



Effect of Arsenic in Three Wheat Varieties of Bangladesh

Md. Asaduzzaman^{1*}, M. M. Hossain² and S. M. Masum¹

¹Department of Agronomy, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka (1207), Bangladesh

²Department of Soil Science, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka (1207), Bangladesh

Article History

Manuscript No. 46

Received 13th July, 2010

Received in revised form 17th August, 2010

Accepted in final form 20th August, 2010

Correspondence to

*E-mail: asad_sau@yahoo.com

Keywords

Wheat, arsenic, concentration, growth, yield

Abstract

A pot experiment was conducted in net house of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka, Bangladesh during the period from November, 2009 to February, 2010 to study the effect and accumulation of arsenic in three popular wheat varieties in Bangladesh. Three wheat varieties (V_1 =*Protiva*, V_2 =*Sourav* and V_3 =*Gourav*) and five levels of arsenic ($As_0=0$, $As_{10}=10$, $As_{20}=20$, $As_{30}=30$, $As_{40}=40$ ppm kg^{-1} soil) were used in the experiment. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications. Result showed that addition of arsenic significantly ($p<0.05$) reduced the growth, yield parameters and seed yield of wheat varieties. However, *Gourav* showed the potentiality against the arsenic toxicity up to 30 ppm arsenate salt kg^{-1} soil followed by *Sourav* and *Protiva*. The maximum plant height (100 cm), tillers $hill^{-1}$ (6), grain spike $^{-1}$ (47), test weight (46 g), seed yield (4.51 t ha^{-1}) but the lowest maturity days (104) was harvested in V_3As_0 . Separately the lowest plant height (87.33 cm), tillers $hill^{-1}$ (4.33), grain spike $^{-1}$ (36.33), test weight (41.00 g) but maximum maturity days (114) and yield reduction (5.987% compared to control) was recorded in V_1As_{40} . Arsenic concentration in plant parts increased with increasing the arsenate concentration in soil. Plant tissues were susceptible in the order of root>straw>grain and the concentrations of arsenic were dependent on variety and treatment levels in polluted soils and statistically ($p<0.01$) maximum concentration of arsenic in root (3.08 $\mu g\ g^{-1}$), straw (0.9233 $\mu g\ g^{-1}$) and grain (0.16 $\mu g\ g^{-1}$) were measured in *Protiva* variety when it was cultivated with 40 ppm arsenic kg^{-1} soil. On the contrary, *Gourav* contained significantly ($p<0.01$) less amount arsenic in root (2.34 $\mu g\ g^{-1}$), straw (0.376 $\mu g\ g^{-1}$) and grain (0.04 $\mu g\ g^{-1}$) at the same level of arsenic contaminated soil.

© 2010 PP House. All rights reserved

1. Introduction

Arsenic contamination of ground water now is a well recognized major health concern in Bangladesh, where contaminated water is used for drinking and irrigation purpose (Imamul Huq and Naidu, 2005). About 35-77 million people are exposed to arsenic contaminated well-water (Smith et al., 2007; Rabbani et al., 2000). Five years (1995-2000) joint survey of SOES and DCH in Bangladesh indicated that 73.34% tub-well water samples (total 22003 samples were collected from 64 districts) contain arsenic concentration above the WHO standard limit (0.01 mg l^{-1}) and 54 districts possess this limit and 74 blocks and approximately 2700 villages have already been identified ground-water arsenic concentration above 0.05 mg l^{-1} (Chakraborti et al., 2002) and it has been estimated that between 200,000-270,000 people will die from arsenical cancer as a fate of arsenic water ingestion (WHO, 2001).

The people of Bangladesh are not only drinking this element contaminated water but also produce crops irrigated with this water. About 75% of the total cropped area and 30-40% of the net cropped area are dependent on ground-water irrigation (Dey et al., 1996). Irrigation water borne arsenic from contaminated ground-water is being accumulated in soils (Ullah, 1998; Sanaullah et al., 2009). Background concentrations of soil

arsenic in Bangladesh are 4-8 mg kg^{-1} soil. However, in areas where irrigation is done with arsenic contaminated ground-water, soil arsenic can reach up to 58 mg kg^{-1} soil (Imamul Huq and Naidu, 2003). High arsenic concentration in soils and irrigation water is phytotoxic that adversely affect plant growth and fruit yields (Carbonell-Barrachina et al., 1995), discolored and stunted roots, withered and yellow leaves (Machlis, 1941), reductions in chlorophyll and protein contents, and in photosynthetic capacity of plant (Marin et al., 1993).

