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# Influence of antioxidants and salinity stress on seedling parameters of some rice cultivars

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## ABSTRACT

An investigation was conducted to study the response of antioxidants seed priming on rice cultivars and their effect on germination under salinity levels. The result indicated that the highest in shoot height (cm), root height (cm), seedling vigor index, and other related parameters, relative dry weight% were produced from Sakha 106 cultivar. The lowest seedling height reduction% was produced from Sakha 106 cultivar. An enhancement in salt concentration resulted a reduction in all studied parameters except seedling height reduction%. The results indicated the highest shoot height (cm), root height (cm), seedling vigor index, shoot fresh and dry weight (mg), root fresh and dry weight (mg), relative dry weight% and seedling height reduction% from which soaking, as pretreatment, in Humic acid at 500ppm. The interactions between cultivars, salinity concentration and antioxidants were insignificant on some traits. It could be concluded that to improve seedling parameters of rice cultivars under salinity stress; it could be recommended that soaking Sakha 106 cultivar seed in Humic acid at 500 ppm for 24 h. It can be used in breeding program to boost production in Egyptian territory.

**KEY WORDS:** Rice cultivars, antioxidants, salinity levels, seedling characters

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## INTRODUCTION

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L) is one among the important staple foods in many countries. Soil or water salinity is a major hindering factor for the rice cultivation across the world [1]. Salinity creates a negative impact and there by a stress on most of the plants [2]. For increasing rice productivity, in Egypt, due to increases in Egyptian population, cultivation area of rice should be increased by using new salt reclaimed soils. Genotypes of rice showed different susceptibilities towards salinity stress [3,4,5]. Treatments of seeds of Giza 177 and Sakha 103 cultivars with salicylic or ascorbic acid induced one Esterase<sup>3</sup> isoenzymes. Pre-sowing rice seed of Sakha 104 cultivar with Ascorbic produced the highest seedling dry weight and the lowest mean germination time as well as time 50 % germinated seed compared with other two cultivars under salinity condition [6]. There was a significant difference between native (Arvand and Sholeh) and breded (Chamran and Dez) of rice varieties in vigour index, stem length, stem dry matter and seedling dry matter at all salinity levels [7]. The antioxidant enzyme activities were showed remarkable variations under salinity stress in plants [8,9].

During rice seedling establishment, mostly in all stages salinity is a major problem inhibiting growth and productivity in rice [10].

A decrease in rice productivity was reported by various authors under salinity stress [11-15].

The aims of the present investigation were to identify the individual and combined effects of antioxidants and salinity in rice, during germination stage.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Treatments and Experimental Design

A laboratory experiment conducted in the Giza Central Seed Testing Laboratory of Central Administration for Seed Certification (CASC), Ministry of Agriculture Egypt during April and May 2017. The aims of this investigation aimed to study the response to antioxidants seed prim of some rice cultivars to seedling parameters under salinity stress. Factorial experiment assigned to Randomized Complete Block Design in four replications used. The five rice cultivars, Giza 178, Egyptian Hybrid 1, Sakha 101, Sakha 104 and Sakha 106 includes the first factor used. The second factor consists of the four salinity levels 0, 100, 200 and 300 mM. The four types of antioxidants, Salicylic acid 100 ppm, Ascorbic acid 100 ppm, Folic acid

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15 mM and Humic acid 500 ppm. Selected cultivars obtained from Rice Research Institute at Sakha, ARC and stored under normal conditions in paper bags. Seed of each rice cultivar was primed in the four antioxidants at above concentrations of 24 hours except the control. The germination experiment was conducted according to ISTA [16].

## Studied Measurements

The following of eight seedling characters were measured, namely the length of shoot and radical, the fresh weight of shoot and radical, the dry weight of shoot and radical, seedling vigor index, percentages of seedling height reduction and relative dry weight.

The seedling vigor index was intended as the formula described previously [17].

