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Research Article

IN VITRO SCREENING OF SOYBEAN GENOTYPES UNDER SALINITY STRESS

M.K. Hasan^{1*}, K.M. Nasiruddin², M. Al-Amin³ and A.K.M.S. Hossain⁴

¹Biotechnology Division, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Gazipur, Bangladesh.

²Department of Biotechnology, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Bangladesh.

³Supreme Seed Company, Uttara, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

⁴Farm Management Unit, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

*Corresponding author's email: kamrulnk@yahoo.com

Abstract

Salinity is one of the most limiting factors for successful crop production in arid and semi-arid regions of the world. Thirty eight soybean genotypes were screened at 8mMNaCl under *in vitro* condition. Salinity reduced Shoot dry weight, Root dry weight and Plant height. Salt susceptibility index was fully and positive correlated with percent reduction of total dry weight. Principal component analysis showed that the first two components were extracted that comprises of about 98.6% of the total variation in the genotypes. Based on the K-means clustering, 8, 6, 12 and 12 genotypes were categorized under cluster II, IV, III and I and considered as tolerant, moderately tolerant, moderately susceptible and susceptible which represents the 21, 16, 31.5 and 31.5%, respectively. Genotypes Shohag, AGS 313, PK 416, AGS 66, MACS 57, AGS 195, GC 308, AGS 129 were found relatively tolerant to salinity.

Keywords: Soybean; salinity; *in vitro* screening.

Introduction

Soybean (*Glycine max* L. Merrill) has a variety of uses including for vegetable oil, human food, livestock feed and many industrial products. Soil salinity is a global environmental challenge, affecting crop production on over 800 million hectares, or a quarter to a third of all agricultural land on earth (Rengasamy, 2010). Soybean has been considered as a salt sensitive to moderately salt-tolerant crop (Luo *et al.*, 2005). Screening is most important for the identification of salt tolerant genetic resources. Salinity tolerance test in various crops have been carried out by different scientists in different ways. To evaluate salinity tolerance, a number of models for the response of plants to salinity have been defined. Although salinity tolerance tests are being carried out directly in the saline soils, but it is difficult to maintain the exact level of salinity. Because with the advancement of time and plant growth there would be constant change in the macroclimate conditions i.e. loss of moisture from soil which increases the salinity level at the root level of the crop being grown. Field screening procedures in saline soils are confronted by high spatial and temporal variability problems. *In vitro* culture is an ideal system for evaluating saline tolerant plants as it can be carried out under controlled conditions with limited space and time (Munns *et al.*, 2006) and found suitable to screen

some other crops (Vijayan *et al.*, 2003; Erturk *et al.*, 2007; Govindaraj *et al.*, 2010; Dasgupta *et al.*, 2008; Mungala *et al.*, 2008; Bhute *et al.*, 2012). The present study was carried out to screen the soybean genotypes for salt tolerance at early vegetative stage under *in vitro* condition.

Materials and Methods

Thirty eight genotypes of soybean were studied in this experiment collected from Oilseed Research Centre, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Gazipur, Bangladesh. Mature and uniform seeds of soybean were washed in running tap water for 3-5 minutes to reduce the level of surface organism. The floating seeds were discarded. Then seeds were cleaned with Tween 20 (1-2 drops) and washed by sterile water (2-3 times). Cleaned seeds were dipped in 70% alcohol for 2-3 minutes with vigorous shaking followed by washing by sterile distilled water (2-3 times). Surface disinfection was done by 4% NaOCl solution for 5 minutes. The surface sterilized seeds were then placed in half strength of MS Media (Murashige and Skoog, 1962) with 80 mM NaCl and without NaCl (control) and kept in dark condition with control temperature (25±1°C) for about 2-3 days. Then the test tubes were transferred to light intensity of 2000-3000 lux from fluorescent tube. The photoperiod was maintained at 16 hours

