

Significance, progress and prospects for research in simplified cultivation technologies for rice in China

M. HUANG, MD. IBRAHIM, B. XIA AND Y. ZOU*

College of Agronomy, Hunan Agricultural University, Changsha 410128, China

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SUMMARY

Simplified cultivation technologies for rice have become increasingly attractive in recent years in China because of their social, economical and environmental benefits. To date, several simplified cultivation technologies, such as conventional tillage and seedling throwing (CTST), conventional tillage and direct seeding (CTDS), no-tillage and seedling throwing (NTST), no-tillage and direct seeding (NTDS) and no-tillage and transplanting (NTTP), have been developed in China. Most studies have shown that rice grown under each of these simplified cultivation technologies can produce a grain yield equal to or higher than traditional cultivation (conventional tillage and transplanting). Studies that have described the influences of agronomic practices on yield formation of rice under simplified cultivation have demonstrated that optimizing agronomy practices would increase the efficiencies of simplified cultivation systems. Further research is needed to optimize the management strategies for CTST, CTDS and NTST rice which have developed quickly in recent years, to strengthen basic research for those simplified cultivation technologies that are rarely used at present (such as NTTP and NTDS), to select and breed cultivars suitable for simplified cultivation and to compare the practicability and effectiveness of different simplified cultivation technologies in different rice production regions.

INTRODUCTION

Rice is the staple food for a large proportion of the world's population (Zhang 2007). World rice production must increase by *c.* 1% annually to meet the growing demand for food resulting from population growth and economic development (Peng *et al.* 2004). In the last decade, several major national and international programmes that were initiated with the goals of developing super high-yielding rice to break the rice yield ceiling and feeding the growing population have made significant progress (Zhang 2007). However, the rice yield depends not only on the genetic characters of the rice but also on the management practices (Zou *et al.* 2003). Crop improvement and crop management have played equal roles in increasing the production of major food crops in the past (Peng & Yang 2003), but now the relative contributions of breeding and crop management to rice yield increase has shifted to 0.3:0.7 (Peng 2008).

Moreover, additional rice will have to be produced on less land with less water and less labour (Peng & Yang 2003). There is no doubt that rice cultivation technologies must be developed that will be labour saving, environmentally friendly and will maintain rice yield potential. Along with the popularization of efficient agriculture in recent years in China, simplified cultivation technologies for rice have become increasingly attractive (Wu *et al.* 2005). In the present paper, an attempt has been made to interpret research significance, review what has been learned about simplified cultivation technologies for rice in China and discuss unresolved issues that should be addressed in future research.

SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH ON SIMPLIFIED CULTIVATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR RICE IN CHINA

Social benefits

In China, about 0.60 of the population sustains on rice (Zhu 2000) and rice production is therefore critical to

* To whom all correspondence should be addressed.
Email: ybzou123@126.com

Table 1. Economics of rice production with simplified cultivation technologies in farmers' fields of Fujian and Hunan Provinces of China (1 Yuan = £0.09, 1 Nov 2010)

Site	Year	Cultivation technology*	Labour use (person-d/ha)	Labour price (Yuan/person-d)†	Labour input (Yuan/ha)	Other inputs‡ (Yuan/ha)	Rice yield (t/ha)	Rice price (Yuan/t)	Output (Yuan/t)	Net income (Yuan/ha)	Reference
Fujian	2005	CTTP	167.3	30	5019	2480	6.52	1400	9128	1629	Xu & Zheng (2006)
		NTST	117.0		3510	2533	6.52		9128	3085	
		NTDS	116.0		3480	2972	7.28		10192	3740	
Hunan	2009	CTTP	103.5	50	5175	3561	6.15	2000	12300	3564	Y. Zou & M. Huang, personal communication
		CTST	93.0		4650	3576	6.00		12000	3774	
		CTDS	73.5		3675	2685	5.70		11400	5040	

* CTTP, conventional tillage and transplanting (traditional cultivation technology); CTST, conventional tillage and seedling throwing; CTDS, conventional tillage and direct seeding; NTST, no-tillage and seedling throwing; NTDS, no-tillage and direct seeding.
 † Yuan is the Chinese currency unit. One US dollar was approximately equal to 8.2 and 6.8 Yuan in 2005 and 2009, respectively.
 ‡ Including inputs of seed, fertilizer, herbicide, pesticide, agricultural plastic film and water.

national food security. However, the area of land planted with rice has decreased during the past three decades (Chen *et al.* 2007a). This is partly attributed to limited labour availability because an increasing number of young farmers have left for jobs in the cities, leaving the older farmers behind (Derpsch & Friedrich 2009). Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop simplified cultivation technologies to reduce labour requirement.

