



Fast protocol for high frequency *in vitro* cloning of Banana (*Musa acuminata*) cv. Grande Naine

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Abstract: An investigation was conducted on Fast Protocol for High Frequency *in vitro* cloning of Banana (*Musa acuminata*) cv. Grande Naine at the Biotechnology-cum-Tissue Culture Center, OUAT, Bhubaneswar, during the year 2012. This has helped to determine the best media compositions for shoot multiplication and rooting of cv. Grande Naine, so as to get optimum results with a minimized cost of production. MS medium supplemented with 4.0 mg/1 Benzylaminopurine (BAP) and 2.0 mg/1 Kinetin gave the highest number of shoot/explants (11.33) in 30 days. However, MS medium when supplemented with 6.0 mg/1 BAP produced a maximum number of leaves (19.07) with a maximum height 2.73 cm. Among various concentrations of indole-3-acetic acid (IAA), indole-3-butyric acid (IBA) and naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA) for rooting. Half MS medium supplemented with 1.0 mg/1 IBA was found to be ideal for early rooting and producing more number of roots in 21 days. However, MS basal medium was found to be the best treatment to support the formation of long roots. This protocol can be very useful to the future research worker and as well as entrepreneurs for mass production of banana (*Musa acuminata*) cv. Grande Naine.

Keywords: *In vitro*, inoculation, *Musa acuminata*, Shoot proliferation

INTRODUCTION

Banana is the common name for herbaceous plants of the genus *Musa*. They are native to tropical South and Southeast Asia, and are likely to have been first domesticated in Papua New Guinea (Lentfer and Boyd, 2007). Today, they are cultivated throughout the tropics. They are grown in at least 107 countries, (FAO, 2005) primarily for their fruit, and to a lesser extent to make fiber, banana wine and as ornamental plants. India is the world's largest producer of Banana with 13.90 million tonnes followed by Uganda (10.14 million tonnes) (Sahoo *et al.*, 2015). Almost all modern edible parthenocarpic bananas come from two wild species -*Musa acuminata* and *Musa balbisiana*. Grande Naine bananas (also spelled Grand Nain) are banana cultivars of *Musa acuminata*. 'Grande Naine' or 'Grand Nain' literally translates from French meaning "Large Dwarf" (Randy, 2007). Unfortunately, expansion of banana production is frequently limited by costly high quality planting materials. The farmer produced suckers are good transmitters of insect pests and dis-

eases (Rahman *et al.*, 2004; Haq and Dahot, 2007). This has prompted interest in the use of *in vitro* tissue culture technique. Micro propagation of banana is highly efficient, allowing a large turnover of plants in a very short period of time within very little space (Arias, 1992; Arvanitoyannis *et al.*, 2007). Tissue culture technology offers many other advantages besides being pest and disease free. Compared to conventional planting material, tissue culture plants give higher yield and earlier more vigorous sucker production. Tissue culture plants are uniform, allow for mass production in relatively short periods of time, and are available all year round which are important criteria for commercial farming. Rapid and easy mass production also allows for facilitated distribution of improved cultivars, and can compensate for planting material shortages. This high value crop var. Grande Naine is propagated vegetatively through mother rhizome and suckers. The rate of multiplication is very slow as a plant produces only 4-5 suckers in a year. The underground structures are exposed to natural disasters, pests and pathogens and thus the risk of

spreading infection is more. Besides, higher cost of rhizome production and tedious method of transporting a high volume of planting material are constraints faced by the grower (Sahoo *et al.*, 2015). Considering the problems associated with this important crop, it is essential to find out an alternative of propagation for by passing the slow rate of multiplication, reduce the cost of transportation and bulking up true to type disease free stocks of high yielding new cultivars within a shorter period. Therefore, the present investigation was carried out in the banana (*Musa acuminata*) cv. Grande Naine, with the objective to find out the impact of BAP, kinetin, IAA, IBA and NAA plant bioregulators on shoot proliferation and standardization of media supplements for root formation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out at Biotechnology-cum-Commercial Tissue Culture Center, OUAT, Bhubaneswar.

