

Original Research Article

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Studies on Genetic Variability, Correlation and Path Coefficient Analysis for Morphological and Yield Traits in Different *Arachis* spp.

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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Fifty *Arachis* genotypes belonging to different botanical types viz., spanish bunch, virginia bunch, valencia, *peruviana* and *aequatoriana* were evaluated for 28 quantitative characters to study the genetic variability parameters, correlation coefficient and path analysis.. Analysis of variance indicated highly significant differences among genotypes for all the traits. In the present study high magnitude of genetic coefficient of variation (GCV) and phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV) and high broad sense heritability was observed for 19 characters out of 28 characters. This indicated that these traits were less influenced by the environment and can be improved by simple selection procedure. High genetic advance as percentage of mean was observed for 16 out of 28 characters, which indicate the necessity of utilising these traits for crop improvement for groundnut. From the path analysis study, it was observed that, during *khariif* season days to maturity had the highest and positive direct effect on kernel yield/plant, while during summer pod yield/plant had the highest and positive direct effect on kernel yield/plant.

Introduction

Groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) is one of the important economic crops of the world. It is also called as the “King” of oilseeds or “Wonder nut” and “Poor man’s cashewnut”. Knowledge of genetic diversity in a crop species is fundamental to its improvement. The characterization of diversity in germplasm collection is important to plant breeders to utilize and to the gene bank curators to manage the collection efficiently and effectively. Assessment of genetic diversity is important steps in the development of molecular breeding programs. Assessment of molecular diversity should

facilitate the identification of agronomically valuable and diverse germplasm for use in linkage mapping and genetic enhancement of specific traits in groundnut. Keeping these facts in view, the present investigation variability analysis of quantitative and qualitative characters was undertaken using 50 genotypes of groundnut.

Materials and Methods

A study was conducted during the *khariif* season and summer season at Department of Seed Science and Technology, B. A. College of Agriculture, AAU, Anand, in different *Arachis* spp. The experiment was laid out in

randomized complete block design with two replications.

The experimental material comprising of Fifty *Arachis* genotypes belonging to different botanical types viz; spanish bunch, virginia bunch, valencia, *peruviana* and *aequatoriana*. Recommended package of practices were followed for raising of the crop. The observations were recorded on five randomly selected competitive plants in each genotype in each replication except days to 50% flowering and days to emergence which were recorded on plot basis.

The data were subjected to statistical analysis and analysis of variance was calculated (Panse and Sukhatme, 1976) and following genetic parameters were estimated for the character having significant mean square due to genotypes. Phenotypic and genotypic variances were calculated as per the formula given by Johnson *et al.*, (1955). The genotypic coefficient of variation and phenotypic coefficient of variation was estimated as per the formula suggested by Burton (1952). Heritability in broad sense was computed in per cent using the formula suggested by Allard (1960). The extent of genetic advance to be expected from selecting five per cent of superior progeny was computed with the help of the formula given by Allard (1960).

Genotypic correlation coefficient was worked out using the following formula suggested by Hazel *et al.*, (1943). The significance of correlation coefficient was tested against 'r' value given by Fischer and Yates (1963).

Path coefficient analysis was carried out by using the correlation coefficients to know the direct and indirect effects of these variables on yield as suggested by Wright (1921) and illustrated by Dewey and Lu (1959).

Results and Discussion

Genotypic and phenotypic correlations reveal the degree of association between different characters and thus aid in selection to improve the yield and yield attributing characters simultaneously. Yield being a complex character is a function of several component characters and their interaction with environment.

Path analysis developed by Wright (1923), is a standardized partial regression analysis for assessment of the magnitude of characters association or correlation of various metric characters with yield and their direct and indirect influence on yield.

In the present study high magnitude of genetic coefficient of variation (GCV) and phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV) was observed for number of mature pods/plant, number of immature pods/plant, pod yield/plant, kernel yield/plant, number of one seeded pod %, number of three seeded pod%, hundred pod mass, seed length, seed width hundred seed weight, days to initiation of germination, plant height, length of primary branch, number of secondary branches, number of two seeded pod, pod length, pod width, shelling% and SMK%.

It indicated that higher the amount of genetic component of variation in these characters, greater the scope for its improvement through selection. High GCV values for these characters were also observed by Yusuf *et al.*, (2017).

