



Influence of Plant Densities on Insect Pests Incidence and Yield in Direct Seeded Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.)

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Abstract: Field experiments were conducted during *kharif* 2009-10 to study the effect of seed rate (20 kg, 30 kg, 40 kg and 50 kg ha⁻¹) and row spacing (15, 20, 25 and 30 cm) on insect-pest incidence and grain yield of dry-drilled direct seeded rice. The seed rates and row spacings did not have any significant effect on crop dry matter accumulation, effective tillers and grain yield. Stem borer and leaf folder damage was the maximum with seed rate of 50 kg which was significantly more as compared with seed rate of 20 kg and 30 kg ha⁻¹ and was statistically similar to damage observed with seed rate of 40 kg ha⁻¹. Stem borer damage was significantly more at narrow row spacing of 15 cm as compared to wider row spacings of 25 and 30 cm but it was statistically at par with stem borer damage reported in 20 cm row spacing. Leaf folder damage was also significantly more at narrow row spacing of 15 cm as compared to wider row spacings of 20, 25 and 30 cm. Thus at higher plant densities, damage due to stem borer and leaf folder was more in dry-drilled direct seeded rice.

Key Words: Direct Seeded Rice, Leaf Folder, Stem borer, Seed Rate, Row Spacing