Percentage of seedling height reduction (SHR %) and Percentage of (RDW %) was measured by using the following formula described earlier [18].

## Experimental Analysis

The data collected from the experiment was analyzed technique of variance using the MSTAT-C statistical package programmed as described by system of Gomez and Gomez [19]. Treatment means was compared at 5 and 1 % level of probability using the least significant differences test (LSD) according to Snedecor and Cochran [20].

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Cultivar Performance

Average of the shoot and root length (cm), the seedling vigor index, and other morphological parameters in rice cultivars are presented in Tables (1 and 2). It is clear that there were significant differences due to cultivars in shoot and root length (cm), and seedling vigor index. The results showed variations and Sakha 106 cultivar recorded highest shoot height, root height and seedling vigor index. While, the lowest shoot height, root height and seedling vigor index were obtained from Giza 178. The results showed that there were significant differences due to cultivars in shoot and root fresh weight, shoot and root dry weight, shoot and root fresh weight, shoot and root dry weight. The result clearly indicated that Sakha 106 cultivar recorded highest shoot and root fresh weight, shoot and root dry weight. While, the lowest was obtained from Sakha 101 cultivar in shoot fresh weight but Egyptian hybrid 1 recorded the lowest in root fresh weight, shoot and root dry weight. Regarding to the percentages of seedling height reduction and relative dry weight as affected by rice cultivars are obtainable in Table (3). The results showed that there were significant differences due to cultivars in seedling height reduction (%) and relative dry weight. The result clearly indicated that, Giza 178 cultivar recorded the highest Seedling height reduction (%), While, the lowest was obtained from Sakha 106 cultivar, On the other hand,

The results clearly indicated that, Sakha 106 cultivar recorded highest relative dry weight (%), While, the lowest percentages was recorded by Giza 178 cultivar. Our results are in accordance with the previous studies [5,18,20,21,22].

### Salinity Stress Effects

Averages of shoot and root length (cm) and seedling vigor index, shoot and root fresh weight (mg), shoot and root dry weight (mg) as affected by salinity stress are obtainable in Tables (4 and 5). The results showed that a significant difference due

**Table 1: Means of shoot and root length (cm), and seedling vigor index, as affected by rice genotypes**

Treatments	Characters	Shoot length (cm)	Root length (cm)	Seedling vigor index
Cultivars				
Giza 178		5.35	4.43	753.9
Egyptian Hybrid 1		8.94	6.55	1196.7
Sakha 101		6.42	5.13	861.0
Sakha 104		8.75	6.59	1169.6
Sakha 106		11.31	7.25	1619.6
LSD at 5%		0.08	0.10	15.2

**Table 2: Means of the fresh weight of shoot and radical and the dry weight of shoot and radical as affected by studied rice genotypes**

Treatments	Characters	Shoot fresh weight mg	Root fresh weight mg	Shoot dry weight mg	Root dry weight mg
Cultivars					
Giza 178		22.34	7.09	3.22	2.36
Egyptian Hybrid 1		21.07	4.05	3.21	1.77
Sakha 101		18.84	4.92	3.22	1.93
Sakha 104		24.00	5.42	3.74	1.94
Sakha 106		28.54	11.48	3.79	2.64
LSD at 5%		3.73	0.13	0.11	0.06

**Table 3: Percentages of the seedling height reduction and the relative dry weight as affected by studied rice genotypes**

Treatments	Characters	Seedling height reduction %	Relative dry weight %
Cultivars			
Giza 178		53.77	64.93
Egyptian Hybrid 1		33.44	73.92
Sakha 101		41.63	71.95
Sakha 104		46.68	67.77
Sakha 106		33.29	88.78
LSD at 5%		0.60	1.62

**Table 4: Means of the length of shoot and root and the seedling vigor index as exaggerated by salinity concentrations**

