

Table S1: Mean square values of measured traits obtained from two-way ANOVA (analysis of variance) in eighteen hybrid maize cultivars grown under control and salt stress environments.

Traits	Symbol	Cultivar (C)	Salt Stress (S)	Interaction (C×S)
Root Length (cm)	RL	186.4 ^{***}	3978.5 ^{***}	35 ^{***}
Shoot Length (cm)	SL	170.8 ^{***}	4421.1 ^{***}	20.5 ^{***}
Root Fresh Weight (g)	RFW	188.59 ^{***}	465.76 ^{***}	9.55 [*]
Shoot Fresh Weight (g)	SFW	269.06 ^{***}	1085.70 ^{***}	31.85 ^{***}
Total Fresh Weight (g)	TFW	854.14 ^{***}	2973.67 ^{***}	66.85 ^{***}
Root Dry Weight (g)	RDW	0.216 ^{***}	1.03 ^{***}	0.028 ^{**}
Shoot Dry Weight (g)	SDW	1.16 ^{***}	2.75 ^{***}	0.0423 ^{**}
Total Dry Weight (g)	TDW	2.1184 ^{***}	7.138 ^{***}	0.0887 ^{**}
Root Shoot Ratio	RSR	0.1605 ^{***}	0.0152 ^{NS}	0.0188 ^{NS}
Leaf Greenness (%)	SPAD	35.99 ^{***}	960.63 ^{***}	16.8 ^{**}
Photosynthetic Rate ($\mu\text{mol CO}_2 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$)	A	4.775 ^{***}	96.83 ^{***}	1.902 [*]
Root K ⁺ (mg g ⁻¹ DW)	Root K ⁺	50.3 ^{***}	793.3 ^{***}	18.08 ^{***}
Shoot K ⁺ (mg g ⁻¹ DW)	Shoot K ⁺	3.14 ^{NS}	2196 ^{***}	0.82 ^{NS}
Root Na ⁺ (mg g ⁻¹ DW)	Total K ⁺	55.6 ^{***}	5628 ^{***}	19.6 [*]
Shoot Na ⁺ (mg g ⁻¹ DW)	Root Na ⁺	1.52 ^{***}	187.7 ^{***}	1.032 ^{***}
Total K ⁺ (mg g ⁻¹ DW)	Shoot Na ⁺	0.46 ^{***}	925.5 ^{***}	0.27 ^{**}
Total Na ⁺ (mg g ⁻¹ DW)	Total Na ⁺	2.72 ^{***}	1947 ^{***}	2.03 ^{***}
K ⁺ -Na ⁺ Ratio	K ⁺ -Na ⁺ ratio	3.41 ^{**}	2734 ^{***}	2.15 ^{NS}

^{*}, ^{**} and ^{***} denote significant at 5%, 1% and 0.1% levels of probability, respectively. NS = Non-Significant

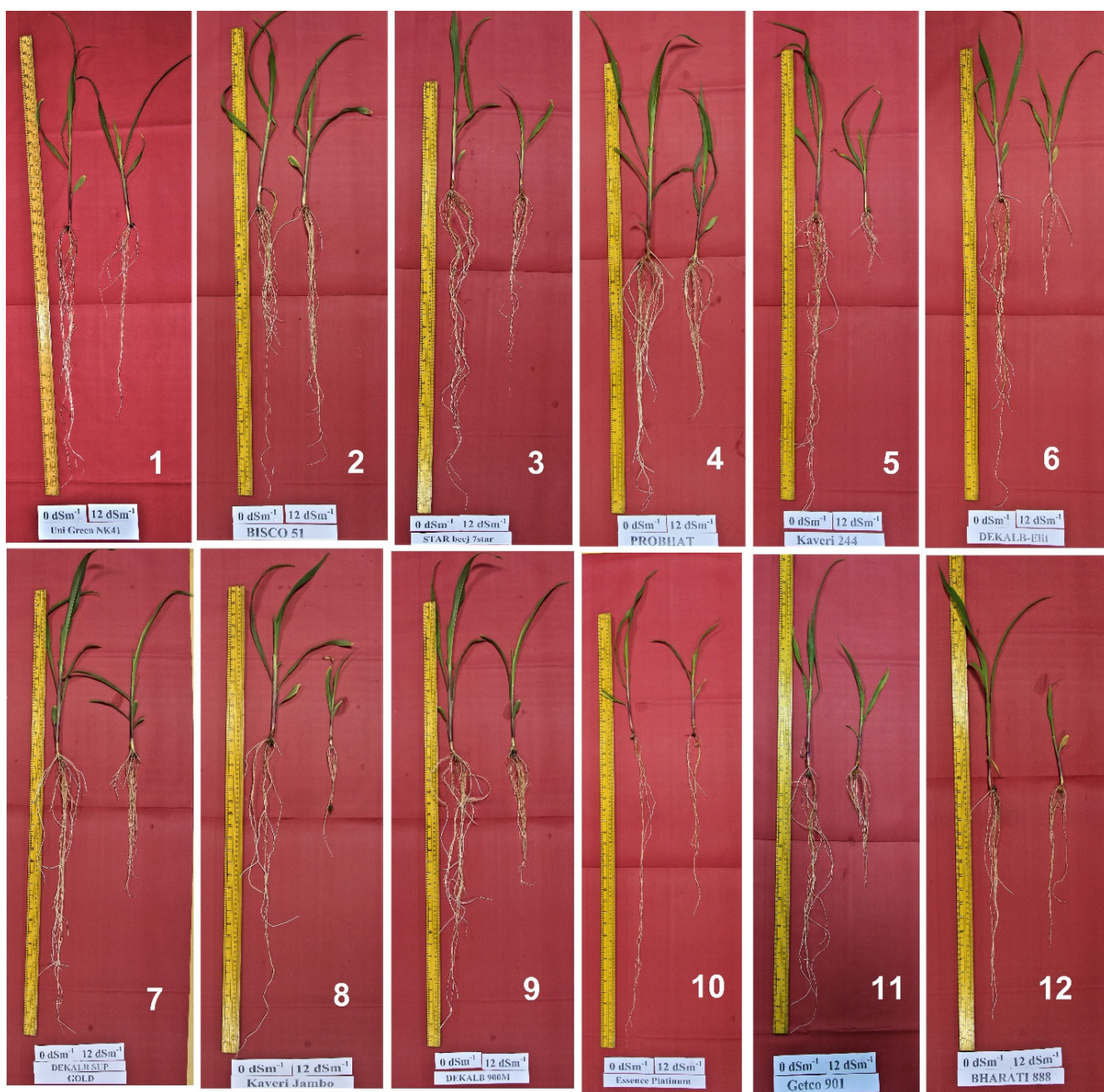


Figure S1: Seedlings of some salt-tolerant (1–4) and salt-sensitive (5–12) maize hybrid cultivars grown under 0 (left) and 12 dS m⁻¹ (right) growth conditions. (Figure legends: 1- UniGreen NK41, 2-Bisco 51, 3-Star Beej 7Star, 4- Prabhat, 5-Kaveri 244, 6- Dekalb Elite, 7-Dekalb 900M Gold, 8-Kaveri Jambo, 9-Dekalb Super 900M, 10-Essence Platinum, 11-Getco 901, 12-Bharati 888)