

Evaluation of Naked Barley Landraces for Agro-morphological Traits

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ABSTRACT

Naked barley (*Hordeum vulgare* var. *nudum* L.) is a traditional, culturally important, climate-resilient winter cereal crop of Nepal. Evaluation of the naked barley genotypes for yield and disease is fundamental for their efficient utilization in plant breeding schemes and effective conservation programs. Therefore, to identify high yielding and yellow rust resistant landraces of naked barley for hilly and mountainous agro-ecosystem, twenty naked barley landraces collected from different locations of Nepal, were evaluated in randomized complete block design (RCBD) with three replications during winter season of 2016 and 2017 at Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal. Combined analysis of variances revealed that NGRC04902 (3.46 t/ha), NGRC00886 (3.28 t/ha), NGRC02309 (3.21 t/ha) and NGRC06026 (3.10 t/ha) were the high yielding landraces and statistically at par with the released variety 'Solu Uwa' (3.15 t/ha). The landraces namely NGRC00837 (ACI Value: 1.86) was found resistant to yellow rust diseases. Landraces NGRC06034 (131.7 days) and NGRC02363 (130.8 days) were found early maturing and NGRC02306 (94.36 cm) was found dwarf landraces among tested genotypes. These landraces having higher yield and better resistance to yellow rust need to be deployed to farmers' field to diversify the varietal options and used in resistant breeding program to improve the productivity of naked barley for Nepalese farmers.

Keywords: *Hordeum vulgare* var. *nudum* L., naked barley, resistant breeding, yellow rust

सारांश

उवा नेपालको एक परम्परागत तथा साँस्कृतिक महत्व भएको, जलवायु अनुकूलित हिउँदे वाली हो । उवाका रैथाने जातहरूको संरक्षण र बाली प्रजनन मार्फत दिगो उपयोगको लागि तिनीहरूको उत्पादकत्व तथा रोग अवरोधी क्षमता परीक्षण गर्नु एक आधारभूत कार्य हो । त्यसैले, नेपालको पहाडी तथा हिमाली भेगको लागि उपयुक्त हुने उवाका धेरै उत्पादन दिने र सिन्दुरे रोग अवरोधी उत्कृष्ट जातहरूको पहिचान गर्न विभिन्न स्थानबाट संकलन गरिएका बीस ओटा जातहरू समावेश गरी २०७३ र २०७४ सालको हिउँदमा ललितपुरको खुमलटारमा परीक्षण संचालन गरिएको थियो । परीक्षणको नतिजाले उवाका स्थानीय जातहरू NGRC04902 (३.४६ मे.ट./हे), NGRC00886 (३.२८ मे.ट./हे), NGRC02309 (३.२१ मे.ट./हे) र NGRC06026 (३.१० मे.ट./हे) ले धेरै उत्पादन दिएको देखायो । स्थानीय जात NGRC00837 पहिलो सिन्दुरे रोग अवरोधी पाईयो । त्यसैगरी NGRC06034 (१३२ दिन) र NGRC02363 (१३१ दिन) जात छिटो पाक्ने र NGRC02306 (९४ से.मी.) अन्य जात भन्दा होचो पाईयो । यस अध्ययनबाट उवाका बढी उत्पादन दिने, चाँडै पाक्ने, होचो तथा पहिलो सिन्दुरे रोग अवरोधी स्थानीय उत्कृष्ट जातहरू छनौट गरिएको छ । यी जातहरूलाई अबै व्यापक रूपमा कृषकको खेतबारीमा थप परीक्षण गरी सिफारिस गरेमा उवाको उत्पादकत्व बढाउन सकिन्छ ।

INTRODUCTION

Barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) belongs to the genus *Hordeum* in the *Triticaceae* of *Gramineae* family. It is self-pollinated diploid $2n=14$. It is the fourth important cereal crop after wheat, maize and rice in the world (Akar et al 2009; Kandel et al 2019). There are two distinct forms of cultivated barley. The commonly grown barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) has intact husk cover of the caryopsis and the other form, known as naked or hullless barley (*Hordeum vulgare* var. *nudum* L.), has loose husk cover,

which is easily separable upon threshing (Pandey et al 2009). This characteristic is controlled by a single gene locus ‘*nud*’, the mutation of which occurred after domestication (Taketa et al 2008). Barley has historically been the prevalent cereal grown in marginal agricultural areas (Zohary and Hopf 2000) but the hullless barley cultivation is less common worldwide (Pandey et al 2009). Today, only a tiny fraction of world barley production is used directly for human consumption. It is usually grown either on land unsuitable for wheat cultivation, or where barley is preferred for cultural reasons (Fischbeck 2003). There is renewed interest in using naked barley as a component of human diets in western countries, arising from potential health benefits related to β -glucan content (Wood 2002) and low glycemic load (Foster-Powell et al 2002). In comparison to wheat, barley contains between four and six times the levels of minerals such as calcium, magnesium, and potassium and ten times more iron (Ragaei et al 2006). Barley also has lower agronomic input requirements than wheat (Cross and Edwards-Jones 2006).