Wheat is second important cereal crop after rice in Bangladesh. About 778,000 ha^{-1} area is under wheat cultivation with production of 1,550,000 mt (FAO, 2003). Half the wheat is grown on irrigated land during dry season with ground-water. Arsenic contaminated irrigation water and soil can be harmful to wheat seedling at early developmental stages and physiological activities of wheat seedlings are also changed under arsenic stress (Li et al., 2007). Seed germination, biomass, root length and shoot height decreased, and arsenic accumulation increased on early seedlings of wheat as concentrations increased (Liu and Zhang, 2007). Arsenic promotes initiation of cancer cells in a broad array of tissues (Kayajanian, 2000). Threats that arsenic imposes to human and animal health is aggravated by its long-term existence in the environment (Hall, 2002). Arsenic may ac-



accumulate in agricultural soils and plants, and it is a cumulative poison that affects all body systems (Berman, 1980; Gonzalez et al., 2001). However, most works on arsenic toxicity in wheat have been short-term studies. It is hypothesized that arsenic reduces plant biomass and yield components in chronically-exposed wheat plants, and high arsenic concentrations affect arsenic distribution within the plant, especially in grains. The objectives of this study were to determine the arsenic effects

15 pots @ 0 (control), 10, 20, 30 and 40 ppm kg⁻¹ soil. The soil was then air-dried, passed through a 2 mm sieve again, and aged for 1 week. As a basal dose different fertilizers like Urea: Triple super phosphate: Muriate of potash were applied at 80:160:70 kg ha⁻¹, respectively as per BARI (Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Joydevpur, Gazipur, Bangladesh) recommendation rate in the first 30 cm of the contaminated soil. Fertilizers were incorporated into the soil by hand, and

Table 1: Physical and chemical properties of the experimental soil

Soil characteristics	Value	Soil characteristics	Value	Soil characteristics	Value
Sand	26%	Organic carbon	0.45%	Arsenic	0.00 µg g ⁻¹
Silt	45%	Total nitrogen	0.78%	Boron	0.48 µg g ⁻¹
Clay	29%	Phosphorus	22.08 µg g ⁻¹	Copper	3.54 µg g ⁻¹
pH	6.9	Sulphur	25.98 µg g ⁻¹	Zinc	3.32 µg g ⁻¹

on yield contributing characters and yield of wheat and the amount of arsenic in different plant parts. These results will be beneficial for future research to predict and reduce the risk of arsenic entrance into the wheat grain of Bangladesh.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Research site

The study was carried out at the net house of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka, Bangladesh during the period from November, 2009 to February, 2010. The experimental site is located under sub-tropical region situated between 23° 74' N latitude and 90° 35' E longitude. The mean air temperature during the study period was 20°C. The experimental soils were located under the AEZ (Agro-ecological Zone) of Bangladesh number 28.

2.2. Preparation of arsenic solution

The stock solution was prepared by sodium arsenate (Na₂HA₂O₄·7H₂O) where 6.5 g sodium arsenate was dissolved in 1000000 ml of de-ionized distilled water. Zero ppm arsenic solution was prepared by only using de-ionized distilled water and 10, 20, 30 and 40 ppm arsenic solution was prepared through adding 100, 200, 300 and 400 ppm stock solutions in 900, 800, 700 and 600 ml of de-ionized distilled water, respectively.

2.3. Treatments and plant materials

Three wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) varieties, viz. V₁=*Protiva*, V₂=*Sourav* and V₃=*Gourav*, and five levels of arsenic, viz. As₀=0, As₁₀=10, As₂₀=20, As₃₀=30 and As₄₀=40 ppm arsenic kg⁻¹ soil were used with fifteen treatment combinations, viz. V₁As₀, V₁As₁₀, V₁As₂₀, V₁As₃₀, V₁As₄₀, V₂As₀, V₂As₁₀, V₂As₂₀, V₂As₃₀, V₂As₄₀, V₃As₀, V₃As₁₀, V₃As₂₀, V₃As₃₀ and V₃As₄₀. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications. Therefore, there were 45 pots under the experiment each having the size of 43x40 cm².

