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# Productivity and profitability of wheat varieties under organic farming in Southern Rajasthan

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### Abstract

The field experiment was conducted for six years during 2015-16 to 2020-21 at the Organic Farming Unit, MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan, to evaluate the yield performance of different varieties of bread, durum and local wheat under sub-humid conditions of southern plains and Aravalli Hills of Rajasthan. Results revealed that among the 12 varieties of wheat tested under organic production system, the maximum grain yield (5704 kg/ha) was obtained from durum wheat variety HI-8713 followed by durum wheat variety HI-8663 (5007 kg/ha grain yield). Under organic farming, the durum wheat variety HI-8713 recorded net profit of Rs. 164114/ha followed by durum wheat variety HI-8713 recorded net profit of Rs.137997/ha. The difference in yield of wheat varieties under organic farming ranged from 34.01 to 57.04 q/ha, with maximum of 57.04 q/ha in variety HI-8713 and the lowest of 34.01 q/ha in the variety HI-1500.

Keywords: organic, bread, durum, wheat inorganic, grain yield and net profit

### Introduction

Organic agriculture comes across as a promising opportunity for farmers of India, especially the tribals, small and marginal farmers in the rainfed region or regions where traditional low input farming is practiced (Singh *et al.*, 2017)<sup>[13]</sup>.

Organically managed land differs substantially from their conventional counterparts for soil biodiversity, nitrogen level, soil moisture and retaining capacity, soil organic matter, weed intensity and types and biotic and abiotic stress. Aside from environmental stress, cultivars exhibit significant genetic variation among each other to respond any biotic and abiotic stress (Romagosa and Fox, 1993) [11]. Therefore, several studies reported inconsistencies in crop and cultivar performance from one location to other (Peterson *et al.*, 1992; Barbari 2002; Entz 2001) [10, 2, 5].

Selection of varieties for organic wheat production is not far different from the varieties selected for conventional production system. Hence, varieties that perform well in a region were selected. As the current high yielding varieties and hybrids are inadvertently selected for high input systems, they are likely to behave differently under organic conditions thus necessary field scrutiny, if grown organically. Wheat is the important crop of organic farming systems in India. However, 20-40% yield reduction in organic wheat have been observed in comparison to wheat grown with conventional farming (Sharma *et al.*, 2021) [12]. Modern high yielding varieties which respond well to chemical inputs, may not be always suitable for organic farming (Yadav *et al.*, 2020; Murphy *et al.*, 2007) [14,8].

A great deal of confusion exists around the selection of a suitable variety of a crop for high yield under organic management as in case of chemical farming as selection of a variety under organic farming has a direct effect on yield and economics of a crop. The present investigation was carried out to compare yield and economics of different varieties of different types of wheat grown under organic farming.

### **Materials and Methods**

The crop was grown in *Rabi* season during 2015-16 to 2020-21 at Organic Farming Unit, Rajasthan College of Agriculture, MPUAT, Udaipur (Rajasthan), India. Udaipur is located at 24.5568° N latitude, 73.7153° E longitude and altitude 582.17 m in the heart land of Aravalli Hills. The furrow slice (0-15 cm) soil of experimental site were clay loam with pH 8.1 (1:2 soil: water), medium organic carbon (0.55%), low in available N (220 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), high in available P (34.20 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), high in available K (235.50 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>), 3.05 ppm available iron and 0.45 ppm available zinc.

Twelve varieties of different types of wheat (*Aestivum viz.*, HI-1531, MP-3288, Raj-3765, Raj-4037 and Raj-4120, Durum *viz.*, HI-8627, HI-8663, HI-8713, MPO-1215 and HI-1500 and Local *viz.*, Lol-1 and C-306) grown under organic farming as per Standards of National Programme on Organic Production (APEDA, 2019-20) [1]. The experiment was laid out in a randomized block design with three replications.

Statistical significance of treatment was tested at the 5% level of significance by using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) METHOD (Gomez and Gomez, 1984) [6] for the RBD using R Studio software.