Treatments	Characters	Shoot length (cm)	Root length (cm)	Seedling vigor index
Salinity stress				
0 mM		9.87	7.57	1515.4
100 mM		8.70	6.30	1244.9
200 mM		7.86	5.50	992.9
300 mM		6.19	4.59	727.6
LSD at 5%		0.07	0.90	13.6

to salinity levels on shoot and root length (cm) and shoot and root fresh weight, shoot and root dry weight seedling vigor index. Increasing salinity concentrations significantly reduced shoot and root length (cm) and seedling vigor index, shoot and root fresh weight, shoot and root dry weight. The tallest shoot and root length (9.78 and 7.57 cm), respectively and highest seedling vigor index (1515.4) The highest shoot and root fresh weight (27.31 and 8.43 mg.), shoot and root dry weight (4.69 and 2.98 mg), respectively were obtained from the control treatment The shortest shoot and root length (cm) and lowest seedling vigor index, the lowest shoot and root fresh weight, the lowest shoot and root dry weight were recorded from the highest salinity level of 300 mM of NaCl. Multiple levels of lethality has been reported under salt stress in various plants by different authors [23, 24, 25], our results are in accordance with those reports.

Concern to percentages of seedling height reduction, as affected by salinity levels exist in Table (6). The results showed that a significant difference due to salinity levels on seedling height reduction (%). Increasing salinity levels significantly increased seedling height reduction (%). In addition; relative dry weight (%) significantly differed as shown in Table (6). The highest percentages of relative dry weight were obtained from the control treatment. While, the lowest relative dry weight (%) recorded from the highest salinity level of 300 mM. Similar conclusions were obtained from results of previous reports [5, 12, 18, 26].

### Antioxidants Effects

Mean values of morphological parameters under influence of antioxidants are illustrated in Tables (7 and 8). It is clear that there were significant differences in shoot and root length (cm) and seedling vigor index, shoot and root fresh weight (mg.) shoot and root dry weight (mg) due to studied antioxidants. The tallest shoot (8.65 cm), root length (6.25 cm) and highest seedling vigor index (1227.7), shoot (23.73) and root fresh weight (6.99 mg) shoot (3.57 mg) and root dry weight (2.23 mg)

**Table 5: Means of the fresh weight of shoot and root (mg), the dry shoot and root weight (mg) as affect by salinity concentrations**

Character	Shoot fresh weight mg	Root fresh weight mg	Shoot dry weight mg	Root dry weight mg
Salinity stress				
0 mM	27.31	8.43	4.69	2.98
100 mM	23.19	6.83	3.59	2.17
200 mM	23.12	5.95	3.02	1.80
300 mM	18.20	5.17	2.45	1.56
LSD at 5%	3.43	0.12	0.09	0.05

**Table 6: Percentages of the seedling height reduction and relative dry weight as affect by salinity concentrations**

Character	Seedling height reduction %	Relative dry weight %
Salinity stress		
0 mM	0.00	100.00
100 mM	28.81	75.64
200 mM	44.97	63.45
300 mM	83.66	54.78
LSD at 5%	0.54	1.45

were produced from soaking seed in Humic acid at 500 ppm. Our reports are in accordance with previous reports by various researchers [8, 9, 27, 28, 29].

Percentages of relative dry weight and seedling height reduction (%) as prejudiced by antioxidants are accessible in Table (9). The results showed that there were significant differences in relative dry weight (%) and seedling height reduction (%) by antioxidants. The highest relative dry weight (79.8 %) and seedling height reduction (49.19%) was obtained from seed soaking in Humic acid at 500 ppm compared with the control treatment and other treatments. While, the lowest relative dry weight (67.1%) was obtained the control treatment and lowest seedling height reduction (35.3 %) was obtained from soaking in Salicylic acid at 100 ppm compared with other treatments. These results are in agreement with earlier studies [30, 31].