light and 8 hours dark (16L/8D) and the relative humidity was 60-70%. After four weeks, all these seedlings of each vial were removed for further observation and data recording. Plant height was measured from tip of the root to tip of growing region after that plants were separated into roots and shoots. For dry weight, the samples were kept at 70°C for 48 hours. Plant dry weight under salt stress and non-stress treatment were determined. Geometric mean (GM) was determined as $GM = (NS \times SS)^{1/2}$ where, NS = non stress and SS = salt stress. Percentage of reduction (PR) and relative total dry weight (RTDW) due to salinity stress in relation to the non-stress environment were determined for the two traits. Salinity susceptible index (SSI) for total dry weight of each genotype was calculated following Fisher and Mauer (1978) as follows:

$$SSI = (1 - Y_{ss}/Y_{ns})/SII$$

Where, Y_{ss} = Total dry weight of a genotype under salt stress

Y_{ns} = Total dry weight of a genotype under non stress

SII (salinity intensity index) = $(1 - X_{ss}/X_{ns})$

X_{ss} = Mean of the total dry weight of all accession under salinity stress

X_{ns} = Mean of the total dry weight of all accession under non stress

Mean data for each character was analyzed by multivariate analysis using computer software GENSTAT-5.

Correlation coefficient was also done through the software SPSS version 12.0.

Results and Discussion

Variability in Quantitative Characters

Due to salinity, the reduction of shoot dry weight, root dry weight, total dry weight and plant height were 37, 41, 38 and 47%, respectively (Table 1). The root/shoot ratio of total dry weight under control and salt treatment were very close. Variations were found among the different characters under control, but it was narrow under the salt stress condition revealed that soybean genotypes were much influenced by salt stress. Mannan *et al.* (2010) found the similar results. Due to imposition of salinity, the highest reduction was observed in total dry weight. The detrimental effect of salt is generally observed at the whole plant level. Dry matter accumulation of different plant parts are severely affected by high level of salinity that ultimately reduce crop yield (Change *et al.*, 1994). Effect of salinity was more in relative root dry weight than that of relative shoot dry weight. Similar phenomenon was found by Essa (2002). Wide range variation in different characteristics (shoot dry weight, root dry weight, total dry weight, root/shoot ratio, plant height) in relative performance basis, geometric mean, per cent reduction and salinity susceptible index of total dry weight of soybean genotypes were in salinity stress condition (Table 2).

Table 1: Range and mean for quantitative characters of 38 soybean genotypes subjected to salt stress

Plant characters	Control		Salt treated ¹	
	Range	Mean ²	Range	Mean ²
Shoot dry weight (mg plant ⁻¹)	53-145	89.45±25.92	26-117	56.14±25.23
Root dry weight (mg plant ⁻¹)	12-43	23.57±7.89	6-35	13.93±7.39
Total dry weight (mg plant ⁻¹)	70-169	113.01±28.77	32-131	70.11±29.88
Root/shoot ratio	0.10-0.46	0.28±0.09	0.10-0.43	0.26±0.09
Plant height (cm)	9.1-18.93	13.69±2.72	4.88-12.56	7.23±2.13

¹ plants were allowed to grow at MS medium with 80 mM NaCl for 4 weeks.

²mean ± standard deviation

Table 2: Range and mean for relative plant characters, geometric mean, per cent reduction and salinity susceptibility index of soybean genotypes subjected to salt stress

Characters	Range (%)	Mean (%)
Relative shoot dry weight	39.24 – 84.75	61.09 ± 13.90
Relative root dry weight	31.58 – 91.67	57.91 ± 15.87
Relative total dry weight	39.02 – 82.93	60.36 ± 13.83
Geometric mean of total dry weight	51.22 - 147.65	88.45 ± 29.47
Per cent reduction of total dry weight	17.07 - 60.98	39.64 ± 13.83
Salinity susceptibility index	0.45 - 1.61	1.04 ± 0.36
Relative root /shoot ratio	61.97 – 141.63	95.17 ± 17.80
Relative plant height	34.41 – 66.35	52.26 ± 7.30

Table 3: Correlation coefficients among the different characters for 38 soybean genotypes

