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## Plant nutrient uptake and rice growth on marginal peat soil as affected by dolomite and NPK compound

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**Abstract** The inherent properties of the peat paddy field in Bengkulu, Indonesia, are marginal behaviour for agriculture activities due to its low fertility. The results showed that the peat soil ameliorated with dolomite had a significant impact on  $\text{Ca}_{\text{exch}}$  and  $\text{Mg}_{\text{exch}}$  in the soil, N and P uptake as well as plant attributes, such as productive rice tiller, fresh and dry straw weight, and dry rice grain weight. The applications of NPK fertiliser compounds significantly influenced total N and available P in the soil, N and P uptake by the plant, as well as the rice attributes. Soil  $\text{Ca}_{\text{exch}}$  was significantly correlated with soil pH, N, P and K uptake, as well as all rice attributes including productive rice tillers, fresh and dry straw weight, and rice grain. Soil  $\text{Mg}_{\text{exch}}$  significantly correlated with N uptake and productive rice tillers. N and P in the soil significantly correlated with N and P uptake and were highly correlated with all rice growth attributes. The rice growth and the harvested grains were increased by 10.733 kg plot<sup>-1</sup> or equal to 8.40 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> due to the amelioration of the peat paddy with 2.000 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> dolomite and the highest dose of NPK fertiliser compounds at 1.200 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>. Therefore, the marginal peat soils in Bengkulu could be potentially used for rice cultivation following the correction of their inherent properties with soil ameliorants.

**Keywords:** Dolomite, Marginal Peat Soil, NPK Compound, Paddy Cultivation

### Introduction

Lands and soils including peatlands with their characteristics and functions, are essential for providing goods and services to humans and their environment. Out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 6 describes the importance of maintaining soil productivity (Evans *et al.*, 2021). For example, SDGs 1 and 2, which include no poverty and zero hunger, are related to soil, food production, and healthy life (Chandrasekhar, 2018). Rice is a

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primary food source for most Indonesians, its production is a vital SDG-related program in the country (Widarjono, 2018; Aprillya *et al.*, 2019a).

Traditional farmers in Indonesia harvested 54.6 M tons of rice from paddy fields of 10.67 M hectares (BPS-Statistics Indonesia, 2020). However, the rice production was insufficient to meet the population's demands (Mustikarini and Santi, 2020). Furthermore, in 1984 the country achieved its first successful rice self-sufficiency, but it has relied on imports, which peaked in 2018 with a cumulative of 2.14 M tons. The continuation of paddy farming through intensification and extensification is necessary to increase rice production, and escaping import traps (Aprillya *et al.*, 2019b). Through the Ministry of Agriculture, the Indonesian government aimed to become a self-sufficient rice country, rice exporting nation, and the world's food barn by 2045 (Sa'diah and Tamimi, 2020; Sulaiman, 2018).

The increasing demand for suitable and fertile land, particularly for agricultural exported commodities such as palm oil and rubber crop, limited availability of suitable underdeveloped drylands, and the interesting potential nature of available peatlands with abundant water reserve and their flat topographical landscape (Hergoualc'h *et al.*, 2018) have led to the development of peatlands as prospective agricultural food expansion areas for rice production, ensuring national food security (Surahman *et al.*, 2018). Indonesia had ever get yields between 16 and 27 million ha (Jaya *et al.*, 2018; Page *et al.*, 2007) or approximately 20.073 million ha (Rieley *et al.*, 1996) of peaty and peat soils, which covered 43%, 32% and 25% of the total landscape in Sumatra, Kalimantan and Papua islands, respectively (Osaki *et al.*, 2016).