2.4. Soil preparation

Twelve kg oven-dried soil was taken into each pot which was arsenic free and coarse-silty loam, collected from local farm of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University at 0-15 cm depth. It was crushed, mixed thoroughly and sieved through a 2 mm mesh. A composed sample from this soil was collected for physico-chemical analysis. Some soil properties are presented in Table 1. Arsenic solution was mixed thoroughly with the soil of each

applied before sowing of seeds. At crown root initiation stage 80 kg ha⁻¹ urea was applied in each pot.

2.5. Wheat cultivation

Seeds were surfaced-sterilized with hypochlorite for 2 minutes and washed with tap water. They were then submerged in distilled water, and cultured in an incubator for 24 h set at 37°C. After the radicle appeared, seeds were sown on 10 November, 2009 in experimental pots. Two seeds were sown in each pot maintaining 20 cm plant to plant distance. All the agronomic operations were kept normal and uniform for all the treatments.

2.6. Data collection and statistical analysis

Data were recorded on plant height, tiller hill⁻¹, grain spike⁻¹, total maturity days, test weight and seed yield that was converted to yield (t ha⁻¹) which was adjusted at 12% moisture. Harvested plants were separated into roots, stems (including straw and leaves) and spikes. Roots were washed completely using distilled water. Root, straw and grain of wheat were analyzed for arsenic by AAS (Atomic Adsorption Spectrometer) (Perkin Elmer-Analyst 200) using hydride generation technique. Data collected on various parameters under study were statistically analyzed using M-STAT. The means separation of growth and yield parameters were done by LSD test at $p=0.05$ where means of arsenic concentration in root, straw and grain were done at $p=0.01$ level of significance.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Varietal effect on plant parameters

Different phenotypic characters were observed during the experiment. From Figure 1, it is found that the tallest plant (96.75 cm) was recorded from variety *Gourav* followed by *Sourav* (95.26 cm) and *Protiva* (91.3 cm). Numerically, maximum number of tiller hill⁻¹ was observed in *Gourav* (5.8) and it was also observed that there was no significant variation among variety due to effect of variety (Table 2). Number of grain spike⁻¹ was highest (44) in *Sourav* which was statistically similar with *Gourav* (43.87). On the contrary, the lowest number of grain spike⁻¹ (40.73) was obtained from *Protiva*. The maturity days of the testing varieties were not similar. These were 108, 106 and 105 days in *Protiva*, *Sourav* and *Gourav*, respectively. Among the three varieties, *Gourav* produced the maximum test weight (45.17 g) followed by *Protiva* (44.31 g) and *Sourav* (43.73 g), but the value 44.31 and 43.73 were



statistically similar. The maximum seed yield (4.46 t ha^{-1}) was harvested from *Gourav* which was statistically significant with seed yield produced by other two varieties, i.e. 4.18 t ha^{-1} in *Sourav* and 3.95 t ha^{-1} in *Protiva*.

3.2. Varietal effect on arsenic concentration in root, shoot and grain

Arsenic concentration varied considerably between wheat varieties (Table 3). The maximum arsenic concentration (1.58

Table 2: Effect of variety on growth, yield attributes and yield of wheat

Treatment	Plant height (cm)	Tiller hill ⁻¹	Grain spike ⁻¹	Maturity (days)	Test weight (g)	Seed yield (t ha ⁻¹)
V ₁	91.30c	5.467a	40.73b	108.2a	44.31b	3.95c
V ₂	95.26b	5.667a	44.00a	106.3b	43.73b	4.19b
V ₃	96.75a	5.80a	43.87a	104.7c	45.17a	4.46a
SEm±	0.4199	0.2309	0.3498	0.1897	0.2834	0.03162
CD (p=0.05)	1.216	0.669	1.013	0.5496	0.8211	0.092

μg) in root, ($3.887 \mu\text{g}$) in shoot and ($0.05 \mu\text{g}$) in grain were recorded from variety *Protiva* followed by *Sourav* and *Gourav* which might be due to the later two varieties showed more resistance than the earlier for their genetical behavior. Similar result was also reported by Sen et al. (2008).

