

Factors Affecting Adoption of BRRI Released *Aus* Rice Varieties in Mymensingh District

Md. Shajedur Rahaman^{*}, Md. Jahangir Kabir, Md. Abdur Rouf Sarkar, Mohammad Ariful Islam, Mohammad Chhiddikur Rahman, Md. Abu Bakr Siddique

Agricultural Economics Division, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Gazipur, Bangladesh

Email address:

saju021@gmail.com (Md. S. Rahaman), jkabirbrri@yahoo.com (Md. J. Kabir), mdrouf_bau@yahoo.com (Md. A. R. Sarkar), arifagecon@gmail.com (M. A. Islam), siddiquer07@gmail.com (M. C. Rahman), abs_63@yahoo.com (Md. A. B. Siddique)

^{*}Corresponding author

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Abstract: This study was carried out to evaluate the performance of BRRI cultivars, identifying criteria and constraints as well as factors influencing the intensity of BRRI cultivars adoption in *Aus* season on the farm households in Mymensingh district. The data were collected through structured questionnaires from a total of 390 randomly selected rice farmers from thirteen Upazila of Mymensingh district. The study employed descriptive statistics and Tobit censored regression to determine the adoption and yield status; and adoption intensity determinants. In addition to a total of thirteen FGDs and expert panel interview was conducted to verify the collected data. The results show that 82.04 percent of the area in Mymensingh district was cultivated with rice variety developed by Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) with an average yield of 4.05 t/ha during the *Aus* season. The findings of the Tobit censored regression indicate that schooling, distance to the local market, training, price variation, taste and preference, amount of cultivated varieties, yield variability were the significant factors of the intensity of BRRI varieties adoption in *Aus* season. The study's results suggested that breeders should also emphasize the choice of farmers while developing varieties. In addition to developing new rice varieties, BRRI, Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Bangladesh Agricultural Corporation (BADC) and other seed producing organizations need to work together to provide the farmers with good quality seeds of BRRI varieties, which will increase the total production of the country, thus helping to ensure food safety.

Keywords: Adoption Intensity, *Aus* Season, BRRI Varieties, Tobit Censored Regression, Criteria and Constraints, Rice, Bangladesh

1. Introduction

Among the major challenges facing Bangladesh are sustainable food production and ensuring food security for all. A major issue for Bangladesh has been and will continue to be food safety [1]. The government of Bangladesh is working tirelessly to ensure food security for all. Despite steady progress towards industrialization, agriculture remains the most important sector in Bangladesh. The agriculture sector is fully cooperating with the government of Bangladesh to achieve food self-sufficiency and food security. The agriculture sector contributed 13.64 percent of

total Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employing 40% of the population and seems to have managed to feed around 164.6 million people of the country [2, 3]. Rice plays the leading role in all crops by contributing to 88.33 percent of the overall output of food grain [2].

Rice is Bangladeshi's staple food as it is consumed @367 gm/person/day by 99 percent of the population, supplying around 75 percent of the calories and 55 percent of the protein in the average daily diet [4-6]. Although steady rice supply has significant consequences for food security, many see food security as associated with achieving self-sufficiency in rice production [7]. Rice has occupied about

74.85 percent of the total crop area and produced 36.39 million tons of rice [2]. Rice cultivated in Bangladesh in three overlapping seasons namely, *Aus*, *Aman*, and *Boro* [8]. Besides two other rice crops (*Aman* and *Boro*), *Aus* rice contributed to food production until the mid-1980s. *Aus* is usually grown in March-April and harvested in June-July. *Aus* rice accounts for nearly 9.59 percent of the overall cultivated area, covering 84.59 percent of modern varieties, producing 2.70 million tons of clean rice [2].

Uddin and Dhar noted that *Aus* rice started to lose its value as farmers gradually began to move to irrigated *Boro* rice cultivation supported by its higher yields [9]. The acreage dwindled below 1.5 million hectares now during the *Aus* season, from 3.0 million hectares in the early 1980s, and rice output slumbered as well. Simultaneously, the *Boro* rice acreage and production went up many folds. On the other side, climate change would possibly affect Bangladesh's *Aus* rice production. Research indicates that any period from seedling to reproductive stages *Aus* rice may be suffering from drought [10]. Khanom displayed evidence of decreased *Aus* yield in a warmer (by 4°C) temperature scenario [11]. Since the advent of modern technology and best management practices, the farmers have altered the cropping patterns as well as farming systems. Farmers have also modified their pattern of land use under this farming circumstance and launched a mix of modern ventures along with rice production [12]. As a result, there has been a shift to *Aus* rice land and the production of jute [13]. BRRI indicates that one of the factors behind the decrease in the production of *Aus* rice is the non-availability of land as its seed sowing or transplanting cycle falls during March and April while *Boro* rice remains in the region [14]. Farmers do not get adequate time and land to produce paddy out of it.