Naked barley is a traditional, culturally important, climate-resilient and highly nutritious winter cereal crop of the high mountainous region of Nepal (Ghimire et al 2019, Yadav et al 2018). The barley landraces from the Himalayas, particularly from the highlands of Nepal, share a significant part of world barley germplasm resources (Valkoun and Konopka 2004, Joshi et al 2017). In the highlands, its flour is mostly consumed as *Satu* (Flour prepared from roasted barley grains which can be eaten as it is and/or can be used in several cuisines), flat breads, dumplings and *Thukpa* (Tibetan noodle soup) and also mixed with flour of other crops like wheat, buckwheat and finger millet. Additionally, a special traditional fermented drink *Chhyang* and distilled liquor are prepared from the grains for different cultural and religious occasions by Lama and Sherpa tribes residing in mountainous region of Nepal (Gurung et al 2017, Palikhey et al 2017, Parajuli et al 2017, Pudasaini et al 2017). Yadav et al (2018) also found that the Shannon-Weaver diversity index (H') of naked barley ranged from 0.32 to 0.99 with a mean value of 0.73, inferring tremendous diversity in the collection for the qualitative traits. Pandey et al (2009) evaluated hullless barley landraces of Nepal for resistance to Barley mild mosaic virus (BaYMV), powdery mildew and leaf rust and stated hullless barley germplasm of Nepal can be considered important source of resistance to BaYMV and powdery mildew but none of the genotypes show resistance to *Puccinia hordei*.

The crop is affected by many fungal, bacterial and viral diseases and amongst them the stripe rust (*Puccinia striiformis* f. sp. *hordei*) is the most important one (Selvakumar et al 2015) and occurred in Europe and Asia for many years and severe epidemics of the disease have been reported in north-western and central European countries, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, China and Japan (Chen et al 1995) with the yield losses of 30–70% (Dubin and Stubbs 1986). The highest grain yield loss of a susceptible barley cultivar was found to be 72% in the US (Marshall and Sutton 1995) and stripe rust greatly reduces malting quality (Line 2002).

Genetic variability of naked barley genotypes is necessary for its genetic improvement and landraces are more diverse than modern varieties for a number of traits (Joshi et al 2019). The knowledge on naked barley genetic variability and its potential yield as well as yield associate traits is important for further its use in breeding programs. Therefore, we conducted this research as a pre-breeding activity of genebank accessions with the objective of identifying high yielding and stripe rust resistant naked barley landraces for hills of Nepal.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant materials and site description

This study used 20 naked barley genotypes including 19 landraces collected from 13 different districts of Nepal (Figure 1) and a released variety *Solu Uwa* as a check (Table 1 (Joshi et al 2017b for detail of *Solu Uwa*). These genotypes were selected based on their performance during preliminary characterization at Genebank, Khumaltar. The research field of National Agriculture Genetic Resource Centre is located at an altitude of 1368 m, latitude of 27°40'N and longitude of 085°20'E (Genebank, 2018). Soil type of the experimental blocks was black and loamy (Ghimire and Magar 2017, Ghimire et al 2013).

