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## IMPROVEMENT OF POTATO BASED CROPPING PATTERNS BY INCLUSION OF SHORT DURATION MUNGBEAN AND T. AMAN RICE IN MONGA PRONE AREAS OF RANGPUR

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### Abstract

The experiment was carried out to compare the improved cropping patterns against the farmers existing potato based cropping patterns having no mungbean/brown manure crop for higher yield, economic return and income generation in agricultural field in the off period following RCB design with three replications at farmer's field at Paikan Gangachara, Rangpur district during September-October. The treatments (cropping patterns) were  $T_1 = T. aman$  rice (BINA 7) - Potato - Mungbean (BARI mungbean 6) (*Improved pattern*),  $T_2 = T. aman$  rice (BR11) - Potato - Fallow (*Farmers pattern*),  $T_3 = T. aman$  rice (BINA 7) - Potato + Maize intercrop - Mungbean (*Improved pattern*) and  $T_4 = T. aman$  rice (BR11) - Potato / Maize relay (*Farmers pattern*). The highest yield ( $4.16 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ ) was recorded in  $T_2$  (BR11) which is statistically at par with  $T_4$  ( $4.15 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ ) but higher than the other treatments. Early planting sole potato ( $T_1$ ) gave highest yield ( $26.10 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ ) which was significantly higher than all other treatments. Late planting sole potato ( $T_2$ ), intercropped early potato ( $T_3$ ) and relay potato ( $T_4$ ) showed similar yield ( $23.61 - 24.79 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ ). Intercropped ( $T_3$ ) and Relay ( $T_4$ ) maize did not vary significantly in the studied parameters and yields were  $8.21$  and  $7.92 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ , respectively. Mungbean after sole potato ( $T_1$ ) gave higher number of pods/plant ( $17.25$ ), and yield ( $1.47 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ ) which is significantly higher than those of  $T_3$  ( $14.89$  and  $1.28 \text{ t ha}^{-1}$ , respectively). Highest gross return (GR) (Tk. 417720) and gross margin (GM) (Tk. 220220) were calculated in improved pattern  $T_3$  and the lowest of those (Tk. 289670, Tk. 146020) in farmers pattern  $T_2$ . The other improved pattern  $T_3$  was the second highest performer considering GR and GM. But BCR (2.21) was highest in  $T_1$  and second highest in  $T_3$ . The results indicated that the improved patterns ( $T_1, T_3$ ) were better than farmers pattern ( $T_2, T_4$ ). The improved pattern ( $T_1$ ) gave GR Tk. 67890 and GM Tk. 51785 higher than farmers pattern ( $T_2$ ). Similarly, the other improved pattern ( $T_3$ ) showed Tk. 51870 and Tk. 37395 higher than farmers pattern ( $T_4$ ). The improved pattern  $T_1$  and  $T_3$  created 45 working day job for the labour for harvesting early matured rice in the Monga/ jobless period (October) while farmers' pattern gives only 3 days work. The mungbean included improved cropping patterns can be suggested for increased production, economic return and Monga mitigation (work opportunity in off period) in Rangpur.

**Keywords:** Improvement, Pattern, Potato, Maize, Mungbean, Monga, Labour

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### Introduction

Cultivable land of Bangladesh is reducing day by day because of new industries and human settlement. On the contrary, demand for food is increasing due to population pressure. Crop production has to be increased to feed the ever-increasing mouths. Gangachara is one of the Monga (seasonal unemployment) prone areas of Rangpur. A huge area is under potato cultivation in this area and farmers are practicing different potato based cropping patterns like *T. aman* rice - Potato - Fallow, *T. aman* rice - Potato/ Maize, *T. aman* rice - Potato - Jute etc. They use long duration *T. aman* variety BR 11 causing delay in

potato planting in December, which ultimately reduces yield and favours crop failure due to late blight disease. November is best for potato planting which can avert the disease by maturing crop before the severe infestation period. In these patterns, there is no work for the poor in October - November in agricultural field in Rangpur region. Poor people starve at that time which is called Monga in local dialect and government has to take extra measure to feed them. Short duration *T. Aman* rice (BINA Dhan 7) can facilitate timely/early potato planting (November) which is important for good yield. It