On the other side, the increasing population of the country by 2050 need to generate an additional 10.8 million tons of rice to fulfill food grain demand [15]. Sustaining the food security status and supplying additional food for the country's ever-growing population from dwindling land and other scarce resources, thus, presents a major challenge [16]. Governments are therefore intervening in agriculture to achieve a wide range of economic and social goals and achieve food security. Agricultural incentives are a common element in agricultural development, to promote the adoption of new technologies and thus increase the productivity of agriculture [17]. This intervention can take several forms such as price support programs, direct payments, and input support to influence the costs and availability of agricultural inputs such as credit, fertilizers, seeds, irrigation water, etc. Input aid is the most common of all domestic support instruments in agriculture.

Bangladesh's government has, however, launched an incentive program with a Tk (Bangladeshi currency) cost. 336.2 million for small and marginal farmers in the country, seeking to rejuvenate the *Aus* rice cultivation. In contrast, a total of 231,363 small and marginal farmers were provided with seed and chemical fertilizers at no cost to grow local high yielding variety (HYV) and NERICA (a stress-tolerant

African variety) of *Aus* rice in 49 drought-prone districts throughout the country [9]. The government of Bangladesh was allocated 350 million Tk. for *Aus* seeds and fertilizers in 2020, while 360 million Tk was allocated for irrigation to increase the output. These required inputs have already been moved to different stations across the country, and the farmers are getting these inputs for the *Aus* rice cultivation.

Additionally, public organizations such as the BRRI, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), and universities in Bangladesh have been researching for the development and dissemination of modern high-yielding short-duration rice variety. BRRI has so far developed 102 HYV rice varieties including 7 hybrids [18]. Out of 102 varieties, few mega varieties have been popularized and adopted in various seasons, contributing to the self-sufficiency of the rice. BRRI developed *Aus* rice varieties covering about 70.28 percent of the total area of total cultivated areas and produced clean rice of 2.0 million tons. In such a scenario, an in-depth study was undertaken to examine the adoption and yield status of *Aus* rice varieties, as well as criteria, constraints, and factors influencing the adoption of BRRI developed *Aus* rice cultivars.

2. Methodology

2.1. Study Area and Sample Size

The study was conducted at 13 Upazilas of Mymensingh district. All of the Upazilas were selected purposively and thereafter, two Unions from each Upazila were selected randomly for this survey. The survey was conducted from April to July 2018. A total of 390 farmers were randomly selected to identify factors affecting the BRRI developed *Aus* rice cultivars' adoption decision. Farm-level data were collected with key informants and household surveys through a Farmers' Group Discussion (FGD). Besides, a total of thirteen FGDs were performed to produce in-depth data on the adaptation dynamics of rice varieties at *Aus* season. An expert panel interview consisting of Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) and Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO) was held in order to verify the data gathered via the discussion group of farmers. Using a pre-tested standardized questionnaire, selected farmers were questioned. The data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics used primarily to analyze the frequency, percentage, mean, and median of the farmers' socioeconomic attributes in the study area. The Tobit model was used to identify the factors behind the adoption of BRRI technology and to analyze the probability of farmers adopting technology and the intensity of adoption.

2.2. Econometric Model

The Logit and Probit models are the two popular models used by different research to determine the impact of variables affecting the probability of a given technology being implemented. Adoption experiments focused on dichotomous regression models, however, have sought to

clarify only the probability of adoption versus non-adoption rather than adoption rate and intensity [19]. For certain problems such as fertilizer, therefore, a purely dichotomous variable is always not adequate to examine the extent and intensity of the adoption [20]. Meanwhile, Splett, *et al* established what became known as the Tobit or censored regression model for circumstances where dependent variable values greater than 0 are observed but are not observed (censored) at zero or lower values [21]. The Tobit model is also a broad class of models with discrete as well as continuous parts. It is an extension of the Probit model and is one approach to tackling the censored data problem [22].