High broad sense heritability estimates were recorded for most of traits viz., days to maturity, plant height, length of primary branch, leaf length, number of mature pods/plant, number of immature pods/plant, pod yield/plant, kernel yield/plant, number of one seeded pods%, number of two seeded

Pods%, number of three seeded pods%, pod length, pod width, hundred pod mass, shelling %, seed length, seed width, hundred seed weight and SMK% indicating that these traits were less influenced by the environment.

These traits could be improved by simple selection procedure. Similar results were also observed by Zaman *et al.*, (2011) and Patil *et al.*, (2015), Gupta *et al.*, (2015) and Chavadhari *et al.*, (2017) (Table 1–6).

Table.1 The estimates of genotypic (σ_g^2) and phenotypic (σ_p^2) variance and other genetic parameters for different characters in groundnut during *kharif* season

S.n.	Character	σ_g^2	σ_p^2	GCV (%)	PCV (%)	H ² (%)	R	GA% over mean
1.	Days to initiation of germination	0.67	1.45	13.68	20.06	47	1.15	19.17
2.	Days to initiation of flowering	0.94	2.07	4.04	6.00	45	1.34	5.59
3.	Days to 50 % flowering	1.21	5.16	3.71	7.66	24	1.10	3.71
4.	Days to maturity	61.43	74.65	6.52	7.19	82	14.65	12.18
5.	Plant height (cm)	33.17	48.34	18.54	22.38	69	9.83	31.64
6.	Length of primary branch (cm)	14.29	19.48	11.38	13.28	73	6.67	29.59
7.	Number of primary branches	0.32	1.31	7.60	15.33	25	0.58	89.41
8.	Number of secondary branches	0.79	1.58	15.00	21.18	50	1.30	9.78
9.	Leaf length (cm)	0.29	0.45	9.33	11.59	65	0.90	15.52
10.	Leaf width (cm)	0.04	0.09	6.53	10.01	43	0.26	8.81
11.	Leaf length/leaf width	0.02	0.09	7.24	14.16	26	0.16	7.66
12.	Number of mature pods / plant	135.85	138.73	35.75	36.13	98	23.76	96.98
13.	Number of immature pods / plant	3.39	3.96	39.01	42.16	86	3.51	74.36
14.	Pod yield/plant (g)	102.05	105.91	33.15	33.77	96	20.43	67.03
15.	Kernel yield/plant (g)	57.97	62.80	35.52	36.97	92	15.07	70.32
16.	Number of one seeded pod (%)	104.27	108.40	79.40	80.96	96	20.63	160.42
17.	Number of two seeded pod (%)	112.03	116.69	12.54	12.80	96	21.36	25.31
18.	Number of three seeded pod (%)	0.75	0.78	50.10	51.25	96	1.74	70.16
19.	Pod length (cm)	0.19	0.21	17.77	18.55	92	0.86	35.10
20.	Pod width (cm)	0.03	0.03	12.68	13.39	90	0.32	25.20
21.	Hundred pod mass (g)	485.50	495.95	22.44	22.68	98	44.91	45.73
22.	Shelling per cent (S %)	57.82	63.60	11.41	11.97	91	14.94	22.42
23.	Seed length (cm)	0.11	0.12	24.30	24.74	97	0.67	48.91
24.	Seed width (cm)	0.06	0.07	28.72	30.73	87	0.48	104.35
25.	Hundred seed weight (g)	153.38	156.51	26.22	26.49	98	25.26	53.48
26.	Sound mature kernel (SMK %)	98.03	105.34	11.15	11.56	93	19.68	22.16
27.	Oil content (%)	2.59	4.30	3.42	4.41	60	2.57	5.47
28.	Protein content (%)	0.43	1.80	2.26	4.65	24	0.65	2.26

Genetic Advance Values (K=2.06), R= Genetic gain

Table.2 The estimates of genotypic (σ_g^2) and phenotypic (σ_p^2) variance and other genetic parameters for different characters in groundnut during summer season

