

## **EXPLORING THE TILLERING POTENTIAL IN WHEAT CULTIVARS AT DIFFERENT PLANTING GEOMETRY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

A field testing was performed to examine the tillering potential in wheat cultivar at different planting geometry at research area of Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences, Uthal, Lasbela, Balochistan in Pakistan. The 30 cm (plant x plant distance) sowing method resulted in a maximum germination % of 91.050, 316.50 tillers m<sup>-2</sup>, 120.43 m<sup>-2</sup> productive spikes, 75.350 m<sup>-2</sup> non-productive spikes, 89.650 cm plant height, 13.600 cm spike length, 22.283 spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup>, 64.833 grains spike<sup>-1</sup>, 78.483 g 1000-grains, 4.48 (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) grain yield. The technique of seeding 10 centimetres (p x p distance) resulted in a minimum of 74.150 germination %, 274.33 tillers m<sup>-2</sup>, and 94.85 productive spikes m<sup>-2</sup>, 65.633 non-productive spikes m<sup>-2</sup>, 66.317 cm plant height, 10.450 cm spike length, 14.750 spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup>, 47.650 grains spike<sup>-1</sup>, 59.083 (g) 1000-grains, 3.9 (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) grain yield, 33.967 Peduncle length, and 4.9 (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) straw yield, while, the interaction between cultivars and sowing technique (C x S) revealed that the variety zardana and sowing method (C<sub>2</sub>xS<sub>4</sub>) interaction was more successful, achieving 93.667 germination %, 319.67 tiller (m<sup>-2</sup>), 123.10 productive spikes(m<sup>-2</sup>), and 78.83 non-productive spikes (m<sup>-2</sup>), respectively, 92.00 cm plant height, 15.10 cm spike length, 23.03 spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup>, 66.76 grains spike<sup>-1</sup>, 80.8 g 1000 grains, 4.6 t ha<sup>-1</sup> grain yield, 45.7 cm peduncle length, and 5.4 t ha<sup>-1</sup> straw weight. It was indicated that the effective collaborating of cultivar Ujala × 30 cm (plant to plant distance) effect on yield and yield components as compared to other cultivars and sowing method. The present research revealed the effective performance of Zardana wheat cultivar (Quetta region) on all yielding parameters as compared to Ujala (Faisalabad region). After reviewing the data of this study, it was determined that sowing the crop at a Plant x Plant spacing of 30 cm resulted in the highest tillering growth and yield. When it came to cultivars, the "Zardana (Quetta region) cultivar" outperformed the "Ujala (Faisalabad region) cultivar" by a large margin.

**Key words:** *Wheat Cultivars, Broadcast, Tillering Potential, Planting Geometry.*

## INTRODUCTION

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is staple food crop after rice, mostly used for food and animal feed. To keep up with the world's ever-increasing population, it is expected that global wheat demand would increase by 60% through 2050. Wheat grain output, however, is expected to plummet by 29 percent over this time period due to a variety of biotic and abiotic stresses. (Manickavelu et al., 2012).

Wheat, like other cereal crops, reacts differently to various agro-management activities, particularly planting techniques. Traditional sowing methods provide low crop productions; however, line sowing by drilling on raised up beds has been shown to be further effective and produce greater crop production than broadcast and flat beds planting (Gupta, 2013). Carver (2016) studied the effects of several crop establishment methods, including traditional line method, precision line method, and broadcasting. To construct the important efficient altitudinal arrangements, the broadcasting technique was applied. However, there was no visible association between any spatial layout and production efficacy. Line planting method a higher production than conventional planting (Sobkowicz, 2016). The planting method has a considerable influence on seed placement at the optimum depth, which affects crop development. The optimal planting technique for wheat is influenced by the timing of sowing, the convenience of soil moisture during sowing time, the amount of remains in the region, and the convenience of a sowing apparatus (Abdelhadi et al. 2016). The planting of wheat and other cereal crops in line and ridge planting method is most effective approach (Ghane et al. 2018). Line sowing is the favored method because it confirms dependable seed dissemination at the appropriate depth, resultant in greater seed emergence and crop stance consistency (Nasrullah et al. 2017). Subsequently being processed with rice and cotton, wheat is dispersed throughout Pakistan. Broadcasting not simply necessitates a complex seed rate but also effects in a smaller crop community, while line planting is preferred due to its consistent seed spreading and planting at the required deepness, which typically leads to improved emergence and a more uniform stance. Understanding early crop establishment is crucial for increasing wheat production. Planting method and proper Seed rate, in addition to other agronomic contemplations, are major factors of crop vigour and production. Considering the impact of and planting technique and proper seed rate, this study was laid out establish the best planting technique and seed rate for optimum wheat production (Singh et al. 2015). Although the seedlings formed from drilled seeds outlived those developed from broadcast seeds, the plant stand developed from drilled seeds was well established, yielding more seed than the broadcast approach (Guy et al., 2017). Researchers Amoli et al. (2017) indicated that the most efficient no-till sowing technique for crop creation and production was employing a old-fashioned dual disc opener, which most producers in the region already peculiar. This saved growers money because they did not have to buying a no-till drill. The comparison of the existing study's finding with those of previous researchers revealed that the viewpoints of scientists who worked in the past were comparable to those of the present researchers, and that their conclusions were consistent with the findings of the present research.

It is possible that findings will vary owing to climate variance and other management elements that are specific to each researcher over the course of conducting the experiments referred to in this chapter.

Wheat varieties have varying requirements for row spacing depending on their design and developmental trends. The crop canopy must capture a greater proportion of incoming radiation at the soil surface in order to provide a higher yield (Eberbach et al., 2005). Wheat yield may be significantly increased with improved planting geometry and proper tillage technique. Planting geometry with homogenous plant spatial distribution results in increased crop utilization of soil and environmental resources (Chen et al., 2008). Because row spacing impacts not just crop outlook but also the usage of inter-cultures and herbicides for actual and effective weed control, as well as the intercropping of other crops, row spacing has an influence on crop yield. Aside from this, appropriate row spacing affects crop yield by boosting light interception and penetration, as well as light dispersion in the crop canopy and average leaf light utilization efficiency (Hussain et al., 2003). Proper spacing can help improve tillering capacity and increase growth and yield components of wheat crop. (Thorsted et al., 2006). It is considered one of the cultivation practices that most influences grain yield and other agronomical principle. Changes in seeding density have special importance in wheat crops since they have a direct effect on grain yield and its components (Ozturk et al., 2006).