Source of explants: For this study, Healthy and disease free plants of *Musa acuminata* cv. Grande Naine were maintained in the farm of Biotechnology-cum-Commercial Tissue Culture Center, OUAT, Bhubaneswar, as mother plant block for conducting *in vitro* research and commercial plantlet production in the laboratory. The explants for this experiment were taken from a pre-established multiple shoot Culture of var. Grande Naine.

Stock solution, media preparation and sterilization:

The chemicals used for the present study were analytical reagents of excel R grade of Titan Biotech Ltd., Ranbaxy Laboratory Ltd., Merck (India), Qualigen Fine Chemicals, and Himedia Laboratories Ltd. (India). Auxins, Cytokinins, myo-inositol and Fe-EDTA were supplied by Sigma (USA) and Agar from Ranbaxy Laboratory Limited. MS Medium (Murashige and Skoog, 1962) was used throughout the investigation, required quantities of macronutrients, micronutrients, Fe-EDTA, vitamins and plant bioregulators were taken from the stock solution and required quantity of sucrose dissolved in distilled water was added fresh to the medium. The pH of the solution was adjusted to 5.7 ± 0.1 using 0.1N NaOH or 0.1 N HCL. Then volume was made up to 1 L with distilled water. Agar (0.6% w/v) was added to the medium boiled and poured into the culture bottles and capped. Culture bottles containing culture medium were autoclaved for the 20 minutes at 121°C and 15 Psi pressure. The autoclaved medium was kept in a laminar air flow bench for cooling. All the glassware were dipped in the detergent solution for overnight and washed under running tap water. They were rinsed with distilled water and then dried in an oven for 2hrs at 150°C. Forceps, Petridis and scalpel were thoroughly cleaned with isopropanol or rapped with paper and kept in a clean sterilized in autoclave at 15 psi and 121°C for 20

minutes. The working chamber of laminar air flow cabinet was wiped with isopropanol. Filtered air (80-100 cft/min) to ensure that particles do not settle in working area was blown for 5 minutes. The sterilized materials to be used (except living tissue) were kept in the chamber and exposed to UV light for 30 minutes.

Inoculation: The explants (preferably with 1-2 shoots) were carefully inoculated to the MS medium containing different concentration of cytokinins BAP (4.0, 5.0, 6.0 and 7.0 mg/l) in combination with Kinetin (2.0 mg/l) and in combination with IAA (1.0 mg/l) for shooting as per the treatments. Three replications per treatment and 3 culture bottles per replication were marked for observation of 17 different treatments. Observations on the number of shoots per explants, shoot length, number of leaves were recorded from 10 DAI (Days after inoculation). Subsequent observations were noted at 20 DAI and 30 DAI. Upon attaining a desired height in the shoot multiplication medium (preferably 4-5 cm from the media level), the plantlets were then carefully transferred to half MS and MS medium containing different concentrations of auxins (IAA, IBA and NAA) 1.0 and 2.0. mg/l Three replications per treatment and 2 culture bottles per replication were marked for observation of 14 different treatments. Observations on the number of roots per explants and root length were recorded from 7 DAI (Days after Inoculation). Subsequent observations were noted at 14 DAI and 21 DAI.

Establishment of culture: After inoculation, the culture were kept at $25 \pm 2^{\circ}$ C in an air conditioned room with a 16 hours light period (3000-3200 lux) supplied by fluorescent tubes and 80% relatively humidity (Al- amin *et al.*, 2009).