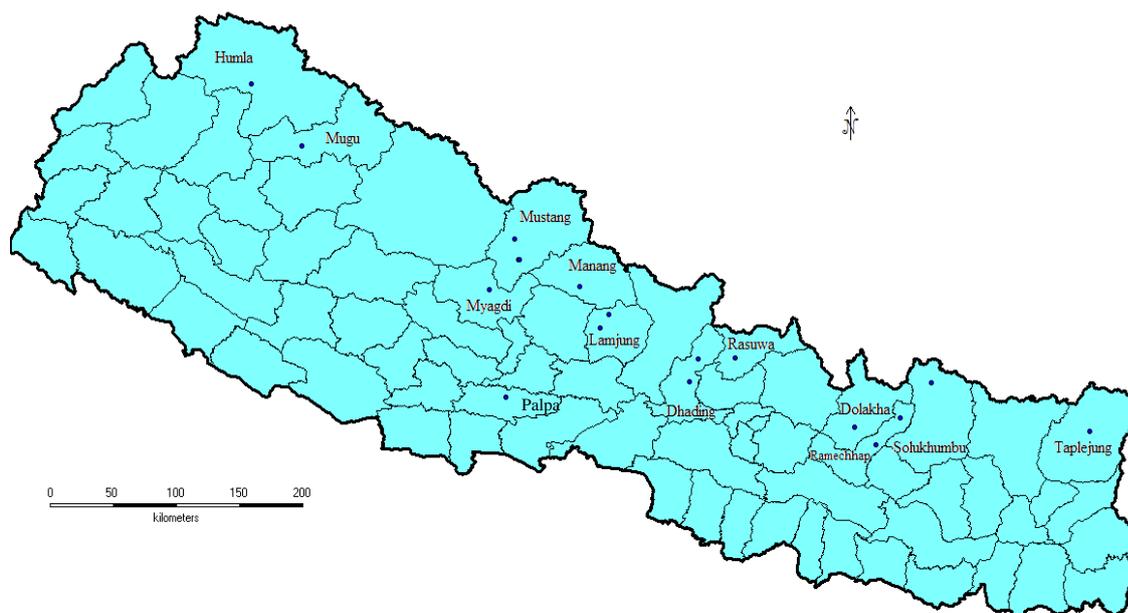


Figure 1. Map of Nepal showing collection sites of test landraces.

Table 1. Detail of landraces evaluated in Khumaltar during winter of 2016 and 2017

SN	Accession no	Local name	Collection district	Altitude (m)
1	NGRC00837	Karu	Palpa	780
2	NGRC00886	Karu	Myagdi, Chitre	2300
3	NGRC02306	Uwa	Mustang, Chhoser	3800
4	NGRC02309	Uwa	Solukhumbu, Janshesi	2670
5	NGRC02312	Uwa	Dhading, Khadin	2200
6	NGRC02318	Uwa	Taplejung, Tanku	1900
7	NGRC02350	Magheuwa	Ramechhap, Sano balding	2100
8	NGRC02357	Kalouwa	Mustang, Jarkot	3353
9	NGRC02363	Kalouwa	Rasuwa, Chilime	2043
10	NGRC04003	Jau	Mustang, Dhumba	2800
11	NGRC04894	Jau	Humla, Danda Phaya	3500
12	NGRC04902	Local Uwa	Manang, Pisang	3697
13	NGRC04903	JhuseUwa	Mugu, Kartikswarda	2200
14	NGRC06024	Uwa	Mustang, Marpha	2695
15	NGRC06026	Jau	Mustang, Khionga	2690
16	NGRC06034	Uwa	Dhading, Jharlang	1085
17	NGRC06036	Local Uwa	Ramechhap, Gumdel	2500
18	NGRC06042	Uwa	Lamjung, Taghring	2713
19	NGRC06043	Local Uwa	Lamjung, Ghanapokhara	1741
20	<i>Solu Uwa</i>	Released check	Dolakha, Mainapokhari	1740

Field experiments

The experiments were conducted in a randomized complete block design (RCBD) with 3 replications during 2016/17 and 2017/18 at NAGRC Khumaltar, Lalitpur. Sowing was done on November 24 and December 6 during 2016 and 2017 respectively. Each entry was sown continuously in eight rows of 3 m length with distance of 25 cm between rows. The field was fertilized with Organic manure at the rate of 6 t/ha during land preparation and NPK at the rate of 100:50:0 kg/ha supplied from DAP and Urea during sowing time as a basal application. Weeding was done as per required at the field and irrigation was done at critical stage of irrigation i.e. tillering, bolting and flowering stage. Five plants were randomly selected in each plot and tagged in an advance for the convenience of recording observations.

Data collection and data analysis

Agronomic characteristics such as days to heading and maturity, plant height (cm), number of grains per spike, number of spikes per m², thousand kernel weight (g) and grain yield (kg/ha) were recorded following IPGRI descriptors (IPGRI 1994). Thousand kernel weight and grain yield were recorded after sun-drying in gram per plot and later extrapolated to kilogram (kg) per hectare.

Percent yellow rust diseases severity was recorded before crop maturity to the modified Cobb's scale (Peterson et al. 1948) and reaction based on Roelfs et al (1992). Coefficient of infection (CI) was calculated by multiplying of diseases severity (DS) and constant values of infection type (IF). The constant values for infection types were used based on: R ¼ 0.1, MR ¼ 0.25, M ¼ 0.5, MS ¼ 0.75 and S ¼ 1 (Pathan and Park 2006).

Statistical analysis of data for yield components and average coefficient of infection (ACI) carried out by MSTAT-C software version 1.3 (computer-based statistical software developed by the crop and Soil Sciences, Department of Michigan State University, USA). Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed using General Linear Model (Gomez and Gomez 1984) and comparison of genotypes was made based on Duncan's multiple range tests at 5% level of significance (Duncan 1955, Shrestha 2019).

