



SDI FINAL EVALUATION FORM 1.1

PART 1:

Journal Name:	Journal of Experimental Agriculture International
Manuscript Number:	Ms_JEAI_31662
Title of the Manuscript:	Application of multivariate analysis to access selected rice germplasm phenotypic diversity
Type of Article:	Original Research Article

PART 2:

FINAL EVALUATOR'S comments on revised paper (if any)	Authors' response to final evaluator's comments
The statement " <i>The most important descriptions were those associated with grain yield based on the analysis of natural variability in phenotypic traits measured in rice</i> (Table 2) [line 167 – 169] is not supported by the data in Table 2. For PRIN 1, Number of panicles had the highest value of 0.40; followed by the grain yield of 0.39. In PRIN 2, Panicle dry weight had the highest value of 0.60; followed by Panicle wet weight of 0.53. I am therefore not sure of why grain yield has consistently been reported as having the most important description.	We agree with reviewer for his comments and technical expertise put in this work, but what we mean in the lines indicated by the reviewer is that there are other component traits that contributed to the high variation which is not grain yield alone in PRIN 1 (Table 2) <i>per se</i>. These traits (Number of panicle with value of 0.40, grain yield with value of 0.39, biomass wet weight with the value of 0.28, plant height with value of 0.23, panicle wet weight with value of 0.18 and other traits in PRIN 1 with a value of negative load respectively. All these traits are important yield descriptors as mentioned the manuscript because they are the traits that contributed to the high proportion with value 0.56 in PRIN 1. If the reviewer request for reword statement or otherwise we can support with further clarifications if the statement is not clear to convey message in the table for the reader.