Statistical analysis: The raw data obtained during the experimental observations were subjected to statistical analysis as per method by Gomez and Gomez, (1984). The significance and non- significance of the treatment effect were judged with the help of 'F' variance ratio test. Calculated 'F' value was compared with the table value of 'F' at 5% level of significance. The data were transferred from where ever required before suitability of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) analyzed in statistical package SAS version 7.0.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the present course of investigation from the data presented in table 1 for the shoot proliferation study of cultivar Grand Naine revealed that after 10 days of inoculation, MS medium fortified with BAP (6.0 mg/l) significantly enhanced the height of the plant (1.78 cm) and stood at par with the treatments T₉ (MS + 7.0 mg/l BAP + 2.0 mg/l Kinetin), T₃ (MS + 5.0 mg/l BAP) and T₈ (MS + 6.0 mg/l BAP + 2.0 mg/l Kinetin). Significantly maximum number of leaves (9.27) was recorded in treatment T₄ (MS + 6.0 mg/l BAP). MS medium fortified with BAP (5.0 mg/l

Table 1. Impact of Plant Bioregulators on Shoot Proliferation of banana (*M. acuminata*) cv. Grande Naine

Treatments	Shoot Proliferation (10 DAI)			Shoot Proliferation (20 DAI)		
	Label	Composition	Plant Height (in cm)	No. of Leaves	Plant Height (in cm)	No. of Leaves
T ₁	MS		1.55	4.00	2.01	4.91
T ₂	MS+BAP(4.0 mg/l)		1.24	3.40	1.49	4.22
T ₃	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)		1.61	1.70	1.75	3.14
T ₄	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)		1.78	9.27	2.03	13.88
T ₅	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)		1.33	1.71	1.64	4.12
T ₆	MS+BAP(4.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)		0.91	1.94	1.27	2.79
T ₇	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)		1.52	3.07	1.70	4.50
T ₈	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)+Kinetin (2.0mg/l)		1.57	1.78	1.72	3.26
T ₉	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)		1.63	3.79	1.76	6.13
T ₁₀	MS+BAP(4.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		1.27	3.27	1.61	6.06
T ₁₁	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		1.27	1.06	1.47	4.78
T ₁₂	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		1.28	1.33	1.44	2.99
T ₁₃	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)=IAA(1.0mg/l)		1.29	3.38	1.41	5.34
T ₁₄	MS+BAP(4.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		1.35	2.43	1.50	5.67
T ₁₅	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		1.47	4.56	1.67	7.93
T ₁₆	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		1.63	4.31	1.70	7.11
T ₁₇	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		1.43	3.99	1.53	6.27
	SE(M) ±		0.08	0.20	0.07	0.32
	CD(P=0.05)		0.23	0.57	0.21	0.9

Table 2. Impact of Plant Bioregulators on Shoot Proliferation of Banana (*M. acuminata*) cv. Grande Naine (30DAI).

Label	Treatments Composition	No. of shoots/ plant	Plant height (in cm)	No. of leaves / plant
T ₁	MS	6.21	2.56	10.25
T ₂	MS+BAP(4.0mg/l)	9.05	1.77	7.36
T ₃	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)	9.15	2.02	8.06
T ₄	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)	9.26	2.73	19.07
T ₅	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)	5.52	2.63	9.83
T ₆	MS+BAP(4.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)	11.33	1.89	4.62
T ₇	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)	8.99	1.89	10.05
T ₈	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)	6.28	1.87	7.30
T ₉	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)	6.17	1.84	10.33
T ₁₀	MS+BAP(4.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)	6.18	2.05	8.08
T ₁₁	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)	6.33	1.58	7.36
T ₁₂	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)	5.82	1.51	6.03
T ₁₃	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)	5.34	1.47	7.00
T ₁₄	MS+BAP(4.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)	5.45	1.58	6.89
T ₁₅	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)	5.64	1.76	14.22
T ₁₆	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)	5.31	1.88	11.56
T ₁₇	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)	5.21	1.65	8.83
	SE(M)±	0.16	0.09	0.49
	CD(P=0.05)	0.46	0.26	1.40

or 6.0 mg/l) with IAA (1 mg/l) reduced the number of leaves per plant. However, the treatment T₁ (MS medium only) recorded a mediocre number of leaves per plant. On 20th DAI (Days after Inoculation), the treatment T₄ (MS + 6.0 mg/l BAP) significantly enhanced height of plant (2.03 cm) and the result stood at par with the treatment T₁ (MS medium only). Significantly maximum number of leaves per plant (13.88) was observed in the treatment T₄ (MS + 6.0 mg/l BAP).