RESULTS

ANOVA was performed for days to heading and maturity, plant height, number of grains per spike; number of spikes per m², 1000 kernel weight (TKW), grain yield and average coefficient of infection (ACI) for yellow rust of 20 tested genotypes for two years as well as combined over years.

Very highly significant differences ($p < 0.0001$) were observed among tested landraces for days to heading and maturity in 2016 and 2017 (Table 2). Very highly significant differences ($p < 0.001$) were found among tested landraces for plant height in 2016 but non-significant in 2017 (Table 3). Likewise, Average coefficient of infection for yellow rust was found very highly significant ($p < 0.0001$) different among tested landraces in both years (Table 3). Highly significant differences ($p < 0.001$) were observed among tested landraces for spikes per m² in 2016 but non-significant in 2017 and Very highly significant were found in grains per spike among the tested genotypes in both years (Table 4). TKW and grain yield were found very highly significant differences ($p < 0.0001$) among tested landraces in both years (Table 4).

Combined over year data showed very highly significant differences for days to heading ($p < 0.0001$), days to maturity ($p < 0.0001$) (Table 2), ACI value for yellow rust ($p < 0.0001$) (Table-3), grains per spike ($p < 0.0001$) (Table 4), TKW ($p < 0.001$) and grain yield ($p < 0.0001$) (Table 5) where only significant difference between tested genotypes found in plant height ($p < 0.01$) (Table 3) and highly significant different between tested genotypes found in spikes per m² ($p < 0.001$) (Table 4).

Landraces NGRC06034 and NGRC02363 were found the earliest for heading and maturity respectively. Plant height of landraces NGRC02306 and NGRC02312 were found the shortest and longest respectively among the tested genotypes. Genotypes NGRC00837 was found significantly lower ACI value than check variety, *Solu Uwa* (8.03). Grains per spike of ten out of twenty tested landraces were found higher than overall mean (58.56), TKW (g) and grain yield (t/ha) of twelve out of twenty tested landraces were found higher than overall mean (38.11 g) and (2.81 t/ha) respectively. Grain yield of landraces NGRC4902 (3.46 t/ha), NGRC00886 (3.28 t/ha), NGRC02309 (3.21 t/ha) were found at par but higher than check variety *Solu Uwa* (3.15 t/ha).

Genotype \times year (G \times E) interaction was non-significant for days to heading (Table 2), days to maturity (Table 2), plant height (Table 3), grain per spikes (Table 4), spikes per m² (Table 4) TKW (Table 5) and grain yield (Table 5) but significant different for average coefficient of infection (ACI) for yellow rust (Table 3) among the year. Yield and yield attributing traits differed significantly with each other in the tested years but non-significant interaction between genotypes and growing years indicated the stable performance of tested genotypes.

Table 2. Mean days to heading and maturity of naked barley landraces over the year