2.3. Model Specification

The Tobit model applied for analyzing factors affecting the adoption of BRRI rice varieties is shown below:

$$Y_i^* = \beta X_i + \mu_i, i=1, 2, \dots, n.$$

Where,

Y_i = the observed dependent variable (index of adoption of BRRI rice varieties)

Y_i^* = the latent variable

X_i = vector of factors affecting adoption and intensity of BRRI rice varieties

β_i = vector of unknown parameters

μ_i = residuals that are independently and normally distributed with mean zero and a common variance (σ^2).

The Tobit model shown above is also called a censored regression model because it is possible to view the problem as one where observation of Y^* at or below zero are censored [22].

2.4. Definition of Variables

In this study, the dependent variable is the adoption and intensity of the BRRI rice varieties being adopted. The explanatory variables were taken those variables which are thought to influence the adoption and intensity of BRRI rice varieties.

Table 1. Definition of the variables.

Variables	Description	Expected sign
Dependent variable		
Adoption and intensity of adoption of the BRRI rice varieties	0 for non-adopters and varied between 0 and 1 for adopters (where 1 mean 100% of BRRI varieties were adopted)	
Explanatory variables		
Socio-demographic variables:		
Farmers Age	Year	+
Education	Year of schooling	+
Household size	Number	+
Farm size	Operated area in hectares	+
Access to information:		
Training received	Dummy (1=received training, 0=otherwise)	+
Distance to local market	Kilometer	-
Distance to UAO	Kilometer	-
Price variation	Tk./kg	+
Varietal specific characteristics:		
Taste and preference	Dummy (1=good taste and preference, 0=Otherwise)	+
Total Varieties cultivated	Number	+
Yield variation	Kg/ha	+

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Socio-economic Features

Table 2 illustrates a summary of the socio-economic and demographic information of the sampled respondents in the study area. The table shows that most of the respondents belong to the age group 31 to 39. The age of farmers plays a crucial position in farming and management practices. Mostly younger farmers are embracing emerging technology more rapidly than their older peers. The average family size was 5.40, of which 48.71 percent male. It was observed that 43.07 percent of respondents were having primary education while 21.10 percent had no formal education. Results also show that 72.56 percent of the respondents had a small farm size, and around 79 percent's primary occupation was farming in the study area. On average 51.02 percent of farmer's farming experience was ranged between 21 to 40

years. The average distance from home to the nearby market, and Upazila Agriculture Office (UAO, respectively, was 4.12 and 5.5 kilometers. Typically around 15 percent of respondents have also been involved as members of various social organizations.

Table 2. Socio-demographic characteristics of the sampled farmers in the study area.

Particulars	Percentage
Age:	
<30 years	15.38
31-39 years	36.66
41-50 years	21.28
51 -60 years	14.10
61 years and above	12.56
Family size:	
1-3 person	17.17
4-6 person	57.69
7 and above person	25.12
Male	48.71
Female	51.28

Particulars	Percentage
Education:	
No formal education (0)	24.10
Primary education (i-v)	43.07
Secondary education (vi-x)	20.00
Higher secondary Education (xi-xii)	11.28
Graduate and above	1.53
Farm classification:	
Small	72.56
Medium	24.87
Large	2.56
Occupation:	
Farming as primary	78.97
Farming as secondary	21.02
Farming experiences:	
0-10 years	11.28
11-20 years	24.35
21-40 years	51.02
Above 41 years	13.33
The average distance from home to nearby market (km)	4.12
The average distance from home to UAO (km)	5.5
Member of any social organization (%)	14.76

Note: Small farm (0.05-2.19 acre), Medium farm (2.50-7.49 acre), and Large farm (7.50 to above).

Source: BBS, 2020.

3.2. Performance of BRRi Developed *Aus* rice Varieties

Table 3 shows that *Aus* rice was cultivated in the most

Table 3. Adoption status (%) of *Aus* rice varieties in Mymensingh district.