also can create job opportunity for the poor in Monga period (September-October) for harvesting rice. On the other hand, a good soil should have organic matter content more than 3.5 per cent, while more than 60% of our cultivated soil contains organic matter at low level (<1.7%). Recycling of organic matter is essential for maintaining soil fertility (BARC, 2001). Declining soil fertility is a major reason for lower crop yield in Bangladesh (Chowdhury *et al.*, 2003). Inclusion of green manure crop in the cropping pattern is a solution to soil degradation. Adjustments in cropping patterns are necessary on a large scale incorporating green manuring and grain legume crops to improve soil health (BARC, 2001). If maize is intercropped with potato, it can facilitate two months time to grow mungbean before *T. Aman* rice. Intercropping system maximizes complementary use of growth resources (Krishna and Raikhelkar, 1997) and enhances the total productivity (Umrani *et al.*, 1984). Potato single stand requires high levels of inputs, which are in most instances beyond the economic capacity of farmers (Luis and Manrique, 1996). Moreover, it improves soil health by reducing pathogenic microorganisms survive in soil by creating disruption of life cycle (Dey, 2001). Under some conditions, intercropping can usefully contribute to the control of pest or disease populations and the reduction of yield loss (Trenbath, 1993). As the field duration of the variety BARI Mungbean 6 is short (55 days) and pods mature almost at a time,

after harvesting of pod biomass incorporation into soil can help enrich soil by adding organic matter. A huge foreign currency can also be saved for importing pulse from abroad. Keeping the views in mind the experiment was undertaken to accommodate mungbean into farmers cropping pattern for increased yield and economic return, to generate work in agricultural field in the off period during September-October and to increase pulse production and save foreign currency for import.

## Methodology

The experiment was conducted at farmer's field at village Paikan under Gangachara Upozilla of Rangpur district following RCBD design with three replications. Twenty-five decimal lands for each pattern were selected. The improved cropping patterns were compared with the farmers existing potato based patterns having no mungbean/ brown manure crop. The treatments (cropping patterns) were -  $T_1$  = *T. aman* rice (BINA 7) - Potato - Mungbean (BARI mungbean 6) (*Improved pattern*),  $T_2$  = *T. aman* rice (BR11) - Potato - Fallow (*Farmers pattern*),  $T_3$  = *T. aman* rice (BINA 7) - Potato + Maize intercrop - Mungbean (*Improved pattern*) and  $T_4$  = *T. aman* rice (BR11) - Potato / Maize relay (*Farmers pattern*). The patterns initiated in July 2011 and planting and harvesting time of crops are given below in the Table 1.

Table 1. Planting and harvesting time of crops

$T_1$	<i>T. aman</i> rice (BINA 7) 21 July - 21 Oct	Potato 05 Nov - 06 Feb	Mungbean 21 Feb - 21 Apr	-
$T_2$	<i>T. aman</i> rice (BR11) 05 August - 05 Dec	Potato 10 Dec - 03 Mar	Fallow	-
$T_3$	<i>T. aman</i> rice (BINA 7) 21 July - 21 Oct	Potato 5 Nov - 20 Jan	Maize 13 Nov - 12 Apr	Mungbean 6 Apr - 02 Jun
$T_4$	<i>T. aman</i> rice (BR11) 05 August - 05 Dec	Potato 10 Dec - 01 Mar	Maize 01 Feb - 04 Jun	

After harvesting, mungbean biomass (brown manure) was incorporated into soil to improve and maintain soil fertility. Recommended doses of fertilizer and management practice were maintained. Intercropping maize was sown in between potato rows at 7 days after sowing of potato. Relay maize was sown on the side of potato ridge at 50 days after sowing of potato. Plant spacing was 60 cm × 25 cm for potato and intercrops and relay maize, 75 cm × 20 cm for sole maize, 30 cm × 10 cm for mungbean and 20 × 15 cm for *T. aman* rice. Data on yield and yield components was taken and data were analyzed statistically following Gomez and Gomez (1984) and mean separation was done by LSD. Economic analysis was also done. The total benefits of the patterns were calculated.

## Results and Discussion

### *T. Aman* rice

Plant height, number of effective tiller/hill, 1000-grain weight and yield increased significantly due to treatments (Table 2). The BR11 rice produced significantly higher plant height (106.2 cm in  $T_4$  and 106.0 cm in  $T_2$ ) than BINA dhan 7 (99.07 cm in  $T_3$  and 98.90 cm in  $T_1$ ). Similar trend was observed in other parameters, which differed significantly due to treatment effect. The highest yield (4.16 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) was recorded in  $T_2$  which is statistically at par with  $T_4$  (4.15 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) but significantly higher than the other treatments  $T_1$  (3.98 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and  $T_3$  (3.96 t ha<sup>-1</sup>). Treatment  $T_1$  and  $T_3$  is similar in producing yield. Higher number of effective tiller and 1000-grain weight favours higher yield in BR11.