Genotype	Days to heading			Days to maturity		
	2016	2017	Combined	2016	2017	Combined
NGRC00837	93.33 ^{ij}	86.67 ^j	90.00 ^{kl}	133.7 ^f	131.3 ^{efg}	132.5 ^{ijk}
NGRC00886	91.33 ^{jk}	88.33 ^{ij}	89.83 ^{kl}	135.0 ^{ef}	134.0 ^{de}	134.5 ^{hi}
NGRC02306	99.00 ^{de}	93.33 ^{ef}	96.17 ^d	146.3 ^b	144.0 ^{ab}	145.2 ^{bc}
NGRC02309	101.00 ^{cd}	98.00 ^{bc}	99.50 ^{bc}	144.0 ^{bc}	136.3 ^d	140.2 ^{def}
NGRC02312	97.33 ^{ef}	92.67 ^{ef}	95.00 ^{de}	143.0 ^{bcd}	135.7 ^d	139.3 ^{efg}
NGRC02318	96.33 ^{fg}	92.00 ^{fg}	94.17 ^{efg}	140.7 ^{cd}	136.0 ^d	138.3 ^{dg}
NGRC02350	94.67 ^{ghi}	90.00 ^{ghi}	92.33 ^{hij}	135.0 ^{ef}	132.7 ^e	133.8 ^{ij}
NGRC02357	105.3 ^{ab}	102.0 ^a	103.7 ^a	151.3 ^a	146.7 ^a	149.0 ^a
NGRC02363	96.00 ^{fgh}	90.33 ^{ghi}	93.17 ^{fgh}	132.7 ^f	129.0 ^g	130.8 ^k
NGRC04003	101.7 ^c	96.00 ^{cd}	98.83 ^c	146.3 ^b	136.3 ^d	141.3 ^{de}
NGRC04894	107.0 ^a	102.00 ^a	104.5 ^a	146.3 ^b	146.0 ^{ab}	146.2 ^b
NGRC04902	96.00 ^{fgh}	93.00 ^{ef}	94.50 ^{def}	146.3 ^b	143.3 ^b	144.8 ^{bc}
NGRC04903	92.33 ^{ij}	89.33 ^{hi}	90.83 ^{jk}	133.3 ^f	132.3 ^{ef}	132.8 ^{ijk}
NGRC06024	103.0 ^{bc}	98.67 ^b	100.8 ^b	145.0 ^{bc}	145.0 ^{ab}	145.0 ^{bc}
NGRC06026	96.00 ^{fgh}	94.33 ^{de}	95.17 ^{de}	145.7 ^b	139.3 ^c	142.5 ^{cd}
NGRC06034	88.33 ^l	84.00 ^k	86.17 ^m	133.7 ^f	129.7 ^{fg}	131.7 ^{jk}
NGRC06036	93.67 ^{hij}	88.33 ^{ij}	91.00 ^{ijk}	135.3 ^{ef}	132.7 ^e	134.0 ^{ij}
NGRC06042	94.00 ^{ghi}	91.33 ^{fgh}	92.67 ^{ghi}	133.7 ^f	132.3 ^{ef}	133.0 ^{ijk}
NGRC06043	96.00 ^{fgh}	92.00 ^{fg}	94.00 ^{efgh}	138.7 ^{de}	135.7 ^d	137.2 ^{gh}
<i>Solu Uwa</i>	89.33 ^{kl}	88.67 ^{ij}	89.00 ^l	135.0 ^{ef}	132.0 ^{ef}	133.5 ^{ijk}
P value	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001
P value year×genotype			0.103			0.05
LSD (0.05)	2.639	2.241	1.703	4.586	2.906	2.671
CV, %	1.65	1.46	1.57	1.98	1.29	1.68

Table 3. Mean plant height and average coefficient of infection of naked barley landraces over the year

Genotype	Plant height (cm)			Yellow rust (ACI)		
	2016	2017	Combined	2016	2017	Combined
NGRC00837	112.9 ^{ef}	91.88 ^b	104.4 ^{bc}	2.06 ^e	2.94 ^{efgh}	1.86 ^e
NGRC00886	113.4 ^{de}	110.9 ^b	112.2 ^{bc}	48.91 ^a	24.28 ^{abc}	34.16 ^{ab}
NGRC02306	98.47 ^k	90.25 ^b	94.36 ^c	13.07 ^{cd}	1.77 ^{fgh}	4.99 ^{de}
NGRC02309	123.5 ^a	100.0 ^b	111.8 ^{bc}	32.46 ^{abc}	14.96 ^{abcde}	21.87 ^{bc}
NGRC02312	116.6 ^{bc}	175.1 ^a	145.8 ^a	87.36 ^a	39.45 ^a	58.15 ^a
NGRC02318	103.1 ^{ij}	91.53 ^b	97.33 ^{bc}	64.68 ^a	35.60 ^a	57.56 ^a
NGRC02350	120.9 ^a	114.0 ^b	117.5 ^b	58.56 ^a	25.31 ^{abc}	38.25 ^{ab}
NGRC02357	117.2 ^b	101.3 ^b	109.3 ^{bc}	7.17 ^d	5.55 ^{cdefg}	5.82 ^{de}
NGRC02363	108.9 ^g	105.4 ^b	107.1 ^{bc}	56.83 ^a	13.59 ^{abcde}	27.79 ^{ab}
NGRC04003	107.1 ^{gh}	98.85 ^b	103.0 ^{bc}	76.71 ^a	10.36 ^{abcdef}	28.37 ^{ab}
NGRC04894	107.6 ^{gh}	88.91 ^b	98.26 ^{bc}	50.91 ^a	0.77 ^{gh}	8.49 ^{cd}
NGRC04902	114.3 ^{bcd}	105.8 ^b	110.0 ^{bc}	78.26 ^a	12.33 ^a	52.52 ^{ab}
NGRC04903	113.7 ^{cde}	102.5 ^b	108.1 ^{bc}	46.06 ^{ab}	17.92 ^{abcd}	28.67 ^{ab}
NGRC06024	105.2 ^{hi}	95.77 ^b	100.5 ^{bc}	15.03 ^{bcd}	000 ^h	2.86 ^{de}
NGRC06026	109.9 ^{fg}	89.11 ^b	99.49 ^{bc}	8.76 ^d	4.81 ^{defg}	6.17 ^d
NGRC06034	121.5 ^a	115.1 ^b	118.3 ^b	62.80 ^a	29.57 ^{ab}	42.82 ^{ab}
NGRC06036	117.3 ^b	112.9 ^b	115.1 ^{bc}	79.04 ^a	26.94 ^{abc}	45.99 ^{ab}
NGRC06042	116.3 ^{bcd}	108.2 ^b	112.3 ^{bc}	52.98 ^a	42.38 ^a	46.94 ^{ab}
NGRC06043	101.3 ^{jk}	93.94 ^b	97.64 ^{bc}	45.15 ^{ab}	33.12 ^a	38.25 ^{ab}
<i>Solu Uwa</i>	121.0 ^a	95.90 ^b	108.5 ^{bc}	10.80 ^{cd}	6.61 ^{bcd}	8.03 ^d
P value	<0.0001	0.17	0.02	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001
P value year×genotype			0.34			0.019
LSD (0.05)	3.14	44.91	22.68	3.07	3.32	1.48
CV, %	5.59	26.03	18.19	19.50	34.82	26.18