Marginal soils cover peatlands for agricultural expansion (Ompusunggu *et al.*, 2020), hence, proper management related to their effective development as natural resources is essential for guaranteeing environmental sustainability and ensuring food security (Dalle *et al.*, 2020). The nutrient available for cultivation and the low fertility of peat soils makes them unsuitable for rice growth without reliable and affordable amelioration techniques (Nelvia, 2014). Most peatlands in Indonesia are ombrogenous peat soil (Sahfitra *et al.*, 2020) with oligotrophic properties for agricultural development (Hikmatullah *et al.*, 2013; Wheeler and Proctor, 2000). Furthermore, the use of this soil type is accompanied by many obstacles such as pH with high acidity, low Ca Mg K content and base saturation, the toxicity of organic acid, as well as macro and micronutrient deficiency (Septiyana *et al.*, 2017; Maftu'ah and Nursyamsi, 2019).

Amendment of peat limitations for agricultural activities is an essential management strategy for improving soil fertility, including neutralising its acidity, precipitating organic acid and toxic ions, as well as boosting available

plant nutrients. The primary drawbacks of peatlands developed for agricultural activities include a highly acid soil reaction with low soil pH and a deficiency of plant nutrients, particularly macronutrients of NPK (Maftu'ah and Indrayati, 2013). The amelioration of this land with dolomite could be enhanced productivity by improving soil base saturation and significantly increasing the pH (Yulianingsing *et al.*, 2016). Furthermore, the availability of Ca and Mg in the plant growth media could be optimised by limestone treatment (Panhwar *et al.*, 2020). The recommended treatment of 315 kg urea ha<sup>-1</sup>, 35 kg SP-36 ha<sup>-1</sup>, and 90 kg KCl ha<sup>-1</sup> yielded the best available plant nutrients for the growth of rice planted on the peat tidal lowland (Aksani *et al.*, 2018). Because the fertility of peat soils varies between regions, the recommended fertiliser amount was not suitable for the distinct conditions in the various study areas.

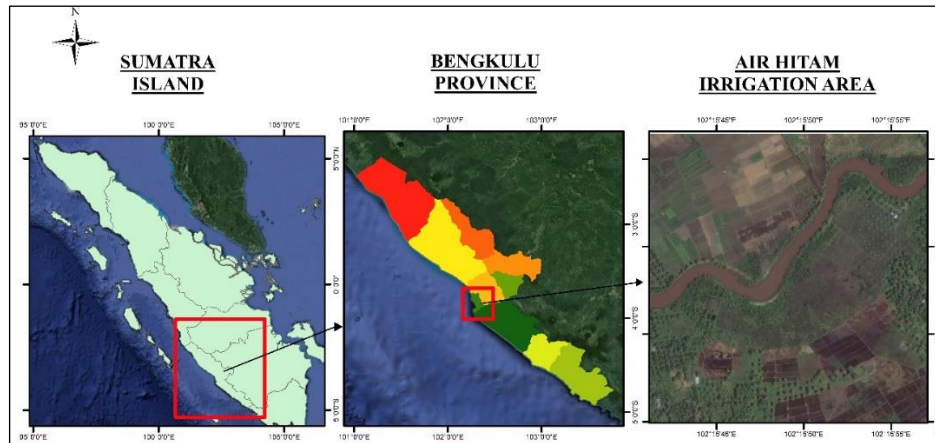
Bengkulu used to be approximately 63,000 ha (Wahyunto *et al.*, 2006), and the majority of the peatlands in this area had been irrigated with dam and channel facilities. These infrastructures of Air Manjuto, Air Alas, Air Seluma, Air Riak Siabun, Peninjauan, Penago, and Air Hitam covered areas of 9,493 ha, 4,500 ha, 7,467 ha, 1,500 ha, 1,411 ha, 1,084 ha, and 1,500 ha, respectively (Zulkarnain, 2016). Local farmers converted portions of rice fields in these irrigation zones to oil palm plantations due to low productivity and harvest failure caused by low soil fertility. The study of peat amelioration using dolomite and fertilisers applied to marginal peat soils for rice cultivation which is essential to sustain Bengkulu's staple food production.

The research aimed to determine the significant effect of dolomite and NPK compound fertilisers on nutrient (N, P, K) uptake and the growth performances of rice cultivated on infertile paddy peat soils at Air Hitam irrigated field in Bengkulu, Indonesia.

