

Differences were also recorded in aril colour, varying from grayish white and creamy white to dirty creamy white among the evaluated cultivars.

Table 2 Seed morphological characteristics of seven litchi (*Litchi chinensis* Sonn.) cultivars evaluated in Sarlahi, Nepal

Varieties	Seed color	Seed shape	Seed size	Aril color
Shahi	Dark chocolate	Elliptic oblong	Medium	Grayish white
China	Light brown	Oblong medium	Creamy	White
Seedless	Dirty chocolate	Elliptic oval	Small	Creamy
Early Large Red	Light brown	Elliptic oblong	Medium	Grayish
Calcuttia	Dark chocolate	Elliptic oblong	Large	Dirty creamy white
Muzaffarpur	Dark chocolate	Elliptic oblong	Large	Creamy
Bombai	Light brown	Elliptic oblong	Medium	Creamy

3.3 Fruit length, fruit width and fruit weight

Fruit length, fruit width, and fruit weight differed significantly among the evaluated cultivars (Table 3). Fruit length ranged from 3.25 to 3.64 cm. Early Large Red recorded the greatest fruit length (3.64 cm), which was statistically comparable with China (3.61 cm) and Muzaffarpur (3.60 cm), whereas Bombai produced the shortest fruits (3.25 cm).

Fruit width varied significantly from 2.90 to 3.30 cm. China exhibited the highest fruit width (3.30 cm), followed by Bombai (3.17 cm) and Seedless (3.16 cm), while Shahi recorded the lowest value (2.90 cm).

Fruit weight also differed significantly among cultivars, ranging from 18.85 to 23.10 g. Seedless produced the heaviest fruits (23.10 g), followed by China (21.96 g), whereas Shahi recorded the lowest fruit weight (18.85 g).

Table 3 Fruit length, fruit width, and fruit weight of seven litchi (*Litchi chinensis* Sonn.) cultivars evaluated in Sarlahi, Nepal

Varieties	Fruit length (cm)	Fruit width (cm)	Fruit weight (g)
Shahi	3.42 ^{ab}	2.90 ^c	18.85 ^c
China	3.61 ^a	3.30 ^a	21.96 ^{ab}
Seedless	3.44 ^{ab}	3.16 ^{ab}	23.10 ^a
Early Large Red	3.64 ^a	3.02 ^{bc}	19.85 ^{bc}
Calcuttia	3.44a ^b	3.09 ^{bc}	20.73 ^{abc}
Muzaffarpur	3.60 ^a	2.95 ^c	19.20 ^c
Bombai	3.25 ^b	3.17 ^{ab}	19.71 ^{bc}
f-probability	*	**	*
CV%	4.3	3.8	8.2
Grand Mean	3.49	3.08	20.49

Note: *, **, *** represent significance at 5%, 1% and 0.1% respectively. Means followed by the same letter within a column are not significantly different according to Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) at $p \leq 0.05$

3.4 Pericarp weight, aril weight, seed length, seed width and seed weight

Pericarp weight, aril weight, seed length, seed width, seed weight, and total soluble solids (TSS) differed significantly among the evaluated cultivars (Table 4).

Pericarp weight ranged from 1.38 to 3.58 g. Muzaffarpur recorded the highest pericarp weight (3.58 g), followed by Bombai (2.68 g), whereas Shahi exhibited the lowest value (1.38 g).

Aril weight ranged from 10.72 to 15.14 g. Seedless produced the highest aril weight (15.14 g), followed by Calcuttia (13.24 g) and China (13.17 g), whereas Muzaffarpur recorded the lowest aril weight (10.72 g).

Significant differences were also observed in seed dimensions. Muzaffarpur produced the longest seeds (2.79 cm), while Seedless recorded the shortest seed length (1.85 cm). Seed width ranged from 1.04 to 1.70 cm, with Bombai