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Stability studies with special emphasis on phenotypic character in cluster bean

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Abstract

Stability was studied for seed yield and their component characters in fifty five genotypes of cluster bean under four environmental conditions during Summer and *Kharif* 2014 at two locations (Akola and Amravati). The variance due to genotype \times environment (linear) was found to be highly significant against pooled deviation for six traits *viz.*, internodal length, number of dry pod cluster⁻¹, days to first picking of dry pod, length of dry pod, width of dry pod and seed to husk ratio and the non linear component (pooled deviation) was also highly significant for all the traits except internodal length, length of dry pod and width of dry pod. The environment + (genotypes X environment) was highly significant for all the characters except plant spread and number of dry pods cluster plant⁻¹ against pooled deviation indicating distinct nature of environments and the effects due to environments (linear) was highly significant for all the characters. Based on stability parameters and over all mean, six genotypes *viz.*, IC-421839, IC-324032, IC-329036, IC-421816, IC-421815 and IC-421834 were stable in performance for dry pod yield hectare⁻¹ and the genotypes namely IC-421834, IC-421839, IC-421815, IC-324032 and IC-421798 were stable in performance for seed yield plot⁻¹ (20 plants).

Keywords: deviation from regression, genotypes, GXE interactions, regression coefficient

Introduction

Cluster bean [*Cyamopsis tetragonoloba* (L.) Taub] [2n=14] is one of the most important and potential vegetable cum industrial crop grown for its tender pods for vegetable purpose and endospermic gum [30-35%]. The endosperm fraction of cluster bean seed is rich in galactomannan (16.80 to 30.90%), while the germ and hull portion termed as guar meal obtained after the extraction of gum is rich in protein (28.90–46.00%) and used as animal and poultry feed.

In India, cluster bean for seed production (Guar seed) occupies an area of 42.15 lakh hectares with a production of 18.96 lakh tones (Baldodiya and Awasthi, 2018) [1]. In Indian states like Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat and Punjab, guar is mainly cultivated for guar gum production and for forage.

Considering the importance of cluster bean gum for industrial and medical purpose, there is a prime need for its improvement. Breeding for varieties suited to specific agro-ecological conditions for seed purpose is urgently needed for Western Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. Hence, evaluation of genotypes study was undertaken to identify the superior genotypes on the basis of phenotypic stability for seed yield in cluster bean genotypes.

Materials and Methods

The experimental material for the present investigation comprised of 55 cluster bean genotypes were grown in a randomized block design with two replications over four different environments at University Department of Horticulture, Dr. PDKV, Akola and Regional Research Centre, Dr. PDKV, Amravati, Maharashtra during summer and *kharif* 2014. Each plot (1.20 m x 1.00 m) consisted of 20 plants in two rows of 1 m length with a spacing of 60 cm X 10 cm. All the recommended package of practices for guar was followed. The experimental season showed different temperature regimes, humidity, rain fall and sunshine hours during the crop durations. Observations were recorded on five competitive plants in respect of 10 characters *viz.*, plant spread cm² (90 DAS), internodal length (cm), number of dry pod clusters plant⁻¹, number of dry pod cluster⁻¹, days to first picking of dry pod, length of dry pod, width of dry pod, dry pod yield hectare⁻¹ (q), seed yield plot⁻¹ (20 plants) and seed to husk ratio. The stability parameters estimated were mean of the trait (X), linear regression (bi) and mean square deviation from the regression (S²di) line.

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As per the Eberhart and Russel model of stability, components S^2_{di} measures the predictability, whereas b_i measures the stability. Stability of a genotype can be predicted more precisely if $G \times E$ interaction is present but S^2_{di} values is non significant. According to them, a genotype which possess high mean (\bar{x}), unit regression coefficient ($b_i=1$) with the deviation from regression line approaching zero ($S^2_{di}=0$) is considered to be stable one, i.e., possessing average stability, whereas a variety with regression coefficient lower than one has above average stability and is specially adapted to unfavourable (poor) environments. They hardly express response to improved environmental conditions. A variety with regression coefficient greater than one ($b_i>1$) has below average stability and is suitable for favourable/rich environments. In the present study, the $G \times E$ interaction and stability analysis of different genotypes across the four environments were worked out as per the model given by Eberhart and Russel (1966) [5].