S.No.	Character	σ_g^2	σ_p^2	GCV (%)	PCV (%)	H ² (%)	R	GA% over mean
1.	Days to initiation of germination	1.23	2.10	17.26	22.58	58	1.74	27.15
2.	Days to initiation of flowering	3.24	5.38	6.84	8.82	60	2.88	10.95
3.	Days to 50 % flowering	1.32	5.78	3.59	7.51	23	1.13	3.53
4.	Days to maturity	77.14	89.02	7.97	8.56	87	16.84	15.28
5.	Plant height (cm)	42.77	50.68	23.48	25.56	84	12.38	44.45
6.	Length of primary branch (cm)	20.91	25.42	15.07	16.62	82	8.54	28.15
7.	Number of primary branches	1.22	2.01	19.08	24.46	61	1.78	30.74
8.	Number of secondary branches	0.72	1.11	20.34	25.20	65	1.41	33.73
9.	Leaf length (cm)	0.41	0.57	11.98	14.16	72	1.11	20.86
10.	Leaf width (cm)	0.08	0.12	10.29	12.75	65	0.46	17.10
11.	Leaf length/leaf width	0.04	0.09	10.44	15.30	47	0.29	14.50
12.	Number of mature pods / plants	137.32	140.60	38.55	39.00	98	23.86	78.49
13.	Number of immature pods / plants	3.93	5.13	28.73	32.83	77	3.57	51.74
14.	Pod yield/plant (g)	93.58	101.23	34.98	36.38	92	19.16	69.27
15.	Kernel yield/plant (g)	52.54	56.89	38.71	40.28	92	14.35	76.66
16.	Number of one seeded pod (%)	111.34	116.17	68.16	69.63	96	21.28	137.65
17.	Number of two seeded pod (%)	117.03	121.88	13.19	13.47	96	21.84	26.60
18.	Number of three seeded pod (%)	0.67	0.70	49.86	50.82	96	1.65	75.34
19.	Pod length (cm)	0.18	0.19	18.34	18.80	95	0.85	71.43
20.	Pod width (cm)	0.03	0.03	13.41	14.15	90	0.32	26.45
21.	Hundred pod mass (g)	488.45	496.84	23.47	23.67	98	45.14	47.93
22.	Shelling per cent (S %)	62.29	67.95	12.20	12.74	92	15.57	24.07
23.	Seed length (cm)	0.12	0.13	26.90	27.66	95	0.70	53.85
24.	Seed width (cm)	0.05	0.06	28.23	29.83	90	0.44	55.00
25.	Hundred seed weight (g)	155.43	158.84	27.32	27.62	98	25.49	55.69
26.	Sound mature kernel (SMK %)	99.44	107.14	11.48	11.92	93	19.79	22.79
27.	Oil content (%)	3.06	5.33	3.88	5.11	57	2.73	6.05
28.	Protein content (%)	0.49	2.03	2.52	5.12	24	0.71	2.55

Genetic Advance Values (K=2.06), R= Genetic gain

Table.3 Genotypic and phenotypic correlations between kernel yield and other component characters in groundnut during *kharif* season