Table 2. Yield and yield contributing characters of *T. aman* rice in farmer's field, Rangpur

Treatments (Cropping patterns)	Plant height (cm)	Effective tiller/hill (no)	Panicle length (cm)	Grains/ panicle (no)	1000 grain weight (g)	Yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )
T <sub>1</sub> = BINA7-Pot-Mung	98.90b	8.40b	23.60	69.00	22.17b	3.98b
T <sub>2</sub> = BR11-Pot-Fallow	106.0a	8.73a	23.30	69.40	24.63a	4.16a
T <sub>3</sub> = BINA7-P+M-Mung	99.07 b	8.46b	23.77	67.00	21.97b	3.96b
T <sub>4</sub> = BR11-Pot/Maize	106.2a	8.50ab	23.97	69.67	25.13a	4.15a
CV (%)	3.2	1.5	1.77	2.33	4.17	2.12
Level of Significance	*	*	NS	NS	*	*
LSD (0.05)	6.56	0.26			1.96	0.17

\*Significant at 0.05 level of significance

Letters in a column having similar or no letter did not differ significantly

### Potato

All the parameters except number of stem/ hill varied significantly (Table 3). Early planting sole potato (T<sub>1</sub>) gave highest yield (26.10 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) which was significantly higher than all other treatments. Late planting sole potato (T<sub>2</sub>), intercropped early potato (T<sub>3</sub>) and relay potato (T<sub>4</sub>) showed similar yield (23.61 – 24.79 t ha<sup>-1</sup>). Highest plant height (68.97 cm), and number (8.76) and weight (466.7

g) of tuber/ hill contributed to the highest yield in T<sub>1</sub>. Treatment T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> performed identically in producing plant height (65.21-65.27 cm), and number (7.16-7.26) and weight (413.3-430.0 g) of tuber/ hill which were significantly lower than T<sub>1</sub>.

Table 3. Yield and yield contributing characters of potato in farmer's field, Rangpur

Treatments (Cropping Patterns)	Plant height (cm)	Stem/hill (no)	Tuber/hill (no)	Weight Tuber/hill (g)	Yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )
T <sub>1</sub> = BINA7-Pot-Mung	68.97a	3.30	8.76a	466.7 a	26.10a
T <sub>2</sub> = BR11-Pot-Fallow	65.23b	3.30	7.26b	430.0 b	24.79b
T <sub>3</sub> = BINA7-P+M-Mung	65.21b	3.33	7.20b	413.3 b	23.65b
T <sub>4</sub> = BR11-Pot/Maize	65.27b	3.30	7.16b	423.3 b	23.61b
CV (%)	2.71	4.7	8.67	4.2	3.21
Level of Significance	*	NS	*	*	*
LSD (0.05)	3.58	0.31	1.32	36.36	1.57

\*Significant at 0.05 level of significance

Letters in a column having similar or no letter did not differ significantly

### Maize

Intercropped (T<sub>3</sub>) and Relay (T<sub>4</sub>) maize did not vary significantly in the parameters studied (Table 4).

Table 4. Yield and yield contributing characters of maize in farmer's field, Rangpur

Treatments (Cropping patterns)	Plant population /m <sup>2</sup> (no)	Plant height (cm)	Cobs/ plant (no)	Cob length (cm)	Grains/ cob (no)	1000 grain weight (g)	Yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )
T <sub>1</sub> = BINA7-Pot-Mung	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T <sub>2</sub> = BR11-Pot-Fallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T <sub>3</sub> = BINA7-P+M-Mung	5.33	226.33	1.03	16.97	513.33	28.5	8.21
T <sub>4</sub> = BR11-Pot/Maize	5.27	230.67	1.13	17.3	520	28.57	7.92
CV (%)	4.32	5.59	6.5	6.05	4.32	3.39	3.02
Level of Significance	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
LSD	0.80	44.88	0.24	3.64	78.42	3.99	0.85

\*Significant at 0.05 level of significance

Letters in a column having similar or no letter did not differ significantly

**Mungbean**

Number of pods/plant and yield showed significant variation due to treatment (Table 5). Mungbean after sole potato ( $T_1$ ) gave higher number of pods/plant (17.25), and yield (1.47 t

$ha^{-1}$ ) which is significantly higher than those of  $T_3$  (14.89 and 1.28 t  $ha^{-1}$ , respectively). Higher number of pods/plant contributed to higher yield in  $T_1$ .

