

**ReviewForm3**

JournalName:	<b>JournalofExperimentalAgricultureInternational</b>
ManuscriptNumber:	<b>Ms_JEAI_123531</b>
TitleoftheManuscript:	<b>EffectofNaClstressonseedlingparameterofvariouschilli(CapsicumannuumL.)genotypesanditsmitigationthroughhormonalpriming.</b>
TypeoftheArticle	

**ReviewForm3**

**PART1:ReviewComments**

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback (Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p><b>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b></p>	<p>This manuscript holds significant value for the scientific community as it tackles a major agricultural challenge—salt stress and its detrimental effects on crop development. By examining the impact of NaCl stress on various chilli genotypes and assessing hormonal priming as a potential mitigation approach, the study offers essential insights into improving crop resilience. I find the manuscript particularly relevant for its focus on practical strategies to enhance stress tolerance, which is vital for ensuring agricultural productivity in saline-affected regions. The outcomes could benefit breeders and agronomists in developing more resilient crop varieties and sustainable farming practices.</p>	
<p><b>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</b></p>	<p>The title is suitable and makes sense regarding this study. In the title, seedling <b>parameter</b> should be <b>parameters</b> as there have mentioned more than one parameter.</p>	
<p><b>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</b></p>	<p>Here are a few suggestions to improve the abstract:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clarify and streamline objectives: The abstract could more clearly distinguish the two main objectives (evaluating NaCl stress effects and exploring hormonal priming). A brief introduction to the need for hormonal priming should also be added for context.</li> <li>2. Reduce redundancy: The phrase "priming with hormones enhances the quality parameters..." could be more concise, and the repeated mention of treatment conditions could be simplified to focus on key outcomes.</li> <li>3. Enhance clarity in results: The abstract can benefit from highlighting the most significant results (e.g., how much salicylic acid at 100 ppm improved parameters) without providing too much technical detail (such as including both numbers for germination and vigour indices).</li> <li>4. Concluding sentence: The conclusion could be rephrased to emphasize the broader impact of the findings on future research and practical applications in agriculture, such as developing salt-tolerant varieties or informing breeding programs.</li> </ol> <p>These changes would make the abstract more concise, coherent, and focused on the most important points.</p>	
<p><b>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Subsection Clarity and Flow: The manuscript ensures that the subsections follow a logical flow, starting from a clear introduction, moving through the methodology, results, and discussion. Each section smoothly transitions to the next to maintain coherence. For example, the study includes two experiments (NaCl stress evaluation and hormonal priming), it may help to have distinct subsections for each experiment's methods, results, and discussion to avoid confusion and improve clarity.</li> <li>2. Data Presentation in Results: The results subsection benefits from structured presentation of key findings. Using subsections within the results (e.g., "Effect of NaCl stress on seedling parameters" and "Impact of hormonal priming") would allow readers to better understand and interpret the data.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</b></p>	<p>This manuscript appears to be scientifically robust and technically sound, as it follows a well-structured experimental approach to address a relevant agricultural issue—NaCl stress in chilli plants. The use of multiple chilli genotypes, varying salt concentrations, and hormonal priming treatments demonstrates a comprehensive and systematic investigation. Furthermore, the statistical analysis of results provides scientific rigor, supporting the validity of the findings. Overall, the study contributes valuable insights to the field of plant stress physiology and crop improvement.</p>	

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<p><b>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form.</b></p>	<p>The references in the manuscript are thorough and cover key topics like seed vigor, salt stress, hormonal priming, and crop management. However, a few improvements could be made:</p>	
<p>-</p>	<p>1. Update with Recent Studies: Some references are outdated (e.g., Abdul-Baki &amp; Anderson, 1973). Adding more recent studies from the last 5–10 years would make the manuscript more current. For instance, Gupta &amp; Huang (2020) on salinity tolerance would be a useful addition.</p> <p>2. Expand on Hormonal Priming: The manuscript could benefit from including more recent research on hormonal priming, especially studies on salicylic acid and GA3. Journals like <i>Frontiers in Plant Science</i> or <i>Plant Physiology</i> could provide relevant updates.</p> <p>3. Include Regional Crop Management: Adding references on recent methods for managing salt-affected soils and breeding salt-tolerant crops would enhance the manuscript's relevance to agricultural practices.</p> <p>Including these updates would make the manuscript more relevant and scientifically up-to-date.</p>	
<p><u>Minor REVISION</u> comments</p> <p><b>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</b></p>	<p>1. Overall Accuracy: The language and English quality of the article are quite good, with accuracy in high percentage of the text. The manuscript generally communicates complex scientific concepts clearly and effectively. However, minor grammatical or stylistic issues might still be present, which could benefit from careful proofreading to enhance readability and precision.</p> <p>2. Technical Terminology: The manuscript uses technical terminology appropriately, contributing to the scholarly tone. Ensuring that all technical terms are consistently defined and used correctly throughout the manuscript will further improve its suitability for scholarly communication.</p>	
<p><u>Optional/General</u> comments</p>	<p>The tables should be appropriately positioned within the manuscript. For instance, when referring to Table 1 in the text, it should be placed immediately after the corresponding paragraph. The same approach should be followed for the remaining tables.</p> <p>It is also important to maintain consistent spelling throughout the manuscript. For example, using both "Chili" and "Chilli" interchangeably is not advisable; one spelling should be chosen and used consistently.</p> <p>Additionally, units must be used accurately. In Table 4, the unit for seedling fresh weight and dry weight should be in milligrams (mg) rather than centimeters (cm), which seems to have been used mistakenly.</p>	

### PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
<p><b>Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?</b></p>	<p><i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i></p>	

### Reviewer Details:

<p>Name:</p>	<p><b>Md. Daraj Uddin Prodhan</b></p>
<p>Department, University &amp; Country</p>	<p><b>Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Bangladesh</b></p>