Economic benefits

In traditional rice production, conventional tillage and crop establishment methods such as puddled transplanting require a large amount of labour (Bhushan *et al.* 2007; Chen *et al.* 2007b), which is becoming increasingly scarce and expensive due to economic development and urbanization in China. Thus, simplifying these tasks can play an important role for improving the economic efficiency of rice production (Table 1).

Environmental benefits

Soil erosion and scarce water resources are environmental problems that threaten the sustainability of land use in China (Chen *et al.* 2007a; Zhao *et al.* 2008). In the mid-20th century, recognition that conventional tillage dramatically accelerated soil erosion led to research and the adoption of no-tillage (Montgomery 2007), which is a simplified land preparation technology. The simplified crop establishment technology of direct seeding offers advantages such as more efficient water use and higher tolerance of water deficit (Balasubramanian & Hill 2002). Therefore, the development of these simplified cultivation technologies can meet the requirements of protecting the environment.

PROGRESS OF RESEARCH ON SIMPLIFIED CULTIVATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR RICE IN CHINA

Simplified cultivation technologies for rice are commonly generated by simplifying land preparation, or crop establishment, or both. To date, several simplified cultivation technologies, such as conventional tillage and seedling throwing (CTST), conventional tillage and direct seeding (CTDS), no-tillage and seedling throwing (NTST), no-tillage and direct seeding (NTDS) and no-tillage and transplanting (NTTP), have been developed in China.

NTTP

NTTP is a simplified cultivation technology that simplifies land preparation. Feng *et al.* (2006b) reported that NTTP rice produced a higher grain

Table 2. Grain yield (t/ha) of rice with simplified cultivation technologies in experimental fields

Cultivar	Cropping season*	Cultivation technology†					Reference
		CTTP	NTTP	CTST	CTDS	NTST	
Jinyou 255	ES	6.38		6.48		6.73	Wu <i>et al.</i> (2009a)
Jinyou 402	ES	6.03			7.12		Liu <i>et al.</i> (2003)
Jinyou 974	ES	7.00		7.47		7.60	Wu <i>et al.</i> (2009a)
Xiangliangyou 68	ES	5.53			6.43		Liu <i>et al.</i> (2003)
Yuexiangzhan	ES	8.47				8.47	Liu <i>et al.</i> (2002)
Zhongzu 1	ES	4.69			5.08		Liu <i>et al.</i> (2003)
Jinyou 207	LS	7.84		8.03		8.20	Wu <i>et al.</i> (2009a)
Qiyuou 1025	LS				8.69		Zhou & Tang (2008)
Zhongyou 288	LS	6.45		7.02		7.13	Wu <i>et al.</i> (2009a)
Liangyoupeijiu	SS	8.49	8.59		8.78		Feng <i>et al.</i> (2006b)
	SS	10.31	10.41		10.53	10.96	Cheng <i>et al.</i> (2008b)
	SS	11.25	10.26		9.56		Mo <i>et al.</i> (2008)
	SS	8.62			9.58		Zhang <i>et al.</i> (2006b)
	SS				8.70	9.27	Feng <i>et al.</i> (2006a)
Mian2you 838	SS	7.17			7.36		Zhang <i>et al.</i> (2006b)
Qiannanyou 2058	SS	10.99	11.17				Dong <i>et al.</i> (2008)
Shanyou 63	SS	8.72		9.67			Dai <i>et al.</i> (2000)
Xiangwanxian 11	SS	6.06			6.81		Zhang <i>et al.</i> (2006b)
Yangdao 6	SS	6.98			7.12		Zhang <i>et al.</i> (2006b)
Yanyou KC57	SS	9.99		10.23			Dai <i>et al.</i> (2000)
Zhunliangyou 527	SS	11.15				9.89	Su & Qian (2009)

* ES, early season (from late March to late July); LS, late season (from mid-June to end-October); SS, single season (from April to September).