### Interaction between rice cultivars and salinity levels effect

Means of shoot and root length (cm) shoot and root dry weight as affected by the interaction between cultivars and NaCl salinity concentration are illustrated in Figures. 1,2, 3 and 4. The results showed that the length of shoot and root (cm), the

**Table 7: Means of shoot and root length and seedling vigor index as affected by antioxidants**

Character	Shoot length (cm)	Root length (cm)	Seedling vigor index
Antioxidants			
Control	7.36	5.19	1169.5
Humic acid at 500 ppm	8.65	6.21	1227.8
Ascorbic acid at 100 ppm	8.10	5.81	1116.5
Folic acid at 15 mM ppm	7.75	5.91	1070.1
Salicylic acid at 100 ppm	7.91	5.84	1017.1
LSD at 5%	0.08	0.10	15.2

**Table 8: Averages of the fresh weight of shoot and radical, the dry weight of shoot and radical as affected antioxidants**

Character	Shoot fresh weight mg	Root fresh weight mg	Shoot dry weight mg	Root dry weight mg
Antioxidants				
Control	22.41	6.00	2.62	1.26
Humic acid at 500 ppm	23.73	6.99	3.57	2.23
Ascorbic acid at 100 ppm	23.65	6.51	3.65	2.18
Folic acid at 15 mM ppm	20.21	6.48	3.52	2.07
Salicylic acid at 100 ppm	23.77	5.99	2.83	1.90
LSD at 5%	N.S.	0.13	0.11	0.06

**Table 9: Percentages of the seedling height reduction and percentage of relative dry weight as affected by antioxidants**

Character	Relative dry weight (%)	Seedling height reduction (%)
Antioxidants		
Control	67.1	38.6
Humic acid at 500 ppm	79.8	49.2
Ascorbic acid at 100 ppm	77.2	40.8
Folic acid at 15 mM ppm	74.3	45.8
Salicylic acid at 100 ppm	68.7	35.3
LSD at 5%	1.6	0.6

dry weight of shoot and radical significantly affected by the interaction between cultivars and NaCL salinity concentration. It could indicated that the tallest shoot (13.2 Cm), shoot (5.71 mg) and root dry weight (3.98 mg) from Sakha 106 cultivar at the control treatment and tallest root (9.5 Cm) was recorded from Sakha 104 cultivar at the control treatment. Similar conclusions were reported by many researchers in the past [9, 10, 11, 13, 14,18].

*The interaction between rice cultivars and antioxidants effect*

With respect to the interaction effect between cultivars and antioxidants on shoot length, root fresh weight, root dry weights and seedling vigor index are demonstrated in Figures. 5, 6, 7 and 8. The results indicate that the interface between antioxidants and rice cultivars significantly affected the length of shoot, fresh and dry weight of root, and the seedling vigor index. The tallest shoot (12.25 Cm), highest root fresh weight (12.64 mg),

root dry weight (3.31 mg) and seedling vigor index (1755.6) are produced from Sakha 106 cultivar when seed soaked in Humic acid at 500 ppm. Comparable conclusions were obtained in various studies [5,7,11].

*Interaction among antioxidants and salinity levels effect*

Regarding to the interface effect connecting salinity concentration and antioxidants on root length, root fresh weight (mg), root dry weight (gm) and seedling vigour index are illustrated in Figures. 9, 10, 11 and 12. The results showed that the interaction effect between salinity concentration and antioxidants significantly affected root length, root fresh weight (mg), root dry weight (gm) and seedling vigour index. The tallest roots (10.62 cm), the highest fresh weight of root (8.31mg), dry weight of root (2.93 gm) and seedling vigour index (1703.3) are obtained from the control treatment and without antioxidant soaking. At the same time as, the lowly