## Materials and methods

The study was conducted at the Field Research Station of the Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bengkulu, Kandang Limun, Bengkulu Province, from June to November 2021 to investigate the effect of dolomite and NPK compound fertilisers on the growth of rice cultivated on marginal peat soils. The station lies on the Air Hitam irrigation area, which covers 1,500 ha. Appropriate agroclimatic conditions and available water supply on flat landscapes within the rice irrigation area are conducive to intensive paddy cultivation activities, despite the peat's inherent properties being a limiting factor. The average rainfall is 295.8 mm month<sup>-1</sup> and there are approximately 19 rainy days in a month. Maximum and minimum daily

temperatures ranged between 32- 34 °C and 22-23 °C, respectively, with a relative humidity range of 80-88%.



**Figure 1.** Research location

The used method was a factorial in randomised complete block design (RCBD) with two factors and three replications. The first factor was the dolomite rate consisting of two levels, namely  $D_1 = 600 \text{ g plot}^{-1}$  ( $1.000 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1}$ ) and  $D_2 = 1,200 \text{ g plot}^{-1}$  ( $2.000 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1}$ ). Secondly, was NPK fertilizer compounds consisting of four levels;  $F_1 = 180 \text{ g plot}^{-1}$  ( $0.300 \text{ Mega gram, Mg ha}^{-1}$ ),  $F_2 = 360 \text{ g plot}^{-1}$  ( $0.600 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1}$ ),  $F_3 = 540 \text{ g plot}^{-1}$  ( $0.900 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1}$ ),  $F_4 = 720 \text{ g plot}^{-1}$  ( $1.200 \text{ Mg ha}^{-1}$ ), and plot control  $D_0F_0$  (without dolomite and NPK). There were 27 experimental plots, each with a  $9 \text{ m}^2$  ( $3 \text{ m} \times 3 \text{ m}$ ) planted area. The spacing was  $30 \text{ cm} \times 30 \text{ cm}$ , ensuring that each plot contained 100 rice clumps. Avoiding the border effect, the outermost plant row of each plot was eliminated from sample selection, and the distance between each block and plot was 0.5 m.

The nutrient contents of the NPK fertiliser compound were 15% N, 15% P and 15% K. Dolomite was applied 2 weeks before planting, as shown in Figure 2, while the NPK compound was administered 2 days after planting. The experiment utilised a local variety of paddy seeds, sown in a bed media close to the plot. After 2 weeks of the dolomite application, the seedlings were transferred into the plots. The field was watered when there was no rain, the rice bed experienced a lack of water, the growth media was mechanically protected from weed proliferation, and organic pesticides Phepoc HCS were used for pest and disease control. Finally, rice was harvested when the panicles started ducking, and the grain showed 90 % maturity.

The characteristics analysed in the Laboratory were soil pH H<sub>2</sub>O (1:5 soil: H<sub>2</sub>O), pH KCl (1:5 soil: 1 M KCl) (Reeuwijk, 2002), total-N (semimicro-Kjeldahl) (Lee *et al.*, 2017), available P (P-Bray I, 0,03 M NH<sub>4</sub>F + 0.025 M HCl) (Bray and Kurtz, 1945), exchangeable Ca (Ca<sub>exch</sub>) and Mg (Mg<sub>exch</sub>), and K (K<sub>exch</sub>) (1 M NH<sub>4</sub>OAc pH 7) (Hajek *et al.*, 1972). N, P, and K are nutrient uptake in the plant (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> digested conventional Kjeldahl analysis) (Thomas *et al.*, 1967).



**Figure 2.** Dolomite incubation



**Figure 3.** Early-stage growth

The rice performances were numbers of productive tillers, fresh and dry strawweight, as well as rice grain weight. The data were analysed with analysis of variance (ANOVA) at a significance level of 5%, and treatment means were compared with Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) (Gomez and Gomez, 1984) using CropStat 7.2 statistical software program. Furthermore, the correlations between the chemical properties of soil, nutrient uptakes, and rice attributes after the application of dolomite and NPK fertiliser compounds were determined using Pearson correlation analysis (Karyati *et al.*, 2018).