3.3. Effect of arsenic on plant parameter

Addition of arsenic to the soil significantly reduced all phenotypic parameters of all wheat varieties. The highest plant height (97.33 cm) was recorded in As_0 followed by As_{10} (95.61 cm), As_{20} (94.62 cm), As_{30} (93.07 cm) and As_{40} (91.56 cm) (Table 4). It is identified that plant height was decreasing with increasing arsenic concentration in soil in the tested varieties. Significantly, maximum number of tillers plant⁻¹ and numbers

of grain spike⁻¹ were recorded in As_0 and the figures are 6 and 45.44, respectively followed by As_{10} , As_{20} , As_{30} and As_{40} . The maturity days of wheat varieties were interestingly increasing with increasing arsenic concentration and reached peak up to 109.79 days whereas it took only 104.33 days for maturity of wheat plant when there was no arsenic in soil (Table 4). Test weight was highest (45.56 g) in As_0 which was statistically similar with test weight also recorded from As_{10} (45.55 g) and As_{20} (44.89 g) (Table 4). The maximum seed yield (4.27 t ha^{-1}) was harvested in As_0 then 4.26 t ha^{-1} in As_{10} and 4.20 t ha^{-1} in As_{20} which were statistically similar with each other and the trend was decreased with increased level of arsenic concentrations in soil.

3.4. Effect of arsenic in root, shoot and grain arsenic concentration

A general trend was found that increasing of arsenic in root, shoot and grain with increasing levels of arsenic in soil (Table 5). No arsenic was found in root, shoot and grain of all varieties grown in control soils. However, arsenic concentration in root and shoot grain varied significantly among the three varieties but arsenic accumulation (0.01 to $0.05 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$) in grain was not significant among the varieties.

3.5. Interaction effect of variety and arsenic on different growth and yield parameters

Table 3: Varietal effect of arsenic concentration in root, shoot and grain of wheat

Treatment	As in root ($\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$)	As in straw ($\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$)	As in grain ($\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$)
V ₁	1.58a	0.3887a	0.05a
V ₂	1.25b	0.2121b	0.01a
V ₃	1.12b	0.1901b	0.02a
SEm±	0.06831	0.01826	0.052
CD (p=0.05)	0.2670	0.07135	0.208

Table 4: Effect of different levels of arsenic on growth, yield attributes and yield of wheat

Treatment	Plant height (cm)	Tiller hill ⁻¹	Grain spike ⁻¹	Maturity days	Test weight (g)	Seed yield (t ha ⁻¹)
As_0	97.33a	6.00a	45.44a	104.33d	45.56a	4.27a
As_{10}	95.61b	5.89a	44.78a	104.33d	45.44a	4.26a
As_{20}	94.62b	5.78a	43.44b	105.67c	44.89a	4.20ab
As_{30}	93.07c	5.67a	41.11c	107.78b	43.77b	4.16bc
As_{40}	91.56d	4.89b	39.56d	109.79a	42.37c	4.10c
SEm±	0.4199	0.2309	0.3498	0.1897	0.2834	0.03162
CD (p=0.05)	1.21g6	0.669	1.013	0.5496	0.8211	0.09161

Table 4 shows the interaction effect of variety and arsenic concentration on plant parameters and arsenic concentration in root, shoot and grain. Arsenic contaminated soil had marked influence on the plant height, tiller hill⁻¹, grain spike⁻¹, maturity days, seed yield and percent yield loss (Table 6). The highest plant height was noted in three control pots of each replication of the experiment, and among the three varieties *Gourav* showed the best performance (100 cm) than others. Similar

trend was also reported by Abedin et al. (2002) in grass plant rice where they reported that the progressive accumulation of arsenic in plants with time exposure caused the plant height reduction. Among the twelve treatment combinations, treatment V_1As_{40} , V_2As_{40} and V_3As_{40} produced the significantly minimum number of tillers hill⁻¹ and those were 4.33, 5.00 and 5.33 respectively, whereas rest of the treatments produced statistically similar number of tillers hill⁻¹ and it indicated that