Varieties	Upazilas							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
BR1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.55	-
BR2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.45	-
BR3	75.91	2.81	28.57	-	-	22.54	7.27	-
BR14	-	-	-	-	-	2.79	13.64	-
BR16	-	-	-	-	-	1.76	2.91	-
BR26	7.77	12.28	42.86	13.93	-	9.22	25.45	41.05
BRRi dhan27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRRi dhan28	3.11	43.33	-	6.83	-	15.57	18.18	52.63
BRRi dhan43	-	6.32	-	-	-	1.02	1.82	-
BRRi dhan48	7.77	33.33	28.57	30.05	-	11.27	19.09	4.21
All BRRi Varieties	94.56	98.07	100	50.82	-	64.18	98.36	97.89
Faizer	-	1.93	-	49.18	-	-	-	-
Nerica	5.44	-	-	-	-	35.82	1.64	2.11
Other MVs	5.44	1.93	-	49.18	-	35.82	1.64	2.11
Grand Total	100	100	100	100	-	100	100	100

Table 3. Continued.

Varieties	Upazilas					Mymensingh
	9	10	11	12	13	
BR1	-	-	-	-	-	0.15
BR2	-	-	-	-	-	0.20
BR3	-	-	-	-	-	13.11
BR14	-	-	-	-	-	0.88
BR16	3.94	-	-	-	-	0.67
BR26	6.30	27.27	-	29.91	31.25	15.67
BRRi dhan27	0.79	-	-	-	-	0.06
BRRi dhan28	17.32	27.27	-	51.66	18.75	24.99
BRRi dhan43	-	-	-	5.44	-	2.42
BRRi dhan48	70.87	36.36	100	11.18	37.50	23.89
All BRRi Varieties	99.21	90.91	100	98.19	87.5	82.04
Faizer	-	-	-	-	8.75	11.42

Upazilas of Mymensingh district except Gouripur Upazila. Recently, the farmers have been encouraged to expand the area under Modern Varieties (MVs) by incentive programs for *Aus* cultivation that will ultimately reduce the pressure on underground water for *Boro* production. Therefore, the adoption of MVs in the *Aus* season is gradually increasing. The overall adoption of modern varieties in the *Aus* season was about 100% of which the coverage of BRRi varieties was about 84%. Among all BRRi varieties, BRRi dhan28 ranked the top position (25%) in terms of area coverage followed by BRRi dhan48 (23%), and BR26 (16%). Adoption of BRRi dhan48 in some Upazilas ranged from 19 to 37%, while adoption of the variety in some Upazilas namely Dhobaura, Haluaghat, Muktagacha, and Trishal was low (4-11%). Besides, the adoption of BRRi dhan28 ranged between 43-52% of the total *Aus* area of Fulbaria, Muktagacha, and Trishal. Similarly, the adoption of Nerica was notable in Haluaghat (36%) and the adoption of BR3 was about 76% of the total *Aus* area of Dhobaura Upazila (Table 3). It can be noted that the adoption of recently released *Aus* varieties, like BRRi dhan55, BRRi dhan65, BRRi dhan82, and BRRi dhan85 was not found at the farm level in the study areas because of unavailability of the seed of those varieties.

Varieties	Upazilas					Mymensingh
	9	10	11	12	13	
Nerica	0.79	9.09	-	1.81	3.75	6.54
Other MVs	0.79	9.09	-	1.81	12.50	17.96
Grand Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: 1) Dhobaura; 2) Fulbaria; 3) Fulpur; 4) Goforgaon; 5) Gouripur; 6) Haluaghat; 7) Ishargonj; 8) Muktagacha; 9) Nandail; 10) Sadar; 11) Tarakanda; 12) Trishal; 13) Valuka. Source: Analyzed and prepared by authors based on the data from DAE, 2018.

Table 4 represents the per hectare yield of adopted varieties in different Upazilas of Mymensingh district. In the *Aus* season, BRRi dhan48 produced the highest yield (4.35 ton/ha) followed by Nerica (4.19 t/ha) and BRRi dhan28

(4.12 ton/ha) in the study areas. The average yield of BRRi varieties and all MVs were 4.05 t/ha and 4.09 t/ha, respectively (Table 4).

Table 4. Yield (t/ha) of *Aus* rice varieties in Mymensingh district.