**Figure 4.** Productive tillers



**Figure 5.** Rice grain ripening

## Results

### *Inherent characteristics of peat*

The peat soil used for this research is 10 m above sea level, 500 m from the coastal line, and 75 cm thick. Soil acidity is classified with an average pH (H<sub>2</sub>O) of 5.93 and (KCl) of 4.86. The peat contains 0.62% total N, available P 0.866 ppm, and deficient availability for rice growth. Additionally, the K<sub>exch</sub>, Ca<sub>exch</sub>, and Mg<sub>exch</sub>, of 0.22 me 100g<sup>-1</sup>, 8.01 me 100g<sup>-1</sup>, and 0.65 me 100g<sup>-1</sup>, respectively, had low availability.

### *Significancies of anova and correlations*

Peat amelioration with dolomite had a significant impact on Ca<sub>exch</sub> (Sig. 0.044\*) and Mg<sub>exch</sub> (Sig. 0.008\*\*) in the soil, N (Sig. 0.001\*\*) and P uptake (Sig. 0.005\*\*), as well as plant attributes, such as productive rice tiller (Sig. 0.000\*\*), fresh (Sig. 0.017\*) and dry straw weight (Sig. 0.000\*\*), and dry rice grain weight (Sig. 0.000\*\*). However, it had not significantly affected on soil pH, K<sub>exch</sub>, and K uptake by the plant. The applications of NPK fertiliser compounds significantly influenced total N (Sig. 0.001\*\*) and available P (Sig. 0.022\*) in the soil, N (Sig. 0.019\*) and P (Sig. 0.000\*\*) uptake by the plant, as well as the rice attributes (Sig. 0.000\*\*). However, it did not significantly affect soil pH, K<sub>exch</sub> in the soil and the plant. The interactions between the dolomite and NPK significantly affected rice performance (Sig. 0.000\*\*) but not the soil characteristics and nutrient uptakes (Appendix 1).

The correlation between soil characteristics, N, P, K in the plant, and rice growth and yield after applying dolomite and NPK fertilisers. Ca<sub>exch</sub> were significantly correlated with pH (H<sub>2</sub>O, Sig. 0.615\*\*), pH (KCl, Sig. 0.521\*\*), N (Sig. 0.483\*), P (Sig. 0.495\*) and K uptake (Sig. 0.453\*), as well as all rice attributes including productive rice tillers (Sig. 0.464\*), fresh (Sig. 0.427\*) and dry straw weight (Sig. 0.507\*), and rice grain (Sig. 0.510\*). Meanwhile, Mg<sub>exch</sub> were significantly correlated with N uptake (Sig. 0.419\*) and productive rice tillers (Sig. 0.407\*). In general, N and P in the soil significantly correlated with their uptake and were highly correlated with all rice growth attributes. However, K<sub>exch</sub> in the soil and K uptake did not appear to contribute to rice growth (Appendix 2).

### *Soil characteristics of the ameliorated peat*

1.000 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> and 2.000 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> were neutralised the soil acidity from pH 5.93 to 6.03 and 6.14, respectively. It showed differences in soil

characteristics and nutrient uptake based on the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) due to dolomite application (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Dolomite effects on the soil characteristics

Dolomite	Soil pH		N <sup>-total</sup> (%)	P <sub>av</sub> (ppm)	K <sub>exch</sub> (me 100g <sup>-1</sup> )	Ca <sub>exch</sub> (me 100g <sup>-1</sup> )	Mg <sub>exch</sub> (me 100g <sup>-1</sup> )
	(H <sub>2</sub> O)	(KCl)					
D <sub>0</sub>	5.93	4.86	0.63	0.86	0.14	8.01 a	0.65 a
D <sub>1</sub>	6.03	4.95	0.94	5.78	0.47	10.83ab	1.05 a
D <sub>2</sub>	6.14	5.08	1.04	6.43	0.73	17.19 b	2.25 b
Sig.	0.083	0.071	0.156	0.767	0.305	0.508	1.000

Note: A number followed by the same letter in the same column means no significant difference using DMRT at 5% level of significance

Ca<sub>exch</sub> and Mg<sub>exch</sub> in the soil were become increasingly significant available to the plant root when the amount of dolomite added to the rice peat soil reached 2.000 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>. N total, available P and K<sub>exch</sub>, and also increased substantially following dolomite treatment, but the increased availability of these nutrients which had not significant affected on plant growth in the ameliorated peat soil.