Wheat is farmed in Pakistan with rice, maize, cotton, sugarcane, vegetables, and fodders in a varied cropping system. To date, zero tillage wheat is the most used resource conservation method in south Asia's Indo-Gangatic Plains, followed by rice (Erenstein and Laxmi, 2008). Introduction of short statured wheat varieties aided with production and protection technology not only played a major role in boosting overall productivity of wheat but also their competitive ability tilted the ecology balance in favour of weeds. As a result, there is an urgent need to solve the weed problem by creating effective and sustainable weed management methods. Agronomic changes, for example, can be extremely useful cultural methods. Some agronomic methods, such as variable plant density and crop geometrics, can be effectively combined with herbicide to allow crop-weed competition in favour of crops while minimizing pesticide load per unit area, hence improving in agriculture sustainability (Dass et al., 2016). The wheat productivity, it is necessary to produce high yielding wheat cultivars that are then matched with a more effective package of agronomic practises (Farooq et al., 2012; Hussain, Mehmood et al., 2012).

Planting geometry increases wheat output while decreasing costs by maximising tillering capacity and making optimum use of other available resources. It is one of the most significant agronomic techniques for boosting wheat production while decreasing expenses (Thorsted et al., 2006; and Mehmood et al., 2012). In order to increase wheat tillering capacity, it is possible to utilise optimum row spacing to boost tillering capacity in the field (Kakar et al., 2001; and Mehmood et al., 2012). However, Pakistan's wheat output remains fairly low when compared to the global average. Numerous factors contribute to Pakistan's poor wheat output.

The primary causes for this include insufficient soil fertility, late planting, traditional sowing practices, a lack of irrigation water, weed infestation, and inadequate crop husbandry. Wheat production may be increased further by fine-tuning agronomic procedures (planting geometry) and managing weeds effectively. Furthermore, tight spacing may result in poorer output as a result of increased plant competition for nutrients and water as a result of greater plant rivalry as a result of higher plant competition (Das and Yaduraju, 2011). Genetically modified wheat genotypes are often chosen for several reasons, including increased yields, improved resistance to harsh environmental conditions, and earlier maturity, among others (Kumar et al., 2013). With the considerations in mind, the current experiment was designed to examine the tillering capacity of a wheat cultivar at various planting orientations with the objective to compare the yield and yield components of different wheat cultivars and to determine the effect of different planting distance on tiller production.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Experiment Site

The experiment was carried out during cropping season 2017-18 for exploring the tillering potential in wheat under different planting geometry at the agronomic research area of Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences, Uthal, Lasbela, Balochistan.

### Soil Analysis

For determining the fertility status of experimental field before sowing and after harvesting the wheat ten composite soil samples was collected from the field during year 2017-18. Furthermore, the soil samples were taken from a depth of 15 cm with the help of auger. All the obtained samples were analyzed for its physio-chemical properties as shown in table (1.1).

Table 1. Physio-Chemical analysis before and after sowing the wheat

| S/no | Soil characteristics | Unit                 | Value before sowing | Value after sowing | Observation                |
|------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1    | Textural class       |                      | Silty clay loam     | Silty clay loam    |                            |
| 2    | pH                   |                      | 7.84                | 7.84               | Alkaline soil              |
| 3    | EC                   | (dsm <sup>-1</sup> ) | 0.772               | 0.772              | Normal saline              |
| 4    | Organic matter (O.M) | (%)                  | 0.68                | 0.67               | Organic matter is low      |
| 5    | Total nitrogen       | (%)                  | 0.034               | 0.35               | Soil total nitrogen is low |
| 6    | Available phosphorus | Mg kg <sup>-1</sup>  | 3.89                | 1.18               | Soil phosphorus is low     |
| 7    | Available potassium  | Mg kg <sup>-1</sup>  | 116.3               | 98.4               | Potassium is low           |

### EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN AND TREATMENT

Experimental treatment consisting of two factors like two wheat cultivars ( $C_1$  = Ugala (Faisalabad region,  $C_2$  = Zardana (Quetta region) and factor B treatment comprised the four different planting method (Broadcast, 10, 20, 30 cm) with varied planting space. Experiment was sown in RCBD (randomize complete block design) with three replications and block size were (3m x 5m) and having row to row distance (15 cm) respectively.

Seed bed prepared by one deep ploughing followed by two harrowing with disc plough and two planking given to prepare a well pulverized seed bed. After pulverizing the soil, simple cultivator was used for single ploughing and planking. After well-prepared seed bed the seed was sown with the help of dibbler. Dibblers have a wooden frame with pegs. The frame is pressed in the field and lifted and then one seeds are dropped by hand in each hole at the rate of 100 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> seed rate. For the wheat crop, the recommended doses of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium fertilizer were sprayed at 75 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, 60 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, and 60 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. In the DAP and SOP farm, all phosphate and potash fertilizer was applied at the time of planting by drill. In the urea farm, nitrogen fertilizer was divided in two equal halves. The initial half is irrigated, while the second half is irrigated during important periods. Irrigation was applied as per schedule, First irrigation at crown root initiation (CRI) (21 days after sowing), second irrigation at late tillering (42 days after sowing), third irrigation (60 days after sowing), fourth irrigation at flowering (80 days after sowing), fifth irrigation at milk stage (95 days after sowing) and sixth irrigation at dough ripe (115 days after sowing). Seed was treated with effective fungicide (Vitavax) before sowing of crop for controlling the disease in wheat crop. Crop was harvesting manually at maturity during March 2018 when grains having a moisture (15-20%). All other cultural practices remaining constant for all treatment. The following observation (Germination (%), Number of tillers (m<sup>-2</sup>), Number of productive spikes (m<sup>-2</sup>), Number of non-productive spikes (m<sup>-2</sup>), Plant height at maturity (cm), Spike length (cm), Number of spikelet/spike<sup>-1</sup>, Number of grains spike<sup>-1</sup>, 1000-grain weight (g), Grain yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>), Peduncle length (cm), Weight of straw (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) relating to growth and yield of the crop was recorded. During the growing season 2017-18, meteorological data was collected at the Meteorological Department's observatory at Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences in Uthal, Balochistan. The obtained data on various yield and yield components of wheat varieties were statistically evaluated using Fisher's analysis of variance (ANOVA) methods, and the least significant difference (LSD) test at a 5% probability level will be used to test for differences between treatments means (Steel et al., 1997).