	Shoot dry weight			Root dry weight			Total dry weight						Root/Shoot Ratio			Plant height		
		NS	SS	Rel	NS	SS	Rel	NS	SS	Rel	GM	SSI	PR	NS	SS	Rel	NS	SS
Shoot dry weight	NS	-																
	SS	0.893**	-															
	Rel	0.424**	0.771**	-														
Root dry weight	NS	0.228	0.327*	0.325*	-													
	SS	0.355*	0.543**	0.631**	0.847**	-												
	Rel	0.396*	0.612**	0.762**	0.232	0.688**	-											
Total dry weight	NS	0.964**	0.895**	0.472**	0.480**	0.553**	0.420**	-										
	SS	0.841**	0.978**	0.806**	0.486**	0.706**	0.687**	0.891**	-									
	Rel	0.450**	0.778**	0.99**	0.320	0.671**	0.842**	0.493**	0.823**	-								
	GM	0.911**	0.972**	0.702**	0.493**	0.665**	0.606**	0.956**	0.985**	0.721**	-							
	SSI	-0.444**	-0.776**	-0.990**	-0.317	-0.668**	-0.840**	-0.487**	-0.820**	-1.000**	-0.717**	-						
	PR	-0.444**	-0.775**	-0.909**	-0.316	-0.668**	-0.841**	-0.487**	-0.820**	-1.000**	-0.716**	1.000**	-					
Root/ Shoot Ratio	NS	-0.510**	-0.350*	-0.240	0.678**	0.420**	-0.114	-0.274	-0.190	-0.057	-0.231	0.055	0.056	-				
	SS	-0.443**	-0.317	-0.015	0.642**	0.567**	0.184	-0.223	-0.125	0.019	-0.168	-0.020	-0.020	0.879**	-			
	Rel	0.109	-0.011	-0.100	-0.098	0.223	0.552**	0.071	0.046	0.035	0.059	-0.033	-0.035	-0.209	0.260	-		
Plant height	NS	0.264	0.546**	0.708**	0.405*	0.579**	0.480**	0.349*	0.603**	0.688**	0.519**	-0.690**	-0.689**	0.135	0.101	-0.167	-	
	SS	0.346*	0.659**	0.839**	0.481**	0.700**	0.606**	0.444**	0.729**	0.823**	0.636**	-0.824**	-0.824**	0.133	0.117	-0.151	0.881**	-
	Rel	0.327*	0.557**	0.687**	0.360*	0.545**	0.516**	0.394*	0.605**	0.679**	0.539**	-0.679**	-0.680**	-0.045	0.047	-0.096	0.360*	0.754**

NS= Non salt, SS= Salt stress, GM= Geometric mean, PR= Percent reduction, SSI= Salinity susceptibility index, Rel =Relative

Correlation Coefficient

The degree of association among the different characters was determined by using Pearson's coefficient (Table 3). Salt susceptibility index is fully and positive correlated ($r = 1.00^{**}$) with percent reduction of total dry weight. Fully but negative correlation was found between relative total dry weight and salinity susceptibility index ($r = -1.00^{**}$) and between relative total dry weight and percent reduction of total dry weight ($r = -1.00^{**}$). Lower and insignificant correlation was observed between total dry weight and root/shoot ratio. Shoot dry weight was more correlated ($r = 0.99^{**}$) with total dry weight than root dry weight ($r = 0.842^{**}$). It also found a positive and significant correlation between relative plant height and total dry weight ($r = 0.679^{**}$). The geometric mean for total dry weight in

Principal Component Analysis

The Eigen values associated with each principal component (PC) estimates the contribution of each PC to the total variance (Table 4). The first two components were extracted that comprises of about 98.6% of the total variation in the genotypes. The first component accounted for 95.38% of the total variation and 3.26% was in the second components. PC1 was heavily weighted by relative total dry weight, percent reduction of total dry weight and salinity susceptibility index. Second component was contributed due to relative root dry weight and relative root/shoot ratio. Negative contribution of percent reduction of total dry weight and salinity susceptibility index was found in the

salinized and control conditions were positively correlated with shoot and root dry weight. Salinity susceptibility index was positively and fully correlated with percent reduction of total dry weight. Similar associations were found by Bayuelo-Jimenez *et al.* (2002). Negative correlation of total dry matter with percent reduction and salinity susceptibility index indicating that lower value of percent reduction and salinity susceptibility index are more acceptable for tolerance. As lower and insignificant correlation between total dry weight and root/shoot ratio indicating that root/shoot ratio has no significant effect on the total dry weight. Due to higher value of correlation, relative shoot dry weight was more correlated with salinity susceptible index (SSI) than root dry weight i.e. shoot dry weight has great influence on the SSI.

first components while relative shoot dry weight, relative total dry weight, geometric mean of total dry weight and relative plant height in the second components.

