

## Original Research Article

# Evaluation of CERES –Rice Model for Simulating Rice yield and phenophases

### ABSTRACT

In this study, the performance of the CERES-Rice model in simulating the growth and yield of the Rajeshwari variety in the Raipur district of Chhattisgarh, India, was evaluated. Utilizing observed data from 2021 and 2022, the model was calibrated and validated using key parameters such as days to anthesis, physiological maturity, and yield. Calibration involved adjusting genetic coefficients to improve simulation accuracy, with validation ensuring the model's reliability beyond the calibration period. Results demonstrated satisfactory agreement between observed and simulated values, indicating the model's effectiveness in predicting key variables for the Rajeshwari variety. In this study, the genetic coefficients of CERES rice model for the variety Rjeshwari were developed and can be used for further studies and applications.

### 1. Introduction

Rice is a staple food crop, sustaining over 3.5 billion people globally, with more than 90% of its production and consumption centered in Asia (IRRI, 2012). Chhattisgarh is known as the rice bowl of central India. Nowadays, rice cultivation is susceptible to climatic fluctuations despite the advancements in technology. To mitigate these risks, crop growth simulation models emerge as indispensable tools, offering insights for both tactical and strategic agricultural decisions. Crop simulation models, like the Decision Support System for Agrotechnology Transfer (DSSAT) is a comprehensive platform, enabling the management

of soil, water resources, weather data, and genetic coefficients and simulate crop growth and development. Through accurate validation against field data, these models minimize the need for extensive and costly trials, facilitating analyses such as yield gaps across diverse crops, including rice. Specifically, the CERES-Rice model emerges as an ideal tool for precision agriculture, guiding cultivar selection and optimal planting schedules (Nayak, 2022). Once validated, such models unlock the potential to tailor crop management strategies to individual varieties and locations, helping decision-making processes and enhancing resource utilization efficiency (Singh *et al.*, 2015). However, the efficacy of these models depends on accurate genetic coefficients, which must be carefully calibrated and validated for each variety in its specific region (Vysakh *et al.*, 2016). Thus, this study was done to evaluate the performance of CERES-Rice model in Raipur districts, focusing on the variety Rajeshwari.

## 2. Methodology

The CERES-Rice model within DSSAT v 4.6 was utilized to examine rice grain yield and growth stages. All necessary input files, such as weather, soil, and crop data, were prepared using station records. To ensure precise simulation results, accurate genetic coefficients were essential, and can be determined using the 'Gencalc' tool in DSSAT. The genetic coefficient used in CERES DSSAT model was represented in Table 1.

Table 1 :CERES DSSAT model

P Coefficient		G Coefficient	
P1	Juvenile phase coefficient (°C.d)	G1	Spikelet number coefficient
P20	Critical Photoperiod (h)	G2	Single Grain Weight (g)
P2R	Photoperiodism Coefficient (°C.d)	G3	Tillering Coefficient
P5	Grain filling duration coefficient	PHINT	Temperature tolerance coefficient

To make sure the simulations match with observed value, genetic coefficient had to adjust. This adjusting process is called calibration. During calibration, we set and changed genetic coefficient values based on how well the simulations matched observed values during 2021. Validation means checking if the simulated results matches with observed values which was not used during calibration (values observed during 2022). Both during calibration and validation, the simulated data was compared with observed values using statistics like Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), index of agreement (d-stat) and error percentage (%). Around 2500 iterations were conducted to fine-tune these coefficients.

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (P_i - O_i)^2}{n}}$$

Where,  $P_i$ ,  $O_i$  and  $n$  denotes predicted value, observed value and number of observations respectively (Wallach and Goffinet, 1987).

$$d - stat = 1 - \left[ \frac{\sum (P_i - O_i)^2}{\sum (|P_i'| + |O_i'|)^2} \right]$$

Where,  $P_i' = P_i - \bar{O}$  and  $O_i' = O_i - \bar{O}$

It ranges from zero to 1, with 1 signifying the highest level of fit (Timsina and Humphreys, 2006 and Anothaiet al., 2008). The d-statistic should tend towards one, while the RMSE should tend towards zero to indicate effective model performance (Willmott, 1982).