From the perusal of the data presented in table 2, it was evident that the treatment T₆ (MS + 4.0 mg/l BAP + 2.0 mg/l Kinetin) significantly increased the number of multiple shoots per explants (11.33). The treatment T₁₇ (MS + 7.0 mg/l BAP + 2.0 mg/l Kinetin + 1.0 mg/l IAA) reduced the number of multiple shoots per plant (5.21). A mediocre number of shoots (9.26) was recorded in treatment T₄ (MS + 6.0 mg/l BAP), after 30 days of inoculation. The plant height was significantly higher (2.73 cm) with T₄ (MS + 6.0 mg/l BAP) which stood at par with T₅ (MS + 7.0 mg/l BAP) and T₁ (MS medium only). Significantly maximum number of leaves (19.07) per plant was recorded under the treatment T₄ (MS + 6.0 mg/l BAP). Considering all the above mentioned characters for shoot proliferation of cultivar Grand Naine after 30 days, it has been concluded that treatment T₆ (MS + 4.0 mg/l BAP + 2.0 mg/l Kinetin) was found to be best for the production of multiple shoots (11.33) per explant, and the treatment T₄ (MS + 6.0 mg/l BAP) was most ideal

for production of longer shoots with more number of leaves. During initial stages of growth, i.e., after 10 and 20 days of inoculation, MS medium fortified with BAP at mediocre concentration enhanced the plant height as well as leaf number. Lower concentration of BAP affected the plant height in a decreasing manner. The addition of lower concentration of Kinetin to the BAP fortified medium produced mediocre height plants. However, the combinations of BAP and kinetin failed to produce longer plants with more number of leaves during later stages of growth. After 30 days of inoculation, both plant height and number of leaves were maximum with the inclusion of BAP in MS medium. The combination produced a mediocre number of multiple shoots per explants. However, MS medium fortified with mediocre concentration of BAP and lower concentration of kinetin had shown spectacular effect on the production of multiple shoots per explant. Both BAP and kinetin are considered to be most potent cytokines and played a vital role for production of multiple shoots per explants in table type of banana cv. Grande Naine. Higher concentration of BAP with a lower concentration of kinetin affected the production of multiple shoots per explant, in a decreasing manner. The ability of cytokinin to promote the growth of dicotyledons has been reported by Murashige (1974). Application of cytokinin to the lateral buds promotes the differentiation of vascular traces (Moore, 1989). The effect of cytokinins on breaking the dormancy of axillary buds under *in vitro* conditions

Table 3. Morphological Characterization of Banana (*M. acuminata*) cv. Grande Naine highlighting the effect of different Combinations of Plant Bioregulators in the Shooting Media.

Label	Treatments		Colour of leaves	Description
	Composition			
T ₁	MS		Green	Slender Plantlets, Open leaves, root growth seen
T ₂	MS+BAP(4.0mg/l)		Whitish green	Normal shoots, slow proliferation
T ₃	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)		Pale green	Good shoots
T ₄	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)		Light green	Open leaves, good shoots
T ₅	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)		Light green	Open leaves, good shoots
T ₆	MS+BAP(4.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)		Pale green	Stunted growth, rapid proliferation
T ₇	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)		Pale green	Bold shoots
T ₈	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)		Light green	Open leaves, good shoots
T ₉	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)		Green	Good shoots, sword suckers
T ₁₀	MS+BAP(4.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		Light green	Open leaves, normal shoots
T ₁₁	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		Pale green	Normal shoots
T ₁₂	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		Green	Slow proliferation, leaves hardly visible
T ₁₃	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		Green	Normal shoots
T ₁₄	MS+BAP(4.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		Green	Slow proliferation, leaves hardly visible
T ₁₅	MS+BAP(5.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		Green	Open leaves, normal shoots
T ₁₆	MS+BAP(6.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		Green	Slow Proliferation, leaves hardly visible
T ₁₇	MS+BAP(7.0mg/l)+Kinetin(2.0mg/l)+IAA(1.0mg/l)		Green	Slow Proliferation, leaves hardly visible

Table 4. Impact of Plant Bioregulators on Root development of Banana (*M. acuminata*) cv. Grande Naine.

