made no
344 attempt to include diverse lines adapted to greatly different rice ecosystems. They were simply chosen on the basis
345 of being in current breeding programmes in Nepal and seven of the lines were either bred at IRRI or had IRRI
346 lines in their recent ancestry. Hence, the high frequency of KASP markers (Figure 1) we have discovered should
347 also apply to most, or all, other *indica* material of interest to breeders. The total of 2.5 million SNPs in the nine
348 lines compares favourably with the total of 18.9 million found in the 3000 Rice Genomes Project where the lines
349 included were highly diverse across all the *O. sativa* cultivated groups (Li et al., 2014).

350 We have demonstrated how high-throughput sequencing data can be used to identify so many new KASP
351 markers that they will be useful for many traits across many parental combinations. A set of 39 fully validated
352 marker designs are given here (Table 3). These design sequences can be submitted directly to LGC Genomics for
353 purchase of KASP primers through their KASP by Design (KBD) or KASP on Demand (KOD) services, or for
354 their full genotyping service. This allows breeders with no bioinformatics expertise to utilise these markers in
355 their breeding programs. The software provided (Supplementary File S1) enables breeders to easily generate
356 KASP marker designs using their own, or publicly available, NGS datasets – for any species. In addition, the
357 sequencing reads for the nine resequenced lines is a valuable resource containing suitable variants for numerous
358 breeding targets.

359 The work has led to suitable KASP assays for NARC and Anamolbiou (Nepal) and many more assays
360 are being rolled out to rice breeders in India (SKUAST) and Pakistan (NIBGE) with the support of LGC
361 Genomics. Work is currently underway, using data from the 3000 Rice Genomes Project, to generate over 20,000
362 KASP marker designs, of which 4,000 will be fully validated, that will be applicable to a diverse range of rice

363 varieties. These will be made available on the LGC Genomics website, allowing breeders to purchase KASP
364 markers close to existing SSR markers or in a region of interest, without the need for any bioinformatics analysis.
365 In the meantime, the paper authors can be contacted for details of KASP marker designs based on the nine
366 resequenced lines, for any particular region of interest of the rice genome. This increase in the number of usable
367 KASP markers has great practical benefits to public sector plant breeders who can use the knowledge derived
368 from this project to incorporate KASP into MAS to accelerate selection of new varieties. These KASP assays are
369 new tools that can complement other innovations introduced to accelerate varietal adoption by farmers in
370 developing nations (Witcombe et al 2016) to expedite yield improvement and increase food security. By
371 increasing the number of available KASP markers this work is expected to remove the barriers to their adoption
372 so they can accelerate progress in rice breeding for future generations.

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454 **Figures**

455

456 **Figure. 1** Distribution of potential new KASP markers polymorphic between each rice line and the indica
457 reference. Rows represent the chromosomes, subdivided into the different lines in the order indicated on
458 chromosome 12 (from top to bottom: IR64, IR71033, IR65482, Sunaulo Sugandha, Anamol Masuli, Khumal-4,
459 IRBB-60, Loktantra, Sugandha-1), and columns the physical position. Each cell represents an interval of 0.5 Mbp.

460

461 **Figure. 2** Distribution of previously existing rice KASP markers polymorphic between each rice line and the
462 indica reference genome. Rows represent the chromosomes, subdivided into the different lines in the order
463 indicated on chromosome 12 (from top to bottom: IR64, IR71033, IR65482, Sunaulo Sugandha, Anamol Masuli,
464 Khumal-4, IRBB-60, Loktantra, Sugandha-1), and columns the physical position. Each cell represents an interval
465 of 0.5 Mbp.

## Tables

**Table 1** Categorisation of variations suitable as KASP markers identified between each of the nine sequenced rice lines and the indica reference genotype.