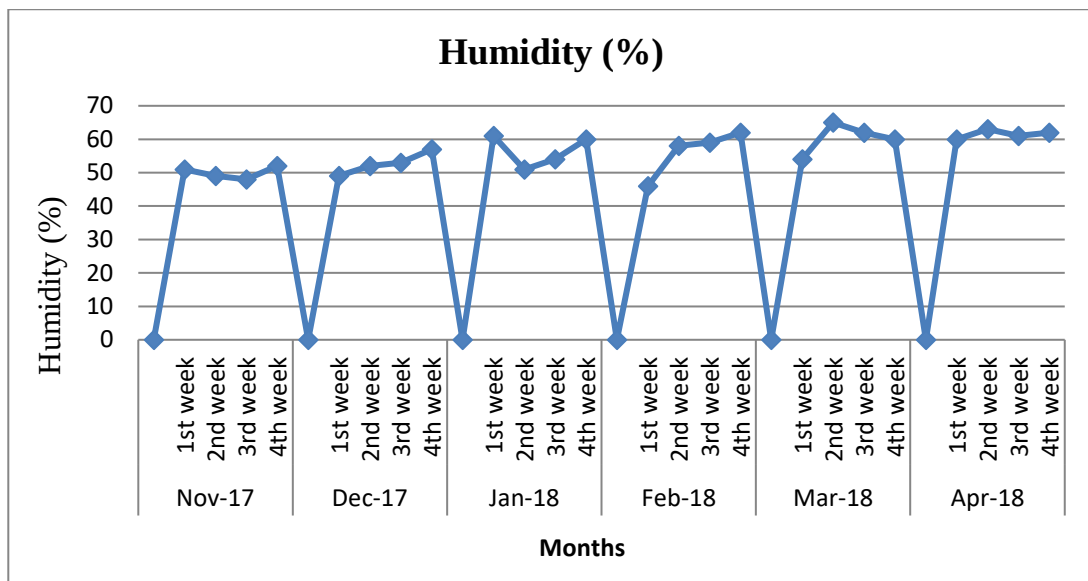


Figure 1. Relative humidity (%) of experimental area during cropping period

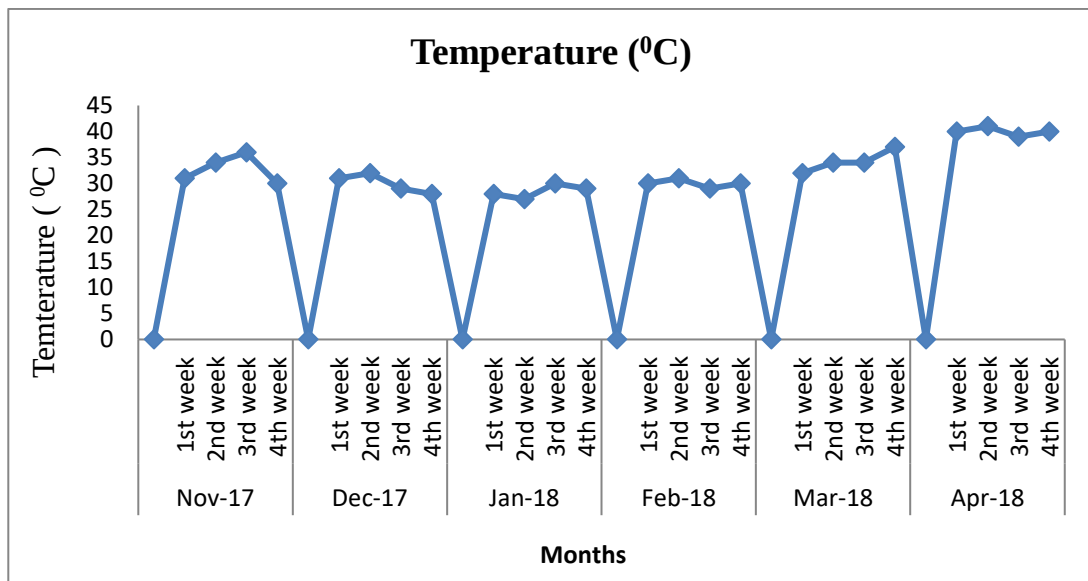


Figure 2. Temperature (°C) of experimental area during cropping period

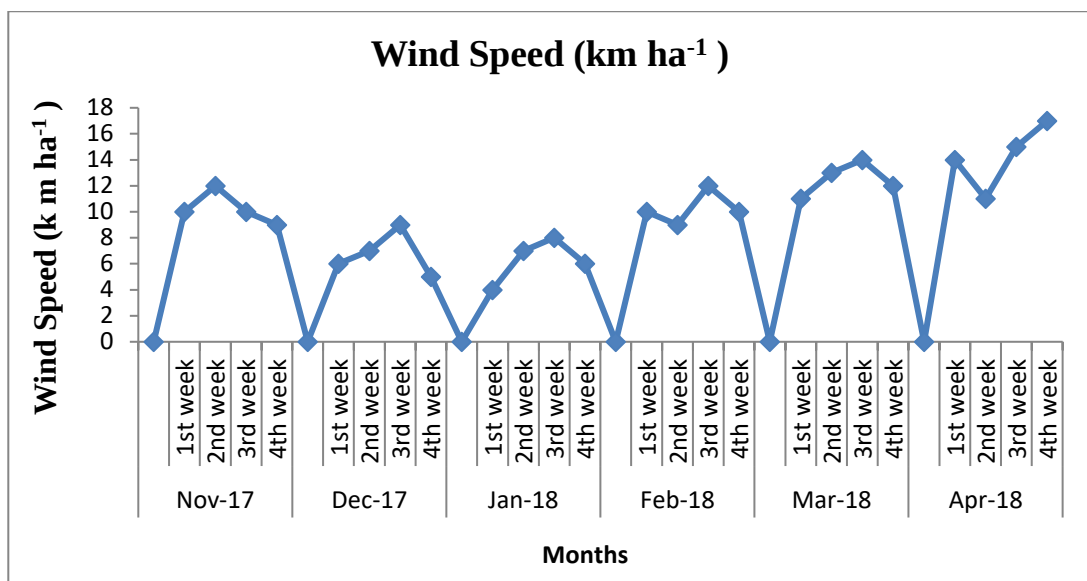


Figure 3. Wind speed (Km h<sup>-1</sup>) of experimental area during cropping period