† CTTP, conventional tillage and transplanting (traditional cultivation technology); NTTP, no-tillage and transplanting; CTST, conventional tillage and seedling throwing; CTDS, conventional tillage and direct seeding; NTST, no-tillage and seedling throwing; NTDS, no-tillage and direct seeding.

yield (Table 2) than that of conventional tillage and transplanting (CTTP) rice, due to enhanced root properties. At maximum tillering, root/shoot ratio, root dry weight, root absorbing surface area, amounts of ^{32}P absorbed by roots and the root oxidizing ability of NTTP rice were higher than those of CTTP rice. At maturity, root weight, root length, root weight density and root length density in the 0–50 mm soil layer, specific root length in 50–100 and 100–200 mm soil layer of NTTP rice were higher compared to those of CTTP rice. Similar results were observed by Cheng *et al.* (2008a) and Cheng *et al.* (2008b) found that the uptake of nitrogen in NTTP rice was higher than that in CTTP rice. Dong *et al.* (2008) stated that the higher grain yield seen in NTTP rice than in CTTP rice (Table 2) was related to its higher dry matter accumulation and root oxidizing ability during grain-filling stage and delayed leaf senescence. However, Mo *et al.* (2008) observed that, in a 5-year fixed field experiment, the grain yield of NTTP rice was equal to or higher than CTTP rice during the first 4 years, but significantly lower (Table 2) in the fifth year.

Moreover, there have been reports describing the effects of nitrogen (N) application rates on NTTP rice

(Feng *et al.* 2004; Han *et al.* 2009; Zhao *et al.* 2009a,b). These reports indicated that the grain yield of NTTP rice was quadratically related to the N application rate, and that its root absorbing surface area, tillering capability, leaf area index and dry matter accumulation increased with increasing N application rate, whereas its dry matter translocation percentage from vegetative organs to grains, grain/leaf ratio, harvest index and N use efficiency such as N recovery efficiency, N physiological efficiency, N agronomic efficiency and N partial factor productivity all decreased with increasing N application rate.

CTST

CTST is a simplified cultivation technology that is generated by partly simplifying the crop establishment task. In the early development of CTST, a frequent question was how do the horizontal rice seedlings stand up after throwing? Li *et al.* (1998) found that, at the base of the horizontal rice seedling, the elongating cells of the lower side grew faster than those of the upper side, which led to a curvature zone whereby the initially horizontal seedling became erect. However,

the standing up of CTST rice could be affected by seedling age (Han & Ma 1995; Li *et al.* 1998; Dai *et al.* 2001a), seedling quality (Zhao *et al.* 1996; Zhang *et al.* 2000; Dai *et al.* 2001a), whether or not soil existed on seedling roots at throwing (Zhang *et al.* 1993; Han & Ma 1995; Dai *et al.* 2001a), seedling posture after throwing (Dai *et al.* 2001a), water depth in paddy field (Han & Ma 1995; Dai *et al.* 2001a) and the temperature, humidity and oxygen concentration of growing environment (Li *et al.* 1998; Dai *et al.* 2001a). In general, the following were found to benefit standing: younger seedlings, better seedling quality, the presence of soil on seedling roots at throwing, a bigger angle between seedling and ground after throwing (i.e. the seedlings that are more upright after throwing), shallower water in the paddy field and higher temperature, humidity and oxygen concentration of the growing environment. Moreover, Lü *et al.* (2001) stated that the standing up of CTST rice could be regulated by the application of exogenous calcium (Ca^{2+}), because it is a major component of the gravitropic responses of plant organs.

Under high-yielding management conditions, the grain yield of CTST rice was higher than that of CTPP rice (Table 2), owing to its biological superiority and an improved paddy field environment. The CTST rice had several advantages: a larger root system and stronger root activity; the setback caused by uprooting and transplanting was either smaller or non-existent; more tillers, greater green leaf area, more panicles and spikelets per unit land area; and a thicker photosynthetic layer during grain filling (Zhang *et al.* 1998; Dai *et al.* 2000). In addition, compared to CTPP rice paddy fields, the temperature, nutrient levels and resistance of soil around tiller nodes were improved in CTST rice field (Dai *et al.* 2001b). Furthermore, Shi *et al.* (1997) and Dai *et al.* (2001c) reported that canopy microclimates, including light, temperature, humidity and ventilation, were also improved in CTST rice paddy fields. However, other factors were inferior in CTST rice, such as a lower proportion of panicle-bearing tillers, higher proportion of small panicles and weaker resistance to root lodging (Dai *et al.* 2000).

