Dear Reviewer,

First of all I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you for giving valuable time to review the manuscript and finalize it with substantial improvement. We have reviewed the manuscript according to your suggestion and try to address them in the manuscript. Please find the point-by-point responses as follows:

**Response to Reviewer-2**

**Comment:** The paper reports transcriptomic data from a bml mutant and WT. The manuscript is well presented. Some minor changes may be considered.

**Response:** Thank you for your compliments and we try to make necessary changes for your consideration.

**Comment:** What was the rationale behind the pooling of 10 leaves per plant? By sure the 10 leaves were at different developmental stages. This may have masked the results

**Response:** We are sorry for writing mistake. Actually we have taken 10 leaves from 10 plants at same growing age as biological replicates. We have made necessary correction in the text of materials methods. Please see the lines 397 – 398.

**Comment:** The conclusions are somewhat weak. Especially the last statement ‘Therefore, we could manipulate those genes either knockout mutation or CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing for ensuring delayed senescence for increasing duration of photosynthesis and higher yield in rice” is unrealistic in the view of the huge amount of differentially expressed genes identifies in the study

**Response:** Thanks for your observation. We try to make the conclusion more precise for strengthening the conclusion. Please see the lines 383 – 384.

Therefore, I hope that you would be kind enough to take necessary action regarding the publication of the revised paper in this journal.

With Kind regards

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