**Original Research Article**

**Effect of different row spacing on yield and yield attributes of black cumin (*Nigella sativa)***

**Abstract**

Black cumin (*Nigella sativa* L.), is an important spice crop and also has medicinal properties. Various factors are responsible for improving the growth and yield of black cumin per unit area. Among them, sowing methods is an important factor for affecting the growth and yield of black cumin. For successful production of any crop, appropriate sowing density or planting density is very important. The experiment was carried out during November, 2020 to March, 2021 at experimental field of Spices Research Sub-Centre, Bangladesh Agricultural Research institute, Faridpur to study the effect of different row spacing on yield and yield related attributes of black cumin. The seed yield was maximum (978.66 kg/ha), when the seeds were sown in 20 cm x 10 cm row spacing, followed by the value of seed yield on 10 cm x 10 cm row spacing (923.83 kg/ha), while the least performance (817.58 kg/ha) was obtained from the 30 cm x 10 cm treatment.

**Key word**: Black cumin, Row spacing, Yield attributes and Yield

**Introduction**

Black cumin (*Nigella sativa* L.), belongs to the family Ranunculaceae (diploid, 2n=12) and has remarkable aromatic and medicinal properties [1,2]. Black cumin seeds as a whole, with their extracted forms and fatty acids and essential oils, have been used as a preventive and therapeutic spice against in many diseases, as well as in cosmetics [3]. Today, black cumin seeds are used as herbal medicine in developed countries to treat diseases such as fever, skin diseases, cough, rheumatism, jaundice, headache, paralysis, eczema and loss of appetite [4]. Various factors are responsible for improving the growth and yield of black cumin per unit area. Among them, sowing dates and methods are the most important factors for affecting the growth and yield of black cumin. Spacing is an important agronomic practice, which ensures maintenance of optimum crop stand, efficient utilization of natural resources like light, space, water and nutrients by the crop canopy thus higher productivity besides saving of seed and reduction in cost of cultivation. The number of seed per umbrella is affected by environmental condition and field management, and its number varies from 11.3 to 16.8 under varying plant densities [5]. In Bangladesh farmers sows black cumin mainly broadcast method. Some are aware about line sowing method but they are not maintaining proper distance. So, the experiment is taken to identify the optimum row spacing for black cumin production.

**Method and Materials**

The field experiment was conducted at the field of Spices Research Sub-Centre, BARI during November, 2020 – March, 2021. A black cumin promising variety of “BARI Kalozira-1” was used in the study as test, which was reported as disease resistant to common diseases and its life cycle is 135 – 145. The experiment was laid at Randomized Complete Design with 6 replications. The unit plot size was 2.0 m × 1.2 m. Distance between two block was 100 cm and plot to plot distance was 50cm. Treatments were R1= 10 cm x 10 cm, R2= 20 cm x 10 cm, R3= 30 cm x 10 cm of row spacing. Seeds were soaked in water for 24 hours to facilitate germination. Then the seeds were dried and treated by Bavistin (carbendazim) @ 2 g kg-1 of seeds to minimize the primary seed borne diseases (BARI, 2007). Well decomposed cowdung : 5 t/ha, N50, P20, K30, S12, Zn1.5 and B.5. Urea, TSP, MoP and Gypsum, Zinc Sulphate and Boric Acid were applied as sources of N, P, K, S, Zn and B respectively. The entire quantity of phosphorus, potassium, sulphur, zinc and boron should be applied at the time of final land preparation. Urea were top dressed in three equal installments at 10-15 days after germination, 25-30 and 50-55 days after seed sowing. Each top dressing was followed by irrigation.

**Result and Discussion**

**Plant height**

**Effect of row spacing**

Plant height increased with decreased plant spacing. At 30, 60 and 90 days after sowing, the highest plant height (9.63, 48.11 and 58.49 cm) was achieved from 10 cm x 10 cm spacing. Again, the lowest plant height (8.74, 45.30 and 47.88 cm) was observed at 30 cm x 10 cm. The variation in plant height as influenced by spacing was perhaps due to proper utilization of nutrient, moisture and light (Figure 1). It was observed that plant height was increased by decreasing plant spacing an antagonistic relationship was found between vegetative growth and plant spacing [6].