In addition, some studies have demonstrated that the yield formation of CTST rice could be influenced by the presence or absence of soil on seedling roots at throwing (Zhang *et al.* 1993), throwing density (Chen & Pan 2000) and N management strategy (Fu *et al.* 1999; Chen & Pan 2000; Tao *et al.* 2002; Zhang *et al.* 2006a). Using the Zadoks *et al.* (1974) decimal code for growth stages (GSs) of cereals, generally, for young (GS13–14) and medium age (GS15–18) seedlings, having soil on their roots at throwing was found to increase the leaf area index, dry matter production, spikelets per panicle, spikelets per unit land area and the grain yield of CTST rice. In the studies of Fu *et al.* (1999), Chen & Pan (2000), Tao *et al.* (2002) and

Zhang *et al.* (2006a), it was found that increasing the throwing density appropriately and N application at a later stage could increase the proportion of fertile tillers, root activity, plant nitrogen uptake, photosynthetic rate of flag leaf and dry matter accumulation after heading, as well as the grain yield of CTST rice.

CTDS

CTDS greatly simplifies crop establishment tasks. Seed germination, however, is hindered by hypoxia and its negative effect on subsequent growth is one of the major constraints that limit grain yield of CTDS rice. Fortunately, many studies have shown that seed coating is a useful technique for overcoming this problem (Ota 1982; Yamauchi & Chuong 1995; Jeyanny *et al.* 2007). In recent years, some seed coating agents, such as XSW-3 and WHW-23, have been developed for CTDS rice production in China. The active ingredients of these coatings include insecticide (imidacloprid), fungicide (prochloraz), plant growth regulator (IAA, NAA, DCPTA, etc.) and micronutrient (Zn, Cu, Mo, Mg, etc.). Xiong *et al.* (2005) reported increases in germination, seedling growth, resistance to stressful environments, diseases and pests, and grain yield in CTDS rice seeds coated with XSW-3. Similar results were observed when rice seeds were coated with WHW-23 (Li *et al.* 2006).

In addition, high-weed infestation is another major constraint to widespread adoption of CTDS in rice production (Phuong *et al.* 2005). *Leptochloa chinensis*, *Echinochloa crusgalli* and *Juncellus serotinus* are the dominant weeds in CTDS fields. Significant negative linear relationships between densities of *L. chinensis*, *E. crusgalli* and *J. serotinus* and panicles per unit land area, spikelets per panicle, grain weight and grain yield of rice in CTDS fields were found by Zhang *et al.* (1996), Guan *et al.* (2001) and Dong *et al.* (2003), who also calculated the economic threshold weed density for spraying to control the weeds economically and effectively. It was suggested that *L. chinensis* could be controlled by spraying pretilachlor 30% EC diluted 2.5 ml/l and applied at 600 litre/ha and cyhalofop-butyl 10% EC diluted 2.0 ml/l and applied at 600 litre/ha when its densities reached 0.73 and 1.51 plants/m², respectively. *E. crusgalli* and *J. serotinus* could be controlled by spraying a combination of quinlorac 50% WP diluted 1.0 g/l and pyrazosulfuron-ethyl 10% WP diluted 0.5 g/litre, both at 450 litre/ha, when densities reached 1 and 30 plants/m², respectively.

Under normal conditions, most reports stated that the grain yield of CTDS was higher compared to that of CTPP (Liu *et al.* 2003; Feng *et al.* 2006b; Zhang *et al.* 2006b; Cheng *et al.* 2008b); however, Mo *et al.* (2008) observed that the grain yield of CTDS was lower than that of CTPP (Table 2). However, for yield

components, all these studies indicated that CTDS rice was characterized by higher panicles per unit land area, but lower spikelets per panicle. Moreover, Yu *et al.* (2008) found that the main tillering zone of CTDS rice was located between the phytomers in ranks 3–5. Wang *et al.* (2002) reported that dry matter accumulation before and after heading were related quadratically and linearly, respectively, to grain yield in CTDS rice.