Table 5: Effect of arsenic in root, shoot and grain arsenic concentration of wheat

Treatment	Arsenic concentration ($\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$)		
	Root	Shoot	Grain
As ₀	0.00e	0.000e	0.00a
As ₁₀	0.68d	0.091d	0.01a
As ₂₀	1.36c	0.232c	0.03a
As ₃₀	1.93b	0.427b	0.05a
As ₄₀	2.60a	0.567a	0.20a
SEm \pm	0.06831	0.01826	0.05164
CD ($p=0.05$)	0.2670	0.07135	0.2018

40 ppm As kg^{-1} soil drastically reduced the number of tillers hill⁻¹. Significantly highest grain spike⁻¹ (47) was found in V₃As₀ followed by V₂As₀ (46.00), V₂As₁ (45.33) and V₃As₁ (45.33). Other arsenic levels and varietal combinations gave the lowest number of grain spike⁻¹ compared with arsenic level 0 and 10 ppm. These findings agreed well with Zhang et al. (2009) who found that increased arsenic level in soil decreased grain spike⁻¹ in wheat. There were considerable variations in plant

sensitivity to arsenic concentration among the wheat variety. Highest maturity days (114) were derived from V₁As₄₀ and second maximum maturity days (110) was obtained from V₁As₃₀. On the contrary, the lowest maturity days (104) were recorded in As₀, As₁₀ and As₂₀ along with variety *Gourav*. Interestingly, the highest test weight (46.00 g) was found in V₃As₀, V₁As₀ and V₁As₁ although it was genetical character but decreased to 42.43 g which might be that environmental character was dominated over genetical. The seed yield decreased remarkably as a result of higher arsenic levels and seed yield varied between 4.07 to 3.84 t ha⁻¹ in *Protiva*, 4.22 to 4.07 t ha⁻¹ in *Sourav* and 4.51 to 4.30 t ha⁻¹ in *Gourav*. Irrespective of treatment differences *Gourav* performed better and showed little bit tolerance against different concentration of soil arsenic and statistically maximum seed yield (4.51 t ha⁻¹) was harvested in As₀ followed by As₁₀ (4.49 t ha⁻¹) and As₂₀ (4.46 t ha⁻¹). In addition, the percent yield decreased was lower (0.445 to 4.88 %) in *Gourav* at different levels of arsenic followed by *Sourav* (1.184 to 4.914 %) and *Protiva* (1.75 to 5.987%). These results were consistent with the results of Sen et al. (2008). On the contrary, in *Protiva* the seed yield was decreased drastically with increased levels

Table 6: Interaction effect of variety and arsenic on different growth and yield parameters of wheat

Treatment	Plant height (cm)	Tiller hill ⁻¹	Grain spike ⁻¹	Maturity (days)	Test weight (g)	Seed yield (t ha ⁻¹)	% yield decreased
V ₁ As ₀	94.50de	6.00a	43.33e	106.00g	46.00a	4.07d	0.00
V ₁ As ₁₀	93.17fg	6.00a	43.67de	105.00g	46.00a	4.00 de	1.75
V ₁ As ₂₀	92.00g	5.67ab	41.67f	107.00e	45.17ab	3.95ef	3.03
V ₁ As ₃₀	89.50h	5.33ab	38.67g	110.00b	43.40c	3.87fg	5.167
V ₁ As ₄₀	87.33i	4.33c	36.33h	114.00a	41.00e	3.84g	5.987
V ₂ As ₀	97.50b	6.00a	46.00ab	104.00h	44.67b	4.27c	0.00
V ₂ As ₁₀	96.33bc	5.67ab	45.33bc	105.00h	44.67b	4.22c	1.184
V ₂ As ₂₀	95.50cd	5.67ab	44.67cd	106.00f	43.67c	4.20c	1.666
V ₂ As ₃₀	94.13ef	6.00a	43.33e	108.00d	43.23cd	4.19c	1.909
V ₂ As ₄₀	92.83g	5.00bc	40.67f	109.33c	42.43d	4.07d	4.914
V ₃ As ₀	100.00a	6.00a	47.00a	104.00h	46.00a	4.51a	0.00
V ₃ As ₁₀	97.33b	6.00a	45.33bc	104.00h	45.83a	4.49a	0.445
V ₃ As ₂₀	96.37bc	6.00a	44.00de	104.00h	45.67a	4.46ab	1.12
V ₃ As ₃₀	95.57cd	5.67ab	41.33f	105.33g	44.67b	4.33b	4.157
V ₃ As ₄₀	94.50de	5.33ab	41.67f	106.00f	43.67c	4.30b	4.88
SEm \pm	0.4199	0.2309	0.3498	0.1897	0.2834	0.03162	-
CD ($p=0.05$)	1.216	0.669	1.013	0.5496	0.821	0.09161	-