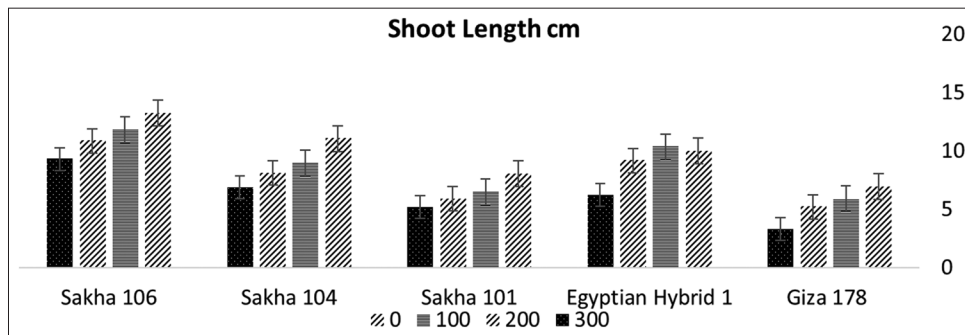


Figure 1: Means of length shoot as influenced by the interface of rice cultivars and NaCL concentrations.

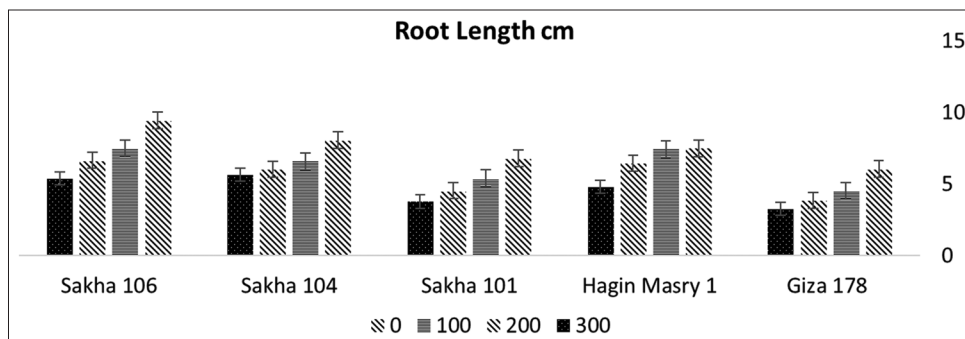


Figure 2: Average of the length of root as affect by the interaction between rice cultivars and NaCL concentrations.

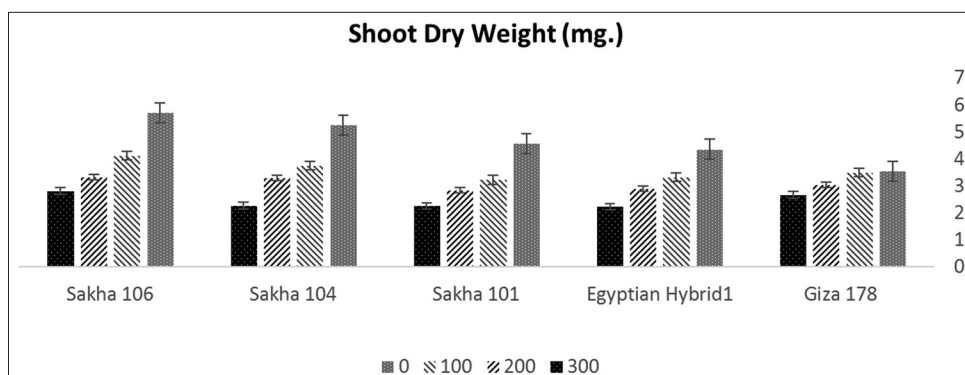


Figure 3: Average of the dry weight shoot (mg) as affected by the interaction between rice cultivars and NaCL levels.