S.No.	Character		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Kernel yield/plant (g)	Days to 50 % flowering (g)	Days to maturity	Plant height (cm)	Number of primary branches	Number of mature pods / plant	Pod yield/plant (g)	Hundred pod mass (g)	Shelling per cent (S %)	Hundred seed weight (g)	Sound mature kernel (SMK %)	Oil content (%)	Protein content (%)
1.	Kernel yield/plant (g)	r _g	1.000	-0.020	0.087	-0.356*	0.027	0.798**	0.986**	0.539**	-0.158	0.268	-0.097	-0.250	0.013
		r _p	1.000	0.015	0.080	-0.266	-0.070	0.749**	0.942**	0.522**	-0.160	0.246	-0.099	-0.227	0.025
2.	Days to 50 % flowering	r _g		1.000	0.949**	-0.093	-0.794**	-0.250	0.083	-0.046	0.029	0.365**	-0.059	0.294*	0.207
		r _p		1.000	0.275*	-0.080	-0.068	-0.120	0.000	-0.012	0.038	0.180	-0.027	0.127	-0.037
3.	Days to maturity	r _g			1.000	0.307*	-0.396**	0.049	0.091	0.309*	-0.142	0.098	-0.251	-0.100	0.275
		r _p			1.000	0.255	-0.250	0.035	0.087	0.280*	-0.116	0.077	-0.225	-0.034	0.147
4.	Plant height (cm)	r _g				1.000	-0.059	-0.291*	-0.347	-0.040	0.133	-0.018	-0.103	0.134	0.314*
		r _p				1.000	-0.035	-0.244	-0.267	-0.043	0.136	-0.023	-0.083	0.043	0.119
5.	Number of primary branches	r _g					1.000	-0.005	-0.037	-0.186	-0.381	0.346*	0.264	-0.318	0.716**
		r _p					1.000	0.023	0.008	-0.130	-0.157	0.167	0.131	0.081	0.002
6.	Number of mature pods / plant	r _g						1.000	0.783**	0.281*	-0.072	-0.045	-0.028	-0.513**	0.242
		r _p						1.000	0.762**	0.274*	-0.065	-0.046	-0.026	-0.386**	0.135
7.	Pod yield/plant (g)	r _g							1.000	0.499**	-0.055	0.336*	-0.084	-0.204	0.025
		r _p							1.000	0.480**	-0.041	0.323*	-0.077	-0.151	-0.015
8.	Hundred pod mass (g)	r _g								1.000	-0.483**	0.427**	-0.498**	-0.183	0.100
		r _p								1.000	-0.446**	0.413**	-0.467**	-0.142	0.064
9.	Shelling per cent (S %)	r _g									1.000	0.187	0.389**	0.454**	-0.664**
		r _p									1.000	0.166	0.376**	0.348*	-0.289*
10.	Hundred seed weight (g)	r _g										1.000	-0.168	0.484**	-0.497**
		r _p										1.000	-0.165	0.346*	-0.252
11.	Sound mature kernel (SMK %)	r _g											1.000	0.242	-0.348*
		r _p											1.000	0.156	-0.162
12.	Oil content (%)	r _g												1.000	-0.492**
		r _p												1.000	-0.244
13.	Protein content (%)	r _g													1.000
		r _p													1.000

*, ** -Significant at 5% and 1% level of significance, respectively

Table.4 Genotypic and phenotypic correlations between kernel yield and other component characters in groundnut during summer season

S.No.	Character		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Kernel yield/plant (g)	Days to 50 % flowering	Days to maturity	Plant height (cm)	Number of primary branches	Number of mature pods / plant	Pod yield/plant (g)	Hundred pod mass (g)	Shelling per cent (S %)	Hundred seed weight (g)	Sound mature kernel (SMK %)	Oil content (%)	Protein content (%)
1.	Kernel yield/plant (g)	r _g	1.000	0.189	0.077	-0.278	-0.057	0.796**	0.993**	0.533**	-0.199	0.243	-0.088	-0.302*	0.058
		r _p	1.000	0.110	0.055	-0.245	-0.092	0.746**	0.939**	0.511**	-0.164	0.232	-0.081	-0.197	0.032
2.	Days to 50 % flowering	r _g		1.000	0.805**	-0.222	-0.519**	-0.111	0.245	0.146	-0.094	0.275	0.067	0.320*	0.152
		r _p		1.000	0.326*	-0.048	-0.147	-0.032	0.107	0.073	0.005	0.129	0.029	0.229	-0.117
3.	Days to maturity	r _g			1.000	0.332*	-0.209	-0.018	0.078	0.292*	-0.222	0.038	-0.260	-0.054	0.428**
		r _p			1.000	0.306*	-0.133	-0.009	0.064	0.267*	-0.205	0.044	-0.250	-0.074	0.164
4.	Plant height (cm)	r _g				1.000	-0.100	-0.277*	-0.249	-0.012	0.161	0.066	-0.123	0.103	0.306*
		r _p				1.000	-0.063	-0.252	-0.225	-0.015	0.146	0.059	-0.139	0.101	0.183
5.	Number of primary branches	r _g					1.000	-0.156	-0.102	-0.131	-0.373**	-0.195	0.045	-0.224	0.374**
		r _p					1.000	-0.108	-0.089	-0.105	-0.261	-0.177	0.040	-0.120	0.070
6.	Number of mature pods / plant	r _g						1.000	0.780**	0.279*	0.279**	-0.055	-0.032	-0.509**	0.289*
		r _p						1.000	0.759**	0.270	-0.062	-0.054	-0.032	-0.372**	0.156
7.	Pod yield/plant (g)	r _g							1.000	0.504**	-0.051	0.332*	-0.093	-0.190	0.067
		r _p							1.000	0.483**	-0.038	0.324*	-0.084	-0.140	0.019
8.	Hundred pod mass (g)	r _g								1.000	-0.476**	0.415**	-0.494**	-0.177	0.133
		r _p								1.000	-0.456**	0.407**	-0.470**	-0.124	0.070
9.	Shelling per cent (S %)	r _g									1.000	0.223	0.387**	0.444**	-0.582**
		r _p									1.000	0.199	0.364**	0.342*	-0.244
10.	Hundred seed weight (g)	r _g										1.000	-0.174	0.503**	-0.494**
		r _p										1.000	-0.162	0.355**	-0.237
11.	Sound mature kernel (SMK %)	r _g											1.000	0.177	-0.275
		r _p											1.000	0.118	-0.130
12.	Oil content (%)	r _g												1.000	-0.451**
		r _p												1.000	-0.223
13.	Protein content (%)	r _g													1.000
		r _p													1.000