**Figure 1. Effect of row spacing on plant height at different days after sowing of black cumin. Vertical bar represents LSD at 5% level of probability**

**Number of branches per plant**

There were significant differences in number of branches per plant was found due to different row spacing. The lowest number of branches per plant (7.02) was recorded from R1 (10 cm x 10 cm) treatment and the highest (8.46) from R3 (30 cm x 10 cm) treatment which is statistically similar to R2 (20 cm x 10 cm row spacing) (Table 1).

Attributed the increments in vegetative characteristics to less competition among plants for the environmental conditions necessary for building up more metabolites and producing more lateral branches at wider spaces [7].

**Number of capsules per plant**

The data pertaining to the number of capsules per plant revealed that it was highest (24.10) at R3 (30 cm x 10 cm) treatment, which was followed by R2 (20 cm x 10 cm), while it was lowest at R1 (10 cm x 10 cm) treatment shown in the Table 1. Sadeghi *et al.* (2009) found that number of seed umbel-1 had an increasing trend with decreases in plant densities in *Cuminum carvi*.

**Table 1. Effect of row spacing on number of branches per plant, number of leaves per plant and number of capsules per plant**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Row Spacing** | **Number of branches /plant** | **Number of capsules**  **/plant** | **Seeds per capsule** | **1000 seed weight (g)** |
| R1 (10 cm x 10 cm) | 7.02 | 20.66 | 81.89 | 2.22 |
| R2 (20 cm x 10 cm) | 8.47 | 22.94 | 94.22 | 2.44 |
| R3 (30 cm x 10 cm) | 8.45 | 24.10 | 96.88 | 2.41 |
| LSD(0.05) | 0.60 | 1.12 | 3.71 | 0.03 |
| LSD(0.01) | 0.82 | 1.53 | 5.14 | 0.05 |
| CV% | 9.05 | 5.91 | 4.91 | 1.80 |
| Level of Sig. | \*\* | \*\* | \*\* | \*\* |

**\*\*=1% level of significance**

**Seeds per capsule**

The influence of different row spacing within seed of each capsule resulted variation. It was observed that the highest seeds per capsule (96.88) was obtained from R3 (30 cm x 10 cm) treatment which is statistically similar to R2 (20 cm x 10 cm) treatment and the lowest seed per capsule (81.89) from R1 (10 cm x 10 cm) treatment (Table 1).

**Thousand seed weight**

1000 seed weight of black cumin was influenced by different levels of row spacing. It was observed that higher spacing gave maximum yield. The maximum 1000 seed weight (2.44 g) was recorded from R2 (20 cm x 10 cm) treatment, whereas the lowest 1000 seed weight (2.22 g) was recorded from R1 (10 cm x 10 cm) treatment (Table 1).

**Yield**

Yield was influenced by different levels of spacing. The seed yield was maximum (978.66 kg/ha), when the seeds were sown in 20 cm x 10 cm followed by the value of seed yield on 10 cm x 10 cm row spacing (923.83 kg/ha), shown in the Figure 2. The least performance (817.58 kg/ha) was obtained from the 10 cm x 10 cm treatment. Because seed set depends on providing the adequate nutrients and environmental conditions while developed vegetative to reproductive stage, increased plant densities result in limited availability of nutrients, light and water so the number of reproductive units decrease; at total yield decreases.

**Figure 2. Effect of row spacing on yield of black cumin. Vertical bar represents LSD at 5% level of probability**

**Conclusion**

Maintaining row spacing of 20 x 10 cm is more favorable for black cumin production in Faridpur region of Bangladesh than 10 x 10 cm and 30 x 10 cm row spacing.

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