Label	Treatments Composition	Number of Roots /Plant (7DAI)	Number of Roots/Plant (14DAI)	Number of Roots/Plant (21DAI)	Root Length (in cm) (21DAI)
T ₁	½ MS	0.83	3.70	5.00	3.39
T ₂	½ MS+IAA(1.0mg/l)	0.95	4.29	6.48	1.68
T ₃	½ MS+IBA(1.0mg/l)	1.24	5.71	6.83	2.90
T ₄	1/2MS+NAA(1.0mg/l)	1.41	5.29	6.58	3.02
T ₅	½ MS+IAA(2.0mg/l)	0.84	4.43	6.73	2.07
T ₆	½ MS+IBA(2.0mg/l)	1.21	4.04	6.65	2.61
T ₇	½ MS+NAA(2.0mg/l)	1.37	3.99	5.37	3.12
T ₈	MS	1.10	4.13	4.64	5.29
T ₉	MS+IAA(1.0mg/l)	1.00	3.69	4.90	3.54
T ₁₀	MS+IBA(1.0mg/l)	0.83	3.88	5.13	3.29
T ₁₁	MS+NAA(1.0mg/l)	0.66	4.21	5.50	2.78
T ₁₂	MS+IAA(2.0mg/l)	0.52	1.89	3.08	1.87
T ₁₃	MS+IBA(2.0mg/l)	0.70	2.00	3.50	3.67
T ₁₄	MS+NAA(2.0mg/l)	0.96	2.41	3.62	2.77
	SE(M)±	0.09	0.25	0.28	0.16
	CD(P=0.05)	0.25	0.70	0.78	0.46

and proliferation of axillary shoots has been reported in various bulbous plants like Iris, Hyacinth, Liliun and Narcissus (Hussey, 1975). Cytokinin at moderate concentrations enhances shoot development: at higher levels it promotes multiple shoots through precocious axillary shoot formation (Ammirato, 1982). Hussain (1995) reported that BAP at higher concentration produced a maximum number of shoots. BAP was reported to be in general the most effective cytokinin for meristem, shoot tip and axillary bud culture of various species (Wang and Hu, 1980; Palai *et al.*, 1997).

It was evident from the data presented in the table 4 that significantly maximum number of roots (1.41) was recorded in T₄ (1/2 MS + 1.0 mg/l NAA), which stood at par with T₃ (1/2 MS + 1.0 mg/l IBA), T₇ (1/2 MS + 2.0 mg/l NAA) and T₆ (1/2 MS + 2.0 mg/l IBA), after 7 days of inoculation. The treatment T₃ (1/2 MS + 1.0 mg/l IBA) increased the number of roots per plant (5.71) and stood at par with the treatment T₄ (1/2 MS + 1.0 mg/l NAA), after 14 days of inoculation. The treatment T₃ (1/2 MS + 1.0 mg/l IBA) recorded significantly maximum number of roots/plant (6.83) and stood at par with the treatments T₅ (1/2 MS + 2.0 mg/l NAA), T₆ (1/2 MS + 2.0 mg/l IBA), T₄ (1/2 MS + 1.0 mg/l NAA) and T₂ (1/4 MS + 1.0 mg/l IAA), after 21 days of inoculation. However, the treatment T₈ (MS medium only) recorded significantly longer roots (5.29 cm) in comparison to other treatments. The treatment T₃ (1/2 MS + 1.0 mg/l IBA) produced more