of arsenic along with percent seed decreased over control, and statistically the minimum seed yield (3.84 t ha⁻¹) was obtained when this variety was treated with 40 ppm As kg^{-1} soil and the maximum percent yield decreased (5.987) was found in this stage whereas in *Sourav* and *Gourav* it was 4.914 and 4.88%, respectively. This result was similar with Zhang et al. (2009). They reported that high levels of arsenic in soil reduced the growth and yield parameters which eventually negatively influenced the seed yield of wheat.

3.6. Interaction effect of variety and arsenic concentration in root, straw and grain

In general the trend of arsenic accumulation of three varieties was root>straw>grain (Table 7). Arsenic concentration in roots was highest (3.08 $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$) in *Protiva* at 40 ppm As salt in kg^{-1} soil. The second highest of arsenic concentration (2.36 $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$) in root was measured in V₂As₄₀ followed by V₁As₃ (2.36 $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$) and V₃As₄₀ (2.34 $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$). The lowest arsenic concentration in root was measured in *Gourav*



at each treatment combinations. Very little amount of arsenic was detected in grain of three wheat varieties, the maximum amount of arsenic ($0.16 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$) was found in V_1As_{40} followed V_2As_{40} by ($0.13 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$) and interestingly statistically similar amount arsenic in grain was found in rest of the treatments.

4. Conclusion

Among the five levels of arsenic in soil, 40 ppm arsenic in kg^{-1} soil greatly influenced the different growth and yield parameters of three wheat varieties. *Gourav* showed the best performance or seem to tolerant against the different arsenic concentrations in respect to all parameters followed by *Sourav* and *Protiva*. *Protiva* was the most susceptible to different levels

Table 7: Interaction effect of variety and arsenic in root, straw and grain arsenic concentration of wheat		
Treatment	Arsenic concentration ($\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$)	
	Root	Grain
V_1As_0	0.00i	0.00i
V_1As_{10}	0.83g	0.83g
V_1As_{20}	1.65d	1.65d
V_1As_{30}	2.36b	2.36b
V_1As_{40}	3.08a	3.08a
V_2As_0	0.00i	0.00i
V_2As_{10}	0.66gh	0.66gh
V_2As_{20}	1.28ef	1.28ef
V_2As_{30}	1.93c	1.93c
V_2As_{40}	2.36b	2.36b
V_3As_0	0.00i	0.00i
V_3As_{10}	0.55h	0.55h
V_3As_{20}	1.14f	1.14f
V_3As_{30}	1.54de	1.54de
V_3As_{40}	2.34b	2.34b
SEm \pm	0.06831	0.05164
CD ($p=0.05$)	0.2670	0.202

of arsenic concentration in soil. Arsenic accumulation varied among the varieties and plant parts and follows the order of root>straw>grain. Maximum concentration of arsenic was measured in all plant parts of *Protiva*.