### **Results**

Analysis of data of six-year study revealed that grain yield of different wheat varieties under organic farming varied from 3401 to 5704 kg/ha. Durum HI-8713 gave significantly higher grain, straw and harvest index (5704 kg/ha, 9588 kg/ha and 37.27, respectively) as compared to other varieties. Among bread wheat varieties, variety MP-3288 was found superior in comparison to variety HI-1531, Raj-4037, Raj-4120 and Raj-3765.Similarily, among durum wheat varieties, variety HI-8713 recorded the maximum yield. The yield of local wheat variety C-306 was found superior over local wheat variety Lok-1.

The variety HI-8713 recorded significantly higher number of grains/ ear and test weight in comparison to other varieties which resulted the higher yield of this variety in comparison to other varieties.

Straw yield of wheat was recorded higher in the wheat durum variety HI-8713 followed by HI-8627, HI-1531 and C-306. This might be attributed to significantly LAI and dry matter accumulation of variety HI-8713 in comparison to the other varieties. Grain yield differences due to varieties were also

reported by Biswas *et al.* (1998) <sup>[4]</sup>. Iannucci and Codianni (2016) <sup>[7]</sup> evaluated durum wheat varieties for conventional and low input organic conditions based on variability in yield attributes and yield. Different varieties in different environments and breeding may contribute to the improvement of yield and baking quality to a certain extent (Baresel *et al.* 2008) <sup>[3]</sup>.

No significant difference in the harvest index of different varieties of wheat.

Variety HI-8713 of durum wheat recorded significantly higher net return and benefit-cost ratio (B:C ratio) (166414 Rs /ha net return and 3.56, respectively) as compared to other varieties. The net return and B:C ratio of durum varieties was comparatively higher than bread and local varieties (Table 2). Ozberk et al. (2011) [9] also reported the better net return and B:C ratio of durum wheat as compared to other varieties. This might be due to higher test weight of durum wheat varieties than bread wheat varieties. Highly significant correlation coefficient between 1000 kernel weights vs. marketing price as indicated earlier visual characteristics of grains in commodity market are main criteria for high market price offers. Hence, the present study reveals that the performance of durum variety in terms of productivity and profitability is significantly better than the bread varieties under organic production system. Durum variety HI-8713 produced significantly higher grain yield (>5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and straw yield (9.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) by registering higher values of growth and yield attributes. Under organic farming, durum variety HI-8713 followed by HI-8663 recorded the higher net return of more than ₹ 1.30 lakh ha<sup>-1</sup> and also B:C ratio more than 3.0. Thus, it can be concluded that according to prevailing cropping system, durum variety HI-8713 can be promoted for organic cultivation in Southern region of Rajasthan.



Fig 1: Field performance of different varieties of wheat under organic farming

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Table 1: Effect of different varieties of wheat on yield and economics grown under organic farming (Mean of six years)