The peat soil's available P and N total were increased significantly when NPK fertiliser compound were applied. The differences in soil characteristics as modified by NPK application was shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.** NPK effect on the soil characteristics

NPK	Soil pH		N <sup>-total</sup> (%)	P <sub>av</sub> (ppm)	K <sub>exch</sub> (me 100g <sup>-1</sup> )	Ca <sub>exch</sub> (me 100g <sup>-1</sup> )	Mg <sub>exch</sub> (me 100g <sup>-1</sup> )
	(H <sub>2</sub> O)	(KCl)					
F <sub>0</sub>	5.93	4.86	0.63 a	0.86 a	0.14	8.01	0.65
F <sub>1</sub>	6.03	4.95	0.71 a	2.78 ab	0.24	11.00	1.33
F <sub>2</sub>	6.05	4.95	0.78 a	5.45 b	0.27	12.33	1.52
F <sub>3</sub>	6.05	5.05	0.91 a	6.28 bc	0.69	12.80	1.81
F <sub>4</sub>	6.21	5.11	1.55 b	9.91 c	1.20	19.91	1.92
Sig.	0.177	0.082	1.000	0.306	0.097	0.095	0.102

Note: A number followed by the same letter in the same column means no significant difference using DMRT at 5% level of significance

N total and available P in the soil were increased with the dose of NPK applied. The highest dose of peat soil NPK fertiliser, F<sub>4</sub> with 1.200 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>, resulted in a significant increase in soil total N, while the application of 0.600 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> led to a considerable increase in available P, and followed by the application of NPK, available K in the form of K<sub>exch</sub> increased with it was not significantly differed.

### *NPK in plant*

N and P uptake increased when dolomite was applied at 2.000 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> to peat soil for rice cultivation, but the ameliorant did not significantly increase in K uptake by the plant. The differences in nutrient uptake by the rice due to the application of dolomite is shown in Table 3.

**Table 3.** Dolomite effects on the nutrient uptake by rice plant

Dolomite	N in plant	P in plant (%)	K in plant
D <sub>0</sub>	1.12a	0.24a	1.34
D <sub>1</sub>	1.99b	0.29b	2.09
D <sub>2</sub>	2.53c	0.32b	2.26
Sig.	1.000	1.000	0.304

Note: A number followed by the same letter in the same column means no significant difference using DMRT at 5% level of significance

The doses of NPK fertiliser enhanced soil N and P levels along with rice absorption of N and P, but these fertiliser doses did not significantly alter the plant's uptake of K due to low soil K<sub>exch</sub> levels. The differences in N, P, K uptake as a function of the doses of NPK fertiliser is shown in Table 4.

**Table 4.** NPK applied on the N, P, K uptake by the rice plant

NPK	N in plant	P in plant (%)	K in plant
F <sub>0</sub>	1.12 a	0.24 a	1.34
F <sub>1</sub>	1.92 b	0.26 ab	2.08
F <sub>2</sub>	2.21 bc	0.28 b	2.14
F <sub>3</sub>	2.36 bc	0.33 c	2.16
F <sub>4</sub>	2.57 c	0.35 c	2.33
Sig.	1.000	0.346	0.213

Note: A number followed by the same letter in the same column means no significant difference using DMRT at 5% level of significance

A significant increase in soil N and P, which was affected by the doses of the NPK added, N and P uptakes were affected by the rice plants. Meanwhile, K uptake by the rice showed no significant differences between doses of NPK, and there was no substantial K<sub>exch</sub> in the soils. N and P uptake by the plant were significantly affected when 0.300 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> and 0.600 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> of NPK compound fertiliser were added, respectively.