Varieties	Upazilas												Mymensingh
	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
BR1	-	-	-	-	-	4.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.00
BR2	-	-	-	-	-	3.88	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.81
BR3	3.87	4.78	3.73	-	4.22	3.92	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.08
BR14	-	-	-	-	4.25	3.94	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.10
BR16	-	-	-	-	4.35	3.92	-	3.73	-	-	-	-	4.00
BR26	3.73	4.26	3.70	3.73	4.90	3.96	4.48	3.66	3.51	-	3.70	4.18	3.98
BRRi dhan27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.73	-	-	-	-	3.73
BRRi dhan28	3.81	4.10	-	3.93	5.60	3.88	4.48	3.88	3.88	-	3.76	3.88	4.12
BRRi dhan43	-	4.25	-	-	4.06	3.88	-	-	-	-	3.73	-	3.98
BRRi dhan48	4.03	4.33	4.18	4.18	5.42	3.99	4.45	4.48	4.61	3.73	4.11	4.03	4.35
All BRRi Varieties	3.86	4.34	3.87	3.95	4.74	3.93	4.47	3.90	4.00	3.73	3.83	4.03	4.05
Faizer	-	4.61	-	3.88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.62	4.04
Nerica	3.88	-	-	-	4.6	3.65	4.85	4.03	4.01	-	3.51	4.98	4.19
All other MVs	3.88	4.61	-	3.88	4.6	3.65	4.85	4.03	4.01	-	3.51	4.3	4.13
All MVs	3.87	4.48	-	3.91	4.67	3.79	4.66	3.96	4.01	-	3.67	4.17	4.09

Note: 1) Dhobaura; 2) Fulbaria; 3) Fulpur; 4) Goforgaon; 5) Gouripur; 6) Haluaghat; 7) Ishargonj; 8) Muktagacha; 9) Nandail; 10) Sadar; 11) Tarakanda; 12) Trishal; 13) Valuka. Source: Analyzed and prepared by authors based on the data from DAE, 2018.

3.3. Criteria and Constraints of Most Popular *Aus* Varieties

Most farmers felt in FGD that shorter growth duration, seed availability, higher market price, good taste for eating, and less pest infestation were the key drivers of BRRi dhan28 being adopted in the *Aus* season. Similarly, the main reasons for the adoption of BRRi dhan48 were good yield potential, lodging tolerant, higher market demand, less bird attack due to erect flag leaf, and easy availability of seed from DAE. In addition, the key drivers of adoption BR26 were higher yield potential, less sterility/fewer unfilled grains, and the use of seed at the household level. Farmers confirmed, however, that cooked BR26 rice becomes soft within a short time frame. Farmers recorded that pest and weed infestation was very strong at *Aus* season, as this season very few growers sporadically used to grow rice in their fields.

3.4. Factors Affecting Adoption of BRRi Varieties

The outcome of the censored regression in Table 5 showed that as predicted, several of the variables influence the likelihood of adoption. For the estimation, the model has included factors, which were presumed to facilitate in setting the adoption decisions of alternative rice varieties. The variables selected were socio-cultural factors, information

access, and varietal specific features. Also checked multicollinearity and heteroscedasticity for the estimation of the best parameters. Multicollinearity does not affect the estimation of the best parameters at all. Heteroscedasticity was detected in the dataset, however, and the 'Robust' command on STATA was used to stamp out that problem. The F value also implied the degree of fitness of the model and the present model shows a higher level of significance overall.

Factors that positively and significantly influence the adoption of BRRi varieties include education marginal and small farm size, training, distance to the local market, price variation, taste, number of variety cultivated, and yield variation. Results showed that an increase in the education of farmers raises the probability of adoption of BRRi varieties. The result reveals that the more educated the farmer, the more likely would be to adopt BRRi varieties, presumably because he can process more knowledge easily than others. This result is consistent with earlier literature Langyintuo and Mungoma, Kassie *et al*, Asfaw *et al*, and Ghimire *et al* [23-26]. The positive and significant sign-on farm size indicated that as farm size increased the probability of farmers adopting and intensifying the BRRi varieties increased. Such findings are compatible with Danso-Abbeam *et al*, Mariano *et al*, Ghimire *et al* and Islam *et al* [26-29].

Table 5. Estimation of Tobit model for determinants of adoption of BRRi *Aus* varieties in Mymensingh district, (n=390).