Table 5. Yield and yield contributing characters of mungbean in farmer's field, Rangpur

Treatments (Cropping patterns)	Plant height (cm)	Pods/ plant (no)	Pod length (cm)	Seeds/pod (no)	1000 seed wt (g)	Yield (t $ha^{-1}$ )
$T_1$ = BINA7-Pot-Mung	53.3	17.25 a	7.03	7.32	41.90	1.47 a
$T_2$ = BR11-Pot-Fallow	-	-	-	-	-	-
$T_3$ = BINA7-P+M-Mung	55.07	14.89 b	7.01	6.65	40.67	1.28 b
$T_4$ = BR11-Pot/Maize	-	-	-	-	-	-
CV (%)	3.63	3.61	5.8	3.55	2.08	3.19
Level of Significance	NS	*	NS	NS	NS	*
LSD	6.91	2.03	1.43	0.87	3.01	0.15

\*Significant at 0.05 level of significance

Letters in a column having similar or no letter did not differ significantly

**Economic Analysis****Economic analysis of *T. aman* rice**

Closer or similar gross return (GR), gross margin (GM) and benefit cost return (BCR) was noticed among the treatments indicating that BR11 and

BINA dhan 7 offers more or less equal monetary benefit (Table 6). GR ranged from Tk. 63360 to 66400, GM from Tk. 30125 to 32000 and BCR from 1.91 to 1.93.

Table 6. Economic analysis of *T. aman* rice in farmer's field, Rangpur

Treatments (Cropping patterns)	Yield (t $ha^{-1}$ )	Gross return (Tk $ha^{-1}$ )	Production cost (Tk $ha^{-1}$ )	Gross margin (Tk $ha^{-1}$ )	BCR
$T_1$ = BINA7-Pot-Mung	3.98	63680	33235	30445	1.92
$T_2$ = BR11-Pot-Fallow	4.16	66560	34560	32000	1.93
$T_3$ = BINA7-P+M-Mung	3.96	63360	33235	30125	1.91
$T_4$ = BR11-Pot/Maize	4.15	66400	34560	31840	1.92

Selling Price = Tk. 16 per kg

**Economic analysis of potato**

Highest GR (Tk. 235080), GM (Tk. 129760) and BCR (2.23) were calculated in improved pattern  $T_1$  and the lowest of those (Tk. 212490, Tk.

106620 and 2.01) was found in the farmers pattern  $T_4$  (Table 7). Potato in improved pattern ( $T_1$ ,  $T_3$ ) showed better performance than farmers pattern ( $T_1$ ,  $T_4$ ).

Table 7. Economic analysis of potato in farmer's field, Rangpur

Treatments (Cropping patterns)	Yield (t $ha^{-1}$ )	Gross return (Tk $ha^{-1}$ )	Production cost (Tk $ha^{-1}$ )	Gross margin (Tk $ha^{-1}$ )	BCR
$T_1$ = BINA7-Pot-Mung	26.12	235080	105320	129760	2.23
$T_2$ = BR11-Pot-Fallow	24.79	223110	111460	111650	2.00
$T_3$ = BINA7-P+M-Mung	23.65	212850	100320	112530	2.12
$T_4$ = BR11-Pot/Maize	23.61	212490	105870	106620	2.01

Selling Price = Tk. 09 per kg

**Economic analysis of maize**

Higher GR (Tk. 90310), GM (Tk. 49935) and BCR (2.24) were calculated in improved pattern  $T_3$

than those (Tk. 87120, Tk. 44525 and 2.05) of the farmers pattern  $T_4$  (Table 8).

Table 8. Economic analysis of maize in farmer's field, Rangpur

Treatments (Cropping patterns)	Yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross return (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Production cost (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross margin (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	BCR
T <sub>1</sub> = BINA7-Pot-Mung	-	-	-	-	-
T <sub>2</sub> = BR11-Pot-Fallow	-	-	-	-	-
T <sub>3</sub> = BINA7-P+M-Mung	8.21	90310	40375	49935	2.24
T <sub>4</sub> = BR11-Pot/Maize	7.92	87120	42595	44525	2.05

Selling Price = Tk. 11 per kg

#### Economic analysis of mungbean

Mungbean after sole potato (T<sub>1</sub>) showed higher GR (Tk. 58800), GM (Tk. 35230) and BCR (2.49)

than those (Tk. 51200, Tk. 27630 and 2.17) of T<sub>3</sub> (Table 9).