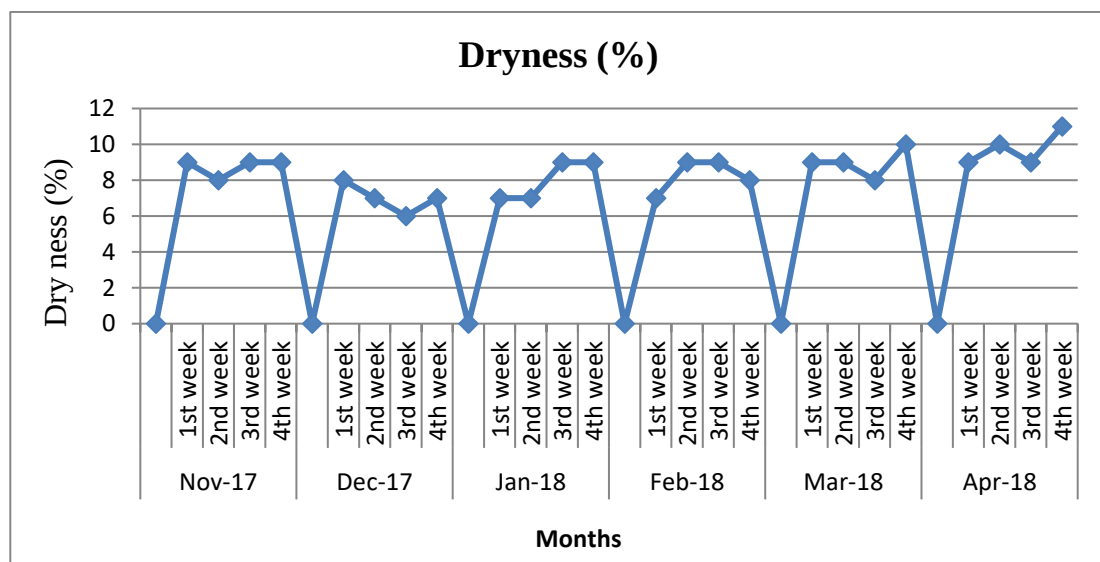


Figure 4. Dryness (%) of experimental area during cropping period 2017-18

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Germination (%)

Seed germination is a critical process that affects crop production and superiority. Understanding the seed germination is so crucial for improving agricultural productivity and quality. Germination (%) of wheat cultivars under various sowing methods was observed statistically significant and the results presented in table-1.2.

The wheat cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) produced highest germination (82.32%) as compared to (78.15%) Ujala (Faisalabad region). Whereas maximum germination (91.05%) was recorded when wheat crop was planted with 30 cm, followed by (83.86% and 74.15%) 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. The minimum germination (71.90%) was noted with broadcast planting method. The significant interactive effect indicated that interaction of  $C_2 \times S_4$  produced maximum germination (93.66%) and minimum germination (69.90%) was recorded with interaction of  $C_1 \times S_1$ .

#### Number of Tillers ( $m^{-2}$ )

Tiller production influences the ultimate number of spikes and has a significant impact on wheat grain yield production. Optimizing tillering capacity can be aided by maintaining proper row spacing. Variable row spacing has a significant effect on tiller  $m^{-2}$ . To produce more tiller  $m^{-2}$ , plants hired all available resources more effectively in row spacing, including light, water, air, and nutrients. Short row spacing significantly enhanced the number of tillers  $m^{-2}$  more than wider row spacing.

Data in Table 1.2 shows the results of observing wheat cultivar tillers ( $m^{-2}$ ) under different seeding procedures was found to be significant. In comparison to Ujala (Faisalabad area), the wheat cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) generated the most tillers ( $292.00 m^{-2}$ ) as compared to ( $281.33 m^{-2}$ ). Maximum tillers ( $316.50 m^{-2}$ ) were reported when wheat crops were planted at a depth of 30 cm, followed by ( $297.17 m^{-2}$  and  $274.33 m^{-2}$ ) when wheat crops were planted at a depth of 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. With the broadcast plant approach, the least tillers ( $258.67 m^{-2}$ ) were recorded significant. The interactive effects revealed that interaction of  $C_2 \times S_4$  generated maximum tillers ( $319.67 m^{-2}$ ) while interaction of  $C_1 \times S_1$  produced lowest tillers ( $250.00 m^{-2}$ ).

Table 2. Influence of wheat cultivars and different planting geometry on germination (%), no. of tillers ( $m^{-2}$ ) and no. of productive spike ( $m^{-2}$ )

| Treatments                            | Germination (%) | Number of Tillers ( $m^{-2}$ ) | Number of productive spike ( $m^{-2}$ ) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Factor - A Wheat Cultivars (C)        |                 |                                |                                         |
| $C_1$ = Ujala ( Faisalabad region)    | 78.158 B        | 281.33 B                       | 99.73 B                                 |
| $C_2$ = Zardana (Quetta region)       | 82.325 A        | 292.00 A                       | 104.29 A                                |
| SE                                    | 0.3613          | 0.9036                         | 0.4696                                  |
| LSD=0.5%                              | 0.7748**        | 1.9380**                       | 1.0072**                                |
| Factor - B Planting geometry (S)      |                 |                                |                                         |
| $S_1$ =Broadcast                      | 71.900 D        | 258.67 D                       | 87.98 D                                 |
| $S_2$ =Plant X Plant distance (10 cm) | 74.150 C        | 274.33 C                       | 94.85 C                                 |

|                                                     |           |           |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| S <sub>3</sub> =Plant X Plant distance (20 cm)      | 83.867 B  | 297.17 B  | 104.77 B             |
| S <sub>4</sub> =Plant X Plant distance (30 cm)      | 91.050 A  | 316.50 A  | 120.43 A             |
| SE                                                  | 0.5109    | 1.2779    | 0.6641               |
| LSD 5%                                              | 1.0958 ** | 2.7407 ** | 1.4245 **            |
| Interaction (Cultivars x Planting geometry (C x S)) |           |           |                      |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>1</sub>                     | 69.900 H  | 250.00 G  | 85.47 H              |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>2</sub>                     | 73.900 F  | 267.33 F  | 90.50 G              |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>3</sub>                     | 71.467 G  | 268.33 F  | 93.20 F              |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>4</sub>                     | 76.833 E  | 280.33 E  | 96.50 E              |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>1</sub>                     | 82.833 D  | 293.67 D  | 102.47 D             |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>2</sub>                     | 84.900 C  | 300.67 C  | 107.07 C             |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>3</sub>                     | 88.433 B  | 313.33 B  | 117.77 B             |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>4</sub>                     | 93.667 A  | 319.67 A  | 123.10 A             |
| SE                                                  | 0.7225    | 1.8072    | 0.9392               |
| LSD (5%)                                            | 1.5496**  | 3.8760**  | 2.0145 <sup>NS</sup> |

Mean column values not showing the same letter differ significantly at p=5%

\*\* = highly significant at 0.05 level

#### Number of productive spike (m<sup>-2</sup>)

The number of fertile tillers number (FTN), demarcated as the tillers that produce spikes and seeds (having grains), and is a key factor of grain production in wheat. Significant productive spikes (m<sup>-2</sup>) of wheat cultivars were measured using different sowing techniques as shown in table 1.2. When compared to Ujala (Faisalabad area), the wheat cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) produced the most productive spikes (104.29 m<sup>2</sup>) (99.73 m<sup>2</sup>). When wheat crops were planted at 30 cm, the most productive spikes (120.43 m<sup>2</sup>) were reported, followed by (104.77 m<sup>2</sup>) and (94.85 m<sup>2</sup>) with 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. With the broadcast plant approach, the smallest number of productive spikes (87.98 m<sup>2</sup>) was recorded. A significant interactive effect showed that interaction of C<sub>2</sub> x S<sub>4</sub> generated the highest number of productive spikes (123.10 cm) and interaction of C<sub>1</sub> x S<sub>1</sub> produced the lowest number of productive spikes (85.47 m<sup>2</sup>).