Results and Discussion

Pooled analysis of variance for stability

Pooled analysis of variance for stability of all traits across four different environments revealed that there were highly significant differences among the genotypes tested for all the characters studied. Henry and Kackar (2001) [6] and Jain, *et al.* (2012) [7] reported similar result in cluster bean.

The environment in which these experiments were conducted showed highly significant differences in all the observations indicating the validity of conduct of experiment in these environments (Table 1). Chaudhary, *et al.* (2005a) [2], Chaudhary, *et al.* (2005b) [3] and Pathak *et al.* (2010b) [8] reported genotype (G) and environment (E) were significant for all the traits in cluster bean.

The differences due to $G \times E$ interactions were found to be highly significant for all the characters except width of dry pod against pooled error indicating considerable amount of interaction between the genotypes and environments. The $G \times E$ interactions differed significantly high for the traits *viz.* internodal length, number of dry pod cluster⁻¹, days to first picking of dry pod, length of dry pod, width of dry pod and seed to husk ratio. The results obtained are in agreement with the findings of earlier workers Chaudhary, *et al.* (2005b) [3], Chaudhary, *et al.* (2005a) [2], Pathak, *et al.* (2010b) [8], Pathak, *et al.* (2011) [9] and Jain, *et al.* (2012) [7] in cluster bean.

The environment + (genotypes X environment) were also highly significant for all the characters except plant spread and number of dry pods cluster plant⁻¹ against pooled deviation (Table 1). Similar result reported by Chaudhary *et al.* (2005b) [3] found significant E+ (G+E) for all traits in cluster bean.

The effects due to environments (linear) were highly significant for all the characters indicating that environmental effects are additive (Table 1). Chaudhary *et al.* (2005a) [2], Chaudhary *et al.* (2005b) [3] and Jain *et al.* (2012) [7] observed significant environment (linear) interaction in cluster bean.

The variance due to $G \times E$ (linear) was found to be highly significant against pooled deviation for traits *viz.*, internodal length, number of dry pod cluster⁻¹, days to first picking of dry pod, length of dry pod, width of dry pod and seed to husk ratio (Table 1) revealing that the behavior of genotypes could be predicted over the environments more precisely and accurately as $G \times E$ interaction was the outcome of the linear function of the environmental components. Similar result reported by Chaudhary *et al.* (2005b) [3] that $G \times E$ (linear)

interaction was significant for all the traits except days to maturity in cluster bean.

The $G \times E$ (linear) was found to be non-significant for four traits *viz.*, plant spread, number of dry pods clusters plant⁻¹, dry pod yield hectare⁻¹ against pooled deviation, indicating that the differential response of genotypes to the changing environments was not controlled genetically and pointed to the difficulty in prediction of performance of the genotypes across the environment. Similar results reported by Chaudhary *et al.* (2005a) [2].

The mean sum of squares due to pooled deviation was also found highly significant for all the characters except internodal length, length of dry pod and width of dry pod which indicates the non linear or unpredictable portion of $G \times E$ interaction was predominant when tested against pooled error. Chaudhary *et al.* (2005a) [2] reported highly significant mean squares due to pooled deviations for all traits except days to maturity, plant height and pod length in cluster bean.

Stability analysis for different characters

The results pertaining to these stability parameters are discussed character-wise as suggested by Eberhart and Russell (1966) [5].

a) Plant spread cm² (90DAS)

The genotypes *viz.*, IC-415157(04) had high mean values for plant spread with nearer to unity regression value and non significant deviation from regression line. This suggested that this genotype is well adapted to all the environment for this trait. The genotypes *viz.*, IC-415160 (05), IC-421797 (08) IC-329639(31), IC-248087(33), PLG-354 (35), IC-329036 (39), IC-373427 (41) and RGC-936 (45) had high mean values for plant spread with more than regression coefficient and non significant deviation from regression line. This suggested that these genotypes are adapted to favourable environment for this trait. The genotypes IC-415102 (03), IC-370478 (36) and HG-3-100 (54) well adopted to unfavourable environment (Table 2).