Table 4. Mean spikes per m² and grain per spikes of naked barley landraces over the year

Genotype	Spikes/per			Grain/spike, n		
	2016	2017	Combined	2016	2017	Combined
NGRC00837	183.7 ^{abc}	244.7 ^{abc}	214.2 ^{abcdef}	64.80 ^{bc}	56.27 ^{cdef}	60.53 ^c
NGRC00886	143.7 ^{cdefg}	306.7 ^{ab}	225.2 ^{abcde}	61.47 ^{cdef}	58.20 ^{bcd}	59.83 ^c
NGRC02306	144.7 ^{cdefg}	175.7 ^c	160.2 ^{fg}	57.20 ^{def}	49.60 ^{fgh}	53.40 ^{EF}
NGRC02309	206.0 ^a	297.3 ^{ab}	251.7 ^a	63.67 ^{bcd}	58.13 ^{bcd}	60.90 ^C
NGRC02312	142.3 ^{cdefg}	237.7 ^{abc}	190.0 ^{bcddefg}	78.60 ^a	71.60 ^a	75.10 ^A
NGRC02318	145.7 ^{cdefg}	219.0 ^{abc}	182.3 ^{cdefg}	70.13 ^b	64.73 ^{ab}	67.43 ^b
NGRC02350	118.7 ^g	169.7 ^c	144.2 ^g	56.20 ^{ef}	59.67 ^{bcd}	57.93 ^{cde}
NGRC02357	179.0 ^{abcd}	322.7 ^a	150.8 ^g	56.73 ^{def}	47.93 ^{gh}	52.33 ^f
NGRC02363	125.0 ^{fg}	216.7 ^{abc}	170.8 ^{efg}	63.60 ^{bcd}	55.00 ^{cdefg}	59.30 ^{cd}
NGRC04003	169.7 ^{abcdef}	214.7 ^{abc}	192.2 ^{bcddefg}	58.67 ^{cdef}	56.53 ^{cdef}	57.60 ^{cde}
NGRC04894	180.7 ^{abcd}	176.7 ^c	178.7 ^{cdefg}	55.53 ^f	44.60 ^h	49.90 ^f
NGRC04902	161.3 ^{bcdef}	319.3 ^{ab}	240.3 ^{abc}	55.53 ^f	53.40 ^{cdefg}	54.47 ^{def}
NGRC04903	150.7 ^{cdefg}	217.3 ^{abc}	184.0 ^{cdefg}	63.40 ^{bcd}	60.80 ^{bc}	62.10 ^c
NGRC06024	166.0 ^{abcdef}	302.0 ^{ab}	234.0 ^{abcd}	56.40 ^{ef}	44.40 ^h	50.40 ^f
NGRC06026	148.7 ^{cdefg}	317.7 ^{ab}	233.2 ^{abcd}	55.67 ^f	53.27 ^{cdefg}	54.47 ^{def}
NGRC06034	147.3 ^{cdefg}	249.3 ^{abc}	198.3 ^{abcdefg}	63.53 ^{bcd}	55.87 ^{cdef}	59.70 ^c
NGRC06036	131.7 ^{efg}	200.3 ^{bc}	166.0 ^{fg}	59.87 ^{cdef}	57.93 ^{bcd}	58.90 ^{cd}
NGRC06042	197.3 ^{ab}	323.3 ^a	160.3 ^{fg}	64.93 ^{bc}	50.27 ^{efgh}	57.60 ^{cde}
NGRC06043	129.7 ^{efg}	223.7 ^{abc}	176.7 ^{efg}	58.53 ^{cdef}	56.93 ^{56.93}	57.73 ^{cde}
<i>Solu Uwa</i>	166.3 ^{abcdef}	319.3 ^{ab}	242.0 ^{ab}	62.80 ^{cde}	56.33 ^{cdef}	59.57 ^c
P value	0.024	0.06	0.029	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001
P value			0.38			0.12
year×genotype						
LSD (0.05)	41.04	119.3	56.50	6.965	7.248	4.945
CV, %	15.82	28.57	26.36	6.87	7.89	7.36