Principal Component (PC) analysis showed that the first two components were extracted that comprises of about 98.6%. This value was near to the finding of Mannan *et al.* (2010) who found that 99.5% of the total variation in the genotypes by PC values. Gawande *et al.* (2002) also studied fifty genotypes of soybean including both indigenous and exotic lines for genetic diversity and found 93.53% of the total variation for ten quantitative characters accounted by the first three canonical vectors.

Table 4: Extracted Eigen values and latent vectors associated with the first two principal components

	Principal components	
	1st	2nd
Extracted Eigen values	25.017	0.854
Percentage variation	95.38	3.26
Latent vectors		
Relative shoot dry weight	0.4032	-0.1564
Relative root dry weight	0.3597	0.4232
Relative total dry weight	0.4111	-0.0401
Geometric mean of total dry weight	0.3247	-0.0209
Percent reduction of total dry weight	-0.4109	0.0404
Salinity susceptibility index	-0.4108	0.0420
Relative root/shoot ratio	0.0398	0.8627
Relative plant height	0.3074	-0.2161

Cluster Analysis

On the basis of variation, genotypes were grouped into four cluster using K-means non-hierarchical cluster analysis (Table 4). Relative shoot dry weight, relative root dry weight, relative total dry weight, geometric mean of total dry weight and relative plant height were highest in the cluster II, lowest in the cluster I and moderate in cluster III and IV. Contrarily, percent reduction of total dry weight and salinity susceptibility index were lowest in II and highest in the cluster I and moderate in the III and IV. Relative root/shoot ratio were same at the cluster group II and III while relative root/shoot ratio was lowest in cluster I and highest in cluster IV. Relative plant height was also lowest at cluster I. Overall, cluster IV showed slightly better than III. Hence, cluster II may be considered as tolerant and cluster I may be considered as susceptible. Comparing cluster IV with III, a little relative shoot dry matter and relative plant height were higher in the cluster III, but other characters like relative root dry weight, relative total dry weight and geometric mean of total dry weight were higher in cluster IV. Two important characters- percent reduction of total dry weight and salt susceptible index were lower in the cluster IV indicates its superiority than cluster III. Moreover, distance matrix (D^2) showed that cluster II was close to cluster IV (4.03) and far from III (9.24). Therefore, the genotypes grouped in cluster IV and III may be considered as moderately tolerant and moderately susceptible, respectively. Distance matrix (D^2) showed that

the four clusters were statistically different from each other. Similar D^2 analysis was used to identify the distance between clusters by other authors (Mannan *et al.*, 2010; Islam, 2011).

Grouping of the Genotypes in Different Groups

Genotypes Shohag, AGS 313, PK 416, AGS 66, MACS 57, AGS 195, GC 308 and AGS 129 were found as tolerant AGS 335, MTD 16, MTD 453, BARI Soybean 5, Asset 93, MTD 455 as moderately tolerant, K 16, Galarsin, Bangladesh soybean 4, Joyawiya, GC 108-1, GC 83001, Keratar, MTD 451, AGS 154, BARI Soybean 6, Davis, TGX-573-2 as moderately susceptible and No. 205, GMOT 17, UPSM, G 2261, AGS 314, IACHONO, Sholv, PI-417475, Kadarsin, Asset 95, YESSOY 4 and AGS 302 were found as susceptible. The findings are corroborated with other researchers. Datta *et al.* (2006) found the Asset 93, Shohag and ASG 302 as salt tolerant in a pot culture experiment while Aziz *et al.* (2009) found BARI Soybean 5, Shoahg and MACS 57 along with other some genotypes performed better upto 8dSm^{-1} . Islam (2005) conducted an experiment on laboratory (*in vitro*) screening of 14 soybean genotypes for salt tolerance at seedling stage and found that G 2120, Asset 93 and TG 88 were more tolerant to salinity than others. Mannan *et al.* (2009) conferred the AGS 313 as relatively salt tolerant in respect of dry matter accumulation compared to other genotypes. Considering the salinity susceptibility index, Khan *et al.* (2012) also found Shohag, AGS 313 and PK 416 as tolerant.

