

BG-380 A PROMISING RICE VARIETY
IN THE MAHAWELI H AREA.

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About 36,000 ha. of irrigable Paddy lands are in the Mahaweli H area. The average rice yields in the irrigable lands are high compared to the other locations of the Dry Zone, due to insufficiency of water in most years. 3-3½ months rice varieties are cultivated during the Maha season and 3 month varieties planted during the Yala season. The most popular variety in the system H area is Bg.276/5, even though its yielding ability is considerably low compared to the 4-4½ month rice varieties.

Recently Batalagoda Central Rice Breeding Centre released Bg 380 a 4 month variety which has shown much popularity in the Hambantota district in the recent past.

Maha Illuppallama cropping systems division tested this new Bg 380 with other varieties for 3 seasons. Tests were carried out in the Mahaweli H area in farmers fields and also in the Maha Illuppallama research station. The results appear quite promising. Bg 380 gave the highest yield over the other varieties tested. No special pest and diseases were observed compared to other varieties.

In addition seedlings vigour, tillering ability was also good. This variety is also resistant to lodging.

Bg 380 is harvested within 110-112 days when transplanted, and in 117-120 days when broadcasted. Another special feature is that panicles are not visible or stand out as in other varieties, and panicles are ready to harvest before the plant dries up.

Yielding ability of Rice Varieties
along with Bg 380 for several season.

Variety	82/83: Maha T*	83/84 Maha T**	84 Yala B*	84 Yala T*	Average
Bg 276/5	6766	4215	4274	6217	5368
Bg 94/1	7528	4617	3229	6804	5545
Bg 380	9240	5250	4451	8085	6757

* Farmers field. **Research Station.

T = Transplanted. B= Broadcasted.

Although it is still not officially recommended for the Mahaweli H area, farmers cultivate this variety in both Maha and Yala season. Rice yields in the Mahaweli H area may be increased further by using Bg 380.