| Varieties |         |         | Gra     | ain yield ( | kg/ha)  |         |        | S       | traw yiel | d (kg/ha) |         |         | Harvest index (%) |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |       |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|-------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
|           | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19     | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | Mean   | 2015-16 | 2016-17   | 2017-18   | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21           | Mean   | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | Mean  |
| HI-1531   | 4407    | 4296    | 4504    | 4130        | 4320    | 4295    | 4325   | 7630    | 8481      | 8748      | 8500    | 6048    | 6210              | 7603   | 36.67   | 34.32   | 33.98   | 32.7    | 41.67   | 40.89   | 36.71 |
| MP-3288   | 4333    | 4815    | 4626    | 4460        | 4585    | 4615    | 4572   | 7241    | 6852      | 9075      | 8750    | 7336    | 7400              | 7776   | 37.58   | 41.93   | 33.71   | 33.76   | 38.46   | 38.41   | 37.31 |
| Raj-3765  | 3111    | 4111    | 3452    | 3350        | 3500    | 3480    | 3501   | 6519    | 7556      | 6743      | 6845    | 6300    | 6450              | 6736   | 32.27   | 36.95   | 33.79   | 32.86   | 35.71   | 35.05   | 34.44 |
| Raj-4037  | 3380    | 4407    | 4121    | 4055        | 4000    | 4080    | 4007   | 7361    | 8000      | 7519      | 7425    | 5600    | 5700              | 6934   | 31.98   | 36.14   | 35.38   | 35.32   | 41.67   | 41.72   | 37.04 |
| Raj-4120  | 2991    | 3741    | 3435    | 3545        | 3620    | 3700    | 3505   | 6454    | 8111      | 6662      | 6780    | 6407    | 6520              | 6822   | 32.02   | 31.62   | 34.21   | 34.33   | 36.1    | 36.20   | 34.08 |
| HI-8627   | 4241    | 4648    | 4518    | 4460        | 4490    | 4410    | 4461   | 7611    | 9056      | 8509      | 8870    | 8082    | 8210              | 8390   | 35.72   | 35.61   | 34.66   | 33.46   | 35.71   | 34.94   | 35.02 |
| HI-8663   | 3824    | 5185    | 5024    | 5250        | 5360    | 5400    | 5007   | 6917    | 8148      | 8986      | 9415    | 8307    | 8522              | 8383   | 35.74   | 38.66   | 35.87   | 35.8    | 39.22   | 38.79   | 37.35 |
| HI-8713   | 4481    | 6796    | 5424    | 5900        | 5840    | 5785    | 5704   | 8111    | 10426     | 9447      | 10700   | 9341    | 9500              | 9588   | 35.33   | 39.92   | 36.47   | 35.54   | 38.48   | 37.85   | 37.27 |
| MPO-1215  | 3339    | 4500    | 4245    | 4155        | 4300    | 4320    | 4143   | 5920    | 6611      | 8513      | 8425    | 6704    | 6815              | 7165   | 36.4    | 41.42   | 33.27   | 33.03   | 39.06   | 38.80   | 37.00 |
| HI-1500   | 2926    | 3537    | 3431    | 3350        | 3555    | 3605    | 3401   | 7259    | 7574      | 7405      | 7500    | 5688    | 5750              | 6863   | 28.9    | 31.74   | 31.79   | 30.88   | 38.46   | 38.54   | 33.39 |
| Lok-1     | 2981    | 3704    | 3547    | 3450        | 3730    | 3680    | 3515   | 6648    | 7037      | 6802      | 6715    | 6341    | 6520              | 6677   | 30.88   | 37.03   | 34.33   | 33.94   | 37.04   | 36.08   | 34.88 |
| C-306     | 4278    | 4278    | 4233    | 4000        | 4175    | 4210    | 4196   | 7389    | 7981      | 8081      | 7685    | 6263    | 6135              | 7256   | 37.11   | 36.47   | 34.38   | 34.23   | 40      | 40.70   | 37.15 |
| S.Em ±    | 3.10    | 4.49    | 142.8   | 141.98      | 146.91  | 146.67  | 142.37 | 6.485   | 12.172    | 301.5     | 270.082 | 233.84  | 241.37            | 253.75 | 2.22    | 5.09    | 1.062   | 1.18    | 0.23    | 1.31    | 1.25  |
| CD at 5%  | 9.09    | 13.16   | 418.7   | 416.41      | 430.87  | 430.18  | 417.54 | 19.020  | 35.698    | 884.36    | 792.123 | 685.83  | 707.93            | 744.22 | 6.50    | 14.93   | 3.113   | 3.46    | 0.66    | 3.84    | 3.66  |

Table 2: Gross return, net return and B: C ratio of different varieties under organic farming during 2015-16 to 2020-21