Error percentage (%)

$$Error(\%) = \frac{(simulated - observed)}{(observed)} \times 100$$

The observed data was collected from the experiment conducted by All India Coordinated Research Programme on Agrometeorology, Department of Agrometeorology for a period of 2021 to 2022. The variety used was Rajeshwari (IGVR 1), a short duration rice variety released by IGKV during 2021.

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In the study, the calibration and validation outcomes of the Ceres model were assessed by analyzing phenological observations and yield data. The model's calibration involved comparing observed and simulated values of three key parameters: Anthesis day, physiological maturity day, and yield.

#### **3.1 Model performance evaluation during calibration**

The model calibration was done with the simulated values and observed values of days to anthesis, days to physiological maturity and yield during 2021.

Observed (Obs.) and simulated (Sim.) data for various parameters including days to Anthesis, days to Physiological Maturity (PI), days to Physiological Maturity (PM), and Yield for three dates of planting labeled as D1, D2, and D3, along with their respective means were presented in Table 2.

For Days to Anthesis, Days to PI, and Days to PM, the mean observational values were 70, 42, and 100 days respectively, while the mean simulated values were 74, 40, and 103 days respectively. The Yield data showed observed yields ranging from 3537 to 4597 across different dates of planting, with corresponding simulated yields ranging from 3004 to 4597. The mean observational yield was 4048, while the mean simulated yield was 3758. The RMSE values for days to Anthesis, days to PI, and days to PM were 4.32, 1.83, and 6.7 respectively. The d-Stat values for simulating days to Anthesis, days to PI, and days to PM

were 0.59, 0.82, 0.65 and 0.81 respectively indicating better agreement between observed and simulated values.

**Table 2: Performance evaluation of CERES rice model during calibration**

Particulars	Days to Anthesis		Days to PI		Days to PM		Yield	
	Obs.	Sim.	Obs.	Sim.	Obs.	Sim.	Obs.	Sim.
<b>D1</b>	70	76	44	43	105	106	3938	3741
<b>D2</b>	73	75	41	41	98	104	4332	4597
<b>D3</b>	66	70	40	37	99	100	3004	3537
<b>Mean</b>	70	74	42	40	100	103	3758	4048
<b>RMSE</b>	4.32		1.83		6.7		472.4	
<b>d- Stat</b>	0.59		0.82		0.65		0.81	
<b>Error (%)</b>	5.4		-4.7		3.0		7.7	

### 3.2 Model performance evaluation during calibration

The results of model evaluation during validation period (2022) was described in Table 3. For Days to Anthesis, Days to PI, and Days to PM, the mean observational values are 68, 45, and 99 days respectively, while the mean simulated values are 74, 41, and 105 days respectively. Yield data shows observational yields ranging from 3528 to 4278 across the different instances, with corresponding simulated yields ranging from 3831 to 4482. The mean observational yield is 3764, while the mean simulated yield is 4173.

Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) values for Days to Anthesis, Days to PI, Days to PM and yield are 6.46, 4.83, 7.77 and 697.3 respectively. The d-Stat values for the parameters range from 0.52 to 0.58, indicating a better agreement between observed and simulated values.

