

# Effect of planting dates on performance of different potato varieties

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## Introduction

In Nepal, potatoes are cultivated as a vegetable in the lower hills and terai and as a staple in the higher hills. Bajura, in the far-western region, is a well-known potato growing district, but there is lack of appropriate planting dates and a suitable variety.

## Research questions

- What is the optimal planting date for better yield of high-quality potato?
- Which variety is suitable for early and late planting in Dimmarpani, Bajura?

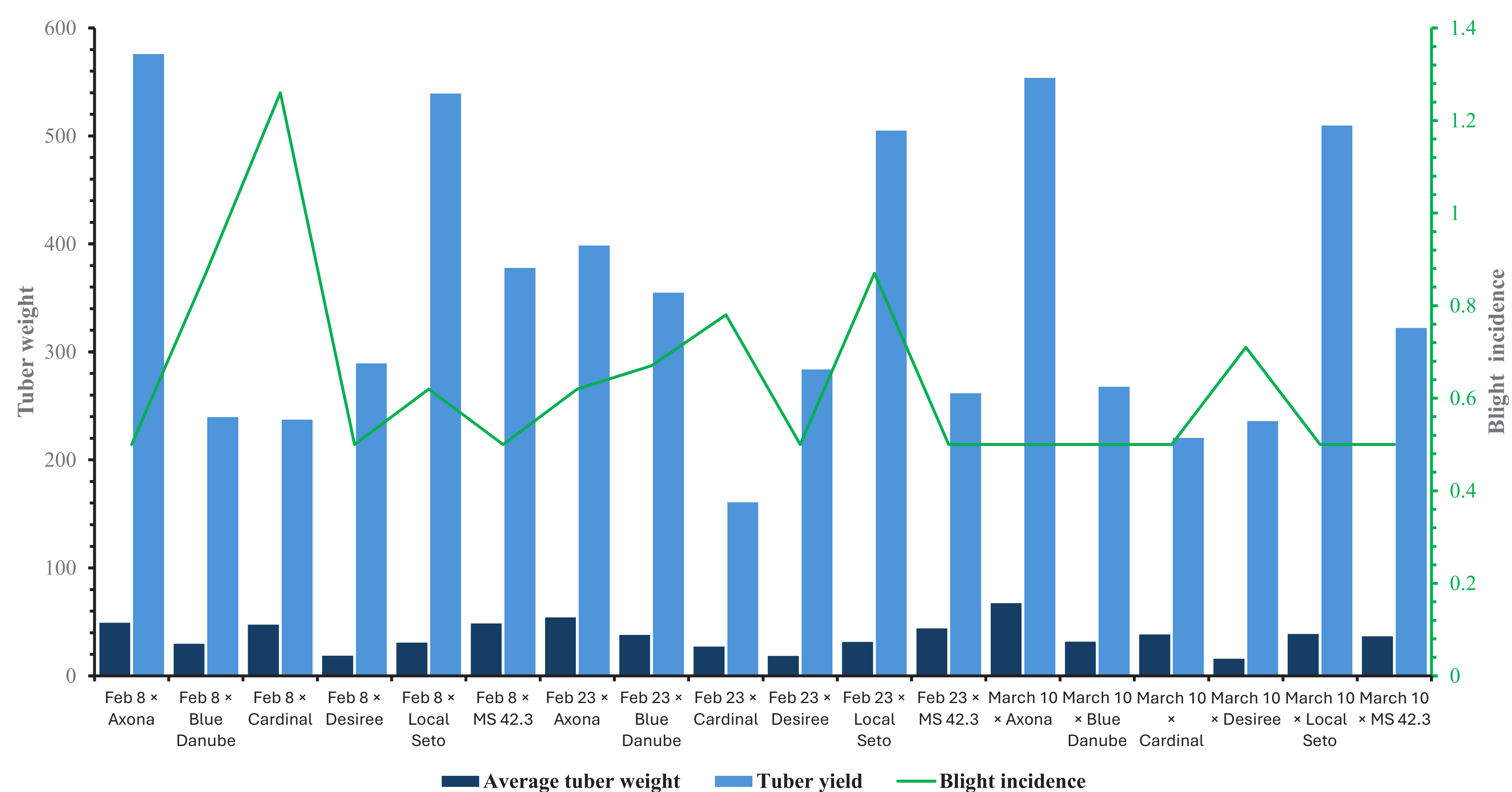
## Methodology

The experiment was done in Dimmarpani, Bajura from March to August 2024 in 2 factorial randomized complete block design using six varieties (Axona, Blue Danube, Cardinal, Desiree, Local Seto, and MS-42.3) and 3 planting dates (8 February, 23 February, and 10 March). Various growth and yield parameters were recorded.