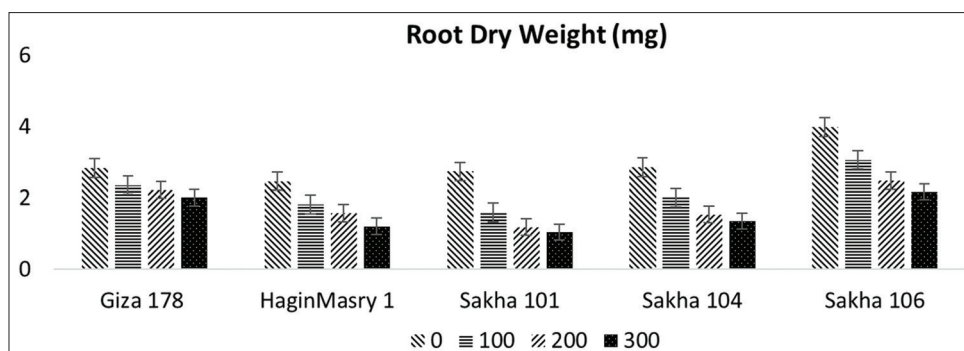


Figure 4: Means of the dry weight of root (mg) as affect by the interface between rice cultivars and NaCL concentrations.

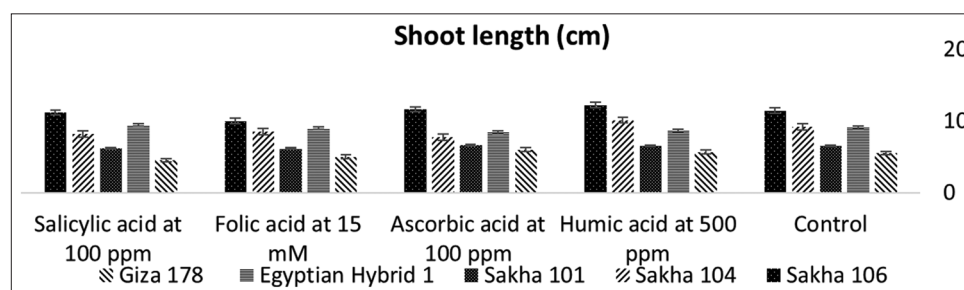


Figure 5: Average of the length shoot as affect by the relations between rice cultivars and antioxidants.

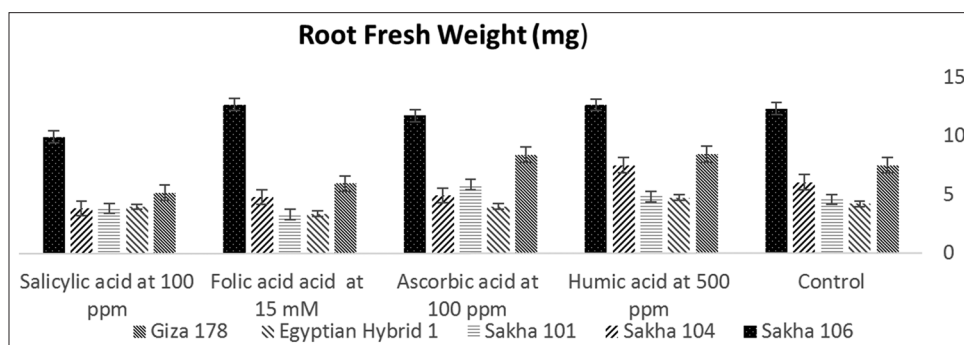


Figure 6: Average of the fresh weight root (mg) as affect by the interaction between rice cultivars and antioxidants.

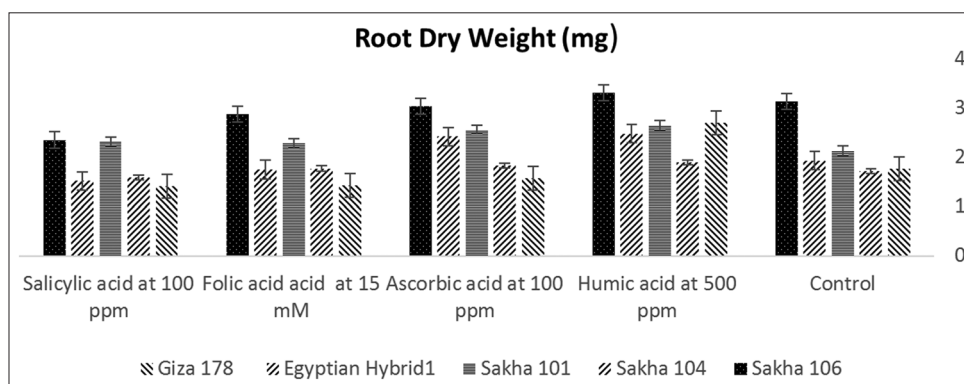


Figure 7: Average of the dry weight of root (mg) as affect by the interaction between rice cultivars and antioxidants.