| Line | SNPs | | | | | | InDels | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Intergenic | Intron | Exon | | | | Intergenic | Intron | Exon | | |
| | | | Nonsynonymous* | Synonymous | Unknown** | Ratio of Nonsyn/syn | | | Frameshift* | Inframe* | Ratio of FS/non-FS |
| IR64 | 276,103 | 36,791 | 25,280 | 11,946 | 1,174 | 2.12 | 28,831 | 5,632 | 1,808 | 782 | 2.31 |
| IR71033 | 214,507 | 29,360 | 20,848 | 9,703 | 995 | 2.15 | 26,527 | 5,007 | 1,744 | 678 | 2.57 |
| IR65482 | 316,846 | 41,673 | 29,910 | 14,158 | 1,554 | 2.11 | 34,287 | 6,527 | 2,000 | 949 | 2.11 |
| Sunulo-Sugandha | 326,995 | 43,021 | 29,492 | 14,084 | 1,336 | 2.09 | 32,242 | 6,267 | 1,868 | 924 | 2.02 |
| Anmol-Masuli | 306,934 | 40,889 | 28,462 | 13,469 | 1,375 | 2.11 | 33,241 | 6,486 | 1,955 | 958 | 2.04 |
| Khumal-4 | 260,116 | 34,685 | 23,594 | 11,057 | 1,175 | 2.13 | 30,475 | 5,803 | 1,842 | 825 | 2.23 |
| IRBB-60 | 217,103 | 30,887 | 21,796 | 10,245 | 992 | 2.13 | 27,830 | 5,358 | 1,796 | 750 | 2.39 |
| Loktantra | 306,922 | 39,801 | 27,752 | 13,149 | 1,307 | 2.11 | 35,428 | 6,622 | 2,079 | 941 | 2.21 |
| Sugandha-1 | 233,949 | 31,956 | 22,994 | 10,718 | 1,143 | 2.15 | 29,016 | 5,483 | 1,842 | 815 | 2.26 |
| Mean of nine lines | 273,275 (70.4%) | 36,563 (9.4%) | 25,570 (6.6%) | 12,059 (3.1%) | 1,228 (0.3%) | 2.12 | 30,875 (8.0%) | 5,909 (1.5%) | 1,882 (0.5%) | 847 (0.2%) | 2.24 |

*Nonsynonymous SNPs and all InDels within exons are assumed to be functional markers.

**SNPs within the coding regions of annotated genes were categorised as unknown if the corresponding amino acid could not be determined with certainty due to the presence of ambiguous bases

**Table 2** Number of informative markers for each pairwise comparison of the nine sequenced rice lines and the *indica* reference genotype.

| | IR64 | IR71033 | IR65482 | Sunaulo Sugandha | Anamol Masuli | Khumal-4 | IRBB-60 | Loktantra | Sugandha-1 | Indica |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| IR64 | | 361 | 413 | 456 | 377 | 511 | 382 | 492 | 441 | 480 |
| IR71033 | 245,367 (7.8%) | | 419 | 453 | 470 | 434 | 345 | 453 | 386 | 377 |
| IR65482 | 355,518 (7.4%) | 322,602 (7.5%) | | 503 | 488 | 473 | 430 | 442 | 469 | 490 |
| Sunaulo Sugandha | 444,337 (7.2%) | 418,294 (7.3%) | 511,006 (7.1%) | | 520 | 497 | 440 | 522 | 485 | 486 |
| Anamol Masuli | 286,304 (7.5%) | 342,841 (7.5%) | 403,027 (7.2%) | 493,297 (7.1%) | | 474 | 503 | 391 | 428 | 491 |
| Khumal-4 | 376,321 (7.4%) | 323,346 (7.5%) | 397,553 (7.2%) | 481,381 (7.2%) | 387,264 (7.3%) | | 467 | 473 | 426 | 433 |
| IRBB-60 | 328,293 (7.4%) | 273,578 (7.5%) | 397,538 (7.2%) | 407,849 (7.3%) | 404,343 (7.2%) | 369,498 (7.4%) | | 452 | 441 | 392 |
| Loktantra | 362,689 (7.7%) | 346,699 (7.7%) | 385,651 (7.5%) | 460,348 (7.4%) | 332,649 (7.6%) | 391,608 (7.5%) | 378,459 (7.5%) | | 407 | 496 |
| Sugandha-1 | 328,829 (7.5%) | 274,529 (7.7%) | 385,646 (7.2%) | 465,745 (7.1%) | 356,552 (7.2%) | 330,285 (7.4%) | 345,187 (7.5%) | 361,699 (7.4%) | | 421 |
| Indica | 388,347 (9.5%) | 309,369 (11.0%) | 447,904 (9.8%) | 459,229 (9.1%) | 433,769 (9.8%) | 369,572 (10.5%) | 316,757 (11.3%) | 434,001 (10.4%) | 337,913 (11.0%) | |

Numbers in the **lower-left diagonal (shaded)** correspond to counts of potential new informative KASP markers identified in this study based on SNPs, with percent of InDels shown in brackets.
Numbers in the **upper-right diagonal** correspond to counts of informative markers from the existing set of 1,890 KASP markers that could be aligned against the *indica* reference. All existing informative markers are SNP-based.