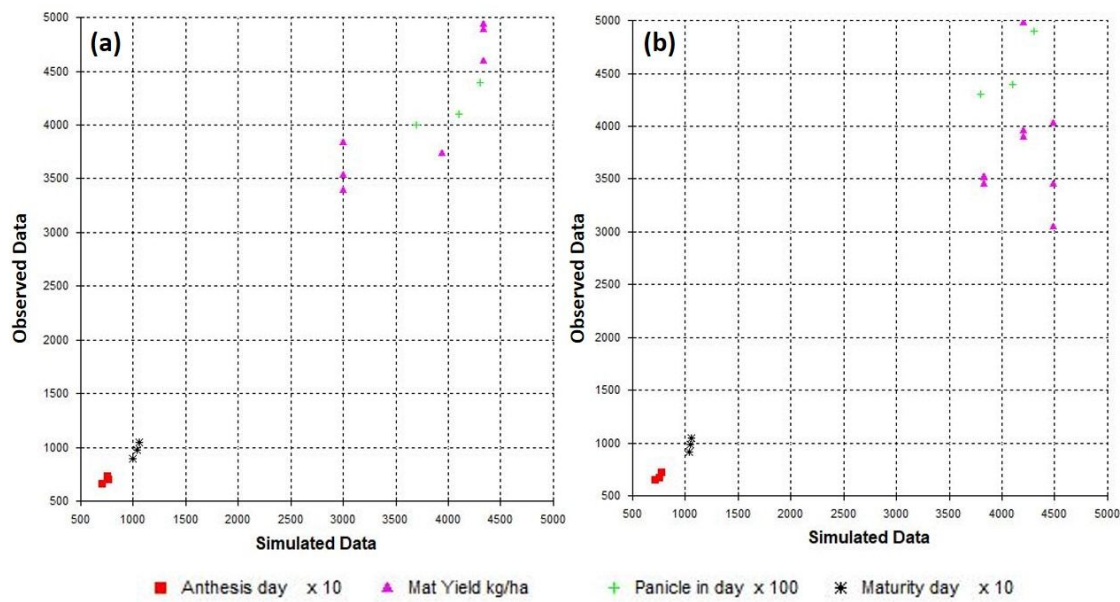
**Table 3: Performance evaluation of CERES rice model during validation**

Particulars	Days to Anthesis	Days to PI	Days to PM	Yield
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	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>Sim.</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>Sim.</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>Sim.</b>	<b>Obs.</b>	<b>Sim.</b>
<b>D1</b>	72	77	49	43	105	106	4278	4205
<b>D2</b>	67	75	44	41	99	105	4034	4482
<b>D3</b>	65	71	43	38	92	104	3728	3831
<b>Mean</b>	68	74	45	41	99	105	3951	4173
<b>RMSE</b>	6.46		4.83		7.77		697.3	
<b>d- Stat</b>	0.54		0.57		0.52		0.58	
<b>Error %</b>	8.8		8.8		6.0		5.6	

The calibration and validation results of the Ceres model using phenological observations and yield data, highlighting the agreement between observed and simulated values for the various parameters. For the selected parameters, model performance was good at calibration and validation.

As per Vysakh *et al.* (2016), a percentage deviation of less than 10% between observed and predicted values suggests effective model performance. The average error percentage for days to germination, anthesis, physiological maturity, and yield were below 10%. Therefore, the model exhibited good performance in predicting these variables. Notably, among the various phenophases, the model demonstrated particularly accurate predictions for days to panicle initiation. In case of yield all the error statistics showed good agreement with observed and simulated values. Hence it can be understood that the model was able to predict anthesis, panicle initiation, physiological maturity date and yield in an acceptable level of accuracy. Figure 1 represents the graphical representation of model performance. From the figure it was clear that observed data points closely align with the simulated data, exhibiting a tightly clustered distribution along the line of best fit. This indicates a high degree of agreement between the observed and simulated datasets.



**Figure 1: The scatterplot showing observed and simulated values of anthesis, panicle initiation, maturity day and yield during (a) calibration and (b) validation**

The genetic coefficients specific to the Rajeshwari variety have been established and the final genetic coefficient used for simulation was in given in Table 4.

**Table 4: The calibrated genetic coefficient of Rice variety *Rajeshwari***

P Coefficient		G Coefficient	
P1	408.0	G1	73.8
P20	12	G2	0.0275
P2R	200	G3	1.10
P5	340	PHINT	83.0

## CONCLUSION

The performance evaluation during calibration and validation of the Ceres model were conducted using observed and simulated data for various parameters, including days to anthesis, days to physiological maturity, and yield, for the years 2021 and 2022. The agreement between observed and simulated values was evaluated through measures RMSE),

d-Stat values and error (%), indicating satisfactory performance of the model in both calibration and validation phases. The model exhibited good performance in predicting key variables, indicating its reliability in simulating the growth and yield of the Rajeshwari variety. In this study, the genetic coefficients specific to this variety have been established and incorporated into the simulation process, further enhancing the accuracy of the model's predictions.

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