#### Number of non-productive spike (m<sup>-2</sup>)

The formation of non-fertile spike greatly impacts on wheat production. significant tiller reduction from non-productive tillers frequently adds to low wheat production. In general, wheat crops with sufficient tillering numbers can produce high spikes due to a balanced dry weight (DW) distribution between productive and non-productive tillers, which is crucial to yield production

Table 1.3 showed that number of non-productive spikes (m<sup>-2</sup>) result presented in wheat cultivars was significant. In comparison to Ujala (Faisalabad area), the wheat

cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) generated the most non-productive spikes ( $71.958 \text{ m}^2$ ) ( $64.142 \text{ m}^2$ ). When wheat crops were planted with 30 cm, the highest number of non-productive spikes ( $75.350 \text{ m}^2$ ) was reported, followed by ( $69.050 \text{ m}^2$  and  $65.633 \text{ m}^2$ ) with 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. With the broadcast plant approach, the lowest number of non-productive spikes ( $62.167 \text{ m}^2$ ) was recorded. Significant interactive effects showed that interaction between  $C_2 \times S_4$  generated the highest number of non-productive spikes ( $78.833 \text{ m}^2$ ) while interaction of  $C_1 \times S_1$  produced the lowest number of non-productive spikes ( $59.100 \text{ m}^2$ ).

#### Plant height at maturity (cm)

Plant height is an important morphological and developmental parameter that correlates substantially with total plant growth and is highly predictive of eventual grain production and biomass. Wheat plant height is an important agronomic characteristic that has a direct influence on crop yield. Although the dwarf phenotype is beneficial for wheat lodging, plants that are too tiny result in inadequate growth and, as a result, lower wheat output potential. As a result, increasing plant height is critical to increase output in the absence of lodging.

Significant plant height (cm) of wheat cultivars was measured using different sowing methods, and the results are shown in table 1.3. In comparison to Ujala (Faisalabad area), the wheat cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) generated the maximum plant height ( $76.433\text{cm}$ ) ( $69.642\text{cm}$ ). When wheat crops were planted with 30 cm, the largest plant height ( $89.650\text{cm}$ ) was reported, followed by ( $77.367\text{cm}$  and  $66.317\text{cm}$ ) with 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. With the broadcast plant approach, the minimum plant height ( $58.817\text{cm}$ ) was recorded. The significant effects showed that interaction of  $C_2 \times S_4$  caused maximum plant height ( $92.000\text{cm}$ ) while interaction of  $C_1 \times S_1$  produced lowest plant height ( $53.667\text{cm}$ ).

#### Spike length (cm)

The morphology of the wheat inflorescence (also known as the spike) of small-grain cereals is important in affecting grain production. The number of spikes per square metre was considerably impacted by row spacing. When compared to other planting geometry at 30 cm line spacing found in substantially more spikes  $\text{m}^{-2}$  of wheat.

Data in table 1.3 shows the significant results of the spike length (cm) of two wheat cultivars using different seeding techniques. In comparison to Ujala (Faisalabad area), the wheat cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) achieved the longest spike length ( $12.892\text{cm}$ ) ( $9.667\text{cm}$ ). When wheat crops were planted with 30 cm, the largest spike length ( $13.600\text{cm}$ ) was reported, followed by ( $11.917\text{cm}$  and  $10.450\text{cm}$ ) with 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. With the broadcast plant approach, the minimum spike length ( $9.150 \text{ cm}$ ) was recorded. Significant interactive effects revealed that interaction of  $C_2 \times S_4$  created maximum spike length ( $15.100 \text{ cm}$ ) while interaction of  $C_1 \times S_1$  produced lowest spike length ( $7.567\text{cm}$ ).

Table 3. Influence of wheat cultivars and different planting geometry on number of non productive spike ( $m^{-2}$ ), plant height (cm) and spike length (cm)

| Treatments                                        | Number of non productive spike ( $m^{-2}$ ) | Plant height at maturity(cm) | Spike length (cm)    |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| Factor - A Wheat Cultivars (C)                    |                                             |                              |                      |
| C <sub>1</sub> = Ugala ( Faisalabad region)       | 64.142 B                                    | 69.642 B                     | 9.667 B              |
| C <sub>2</sub> = Zardana (Quetta region)          | 71.958 A                                    | 76.433 A                     | 12.892 A             |
| SE                                                | 0.4449                                      | 0.4009                       | 0.1442               |
| LSD=0.5%                                          | 0.9542 **                                   | 0.8599**                     | 0.3094**             |
| Factor - B Planting geometry(S)                   |                                             |                              |                      |
| S <sub>1</sub> = Broadcast                        | 62.167 D                                    | 58.817 D                     | 9.150 D              |
| S <sub>2</sub> = Plant X Plant distance (10 cm)   | 65.633 C                                    | 66.317 C                     | 10.450 C             |
| S <sub>3</sub> = Plant X Plant distance (20 cm)   | 69.050 B                                    | 77.367 B                     | 11.917 B             |
| S <sub>4</sub> = Plant X Plant distance (30 cm)   | 75.350 A                                    | 89.650 A                     | 13.600 A             |
| SE                                                | 0.6292                                      | 0.5670                       | 0.2040               |
| LSD 5%                                            | 1.3495**                                    | 1.2160 **                    | 0.4375 **            |
| Interaction (Cultivars x Planting geometry(C x S) |                                             |                              |                      |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>1</sub>                   | 59.100 G                                    | 53.667 G                     | 7.567 F              |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>2</sub>                   | 65.233 E                                    | 63.967 F                     | 10.733 D             |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>3</sub>                   | 61.767 F                                    | 62.633 F                     | 8.767 E              |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>4</sub>                   | 69.500 D                                    | 70.000 E                     | 12.133 C             |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>1</sub>                   | 63.833 E                                    | 74.967 D                     | 10.233 D             |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>2</sub>                   | 74.267 B                                    | 79.767 C                     | 13.600 B             |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>3</sub>                   | 71.867 C                                    | 87.300 B                     | 12.100 C             |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>4</sub>                   | 78.833 A                                    | 92.000 A                     | 15.100 A             |
| SE                                                | 0.8898                                      | 0.8018                       | 0.2885               |
| LSD (5%)                                          | 1.9085*                                     | 1.7197**                     | 0.6187 <sup>NS</sup> |

Mean column values not showing the same letter differ significantly at p=5%

\*\* = highly significant at 0.05 level

Number of spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup>

The spikelets is determined may be regarded one of the most critical periods of the wheat plant. Wider row spacing and less shoots per m<sup>2</sup> may have reduced plant competition for nutrients, water, space, and light interception, leading to spike length increase. Value of Table 1.3 showed that the results of observing the number of spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup> of wheat varieties under different seeding method was significant. In comparison to Ujala (Faisalabad area), the wheat cultivar Zardana generated the most spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup> (17.550). (15.725). When wheat crops were planted with 30 cm, the highest spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup> (22.283) were reported, followed by (18.867 and 14.750) with 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. The spread plant approach yielded the lowest spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup> (10.650). Interaction of C<sub>2</sub> x S<sub>4</sub> generated significant highest spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup> (23.033), whereas interaction of C<sub>1</sub> x S<sub>1</sub> produced lowest spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup> (9.600).