**Table 3** New validated KASP assays available from LGC genomics (for sequences see Table S7).

| ID | Indica position | Japonica position | Variation type | Met filtering criteria? | Target | Reference allele | Expected alleles: IR64 | IR71033 | IR65482 | IRBB-60 | Loktantra | Sunaulo-Sugandha | Anamol-Masuli | Sugandha-1 | Khumal-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| bu0000001 | 1:17107691 | 11:26052781 | Non-synonymous SNP | Yes | Background | T | C | C | C | C | C | T | T | T | T |
| bu0000002 | 1:43712357 | 11:25968298 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Background | A | G | G | G | G | G | A | A | A | A |
| bu0000003 | 2:7181457 | 11:28006481 | Non-synonymous SNP | Yes | Xa resistance | A | G | A | G | A | A | G | A | A | G |
| bu0000004 | 2:13037890 | 2:12216235 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | RM301 | C | C | C | C | C | C | T | C | C | C |
| bu0000005 | 3:21352744 | 3:18993558 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Background | G | A | A | A | A | A | G | G | G | G |
| bu0000006 | 4:19577243 | 4:21625135 | Non-synonymous SNP | Yes | Fragrance QTL | G | A | A | A | A | G | A | G | G | G |
| bu0000007 | 5:415717 | 5:437057 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Xa resistance | T | T | T | T | G | T | T | T | T | T |
| bu0000008 | 5:416155 | 5:437499 | Unknown SNP | Yes | Xa resistance | T | T | T | T | A | T | T | T | T | T |
| bu0000009 | 5:417389 | 5:438733 | Intron SNP | No | Xa resistance | C | C | C | C | T | C | C | C | C | C |
| bu0000010 | 5:417820 | 5:439189 | Intron SNP | No | Xa resistance | T | T | T | T | C | T | T | T | T | T |
| bu0000011 | 5:7701715 | 5:7362881 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Background | A | G | G | G | G | G | A | A | A | A |
| bu0000012 | 5:19380178 | 5:18345193 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Background | A | T | T | T | A | T | A | A | A | A |
| bu0000013 | 6:11281447 | 6:10388210 | Non-synonymous SNP | Yes | Pi resistance | G | G | A | G | G | G | G | G | G | G |
| bu0000014 | 6:11283253 | 6:10390022 | Non-synonymous SNP | No | Pi resistance | T | T | T | G | T | T | T | T | T | T |
| bu0000015 | 6:17240520 | 6:16386769 | Intergenic SNP | No | Pi resistance | C | C | C | T | C | T | C | C | C | C |
| bu0000016 | 6:17241451 | 6:16387700 | Intergenic SNP | No | Pi resistance | A | A | A | G | A | G | A | A | A | A |
| bu0000017 | 6:17243954 | 6:16391179 | Intergenic insertion | No | Pi resistance | - | - | - | CACAATGGAAG | - | CACAATGGAAG | - | - | - | - |
| bu0000018 | 6:17961172 | 11:23639531 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Background | T | C | C | C | T | C | T | T | T | T |
| bu0000019 | 7:3573045 | 7:3678922 | Intergenic SNP | No | Xa resistance | G | A | G | G | G | G | A | G | G | G |
| bu0000020 | 7:3588154 | 7:3694327 | Intergenic SNP | No | Xa resistance | T | T | T | T | T | C | T | C | C | T |
| bu0000021 | 7:14382827 | 7:15929199 | Synonymous SNP | Yes | Xa resistance | C | C | C | C | C | T | C | C | C | C |
| bu0000022 | 7:14384019 | 7:15930391 | Non-synonymous SNP | No | Xa resistance | A | A | A | A | A | G | A | G | A | G |
| bu0000023 | 7:14384210 | 7:15930582 | Synonymous SNP | Yes | Xa resistance | A | A | A | A | A | T | A | T | A | T |
| bu0000024 | 8:5379548 | 8:5115025 | Synonymous SNP | Yes | Pi resistance | A | G | G | G | G | A | G | A | G | G |
| bu0000025 | 8:8486583 | 8:7832567 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Background | C | T | T | T | T | T | C | C | C | C |
| bu0000026 | 8:11193818 | 8:18168439 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Background | C | T | T | T | T | T | C | C | C | C |
| bu0000027 | 8:21701896 | 8:20380804 | Intron deletion | Yes | Fragrance QTL | TG | TG | TG | TG | TG | TG | - | TG | TG | TG |
| bu0000028 | 8:21701975 | 8:20380883 | Intron SNP | Yes | Fragrance QTL | T | T | T | T | T | T | C | C | C | C |
| bu0000029 | 8:21704520 | 8:20383435 | Intron SNP | Yes | Fragrance QTL | C | C | C | C | C | C | T | T | T | T |
| bu0000030 | 8:28422597 | 8:26729241 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Xa resistance | T | G | G | T | T | T | G | G | G | G |
| bu0000031 | 9:7018065 | 9:7513604 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Background | C | C | C | C | C | C | G | G | G | G |
| bu0000032 | 9:7725492 | 11:24474192 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Background | C | T | T | C | T | T | C | C | C | C |
| bu0000033 | 10:15236821 | 10:16682028 | Intergenic insertion | Yes | Background | - | G | G | G | G | G | - | - | - | - |
| bu0000034 | 11:5950201 | 11:6605583 | Synonymous SNP | Yes | Xa resistance | A | A | A | A | A | T | A | A | A | A |
| bu0000035 | 11:6033817 | 11:6658350 | Intron SNP | Yes | Xa resistance | G | G | G | G | G | A | G | G | G | G |
| bu0000036 | 11:17838940 | 11:21047256 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Xa resistance | T | A | A | T | T | T | T | A | T | T |
| bu0000037 | 11:19964533 | 11:24664749 | Synonymous SNP | Yes | Xa resistance | G | G | G | G | G | A | G | G | G | G |
| bu0000038 | 11:20939753 | 11:24249679 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Background | C | T | T | T | T | T | C | C | C | C |
| bu0000039 | 12:8644297 | 12:10835433 | Intergenic SNP | Yes | Background | G | C | G | C | G | C | G | G | G | G |