Table 9. Economic analysis of Mungbean in farmer's field, Rangpur

Treatments (Cropping Patterns)	Yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross return (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Production cost (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross margin (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	BCR
T <sub>1</sub> = BINA7-Pot-Mung	1.47	58800	23570	35230	2.49
T <sub>2</sub> = BR11-Pot-Fallow	-	-	-	-	-
T <sub>3</sub> = BINA7-P+M-Mung	1.28	51200	23570	27630	2.17
T <sub>4</sub> = BR11-Pot/Maize	-	-	-	-	-

Selling Price = Tk. 40 per kg

#### Economic analysis of whole pattern

Highest GR (Tk. 417720) and GM (Tk. 220220) were calculated in improved pattern T<sub>3</sub> and the lowest of those (Tk. 289670, Tk. 146020) in farmers pattern T<sub>2</sub> (Table 10) The other improved

pattern T<sub>3</sub> was the second highest performer considering GR and GM. But BCR (2.21) was highest in T<sub>1</sub> and second highest in T<sub>3</sub>. The result indicated that the improved patterns (T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>3</sub>) were better than farmers pattern (T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>4</sub>).

Table 10. Economic analysis of the whole patterns in farmer's field Rangpur

Treatments (Cropping patterns)	Gross return (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Production cost (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross margin (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	BCR
T <sub>1</sub> = BINA7-Pot-Mung	357560	162125	195435	2.21
T <sub>2</sub> = BR11-Pot-Fallow	289670	146020	143650	1.98
T <sub>3</sub> = BINA7-P+M-Mung	417720	197500	220220	2.12
T <sub>4</sub> = BR11-Pot/Maize	365850	183025	182825	2.00

#### Return of improved patterns over the farmers patterns

The improved pattern (T<sub>1</sub>) gave GR Tk. 67890 and GM Tk. 51785 higher than farmers pattern

(T<sub>2</sub>) (Table 11). Similarly, the other improved pattern (T<sub>3</sub>) showed Tk. 51870 and Tk. 37395 higher than farmers pattern (T<sub>4</sub>).

Table 11. Return of improved patterns over the farmers patterns in farmer's field, Rangpur

Treatments (Cropping patterns)	Gross return (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Production cost (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Gross margin (Tk ha <sup>-1</sup> )	BCR
T <sub>1</sub> over T <sub>2</sub> (BINA7-Pot-Mung over BR11-Pot-Fallow)	67890	16105	51785	4.22
T <sub>3</sub> over T <sub>4</sub> (BINA7-P+M-Mung over BR11-Pot/Maize)	51870	14475	37395	3.58

#### Job Creation

The improved pattern T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>3</sub> created 45 working day (1 day=8 hours work) job for a labour for harvesting early matured rice in the Monga/ jobless period (October) while farmers'

pattern gives only 3 days work (Table 12). Again, T<sub>3</sub> gave total 440 days work throughout the year which was the highest, followed by T<sub>4</sub> (392 days), T<sub>1</sub> (372 days) and the lowest in T<sub>2</sub> (305 days). It indicates that the improved patterns created higher job opportunity than the farmers' pattern.

Table 12. Labour distribution in munga period (day ha<sup>-1</sup>)

Treatments	Labour use (day ha <sup>-1</sup> ) in munga period (October)	Total labour
T <sub>1</sub> = BINA7-Pot-Mung	45	108 + 189 + 75 = 372
T <sub>2</sub> = BR11-Pot-Fallow	3	108 + 197 + 0 = 305
T <sub>3</sub> = BINA7-P+M-Mung	45	108 + 266 + 75 = 440
T <sub>4</sub> = BR11-Pot/Maize	3	108 + 197 + 80 = 392

## Conclusion

The result showed that mungbean could successfully be accommodated in potato based cropping pattern. Intercropping potato + maize, rather than relay cropping potato with maize not only increase total productivity, but also facilitate two and half month time to grow mungbean before *T. aman* cultivation. The Improved (mungbean included) patterns increased total production and monetary return. Short duration *T. Aman* rice created job opportunity for the poor labour in Monga/ off period (October). Pulse production increased. The improved pattern T<sub>1</sub> = BINA dhan 7-Potato-Mungbean can be suggested against farmers pattern T<sub>2</sub> = BR11 – Potato - Fallow and the improved pattern T<sub>3</sub> = BINA dhan 7 - Potato + Maize intercropping – Mungbean can be suggested against farmers pattern T<sub>4</sub> = BR11-Pot/Maize. The mungbean included improved cropping patterns can be suggested for increased production, economic return and Monga mitigation (work opportunity in off period) in Rangpur.

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