Variables	Tobit Coefficient [#]	Marginal effect dy/dx
Socio-demographic variables:		
Age	0.680 ^{NS} (0.82)	0.61
Education	1.587* (1.79)	1.435*
Household size	0.122 ^{NS} (0.38)	0.011 ^{NS}
Farm size	30.231** (2.47)	23.245**
Access to information:		
Training	1.321** (2.15)	1.001**
Distance to local market	-2.756* (-1.90)	-1.589*
Distance to UAO	-0.737 ^{NS} (-0.51)	-0.532 ^{NS}
Price variation	7.122** (2.23)	4.786**
Varietal specific characteristics:		
Taste and preference	9.612*** (3.21)	5.465***
Varieties number	2.125* (1.88)	1.918*
Yield variation	12.321*** (2.92)	7.654***
Constant	98.421*** (2.85)	
Log pseudo-likelihood value	-87.607	
Sigma	103.291	
Prob > F	0.000***	
Pseudo R ²	0.312	

Note: #) means robust standard errors are calculated t statistics in parentheses and *, ** and *** imply statistical significance at 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

Training helps farmers to gain realistic know-how for new technology and technical information. Participation in the training has had a significant and positive effect on the adoption of BRRi rice cultivars. The finding is conformity with Teshome *et al* and Takam-Fongang *et al* results [30, 31]. Reducing the gap to the UAO and local market, however, had a major and optimistic impact on BRRi variety choices. That is because the transaction cost of obtaining varietal information and marketing their goods to the local market is minimized by a lesser distance. These findings are in agreement with Mondo *et al* results [32]. Paddy price is always a bigger factor of farm revenue and extensively responsible for BRRi varieties being adopted.

Additionally, positive and significant coefficients indicate that the adoption decision of more BRRi varieties highly depends on the quality of rice and good taste. The results are similar to the findings of Timu *et al* and Otieno *et al* [33, 34]. The number of varieties coefficients was positive and statistically significant, meaning more varieties give farmers more options to choose from. This suggests more BRRi varieties should increase the coverage of the area to them. The model exposed that yield variation was positive and influenced statistically to significantly increase the area coverage of BRRi varieties in the field of the farmer. Similar results were reported by Ghimire *et al* and Timu *et al* [26, 33]. Finally, it was commented that the possibility of a higher yield of any variety of rice might easily inspire the farmers to increase the variety's area coverage.

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

Adopting modern varieties for cultivation is important to meet the food demand of the growing population. The availability of quality seed and region-specific cultivars will also enhance the rice growers' adoption decisions. This study assessed the level of adoption and yield; criteria and

constraint, as well as determinants of adoption and the intensity of adoption of BRRi, released *Aus* cultivars in Mymensingh district. The majority of farmers in *Aus* season cultivated BRRi cultivars due to shorter growth duration, availability of quality seed, higher market price, lodging resistance, good taste, and less infestation of pests. The largest portion is planted to BRRi dhan28, accompanied by BRRi dhan48, BRRi dhan26, and BR3. Though BRRi dhan48 yielded higher followed respectively by BRRi dhan28, BR14, and BR3. Alternatively, some of the BRRi *Aus* cultivars lose reputation among farmers because of lower yields and pest attacks. This research also examined the factors that affect the adoption and intensity of adoption of *Aus* cultivars of BRRi. Tobit censored regression econometric model was implemented for the study and the empirical findings revealed that schooling, farm size, training, price variation, yield variation, taste and preference, and distance to the local market significantly and positively affected BRRi cultivars' decision to adopt, while age, household size and distance to UAO had no significant impact on the decision to adopt.

The policy implication of this study is that breeders should also concentrate on non-yield traits such as taste, fine grain, and hold cooked rice for longer periods in their efforts to develop new *Aus* varieties since they are very important in explaining the high adoption BRRi varieties. Secondly, the availability of quality seeds of recently introduced BRRi cultivars should be ensured for farmers. Thus, this requires enormous cooperation between BRRi, DAE, BADC, and other seed producers to deliver the required quality seed to the farmers.

Abbreviations

BRRi=Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, HYV=High Yielding Variety, DAE=Department of Agricultural

Extension, BADC=Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, UAO=Upazila Agriculture Officer, SAAO=Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer, FGD=Focus Group Discussion.

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Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

All survey participants obtained clear oral informed consent before the survey enumeration and recorded as the opening question after reminding survey participants regarding the intent of the research. When permission was refused, enumeration of the sample was canceled.

Consent for Publication

Every author accepts and consents to publish the manuscript.

Conflict of Interest Statement

All the authors do not have any possible conflicts of interest.

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