Positions are based on the *indica* ASM4565v1 and *japonica* IRGSP-1.0 reference genomes. Linkage analysis is underway to assign linkage to traits in relevant crosses; preliminary data for IR64 x Jumli Marshi shows that novel 24 is associated with field resistance to BLB locus Pi33 ($\chi^2 = 29.6$, P <0.01). Shading shows an example of a cross in which the KASP is being used for selection.

490 **Supplementary Files**

491

492 **File. S1** KASP marker design sequence generation software.

493

494 **Supplementary Figures**

495

496 **Figure. S1** Overview of the criteria used for identification of potential KASP markers from variations
497 identified using SAMtools.

498

499 **Figure. S2** Number of variations identified at the same positions relative to the indica reference in all
500 sequenced rice lines (maximum nine).

501

502 **Figure. S3** Number of variations (homozygous SNPs, insertions and deletions) identified between each
503 of the nine sequenced rice lines and the indica reference genome.

504

505 **Figure. S4** Distribution of potential new rice KASP markers polymorphic between each rice line pair.
506 Rows represent the chromosomes, subdivided into the different lines (ordered as indicated on
507 chromosome 12), and columns the physical position. SubFigures show the distribution of markers
508 informative for crosses against (a) IR64 (b) IR71033 (c) IR65482 (d) Sunaulo Sugandha (e) Anamol
509 Masuli (f) Khumal-4 (g) IRBB-60 (h) Loktantra (i) Sugandha-1.

510

511 **Figure. S5** Distribution of existing rice KASP markers polymorphic between each rice line pair. Rows
512 represent the chromosomes, subdivided into the different lines (ordered as indicated on chromosome 12),
513 and columns the physical position. SubFigures show the distribution of markers informative for crosses
514 against (a) IR64 (b) IR71033 (c) IR65482 (d) Sunaulo Sugandha (e) Anamol Masuli (f) Khumal-4 (g)
515 IRBB-60 (h) Loktantra (i) Sugandha-1.

516

517 **Figure. S6** Distribution of distances between consecutive informative KASP markers, for new and
518 existing markers, for all combined pairwise combinations of rice lines used in this study. Vertical bars
519 represent the medians with boxes extending from the 25th to 75th percentiles. Whiskers extend from the
520 5th to 95th percentiles, dots represent the minimum and maximum distances.

521

522 **Supplementary Tables**

523

524 **Table S1** Details of nine *indica* rice cultivars and breeding lines used for whole genome NGS.

525

526 **Table S2** Mapping rates, genome coverage and read depth of the nine sequenced rice lines, for all
527 mapped reads and for uniquely-mapped reads only. Only those reads with both pairs aligning in the
528 expected orientation were included.

529

530 **Table S3** Distribution of distances (bp) between consecutive informative existing KASP markers
531 (previously developed using chip-based technology) for all rice line pairings.

532

533 **Table S4** Distribution of distances (bp) between consecutive informative potential new KASP markers
534 (developed here using NGS data) for all rice line pairings.

535

536 **Table S5** Summary of KASP assay validation results. Counts are given of the number of unique marker-
537 cross combinations that have been validated (or otherwise), split according to whether or not the markers
538 met our bioinformatics filtering criteria, and between new and existing markers.

539

540 **Table S6** Details of marker-cross combinations tested for validation of 46 new and 75 existing KASP
541 assays (N.B. some failed assays may be due to lack of polymorphism.)

542

543 **Table S7** Sequences for new validated KASP assays available from LGC genomics.