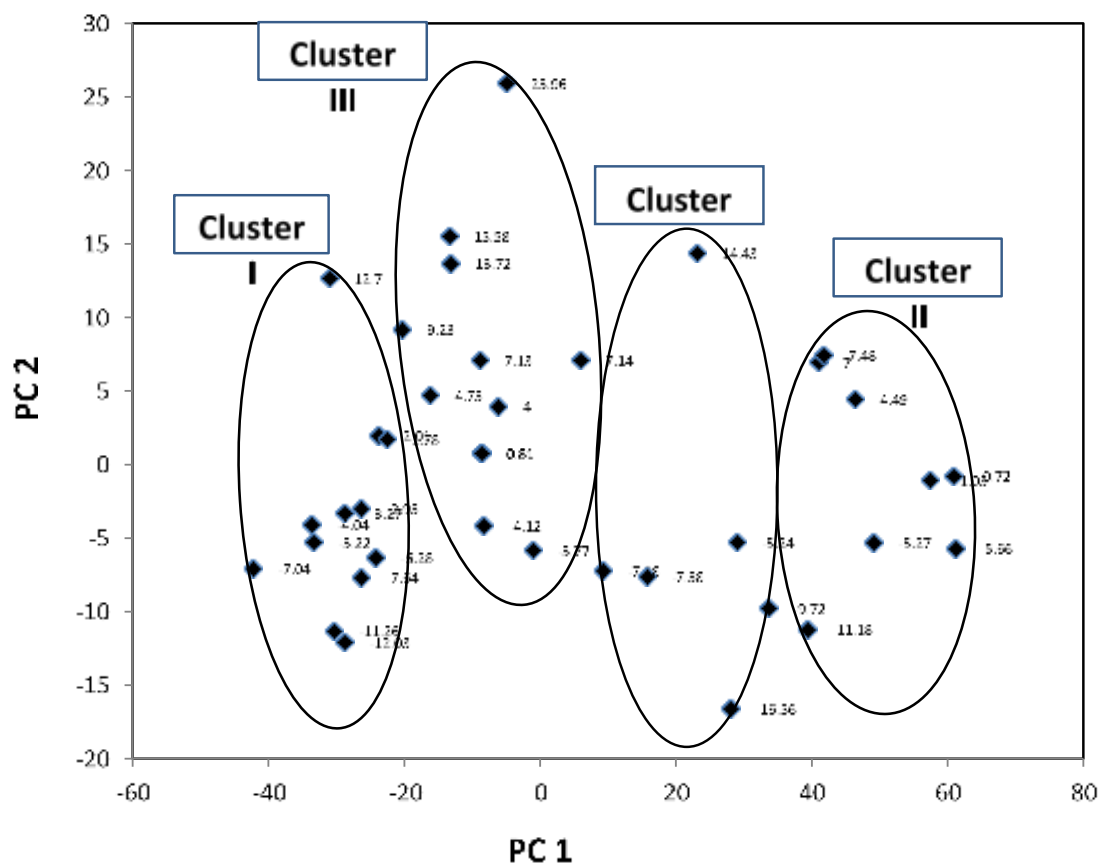


Fig. 1: Grouping of soybean genotypes subjected to salinity by PCA

Conclusion

In the present study, the *in vitro* screening technique was used to find out the salt tolerant soybean genotypes in different groups. The findings are corroborated by others indicating that the technique followed in this study may be utilized as an effective method of screening for salt tolerance.

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