Number of Grains spike<sup>-1</sup>

The grains number (GN) is determined by spike growth rate (SGR), and spike growth period duration. However, because these three qualities are not independent of one another, assessing their relative contribution to grain number is critical for increasing yield potential. The planting density and number of spikelets plant<sup>-1</sup>, which is the sum of the spikelets on each spike, determine the grainsnumber spike<sup>-1</sup>.

Result in table 1.4 was found significant for grainsnumber spike<sup>-1</sup> of wheat cultivars under different seeding procedures. When compared to Ujala (Faisalabad area), the wheat cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) produced the highest grains spike<sup>-1</sup> (54.233), as compare (49.617). When wheat crops were planted with 30 cm, the greatest grains spike<sup>-1</sup> (64.833) was reported, followed by (54.883 and 47.650) with 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. With the broadcast plant approach, the least grains spike<sup>-1</sup> (40.333) was recorded. The interactive effects revealed significant that the interaction of C<sub>2</sub> x S<sub>4</sub> found in the maximum grains spike<sup>-1</sup> (66.767) and the lowest grains spike<sup>-1</sup> (38.533) when compared to the interaction of C<sub>1</sub> x S<sub>1</sub>.

1000- grain weight (g)

The thousand grain weight (TGW) is an important parameter for assessing a variety's background. The row spacing change had no influence on the thousand-grain weight. The thousand grain weight has an influence on seedling vigour and growth, which affects yield indirectly.

The 1000-grain weight (g) of wheat cultivars was measured significant under different sowing techniques, and the findings are listed in table 1.4. In comparison to Ujala (Faisalabad area), the wheat cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) generated the greatest 1000-grain weight (65.550) and (60.775). When wheat crops were planted with 30 cm, the greatest 1000- grain weight (g) (78.483) was reported, followed by (68.700 and 59.083) with 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. With the broadcast plant approach, the least 1000- grain weight (g) (46.383) was recorded. With significant interaction of C<sub>2</sub> x S<sub>4</sub>, maximum 1000- grain weight (g) (80.833) and minimum 1000- grain weight (g) (45.233) were observed, whereas interaction of C<sub>1</sub> x S<sub>1</sub> generated highest 1000-grain weight (g) (80.833) and minimum seed weight (45.233).

### Grain yield ( $\text{t ha}^{-1}$ )

Grain yield was not reduced significantly by increasing row space, demonstrating that broader planting geometry technology may be used without fear of yield loss. Suitable varieties with optimum line spacing are crucial for optimal light, penetration, interruption, dissemination in the crop canopy, and average light use efficiency of the canopy leaves, all of which influence crop productivity.

The grain yield of wheat cultivars was measured using different planting techniques, and the findings are provided in table 1.5 was significant. In comparison to Ujala (Faisalabad area), the wheat cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) produced the greatest grain yield (4.3917) and (3.9442). When wheat crops were planted with 30 cm, the highest grain production (4.4850) was reported, followed by (4.3317 and 3.9717) with 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. The spread plant approach had the lowest grain yield (3.8833). The interactive effects revealed that the interaction of  $C_2 \times S_4$  generated the highest grain yield (4.6367) and whereas the interaction of  $C_1 \times S_1$  produced the lowest grain yield (3.6333).

### Peduncle length (cm)

The peduncle, which is located at the first internode directly beneath the spike, performs several critical functions in crop productivity. In order to supply assimilates to the filled grain, the vascular system in the peduncle must grow.

The length of peduncle in wheat cultivars was measured significant using different sowing methods, and the findings are shown in table 1.5. In comparison to Ujala (Faisalabad area), the wheat cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) generated the longest peduncle length (37.333) as compare (34.283). When wheat crops were planted with 30 cm, the largest peduncle length (43.500) was reported, followed by (38.117 and 33.967) with 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. With the broadcast plant approach, the shortest pedunclelength (27.650) was recorded. The interactive effects revealed that interaction of  $C_2 \times S_4$  created maximum peduncle length (45.700) while interaction of  $C_1 \times S_1$  produced lowest peduncle length (26.700).

### Straw yield ( $\text{t ha}^{-1}$ )

Crop straw is a massive universal organic agricultural waste resource. Straw quantity and quality may be raised without having a significant detrimental impact on grain production. The presence of residues on the soil surface, which might have caused physical repression of weed seedlings and prevented the light from reaching them.

Value in table 1.5 showed that the results of observing the straw yield length of wheat cultivars under different seeding techniques was significant. In comparison to Ujala (Faisalabad area), the wheat cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) generated the greatest straw yield (5.3542) and (4.7317). When wheat crops were planted with 30 cm, the highest straw yield (5.2733) was obtained, followed by (5.200 and 4.9100) with 20 cm and 10 cm, respectively. With the broadcast plant approach, the minimal straw yield (4.7783) was recorded. A significant interactive effect revealed that the interaction of  $C_2 \times S_4$  created the highest straw yield (5.4633) and the lowest straw yield (4.4233), whereas the interaction of  $C_1 \times S_1$  produced the lowest straw yield (4.4233).

