Application of co-transformation for *Choline oxidase* gene transfer into rice genome

Saeideh Keyarsalan 1*, Seyed Elyas Mortazavi², Behzad Ghareyazie², Sakineh Mehranie³

- 1- M.Sc., Agricultural Biotechnology
- 2- Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute of Iran (ABRII)
- 3- M.Sc., Department of Plant Breeding
- * Corresponding Author, Email: saeideh.keyarsalan@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

n order to produce a marker-free transgenic rice with improved tolerance to salinity and drought stresses, expression vectors pABRII-Chl and pABRII-Cyt containing "choline oxidase" gene (with or without leader sequence respectively) were constructed from pChl and pCyt and pTRA132 for co-transformation. The pChl and pCyt vectors were digested with HindIII-BamH and BamHI-EcoRI enzymes. Then the resulting sequences were ligated and inserted into expression vector pTRA132, in which the HindIII-EcoRI fragment (hph gene) had been deleted. The constructs pABRII-Chl or pABRII-Cyt and pTRA132 (containing hph gene) were introduced into embryogenic calli derived from the mature seeds of a rice cv. Hashemi by biolistic transformation method. Then putative transformants were screened after 3 rounds of selection on N6 medium containing increasing concentrations of Hygromycin B from 60 to 80 mg/L. Finally, Hygromycin resistant calli were regenerated on MS medium supplemented with 50 mg/L Hygromycin B. Putative transgenic rice plants were analyzed by polymerase chain reaction PCR. Then, four of the transgenic plants were analyzed using Southern blotting. Each transgenic plant received one copy number of both choline oxidase and hph genes. Expression of the transgene was confirmed by reverse transcription PCR. The high frequency of transformation rate in this study showed that co-transformation method is a reliable method for stable transformation with the goal to make markerfree transgenic plants in subsequent steps.

Key Words

Choline oxidase, Glycine Betaine, Co-transformation, Rice, hph Gene, Biolistic.