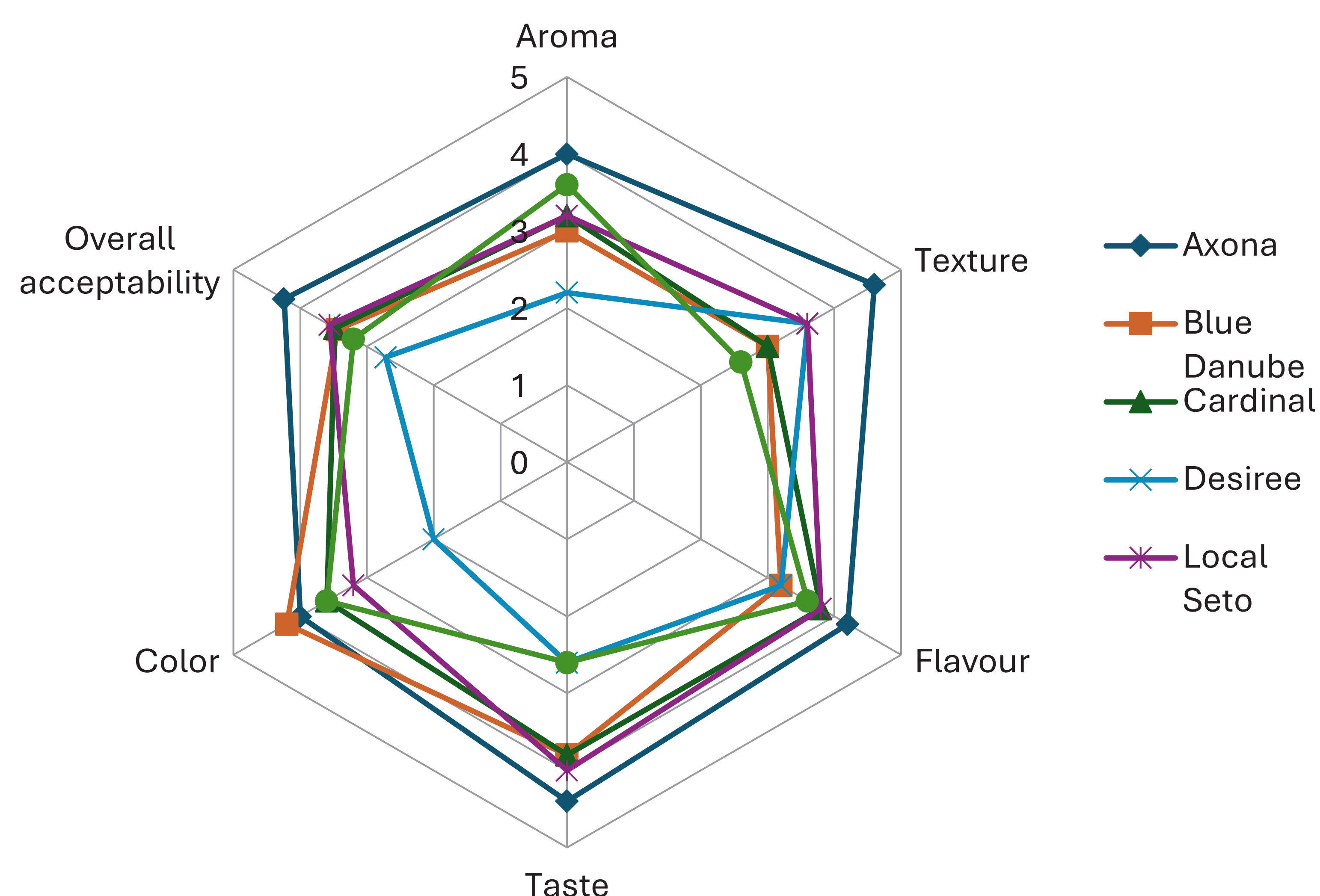
## Key findings

Highest incidence of late blight (1.26) was observed in early planted Cardinal variety. Early planted Local Seto resulted in highest number of tubers (15.54). Axona showed lowest incidence of cutworm infestation (2.09), the highest average tuber weight (56.89), and the maximum sensory quality attributes (4.24).

**Figure 1** Interaction effect of planting date and varieties on average tuber weight, tuber yield and blight incidence



**Figure 2** Sensory quality attributes of different boiled potato varieties



## Conclusion

- Desiree is unsuited for its small size and low preference for sensory quality, and Cardinal for highest incidence of blight and lower tuber yield.
- Planting can be done late on March 10
- Axona is highly preferred by evaluators