Table 5. Mean TKW and grain yield of naked barley landraces over the years

Genotype	TKW (g)			Grain yield (t/ha)		
	2016	2017	Combined	2016	2017	Combined
NGRC00837	31.89 ^{gh}	32.93 ^h	32.41 ^{hi}	2.30 ^{bcde}	3.35 ^{bc}	2.82 ^{bcddefghi}
NGRC00886	37.99 ^{bcd}	40.60 ^{cdef}	39.30 ^{de}	2.23 ^{bcdef}	4.33 ^a	3.28 ^{ab}
NGRC02306	42.44 ^a	43.60 ^{abcd}	43.02 ^{ab}	2.28 ^{bcdef}	3.29 ^{bc}	2.78 ^{bcddefghi}
NGRC02309	36.34 ^{def}	37.33 ^{fg}	36.84 ^{ef}	2.60 ^{abc}	3.83 ^{ab}	3.21 ^{abc}
NGRC02312	27.95 ⁱ	33.63 ^{gh}	30.79 ⁱ	1.64 ^f	3.29 ^{bc}	2.47 ^{efghi}
NGRC02318	33.67 ^{fgh}	34.13 ^{gh}	33.90 ^{gh}	1.97 ^{cdef}	3.40 ^{bc}	2.69 ^{cdefghi}
NGRC02350	37.99 ^{bcd}	42.50 ^{cde}	40.25 ^{cd}	1.72 ^{ef}	2.87 ^c	2.29 ⁱ
NGRC02357	39.99 ^{abc}	44.20 ^{abc}	42.09 ^{bc}	2.68 ^{ab}	3.09 ^{bc}	2.89 ^{bcddef}
NGRC02363	37.14 ^{cde}	40.53 ^{cdef}	38.84 ^{de}	1.73 ^{ef}	2.91 ^c	2.32 ^{ghi}
NGRC04003	34.60 ^{efg}	41.87 ^{cde}	38.24 ^{def}	1.72 ^{ef}	2.89 ^c	2.30 ^{hi}
NGRC04894	40.43 ^{ab}	47.07 ^{ab}	43.75 ^{ab}	2.66 ^{ab}	3.36 ^{bc}	3.01 ^{abcde}
NGRC04902	42.73 ^a	47.40 ^a	45.06 ^a	3.11 ^a	3.81 ^{ab}	3.46 ^a
NGRC04903	36.64 ^{de}	38.97 ^{ef}	37.80 ^{def}	2.28 ^{bcdef}	3.63 ^{abc}	2.96 ^{abcde}
NGRC06024	42.59 ^a	43.33 ^{abcde}	42.96 ^{ab}	2.38 ^{bcd}	3.32 ^{bc}	2.85 ^{bcddefg}
NGRC06026	37.91 ^{bcd}	42.67 ^{cde}	40.29 ^{cd}	2.52 ^{abc}	3.67 ^{abc}	3.10 ^{abcd}
NGRC06034	37.43 ^{cde}	39.77 ^{def}	38.60 ^{de}	2.36 ^{bcde}	3.33 ^{bc}	2.84 ^{bcddefgh}
NGRC06036	35.77 ^{def}	42.76 ^{bcde}	39.27 ^{de}	2.35 ^{bcde}	2.83 ^c	2.59 ^{defghi}
NGRC06042	31.04 ^h	30.83 ^h	30.94 ⁱ	2.60 ^{abc}	3.08 ^{bc}	2.84 ^{bcddefgh}
NGRC06043	31.12 ^h	32.97 ^{gh}	32.04 ^{hi}	1.76 ^{def}	2.98 ^{bc}	2.37 ^{fghi}
<i>Solu Uwa</i>	32.22 ^{gh}	39.50 ^{def}	35.86 ^{fg}	2.45 ^{bc}	3.86 ^{ab}	3.15 ^{abc}
P value	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	0.001	0.1	<0.0001
P value			0.05			0.33
year×genotype						
LSD (0.05)	2.928	4.374	2.589	0.6486	0.8993	.5454
CV, %	4.87	6.64	5.91	19.50	16.21	16.88