values of seedling root length, root fresh weight (mg), root dry weight (gm) and seedling vigour index are shown in 300 mM

salinity of Nacl under Salicylic acid at 100 ppm. These results are in good accordance with those found by other studies [6,7,8,11].

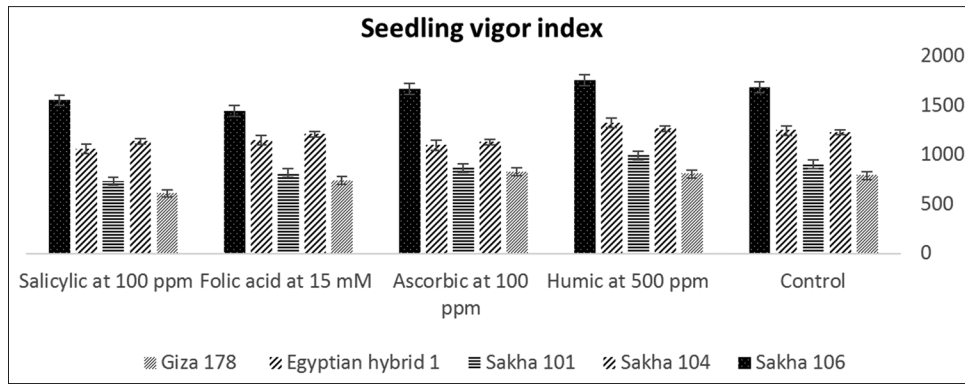


Figure 8: Average of the seedling vigor index as affect by the interaction between cultivars and antioxidants.

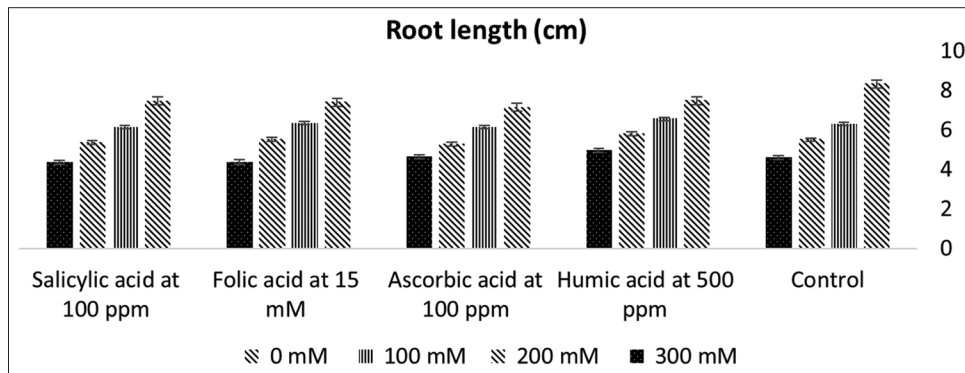


Figure 9: Averages the length of root (cm) as affect by the interface effect between salinity levels and antioxidants.