5. References

- Berman, E., 1980. Toxic Metals and Their Analysis. Heyden and Son Ltd., London, UK.
- Carbonell-Barrachina, A., Burlo-Carbonell, F., Mataix-Beneyto, J., 1995. Arsenic uptake, distribution and accumulation in tomato plants: effects of arsenate on plant growth and yield. *Journal of Plant Nutrition* 18, 1237-1250.
- Chakraborti, D., Rahman, M.M., Chowdhury, U.K., Paul, K., Sengupta, M.K., Lodh, D., 2002. Arsenic calamity in the Indian subcontinent: what lessons have been learned? *Journal of Talanta* 58, 3-22.
- Dey, M.M., Miah, M. N.I., Mustafi, B.B.A., Hossain, M., 1996. Rice production constraints in Bangladesh: implications for further research priorities. In: Evenson, R.E., Hearadt, R.W. and Hossain, M. (Eds.), *Rice Research in Asia: Progress and Priorities*. CAB international, Wallingford, UK, and International Rice Research Institute, Manila, Philippines), 179-191.
- FAO, 2003. World wheat, corn and rice production. 2003. Available from http://www.nue.okstate.edu/Crop_Information/World_Wheat_Production.htm
- Gonzalez, M.M., Gallego, M., Valcarcel, M., 2001. Determination of arsenic in wheat flour by electro thermal atomic absorption spectrometry using a continuous precipitation-dissolution flow system. *Journal of Talanta* 55, 135-142.
- Hall, A., 2002. Chronic arsenic poisoning. *Toxicological Letters* 128, 69-72.
- Imamul Huq, S.M., Naidu, R., 2005. Arsenic in ground water and contamination of the food chain: Bangladesh scenario, In: *Natural Arsenic in Groundwater: Occurrence Remediation and Management* Balkema, New York, 95-101.
- Imamul Huq, S.M., Naidu, R., 2003. Arsenic in ground water of Bangladesh: contamination in the food chain. In: Feroze Ahmed, M. (Ed.), *Arsenic Contamination: Bangladesh Perspective*. ITN Bangladesh, Centre for Water Supply and Waste Management, BUET, Dhaka, 203-226.
- Kayajanian, G.M., 2000. Arsenic, dioxin and the promotional step in cancer creation. *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety* 45, 195-197.
- Liu, X., Zhang, S., 2007. Intra-specific differences in effects of contamination of cadmium and arsenate on early seedling growth and metal uptake by wheat. *Journal of Environmental Sciences* 19, 1221-1227.
- Li, C., Feng, S., Shao, Y., Jiang, L., Lu, X., Hou, X., 2007. Effects of arsenic on seed germination and physiological activities of wheat seedlings. *Journal of Environmental Sciences* 19, 725-732.
- Machlis, L., 1941. Accumulation of arsenic in shoots of sudan-grass and bush-bean. *Plant Physiology* 16, 521-543.
- Marin, A.R., Pezashki, S.R., Masschelen, P.H., Choi, H.S., 1993. Effect of dimethylarsenic acid (DMAA) on growth, tissue arsenic and photosynthesis of rice plants. *Journal of Plant Nutrition* 16, 865-880.
- Panaullah, G.M., Alam, T., Hossain, M.B., Loeppert, R.H., Lauren, J.G., Meisner, C.A., Ahmed, Z.U., Duxbury, J.M., 2009. Arsenic toxicity to rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) in Bangladesh. *Plant and Soil* 10, 11104-008-9786.
- Rabbani, G. H., Chowdhury, A.K., S.K., 2000. Mass arsenic poisoning of ground water in Bangladesh. *Global Health Council Annual Conference Abstract in Proceedings*, Washington DC, 18-21.
- Sen, R., Akter, S., Shill, N.C., Naser, H.M., Rashi, M.H., 2008. Screening of wheat varieties to arsenic tolerance. *Annual Research Report*. Soil Science Division. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Joydevpur, Gazipur, Bangladesh, 313-316.
- Smith, E., Juhasz, A.L., Weber, J., Naidu, R., 2007. Arsenic uptake and speciation in rice plants grown under greenhouse conditions with As contaminated irrigation water.



- Science of Total Environment 392, 277-283.
- Ullah, S.M., 1998. In: International Conference on Arsenic Pollution of Groundwater in Bangladesh, Causes, Effects and Remedies. Dhaka Community Hospital, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 133.
- WHO, 2001, Arsenic in Drinking Water. Available from
- Available from <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/en/>
- Zhang, W.D., Liu, D.S., Tian, J.C., He, F.L., 2009. Toxicity and accumulation of arsenic in wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) varieties of China. International Journal of Experimental Botany 78, 147-154.