DISCUSSION

Landraces are populations that farmers select based on their functional traits, manage over time through a sequence of cropping seasons and become adapted to their local environment (Bajracharya et al 2012). In the crops like naked barley, farmers have very few varietal options for cultivations in their field because only one released variety that is *Solu uwa* is available to the farmers. Farmers, however, preserved and continuously cultivated naked barley landraces in their field from generation to generations. About 340 local landraces of naked barley from different locations are preserved at NAGRC conservation facility. Landraces are recognized to present a tangible crop genetic resource of actual or potential economic benefit for humankind at national, regional and global levels (Chalak et al 2015). They provide a large gene pool for future genetic improvement programs and food security (Ceccarelli 1994) and are developed during long-term traditional cultivation at the same location where they are exposed to both human selection and eco-geographic pressures (Chalak et al 2015). They are adapted to fit in the environment of their location of origin while modern cultivars are developed for high yield and seldom targeted at a particular location (Gepts and Papa 2002, Lasa et al 2001).

Variability of quantitative traits of any crop is influenced by genetic factors, environmental factors and their interaction whereas uniformity of individuals and stability of quantitative traits are major requirements for the development of improved varieties and their release. Since the preservation of broad genetic base of landraces could be much appreciated, then the study of variability of quantitative traits becomes increasingly important (Chalak et al 2015). In the present study, the most variables traits were spikes per m² (26.36%), plant height (cm) (18.19%), grain yield (t/ha) (16.18%) and grain per spike (7.36%) with respective value of 26.36%, 18.19%, 16.18% and 7.36% coefficient of variation. Such a strong variability was caused by the fact that these are complex traits, controlled by a polygenetic system and are strongly influenced by environmental factors. Chalak et al (2015) reported similar pattern of variability in barley landraces. Days to heading and days to maturity expressed the lowest variability with a coefficient of variation of 1.57 % and 1.68 % respectively and followed by thousand kernel weight (5.91%) and grain per spike (7.36 %). These results match with the findings of Singh (2011), who reported that days to heading and days to maturity were the most stable traits, whereas yield and yield components were noticed for strong phenotypic and genotypic variability about 28%.

Evaluation of landraces showed significant difference in functional traits like plant height, grain per spike, TKW, grain yield etc and also to the ACI value for yellow rust. Our study showed that naked barley genotypes NGRC04902, NGRC00886, NGRC02309 and NGRC06026 were high yielding among the tested genotypes. Ghimire et al (2019) also reported NGRC4902 and NGRC02309 as high yielding landraces in Khumaltar condition. Ghimire et al. (2019) stated landraces NGRC02306, NGRC04902 and NGRC04894 were the high yielding but NGRC04894 was found the most stable genotype with better adaptability whereas NGRC02306 and NGRC04902 were high yielding landraces adapted to high yielding environment namely Khumaltar. However, the lower yielding landrace NGRC02327 was the earliest and could be preferred by farmers as its maturity allows it to fit better in the rice based cropping system. Likewise, Yadav et al. (2018) also stated that naked barley landraces NGRC04894, Lamjung local, NGRC02306, NPGR1579, NGRC02327 and NPGR1579 exhibited morphological superiority and potentially for utilization as genitors in crop improvement programs.

In many cereal-rust patho-systems, the quantitative aspects of cultivar resistance have been described and estimated by means of average coefficient of infection (ACI) values for adult plant resistance (Broers et al 1996, Pathan and Park 2006). In our study NGRC00837 was found having the lowest ACI value of yellow rust than other tested genotypes which indicates this genotype was resistant to yellow rust diseases.

Significant responses of tested genotypes over growing years suggested the environmental influence on the expression of those traits (Adhikari et al 2018). However non significant interaction between

genotypes \times year were found on days to heading, days to maturity, plant height, grain per spikes, spike per m², TKW and grain yield, showed the stable performance among tested genotypes. In line with this findings, very similar reporting were made earlier by Jalata et al (2011). Likewise, significant interaction of genotypes \times year was found only on ACI value for yellow rust diseases, that showed variable response of genotypes to yellow rust diseases over the years. Karki and Karki (1996) has also observed that yellow rust diseases of wheat is very sensitive to environmental changes and its occurrence is not very regular.

CONCLUSIONS

The present study concluded that the presence of significant genetic variability among the tested genotypes of naked barley. We found that genotypes NGRC04902, NGRC00886, NGRC02309 and NGRC06026 were high yielding; Genotypes NGRC02363, NGRCO06034, NGRC04903 and NGRC00837 were early maturing type; and genotype NGRC00837 was yellow rust resistant among the tested genotypes and these are elite genotypes for hill agriculture. Selected elite landraces need to be tested in farmer's field in larger areas followed by variety release or registration process which would help to diversify varietal options for the farmers. Hence, utilization of these better germplasm lines with desirable characteristics ie high yielding, diseases resistant, early maturity etc. in barley improvement program will help in breaking the yield plateau.

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