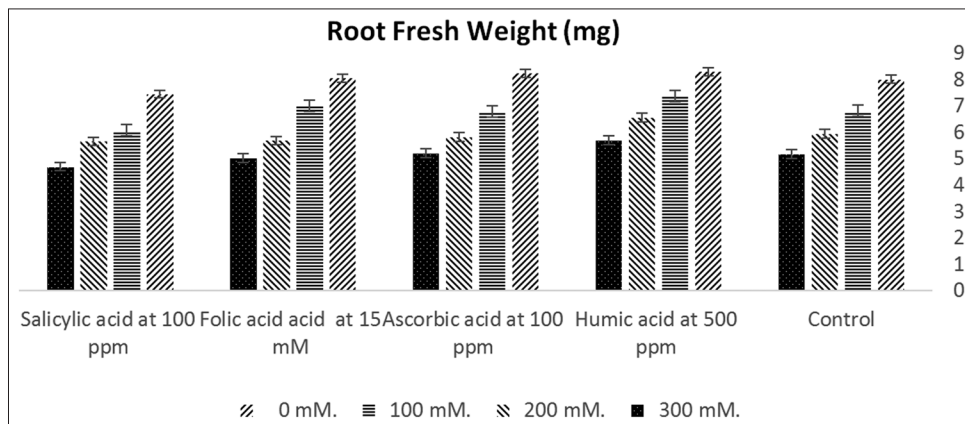


Figure 10: Means of fresh weight of root (mg) as affect by the relations among of salinity levels and antioxidants.

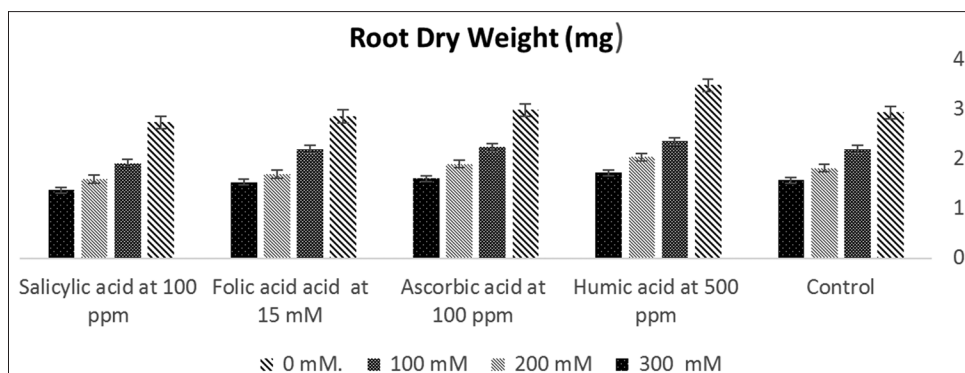
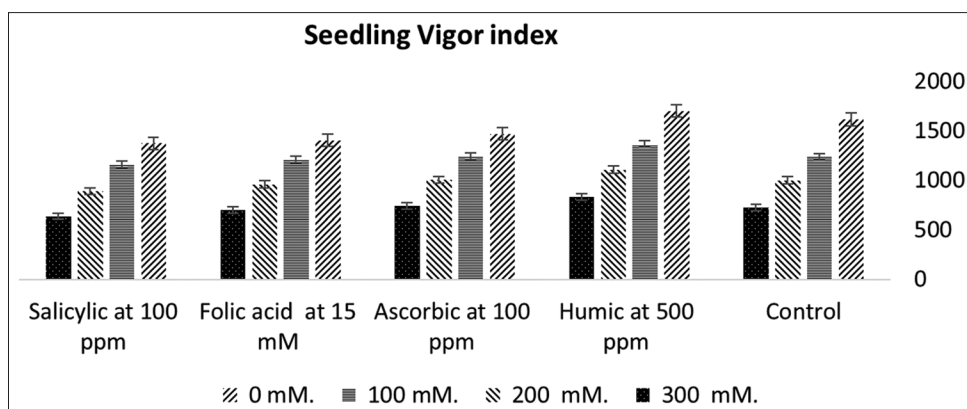


Figure 11: Average of the dry weight of root (mg) as affected by the interaction among salinity levels and antioxidants.



**Figure 12:** Percentages of seedling vigor index as affect by the interaction between salinity concentration and antioxidants.

## CONSOLIDATION

In order to maximize seedling parameter of rice under salinity stress, it could be suggested that soaking Sakha 106 cultivar in Humic acid at 500 ppm. It can be used in breeding program to boost production.

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