*, ** -Significant at 5% and 1% level of significance, respectively

Table.5 Genotypic path coefficient analysis showing direct (Diagonal) and indirect effects of different characters on kernel yield in groundnut during *kharif* season

Characters	Days to 50 % flowering	Days to maturity	Plant height (cm)	Number of primary branches	Number of mature pods / plant	Pod yield/plant (g)	Hundred pod mass (g)	Shelling per cent (S %)	Hundred seed weight (g)	Sound mature kernel (SMK %)	Oil content (%)	Protein content (%)	Genotypic correlation with Kernel yield/plant (g)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Days to 50 % flowering	-1.113	1.780	-0.011	-0.602	-0.053	0.141	0.064	-0.037	-0.111	0.045	0.226	-0.349	-0.020
Days to maturity	-1.056	1.876	0.035	-0.301	0.010	0.154	-0.432	0.180	-0.030	0.190	-0.077	-0.463	0.087
Plant height (cm)	0.104	0.576	0.114	-0.045	-0.062	-0.586	0.056	-0.169	0.005	0.078	0.103	-0.529	-0.356*
Number of primary branches	0.884	-0.744	-0.007	0.758	-0.001	-0.063	0.261	0.484	0.105	-0.200	-0.244	-1.206	0.027
Number of mature pods / plant	0.278	0.092	-0.033	-0.004	0.212	1.323	-0.394	0.091	0.014	0.021	-0.394	-0.408	0.798**
Pod yield /plant (g)	-0.093	0.171	-0.039	-0.028	0.166	1.690	-0.699	0.069	-0.102	0.063	-0.157	-0.042	0.986**
Hundred pod mass (g)	0.051	0.579	-0.005	-0.141	0.060	0.843	-1.401	0.614	-0.130	0.378	-0.140	-0.169	0.539**
Shelling per cent (S %)	-0.033	-0.266	0.015	-0.289	-0.015	-0.092	0.677	-1.270	-0.057	-0.296	0.349	0.118	-0.158
Hundred seed weight (g)	-0.406	0.184	-0.002	-0.262	-0.010	0.568	-0.599	-0.237	-0.304	0.128	0.372	0.837	0.268
Sound mature kernel (SMK %)	0.065	-0.47	-0.012	0.200	-0.006	-0.141	0.698	-0.494	0.051	-0.760	0.186	0.586	-0.097
Oil content (%)	-0.327	-0.188	0.015	-0.241	-0.109	-0.345	0.256	-0.577	-0.147	-0.184	0.768	0.829	-0.250
Protein content (%)	-0.231	0.516	0.036	0.543	0.051	0.042	-0.140	0.843	0.151	0.264	-0.378	-1.684	0.013