### *Rice growth and yield*

Rice growth and yields were responded by addition of dolomite and NPK fertilisers, and these two treatments significantly influenced the plant's



performance. Furthermore, they increased when the soil was ameliorated with dolomite and NPK fertilisers at the lowest dose. The rice growths and yields influenced by the interaction between dolomite and NPK fertilisers is shown in Table 5.

Rice growth and yield were inhibited when the peat paddy field was not amended with dolomite and fertilisers. The plant produced only 6.740 kg plot<sup>-1</sup> of biomass which corresponded to 7,488.89 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> and harvested grain of 3.366 kg plot<sup>-1</sup>, which corresponded to 3.740 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>. The rice biomass production and grain harvested were 16.246 kg plot<sup>-1</sup>, and 10.733 kg plot<sup>-1</sup> when the peat soil was ameliorated with 1,200 g plot<sup>-1</sup> dolomite and 1,200 g plot<sup>-1</sup> NPK compound.

**Table 5.** Interaction dolomite and NPK fertiliser to rice performances

Dolomite*NPK	Fresh Straw Weigh (kg plot <sup>-1</sup> )	Dry Straw Weight (kg plot <sup>-1</sup> )	Productive Tiller (Stem clump <sup>-1</sup> )	Dry Grain Weight (kg plot <sup>-1</sup> )
D <sub>0</sub> F <sub>0</sub>	21.586 a	6.740 a	10.8 a	3.366 a
D <sub>1</sub> F <sub>1</sub>	23.953 b	8.046 b	14.9 b	4.266 b
D <sub>2</sub> F <sub>1</sub>	24.493 b	8.246 bc	16.8 c	4.466 c
D <sub>1</sub> F <sub>2</sub>	25.946 c	8.453 c	17.2 c	5.353 d
D <sub>2</sub> F <sub>2</sub>	26.893 d	9.146 d	20.7 d	5.526 d
D <sub>1</sub> F <sub>3</sub>	30.580 f	10.393 e	22.7 e	6.746 e
D <sub>2</sub> F <sub>3</sub>	29.806 e	10.880 f	26.1 f	6.880 e
D <sub>1</sub> F <sub>4</sub>	32.826 g	14.326 g	26.6 f	9.506 f
D <sub>2</sub> F <sub>4</sub>	34.126 h	16.246 h	29.2 g	10.733 g
Sig.	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

Note: A number followed by the same letter in the same column means no significant difference using DMRT at 5% level of significance

## Discussion

The average peat thickness in the Air Hitam irrigation area was 75 cm therefore the peat is considered shallow (Sutejo *et al.*, 2017). The average soil pH in this location was 5.93, and much higher when comparing to previous research which closed to this area with the soil pH ranged between 4.8 and 5.2. The soil pH in this area was classified as acidic but suitable for cultivation (Hadi *et al.*, 2019). Total N content in soil was 0.63% and it was classified with high content, but only a small amount of it was present in the plant as ammonium or nitrate (Saidy, 2002). Furthermore, the low concentration of inorganic nitrogen in tropical peatlands results from the slow rate of N mineralisation and immobilisation or denitrification. Peat soil's chemical limiting factors were low nutrient content for plant growth (Purnomo and Subiksa, 2021).

The soil in this location was categorized an acid soil therefore in order to provide suitable plant growth media, the soil needed the application of lime in this case the dolomite application to raise the soil pH. The application of dolomite up to 2.000 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> raised soil pH to 6.16. The peat soil pH in rice fields was below 6.0 required the application of lime as an ameliorant for neutralising acidic soil limited the dolomite from 2.600 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> to 5.490 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> (Gultom and Mardaleni, 2017).