Table 4. Influence of wheat cultivars and different planting geometry on spikelets Spike<sup>-1</sup>, number of Grains spike<sup>-1</sup> and 1000-grain weight (g)

| Treatments                                         | Number of spikelets Spike <sup>-1</sup> | Number of Grains spike <sup>-1</sup> | 1000-grain weight (g) |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Factor - A Wheat Cultivars (C)                     |                                         |                                      |                       |
| C <sub>1</sub> = Ugala ( Faisalabad region)        | 15.725 B                                | 49.617 B                             | 60.775 B              |
| C <sub>2</sub> = Zardana (Quetta region)           | 17.550 A                                | 54.233 A                             | 65.550 A              |
| SE                                                 | 0.2488                                  | 0.2182                               | 0.3574                |
| LSD=0.5%                                           | 0.5337**                                | 0.4680**                             | 0.7666**              |
| Factor - B Planting geometry(S)                    |                                         |                                      |                       |
| S <sub>1</sub> = Broadcast                         | 10.650 D                                | 40.333 D                             | 46.383 D              |
| S <sub>2</sub> = Plant X Plant distance (10 cm)    | 14.750 C                                | 47.650 C                             | 59.083 C              |
| S <sub>3</sub> = Plant X Plant distance (20 cm)    | 18.867 B                                | 54.883 B                             | 68.700 B              |
| S <sub>4</sub> = Plant X Plant distance (30 cm)    | 22.283 A                                | 64.833 A                             | 78.483 A              |
| SE                                                 | 0.3519                                  | 0.3086                               | 0.5054                |
| LSD 5%                                             | 0.7547 **                               | 0.6619 **                            | 1.0841 **             |
| Interaction (Cultivars x Planting geometry(C x S)) |                                         |                                      |                       |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>1</sub>                    | 9.600 H                                 | 38.533 H                             | 45.233 H              |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>2</sub>                    | 11.700 G                                | 42.133 G                             | 47.533 G              |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>3</sub>                    | 13.667 F                                | 45.033 F                             | 54.833 F              |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>4</sub>                    | 15.833 E                                | 50.267 E                             | 63.333 E              |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>1</sub>                    | 18.100 D                                | 52.000 D                             | 66.900 D              |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>2</sub>                    | 19.633 C                                | 57.767 C                             | 70.500 C              |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>3</sub>                    | 21.533 B                                | 62.900 B                             | 76.133 B              |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>4</sub>                    | 23.033 A                                | 66.767 A                             | 80.833 A              |
| SE                                                 | 0.4977                                  | 0.4364                               | 0.7148                |
| LSD (5%)                                           | 1.0674 <sup>NS</sup>                    | 0.9361**                             | 1.5331**              |

Mean column values not showing the same letter differ significantly at p=5%

\*\* = highly significant at 0.05 level

Table 5. Influence of wheat cultivars and different planting geometry on Grains spike-1, grain yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>), peduncle length (cm) and straw yield (tha-1)

| Treatments                                         | Number of Grains spike <sup>-1</sup> | Grain yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> ) | Peduncle length (cm) | Straw yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Factor - A Wheat Cultivars (C)                     |                                      |                                   |                      |                                   |
| C <sub>1</sub> = Ugala ( Faisalabad region)        | 49.617 B                             | 3.9442 B                          | 34.283 B             | 4.7317 B                          |
| C <sub>2</sub> = Zardana (Quetta region)           | 54.233 A                             | 4.3917 A                          | 37.333 A             | 5.3542 A                          |
| SE                                                 | 0.2182                               | 0.1257                            | 0.1272               | 0.1667                            |
| LSD=0.5%                                           | 0.4680**                             | 0.2696**                          | 0.2729**             | 0.3575 <sup>NS</sup>              |
| Factor B Planting geometry(S)                      |                                      |                                   |                      |                                   |
| S <sub>1</sub> =Broadcast                          | 40.333 D                             | 3.8833 C                          | 27.650 D             | 4.7783 B                          |
| S <sub>2</sub> =Plant X Plant distance (10 cm)     | 47.650 C                             | 3.9717 BC                         | 33.967 C             | 4.9100 B                          |
| S <sub>3</sub> =Plant X Plant distance (20 cm)     | 54.883 B                             | 4.3317 AB                         | 38.117 B             | 5.2100 A                          |
| S <sub>4</sub> =Plant X Plant distance (30 cm)     | 64.833 A                             | 4.4850 A                          | 43.500 A             | 5.2733 A                          |
| SE                                                 | 0.3086                               | 0.1777                            | 0.1799               | 0.2357                            |
| LSD 5%                                             | 0.6619 **                            | 0.3812 **                         | 0.3859 **            | 0.5056 **                         |
| Interaction (Cultivars x Planting geometry (C x S) |                                      |                                   |                      |                                   |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>1</sub>                    | 38.533 H                             | 3.6333 H                          | 26.700 H             | 4.4233 H                          |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>2</sub>                    | 42.133 G                             | 4.1333 F                          | 28.600 G             | 5.1333 E                          |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>3</sub>                    | 45.033 F                             | 3.6533G                           | 31.600 F             | 4.4767 G                          |
| C <sub>1</sub> x S <sub>4</sub>                    | 50.267 E                             | 4.2900 D                          | 36.333 E             | 5.3433C                           |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>1</sub>                    | 52.000 D                             | 4.1567 E                          | 37.533 D             | 4.9433 F                          |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>2</sub>                    | 57.767 C                             | 4.5067 B                          | 38.700 C             | 5.4767 A                          |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>3</sub>                    | 62.900 B                             | 4.3333 C                          | 41.300 B             | 5.0833 D                          |
| C <sub>2</sub> x S <sub>4</sub>                    | 66.767 A                             | 4.6367 A                          | 45.700 A             | 5.4633 A                          |
| SE                                                 | 0.4364                               | 0.2514                            | 0.2545               | 0.3334                            |
| LSD (5%)                                           | 0.9361**                             | 0.5391**                          | 0.5458**             | 0.7150*                           |

Mean column values not showing the same letter differ significantly at p=5%

\*\* = highly significant at 0.05 level

Wheat, like other cereal crops, reacts differently to various agro-management activities, particularly planting techniques. Traditional sowing methods provide low crop productions; however, line sowing by drilling on raised up beds has been shown to be further effective and produce greater crop production than broadcast and flat beds planting (Gupta, 2013). Carver (2016) studied the effects of several crop establishment methods, including traditional drilling, precision drilling, and broadcasting.

Statistical analysis showed that the wheat variety "Zardana (Quetta region)" ranked first produced 82.325 germination %, 292.00 tillers $m^{-2}$ , 104.29 productive spikes $m^{-2}$ , 71.958 non-productive spikes $m^{-2}$ , 76.433 cm plant height, 12.892 cm spike length, 17.550 spikelets spike $^{-1}$ , 54.233 grains spike $^{-1}$ , 65.550 (g) 1000-grain weight, 4.39 grain yield ( $tha^{-1}$ ), 37.333 cm Penduncle length as compare to the other wheat variety Ujala for different trait like 78.158 germination %, 69.642 cm plant height, 281.33 tillers $m^{-2}$ , 99.73 productive spikes $m^{-2}$ , 64.142 non-productive spikes $m^{-2}$ , 9.667 cm spike length, 15.725 spikelets spike $^{-1}$ , 49.617 grains spike $^{-1}$ , 60.775 (g) 1000-grains weight, 3.94 grain yield ( $t\ ha^{-1}$ ), 34.283 cm Penduncle length; and 3.73 straw weight ( $t\ ha^{-1}$ ) were achieved.