Residual= -0.2501

*, ** - Significant at 5% and 1% level of significance, respectively

Table.6 Genotypic path coefficient analysis showing

Characters	Days to 50 % flowering	Days to maturity	Plant height (cm)	Number of primary branches	Number of mature pods / plant	Pod yield/plant (g)	Hundred pod mass (g)	Shelling per cent (S %)	Hundred seed weight (g)	Sound mature kernel (SMK %)	Oil content (%)	Protein content (%)	Genotypic correlation with Kernel yield/plant (g)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Days to 50 % flowering	-0.211	0.237	-0.031	-0.001	-0.014	0.282	-0.028	0.048	-0.054	0.003	0.034	-0.076	0.189
Days to maturity	-0.169	0.294	0.047	0.000	-0.002	0.090	-0.056	0.113	-0.007	-0.011	-0.006	-0.215	0.077
Plant height (cm)	0.047	0.098	0.141	0.000	-0.035	-0.287	0.002	-0.082	-0.013	-0.005	0.011	-0.153	-0.278
Number of primary branches	0.109	-0.061	-0.014	0.002	-0.020	-0.117	0.025	0.190	0.038	0.002	-0.024	-0.188	-0.057
Number of mature pods / plant	0.023	-0.005	-0.039	0.000	0.126	0.899	-0.053	0.036	0.011	-0.001	-0.054	-0.145	0.796**
Pod yield/plant (g)	-0.052	0.023	-0.035	0.000	0.098	1.152	-0.097	0.026	-0.065	-0.004	-0.020	-0.034	0.993**
Hundred pod mass (g)	-0.031	0.086	-0.002	0.000	0.035	0.580	-0.192	0.244	-0.081	-0.021	-0.019	-0.067	0.533**
Shelling per cent (S %)	0.020	-0.065	0.023	-0.001	-0.009	-0.059	0.091	-0.511	-0.044	0.016	0.047	0.292	-0.199
Hundred seed weight (g)	-0.058	0.011	0.009	0.000	-0.007	0.383	-0.080	-0.114	-0.195	-0.007	0.053	0.248	0.243
Sound mature kernel (SMK %)	-0.014	-0.076	-0.017	0.000	-0.004	-0.107	0.095	-0.198	0.034	0.043	0.019	0.138	-0.088
Oil content (%)	-0.067	-0.016	0.015	0.000	-0.064	-0.219	0.034	-0.227	-0.098	0.008	0.106	0.227	-0.302*
Protein content (%)	-0.032	0.126	0.043	0.001	0.036	0.077	-0.025	0.297	0.096	-0.012	-0.048	-0.502	0.058

Residual= -0.0736

*, ** -Significant at 5% and 1% level of significance, respectively

High genetic advance as percentage of mean was observed for plant height, length of primary branch, number of primary branches, number of mature pods/plant, pod yield/plant, kernel yield/plant, number of one seeded pods%, number of three seeded pod %, pod length, pod width, hundred pod mass, shelling %, seed length, seed width, hundred seed weight and SMK %. It indicated that the characters were controlled by additive gene action and selection would be effective for improvement of these characters in genotypes studied. It indicated the necessity of utilising these traits for crop improvement for groundnut. Similar findings of high genetic advance as per cent of the mean for primary branches per plant, kernel yield and pod yield were also reported by Hampannavar *et al.*, (2018).

In the present study high heritability coupled with low genetic advance was observed for oil content and protein content in both the seasons suggesting that variability in this character was due to non additive gene action. In the present investigation, number of mature pods/plant, pod yield/plant and hundred pods mass, showed high positive association with kernel yield, thus suggesting that these characters would be important yield components and the effective improvement in yield could be achieved through selection based on these characters.

From the path analysis study, it was observed that, during *kharif* season days to maturity had the highest and positive direct effect on kernel yield per plant followed by pod yield/plant, oil content, number of primary branches and plant height, while during summer, pod yield/plant had the highest and positive direct effect on kernel yield per plant followed by days to maturity, plant height, number of mature pods/plant, oil content, SMK% and number of primary branches. Characters such as number of mature

pods/plant, pod yield/plant, showed positive and significant genotypic correlation with kernel yield, exhibiting positive direct effects also. Therefore, selection for these component traits may increase pod yield in studied groundnut genotypes. Similar trend was also observed by Tirkey *et al.*, (2018) for kernel yield and by Zaman *et al.*, (2011) for kernel yield.

In conclusions the both the seasons, most of the characters exhibited high GCV, PCV, heritability and genetic advance per cent over mean. Most of the yield attributing characters showed direct and positive effect on kernel yield.

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