The application of the dolomite significantly affected the Ca<sub>exch</sub> and Mg<sub>exch</sub> in the soil which the 2.000 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> of dolomite increased the Ca<sub>exch</sub> from 8.01 meq 100g<sup>-1</sup> to 17.19 meq 100g<sup>-1</sup> and Mg<sub>exch</sub> from 0.65 meq 100 g<sup>-1</sup> to 2.25 meq 100 g<sup>-1</sup>. Dolomite was an effective ameliorant for pH enhancement and increased Ca and Mg in paddy peat soils (Saputra and Sari, 2021). The fertility in peatlands with low pH could be managed by applying ameliorant in the form of lime at a dose of 3 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> to increase soil pH (Waramui *et al.*, 2019). Furthermore, peat lands issues can be overcome using agricultural lime combined with inorganic fertilisers to improve the condition and increase pH as well as the availability of nutrients in the soil, hence, accelerating soil health and plant yield. Furthermore, the application of dolomite with 1.000 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> was significantly affected N and P uptake to 1.99% and 0.29% comparing to no dolomite application, 1.12% and 0.24%, respectively. Liming with dolomite increases plant root proliferation by mitigating the toxic effects of soil elements, thereby increasing the nutrient uptake of N, P and K (Chang and Sung, 2004).

The increased doses of NPK compound were followed by the increased N and P in the soil, however the significantly increased of N in the soil when the highest doses of 1.200 Mg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup> and the significantly increased of P in the soil when the dose of 0.600 Mg NPK ha<sup>-1</sup> applied. While, N uptake increased significantly when the application of NPK was 0.300 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> and P uptake when the application of NPK 0.600 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>. The varying implementations of N, P, and K fertiliser compounds significantly affected the nutritional uptake (Gewaily *et al.*, 2018). The concentrations determined plant nutrient uptake in soils and dry biomass harvested (Kihanda *et al.*, 1998). Furthermore, the nutrient absorption through plant roots was determined by the ionic forms in the rhizosphere, which were affected by soil acidity and nutrient concentrations as well as interactions in the soil solution. Dolomite and NPK applications enhanced the availability of N, P, and K, which the crop could ultimately absorb due to the reduced soil acidity.

The application of dolomite together with the application of NPK compound were significantly affected the rice growth and yields. When each of these treatments was increased, the rice growth and yields raised significantly.

Dolomite application as a liming practice on acidic soils improved soil behaviours and increased crop yields (Mansingh *et al.*, 2019). Furthermore, its application as an ameliorant increases the number of productive tillers and grain and straw yield of rice. When paddy is grown in marginal soils, the fertilisers provided as a source of nutrients play a crucial role in enhancing harvested productivity, particularly N, P, and K as the principal macronutrients for plant growth and rice yields (Kaushik and Djiwanti, 2017). These components performed better when the paddy cultivation media was treated with the NPK fertilisers. This fertiliser added in optimum quantities to rice fields generated high grain, and a deficiency of either nutrient leads to yield losses (Masni and Wasli, 2019). Marginal soils require more NPK fertiliser to mitigate the low fertility status. Its doses of more than 0.480 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> could improve rice growth (Paiman *et al.*, 2021). Adding the N, P, and K fertilisers provided vigorous growth in rice cultivation (Wu *et al.*, 1998). This crop's better growth and yield performances could be attributed to the neutralisation of soil pH during liming, the related improvement in nutrient availability, and many other characteristics of soil fertility (Kumar *et al.*, 2012).

The peat paddy field in Bengkulu is categorised as a marginal soil with low pH and nutrient content for rice growth. Furthermore, the dolomite and NPK fertilisers applied ameliorated its behaviour. The dolomite neutralised soil pH, increased Ca<sub>exch</sub>, Mg<sub>exch</sub>, N and P uptake, rice growth, and yield. The application of NPK fertiliser compound increases N and P in the paddy soil and significantly affects rice growth and yield. Amelioration recommended for the peat for paddy cultivation in Bengkulu was 2.000 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> dolomite and NPK fertiliser compounds at a high dose of 1.200 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup> because based on this research this recommendation promoted rice growth and grain harvested to approximately 8.4 Mg ha<sup>-1</sup>.