| Varieties |          |          | Gro      | ss return | (Rs./ha) |          |          |          | N        | let retur | n (Rs. /ha | )        |          | Net return per rupee invested |        |           |         |         |         |         |      |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|
| varieties | 2015-16  | 2016-17  | 2017-18  | 2018-19   | 2019-20  | 2020-21  | Mean     | 2015-16  | 2016-17  | 2017-18   | 2018-19    | 2019-20  | 2020-21  | Mean                          | 2015-1 | 6 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | Mean |
| HI-1531   | 162319   | 163552   | 170717   | 136760    | 158544   | 158710   | 158434   | 116583   | 117816   | 124981    | 91024      | 111544   | 113090   | 112506                        | 2.55   | 2.58      | 2.73    | 1.99    | 2.37    | 2.48    | 2.45 |
| MP-3288   | 158261   | 169759   | 175801   | 145370    | 173313   | 174535   | 166173   | 112525   | 124023   | 130065    | 99634      | 126313   | 128915   | 120246                        | 2.46   | 2.71      | 2.84    | 2.18    | 2.69    | 2.83    | 2.62 |
| Raj-3765  | 120356   | 153644   | 131034   | 110663    | 136150   | 136395   | 131374   | 74620    | 107908   | 85298     | 64927      | 89150    | 90775    | 85446                         | 1.63   | 2.36      | 1.87    | 1.42    | 1.9     | 1.99    | 1.86 |
| Raj-4037  | 132171   | 164207   | 153742   | 129305    | 146800   | 149670   | 145983   | 86435    | 118471   | 108006    | 83569      | 99800    | 104050   | 100055                        | 1.89   | 2.59      | 2.36    | 1.83    | 2.12    | 2.28    | 2.18 |
| Raj-4120  | 116655   | 146107   | 130166   | 114602    | 140221   | 143160   | 131819   | 70919    | 100371   | 84430     | 68866      | 93221    | 97540    | 85891                         | 1.55   | 2.19      | 1.85    | 1.51    | 1.98    | 2.14    | 1.87 |
| HI-8627   | 166039   | 185628   | 169911   | 146018    | 174661   | 173045   | 169217   | 120303   | 139892   | 124175    | 100282     | 127661   | 126425   | 123123                        | 2.63   | 3.06      | 2.72    | 2.19    | 2.72    | 2.71    | 2.67 |
| HI-8663   | 149997   | 197111   | 186508   | 166341    | 201116   | 203471   | 184091   | 104261   | 151375   | 140772    | 120605     | 154116   | 156851   | 137997                        | 2.28   | 3.31      | 3.08    | 2.64    | 3.28    | 3.36    | 2.99 |
| HI-8713   | 175811   | 257061   | 200043   | 187580    | 220736   | 220015   | 210208   | 130075   | 211325   | 154307    | 141844     | 173736   | 173395   | 164114                        | 2.84   | 4.62      | 3.37    | 3.1     | 3.7     | 3.72    | 3.56 |
| MPO-1215  | 130361   | 168717   | 162278   | 136905    | 161571   | 162763   | 153766   | 84625    | 122981   | 116542    | 91169      | 114571   | 116143   | 107672                        | 1.85   | 2.69      | 2.55    | 1.99    | 2.44    | 2.49    | 2.34 |
| HI-1500   | 124800   | 144739   | 133842   | 114200    | 134379   | 136170   | 131355   | 79064    | 99003    | 88106     | 68464      | 87379    | 89550    | 85261                         | 1.73   | 2.16      | 1.93    | 1.5     | 1.86    | 1.92    | 1.85 |
| Lok-1     | 117387   | 139593   | 133996   | 112161    | 143046   | 142580   | 131461   | 71651    | 93857    | 88260     | 66425      | 96046    | 97460    | 85617                         | 1.57   | 2.05      | 1.93    | 1.45    | 2.04    | 2.16    | 1.87 |
| C-306     | 157461   | 160483   | 159749   | 129499    | 155519   | 155833   | 153091   | 111725   | 114747   | 114013    | 83763      | 108519   | 110713   | 107247                        | 2.44   | 2.51      | 2.49    | 1.83    | 2.31    | 2.45    | 2.34 |
| S.Em ±    | 10722.73 | 10682.75 | 4511.45  | 4598.32   | 5498.36  | 5578.66  | 5261.53  | 10722.73 | 10682.75 | 4511.45   | 4598.32    | 5498.36  | 5578.66  | 3688.61                       | 0.23   | 0.23      | 0.10    | 0.07    | 0.12    | 0.12    | 0.08 |
| CD at 5%  | 31448.69 | 31331.42 | 13231.64 | 13486.4   | 16126.14 | 16361.65 | 15431.54 | 31448.69 | 31331.42 | 13231.64  | 13486.4    | 16126.14 | 16361.65 | 10818.33                      | 0.69   | 0.69      | 0.29    | 0.19    | 0.34    | 0.36    | 0.24 |

### Conclusion

It may be concluded from the research study that durum wheat variety HI-8713 recorded significantly maximum grain yield (5704 kg/ha), net return (₹ 164114/ha) and BC ratio (3.56) among different varieties of wheat grown under organic production system on pooled basis (2015-16 to 2020-21).

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