Many studies have been carried out to seek suitable cultivars or agronomic practices to improve grain yield of CTDS rice. For suitable cultivars, Qian *et al.* (2008) stated that, under CTDS condition, the leaf area index, dry matter accumulation, the proportion of dry matter translocated from vegetative organs to grains and panicle number per unit land area of medium panicle-type cultivars were higher than those of small and large panicle-type cultivars, which further resulted in a higher grain yield in the middle panicle-type cultivars. For suitable agronomic practices, Xue *et al.* (2008) reported that grain yield of CTDS rice was parabolically related to seeding date, and panicles per unit land area, spikelets per panicle, grain-filling rate and individual grain weight were associated with sunshine duration during tillering, sunshine duration during panicle initiation to pollen meiosis, minimum temperature during flowering and average minimum temperature or sunshine duration during the 20 days before and after heading, respectively. Lu *et al.* (1999) stated that population quality, photosynthetic area at a later stage, dry matter accumulation and grain yield of CTDS rice could be improved by properly reducing seeding density. Xu *et al.* (2009) reported that compared to farmers' fertilizer practice, tiller number and the leaf area index and dry matter accumulation at early GS were decreased, whereas the proportion of fertile tillers, root activity during grain filling, photosynthetic rate and ATPase activity in flag leaves and grain yield were increased in CTDS rice under site-specific nitrogen management. Shen *et al.* (2005) found that plastic film mulching increased soil temperature and N use efficiency but reduced weeds and water consumption in CTDS rice paddy fields, and grain yield of CTDS rice was improved due to increased panicle number per unit land area because the high temperature accelerated early tillering. He *et al.* (2005) stated that the proportion of fertile tillers, dry matter accumulation, chlorophyll content in canopy leaves, panicles per unit land area, panicle length, spikelets per panicle, filled spikelets per panicle, individual grain weight and grain yield under furrow irrigation were higher than those under continuously flooded system in CTDS rice. Furthermore, these positive effects of furrow irrigation on CTDS rice could be influenced by border width (He *et al.* 2003, 2004). In general, the positive effects were increased with narrower border width.

NTST

NTST greatly simplifies land preparation and partly simplifies crop establishment. Jiang *et al.* (2005) reported that NTST rice seedlings took longer to stand during early stages but less time during late stages than those of CTST rice, and its total standing time was the same as that of CTST rice. In contrast, Wu *et al.* (2009b) observed that the total seedling standing time of NTST rice was 2–3 days less than that of CTST rice, and stated that shallower water depth in paddy field, using younger seedlings, appropriately increasing N application at the early growth, incorporating straw appropriately, dry-raising seedlings on plastic trays, spraying paclobutrazol at GS12 (Zadok *et al.* 1974) and soaking seed by α -naphthylacetic acid were beneficial to the seedling standing of NTST rice. However, Jiang *et al.* (2005) reported that the root number of NTST was higher than that of CTST rice, but its root growth was blocked at a shorter length during the seedling standing period. Consistently, Wu *et al.* (2009c) stated that root dry weight of NTST rice was lower than that of CTPP rice, and most of its roots were distributed in the top 50 mm soil layer. However, Wu *et al.* (2008b) observed that uptake of N, phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) followed the order that NTST rice > CTST rice > CTPP rice in both early and late rice-growing seasons, and there was a tight positive relationship between uptake of N, P and K to grain yield. Furthermore, Liu *et al.* (2002) reported that the photosynthetic rate in flag leaves of NTST rice was higher than that of CTST rice, while its flag leaf senescence was delayed compared to that of CTST rice. Similar results were observed by Xu & Jiang (2007) and Wu *et al.* (2009a), who further indicated that the physiological superiority during grain-filling stage always led to a higher grain-filling percentage or larger panicle size in NTST rice, and resulted in a higher or equal grain yield compared to that produced in CTST rice (Table 2).

In addition, some studies have been conducted on the effects of agronomic practices on yield formation of NTST rice. Tian *et al.* (2009) reported that the grain yield of NTST rice was increased with decreasing seedling age at throwing. Qin *et al.* (2006) stated that increasing N application would decrease grain-filling but increase root activity, dry matter accumulation, dry matter translocation percentage from vegetative organs to grains, grain/leaf ratio, panicles per unit land area, plant height and grain yield in NTST rice. However, Wu *et al.* (2008a) reported that N physiological efficiency, N agronomic efficiency and harvest index of NTST rice decreased with increasing N application, and further found that increasing K application appropriately could increase N recovery efficiency in NTST rice.