number of roots with mediocre length (2.90 cm). Considering all above mentioned characters for root formation study, it has been concluded that treatment T₃ (1/2 MS + 1.0 mg/l IBA) produced more number of roots (6.83) per /plant, and the plants attended deep green luxuriant growth. The treatment T₈ (MS medium only) was suitable for the production of longer roots. During initial stages of growth (7 days), 1/2 MS medium supplemented with lower concentration of NAA initiated more number of roots per plant. However, in the later stages of root development, an inclusion of IBA at lower concentration in 1/2 MS medium had shown a tremendous effect on production of roots. Doubling of the media and plant bioregulators reduced the number of roots per plant throughout the investigation period. MS medium only increased the root length, but they are slender in quality. The addition of auxins had a great role for production of good quality root. The present investigations revealed that auxins (IBA and NAA) help in better rooting of micro shoots (Rout *et al.*, 1995 and Palai *et al.*, 1997). Hussain (1995) reported that lower levels of auxin (0.5 or 1.0 mg/l NAA) induced early rooting. The result obtained in this investigation was in agreement with Tiwari (1997-98), who stated that 1/2 MS medium supplemented with IBA successfully produced roots. MS medium supplemented with NAA developed healthy roots (Meenakshi *et al.*, 2001) in turmeric. Treatments with auxins stimulate and show an increase in peroxidase activity, as was observed by Palai

Table 5. Morphological Characterization of Banana (*M. acuminata*) cv. Grande Naine Cultures highlighting the effect of different combinations of plant Bioregulators in the rooting media.

Label	Treatments		Nature of Growth	
	Composition	Type of Roots	Colour of Leaves	Plant Height (cm)
T ₁	½ MS	Long and healthy	Rich green	7.73
T ₂	½ MS+IAA(1.0mg/l)	Short and slender	Deep green	7.40
T ₃	½ MS+IBA(1.0mg/l)	Long and bolder	Luxuriant green	9.27
T ₄	½ MS+NAA(1.0mg/l)	Short and healthy	Rich green	6.43
T ₅	½ MS+IAA(2.0mg/l)	Short and normal	Rich green	6.17
T ₆	½ MS+IBA(2.0mg/l)	Long and healthy	Luxuriant green	7.57
T ₇	½ MS+NAA(2.0mg/l)	Short and slender	Rich green	6.70
T ₈	MS	Long and normal	Rich green	7.17
T ₉	MS+IAA(1.0mg/l)	Short and slender	Rich green	6.50
T ₁₀	MS+IBA(1.0mg/l)	Very short and normal	Rich green	5.43
T ₁₁	MS+NAA(1.0mg/l)	Short and slender	Plain green	5.97
T ₁₂	MS+IAA(2.0mg/l)	Very short and normal	Plain green	4.60
T ₁₃	MS+IBA(2.0mg/l)	Short and normal	Green	5.37
T ₁₄	MS+NAA(2.0mg/l)	Short and normal	Green	5.50

(2001). It may be due to that the auxin entered through the cut surfaces of the proliferated shoots and rapidly absorbed in the cell walls by pH trapping (Rubery and Sheldrake, 1973). The root induction was gradually decreased with increasing the concentration of auxin type. The different levels of auxin were statistically significant for root induction (Viehmanna *et al.*, 2007). This confirmed the importance of plant bioregulators on the shooting, rooting and on the whole plantlet regeneration.

Conclusion

The present study concluded that treatment T₆ (MS + 4.0 mg/l BAP + 2.0 mg/l Kinetin) was found to be best for high frequency multiple shoot proliferation, and the treatment T₄ (MS + 6.0 mg/l BAP) was most ideal for the production of longer shoots with more number of leaves. In rooting media, treatment T₃ (1/2 MS + 1.0 mg/l IBA) produced more number of roots (6.83) per plant, and the plants attended deep green luxuriant growth. The treatment T₈ (MS medium only) was concluded to be suitable for the production of longer roots. The study thus revealed vital information related to rapid *in vitro* propagation of banana var. Grande Naine, which can be very useful for mass production of banana (*Musa acuminata*) cv. Grande Naine by various commercial entrepreneurs.

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