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**Appendix 1.** Summary F calc. from analysis of variance

Attributes	Dolomite		NPK Compound		Interaction	
	F calc.	Sig.	F calc.	Sig.	F calc.	Sig.
pH H <sub>2</sub> O	1.972	0.182	1.256	0.327	0.758	0.536
pH KCl	2.465	0.139	0.928	0.455	0.462	0.713
P-Bray (ppm)	0.215	0.650	4.409	0.022*	0.255	0.856
N (%)	0.683	0.422	9.934	0.001**	2.378	0.114
K <sub>exch</sub> (meq 100 g <sup>-1</sup> )	0.372	0.552	1.208	0.343	0.178	0.910
Ca <sub>exch</sub> (meq 100 g <sup>-1</sup> )	4.915	0.044*	1.955	0.167	0.936	0.450
Mg <sub>exch</sub> (meq 100 g <sup>-1</sup> )	9.671	0.008**	0.478	0.703	0.041	0.988
N in plant (%)	18.115	0.001**	4.593	0.019*	0.226	0.877
P in plant (%)	11.158	0.005**	14.473	0.000**	0.682	0.578
K in plant (%)	2.017	0.177	0.841	0.494	0.455	0.718
Productive tiller clump <sup>-1</sup> (stem)	714.841	0.000**	2605.616	0.000**	13.621	0.000**
Fresh straw weight (kg plot <sup>-1</sup> )	7.295	0.017*	482.112	0.000**	5.909	0.008**
Dry straw weight (kg plot <sup>-1</sup> )	174.644	0.000**	2665.985	0.000**	36.809	0.000**
Dry grain weight (kg plot <sup>-1</sup> )	70.701	0.000**	2175.551	0.000**	25.453	0.000**

**Appendix 2.** Correlation among soil characteristics, nutrient uptake, and rice performances

Attributes	Soil										Plant			
	pH	pH	P-Bray	Total N	Ca-exch	Mg-exch	K-exch	N Content	P content	K content	Productive tiller	Fresh straw weight	Dry straw weight	dry grain weight
	(H2O)	(KCl)	(ppm)	(%)	(me 100 g <sup>-1</sup> )	(me 100 g <sup>-1</sup> )	(me 100 g <sup>-1</sup> )	(%)	(%)	(%)	(stem clump <sup>-1</sup> )	(kg plot <sup>-1</sup> )	(kg plot <sup>-1</sup> )	(kg plot <sup>-1</sup> )
Soil pH (H2O)	1	0.826**	0.303	0.06	0.614**	0.025	0.077	0.376	0.34	0.031	0.35	0.308	0.416*	0.406*
Soil pH (KCl)		1	0.28	-0.08	0.521**	0.022	0.268	0.419*	0.470*	-0.055	0.418*	0.377	0.398	0.394
Soil P (P-Bray ppm)			1	0.490*	0.105	0.108	0.137	0.382	0.434*	0.029	0.639**	0.637**	0.648**	0.670**
Total Soil N (%)				1	0.037	0.037	0.303	0.239	0.3	0.228	0.591**	0.659**	0.685**	0.666**
Soil Ca-exch (me 100g <sup>-1</sup> )					1	0.383	0.228	0.483*	0.495*	0.453*	0.464*	0.427*	0.507*	0.510*
Soil Mg-exch (me 100g-1)						1	-0.06	0.419*	0.385	0.312	0.407*	0.253	0.288	0.281
Soil K-exch (me 100 g <sup>-1</sup> )							1	0.188	0.264	0.047	0.354	0.435*	0.396	0.381
N Content in plant (%)								1	0.636**	0.359	0.656**	0.552**	0.587**	0.568**
P content in plant (%)									1	0.382	0.863**	0.794**	0.761**	0.782**
K content in plant (%)										1	0.371	0.33	0.377	0.379
Productive tiller (stem clump <sup>-1</sup> )											1	0.958**	0.908**	0.925**
Fresh straw weight (kg plot <sup>-1</sup> )												1	0.937**	0.960**
Dry straw weight (kg plot <sup>-1</sup> )													1	0.989**
Dry grain weight (kg plot-1)														1