NTDS

NTDS greatly simplifies both land preparation and crop establishment. Cheng *et al.* (2008a) observed that root/shoot ratio, root dry weight, root length and root-oxidizing ability of NTDS rice were higher than those of CTDS rice. Furthermore, Feng *et al.* (2006b) found that the amount of ^{32}P absorbed by roots at maximum tillering, booting and full heading, and ^{32}P translocation from roots to aboveground parts at booting of NTDS rice were higher compared to those of CTDS rice. Consistently, Cheng *et al.* (2008b) stated that, compared with CTDS rice, uptake of P and K was higher in NTDS rice. However, Feng *et al.* (2006a) reported that the net photosynthetic rate at later GS and spikelets per panicle of NTDS rice were higher than that of CTDS rice, while Zhou & Tang (2008) observed that both spikelets per panicle and grain-filling were higher in NTDS rice than in CTDS rice. In addition, Feng *et al.* (2006a) and Zhou & Tang (2008) also showed that the grain yield of NTDS was higher than that of CTDS (Table 2). However, Su & Qian (2009) reported that the grain yield of NTDS rice was lower (Table 2) than that of CTTP rice owing to its shorter growth period and lower proportion of fertile tillers.

Moreover, there were differences observed in grain yield between inbred and hybrid rice under NTDS conditions (Yang *et al.* 2007; Jiang *et al.* 2008). Both studies showed that under NTDS condition grain yield of hybrid rice was higher than that of inbred rice, and Jiang *et al.* (2008) stated that stronger tillering ability, more spikelets per panicle and higher grain weight of hybrid rice were responsible for its higher grain yield. On the other hand, grain yield of NTDS rice could be affected by management practices. Lei *et al.* (2007) reported that the grain yield of NTDS rice was improved by using calcium oxide-coated seeds, which allowed a high emergence rate. Ying *et al.* (2008) and Zhou *et al.* (2008) confirmed that the optimum time of seeding for late-season NTDS rice was early June. Lei *et al.* (2009) observed that heading and maturity of NTDS rice were delayed with increasing basal fertilizer, and its grain yield was parabolically related with the basal fertilizer dose.

PROSPECTS OF RESEARCH ON SIMPLIFIED CULTIVATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR RICE IN CHINA

Optimizing management strategies and strengthening basic research

Of the above-mentioned simplified cultivation technologies, CTST, CTDS and NTST have been gradually adopted by more and more farmers in China. However, the farmers basically follow the traditional agronomic practices for field management. A number of previous studies have confirmed that some of these

traditional management practices, such as N application, utilize resources ineffectively and have negative impacts on the environment (Peng *et al.* 2006; Guo *et al.* 2010). Thus, great attention should be paid to optimize the management strategies for CTST, CTDS and NTST rice to obtain environmental and economic benefits. On the other hand, NTTP and NTDS are still rarely used in rice production in China. Initially, it is important to determine the yield performance and stability of NTTP and NTDS rice and systematically identify their yield formation mechanisms.

Selecting and breeding suitable cultivars

As reviewed above, the growth and physiological characteristics of rice plants grown under simplified cultivation are different from those under traditional cultivation. Moreover, significant rice genotype \times cultivation method interactions have been reported in tests involving diverse genotypes (Hayashi *et al.* 2007; Joshi *et al.* 2007). Therefore, rice breeders must tailor cultivars to simplified cultivation. The super rice project, initiated in 1996 in China (Yuan 1997) with the goal of developing super high-yielding rice, has made great advancements (Cheng & Min 2001). From 2005 to 2007, 61 cultivars were approved as super high-yielding rice by the National Ministry of Agriculture (Huang & Zou 2009). These cultivars can produce 15–20% more yield than the traditional hybrid rice under traditional cultivation (Wang *et al.* 2005), but it is still not clear whether their yield potential is maintained under simplified cultivation. Hence, there is a need to investigate the growth, physiology and yield responses of these genotypes to simplified cultivation. This may present an opportunity to select super high-yielding cultivars for simplified cultivation.

Evaluating practicability and effectiveness

In China, rice-based cropping systems are diverse due to the existence of various agro-climatic zones (Xing *et al.* 2002). Moreover, social-economic conditions are also different in different regions. This raises a question: which simplified cultivation technology is the most appropriate in different rice-based cropping systems and socio-economic conditions? Currently, limited information is available on this issue. Therefore, future research is needed on evaluating practicability and effectiveness of above-mentioned simplified cultivation technologies in different rice production regions.

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