Wheat crop planted with plant x plant distance (30 cm) produced maximum 91.050 germination %, , 316.50 tillers $m^{-2}$ , 120.43 productive spikes $m^{-2}$ , 75.350 non-productive spikes $m^{-2}$ , 89.650 cm plant height, 13.600 cm spike length, 22.283 spikelets spike $^{-1}$ , 64.833 grains spike $^{-1}$ , 78.483 (g) 1000-grains weight, 4.48 grain yield ( $t\ ha^{-1}$ ), 43.500 cm Peduncle length, 5.27 straw weight ( $t\ ha^{-1}$ ) as compared to the remaining other three sowing method (Broad cost, planting at 10 cm and planting at 20 cm). A significant effect on the wheat crop was the distance between the plants (20 cm).

Broad cost sowing method was produced lowest 71.900 germination %, , 258.67 tillers $m^{-2}$ , 87.98 productive spikes $m^{-2}$ , 62.167 non-productive spikes $m^{-2}$ , 58.817 cm plant height 9.150 cm spike length, 10.650 spikelets spike $^{-1}$ , 40.333 grains spike $^{-1}$ , 46.383 (g) 1000-grains weight, 3.88 grain yield ( $t\ ha^{-1}$ ), 27.650 cm Peduncle length, and 4.77 straw weight ( $t\ ha^{-1}$ ). A significant interaction was observed between wheat cultivars and different sowing method. Interaction  $C_2 \times S_4$  produced maximum yield and yield component for all traits as compared to the minimum value was noted in  $C_1 \times S_1$  interaction.

According to Ashraf et al. (2018), the technique of sowing has a substantial impact on wheat yields, and the crop planted by the drilling method outperformed the crop sown by traditional methods. These findings are completely confirmed by the literature. Using three different planting strategies, Khan et al. (2016) discovered that each of the growth and yield characteristics was substantially impacted by the planting method utilized. Quanqi et al. (2015) discovered that crop production increased when the crop was seeded using the drilling technique. Compared to traditional broadcast of seeds, direct drilling yielded reduced straw yields and nutrient absorption; as a result, direct drilling was effective and recommended for wheat production. Wheat is farmed in Pakistan with rice, maize, cotton, sugarcane, vegetables, and fodders in a varied cropping system. To date, zero tillage wheat is

the most commonly used resource conservation method in south Asia's Indo-Gangatic Plains, followed by rice (Erenstein and Laxmi, 2008). Introduction of short statured wheat varieties aided with production and protection technology not only played a major role in boosting overall productivity of wheat but also their competitive ability tilted the ecology balance in favour of weeds. As a result, there is an urgent need to solve the weed problem by creating effective and sustainable weed management methods. Agronomic improvements, for example, can be extremely useful cultural methods. Some agronomic methods, such as variable plant density and crop geometrics, can be effectively paired with herbicide to allow crop-weed competition in favour of crops while minimising pesticide load per unit area, hence aiding in agriculture sustainability (Dass et al., 2016). Planting techniques were investigated in detail by Gupta (2016), who conducted tests to determine the effect that planting methods had on wheat crop growth attributes and grain production. If a plant is planted close enough to another, it may compete the other plant to alter its soil or air habitat, so slowing the pace of growth of both plants. Crop population structure and production are said to be affected by row width, according to several research (Zhou et al., 2010). Wheat varieties have varying requirements for row spacing depending on their design and developmental trends. The crop canopy must capture a greater proportion of incoming radiation at the soil surface in order to provide a higher yield (Eberbach and Pala, 2005). According to several studies done in different climes, crop productivity increased when the rows were spaced closely together as opposed to when the rows were spaced far apart (Chen et al., 2008). According to some researchers, wider row spacing in wheat either delivers higher yields or yields that are comparable to tighter row spacing (Hiltbrunner et al., 2005). In addition to row spacing, there are many additional agronomic techniques that may be used to improve wheat drought resilience. Because the quantity of bare soil exposed to the sun determines the amount of evaporation from the soil, narrow row spacing improves drought tolerance by lowering evaporation losses from the soil (Farooq et al., 2015). Planting wheat varieties, on the other hand, should be done with the plant's height and tillering potential in mind as it grows. Dwarf cultivars with limited tillering capacity, for example, produced better yields when planted in tightly spaced rows than dwarf cultivars with lower tillering capability when planted in medium row spacing (Hussain et al., 2013). Using a medium row spacing of 20 cm, it was discovered that a greater number of grains per spike could be obtained (Lasani 2008). In this attribute, genetic variety and the availability of necessary nutrients play a major role. It has been observed that when spacing is limited in the field, the number of grains spike<sup>-1</sup> drops because of light and nutrition deficiency, as well as a lack of available space (Naseri et al., 2012).

According to Hussain et al. (2016), the drilling technique of sowing simplifies the implementation of other agricultural cultural practises and increases crop yields. Seed production was increased, according to Faraji et al. (2016), who claimed that field management measures increased seed output. The drilling technique has major benefits in terms of soil moisture management, and it may be modified to allow for narrower row spacing when associated to other planting geometry (Mascagni et al.,

2017). Carver (2016) studied the effects of several crop establishment methods, including traditional drilling, precision drilling, and broadcasting. To construct the most efficient spatial arrangements, the broadcasting technique was applied. Broadcast sowing, as opposed to planting in rows by drilling the seeds, often produces a lower crop yield. Plants that are produced in agricultural communities compete with one another for resources and nutrients. It is vital to engage in this kind of competition when the immediate supply of a single essential element falls below the aggregate demands of all plants. If a plant is planted close enough to another, it may convince the other plant to alter its soil or air habitat, so slowing the pace of growth of both plants. Researchers Amoli et al. (2017) found that using a conventional dual disc opener, which already existed in the grower's region, was one of the most effective no-till sowing methods for crop formation and production. This saved growers money because they did not have to purchase a no-till drill. The comparison of the present study's findings with those of previous researchers revealed that the viewpoints of scientists who worked in the past were comparable to those of the present researchers, and that their conclusions were consistent with the findings of the present research. It is possible that findings will vary owing to climate variance and other management elements that are specific to each researcher over the course of conducting the experiments referred to in this chapter. Wheat varieties have varying requirements for row spacing depending on their design and developmental trends. The crop canopy must capture a greater proportion of incoming radiation at the soil surface in order to provide a higher yield (Eberbach et al., 2005).

### CONCLUSIONS

It was concluded that different sowing method significantly increasing the wheat production. Wheat cultivar Zardana (Quetta region) performed best regarding for all traits (germination %, number of tillers  $m^{-2}$ , number of spikelets  $spike^{-1}$ , spike Length, number of grains  $spike^{-1}$ , 1000-grain weight, number of grains  $spike^{-1}$ , grain yield and straw yield) under 30 cm plant to plant distance as compared to Ujala wheat cultivar (Faisalabad region).

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