b) Internodal length (cm)

The genotypes IC-415157 (04) and AVT-GR-11(55) were well adapted to all the environment as far as internodal length is concerned, as indicated by stability parameters considered as stable genotype as it had high mean value with regression coefficient near to unity and non significant deviation from regression line. Since the genotypes IC-298638 (01), IC-415102 (03), IC-415165 (07), IC-421797(08), IC-421801(09), IC-421806 (11), IC-421826(18), IC-421831 (21), IC-421839 (25), IC-369789 (30), IC-329639(31), IC-325811(40), IC-311441 (43), RGC-1031(46) and IC-421812 (50) showed the high mean, regression coefficient more than one and non significant deviation from regression line, these genotypes were suitable for favourable environment. While genotypes *viz.*, IC-370742 (02), IC-421803 (10), IC-421811(12), IC-421816 (13), IC-421820(14), IC-421825 (17), IC-421828(19), IC-421830(20), IC-421834(23), IC-421837(24), IC421842(28) and IC-421815(32) were adapted to unfavourable environment as these genotypes exhibited mean values high, regression coefficient less than one and non significant deviation from regression line (Table 2).

c) Number of dry pod clusters plant⁻¹

The genotype PLG-85 (38) recorded higher number of dry pod clusters plant⁻¹ and regression coefficient around unity

with non significant deviation from regression line indicating its average stability i.e. well adapted to all environments (stable). The five genotypes IC-421825 (17), IC-421830 (20), IC-421839 (25), IC-248087(33) and IC-329036 (39) expressed high number of dry pod clusters plant⁻¹, regression coefficient greater than unity and non significant S²di, thus indicating below average stability for favourable environmental situations. The four genotypes IC-421831 (21), IC-421834 (23), IC-421837 (24) and IC-324032 (34) recorded more number of dry pod clusters plant⁻¹ and bi value less than one with non significant S²di, explaining its suitability in unfavourable environments thus indicating above average stability (Table 2).

d) Number of dry pod cluster⁻¹

According to Eberhart and Russell model (1966) [5], the genotype IC-325811 (40) had high mean (6.75), regression value (1.00) and non significant deviation from regression line (0.00) considered as most stable expressed for number of dry pod cluster⁻¹. While the genotype IC415163 (06) recorded higher number of dry pod cluster⁻¹ and regression coefficient around unity with non significant deviation from regression line indicating its average stability. The genotype IC-415102 (03), IC-415160(05), IC-421803(10), IC-415109 (37) and IC-311441(43) recorded more number of dry pod cluster⁻¹ and bi value more than one with non significant S²di, explaining its suitability in favourable environments (below stability). The genotype IC-298638(01), IC-415165 (07), IC-421830 (20), IC-329639 (31), IC-415159 (42), RGC-936 (45) and IC-373480 (48) recorded more number of dry pod cluster⁻¹ and bi value less than one with non significant S²di, explaining its suitability in poor environments (unfavourable) with predictable performance (Table 2).

e) Days to first picking of dry pod

Considering the three parameters together of Eberhart and Russell model high mean, regression value nearer to unity and non significant deviation from regression line exhibited by the genotype IC-421821 (15), IC-421830 (20), IC-421840 (26), IC-370478 (36), IC-329036 (39), IC-325811 (40), IC-373427 (41) IC-415159 (42) considered as stable genotype expressed for days to first picking of dry pods over the environments. The genotypes viz., IC-421837(24), IC-421839 (25), IC-421841(27), IC-415140 (44), IC-373480 (48), IC-369861(49), IC-421812 (50), IC-369868 (52) and RGC-986 (53) recorded high mean, regression value greater than unity and non significant deviation from regression line. This suggests that these genotypes were well adapted to favourable environments indicated below average stability. The genotype IC-415165 (07), IC-421806 (11), IC-421811(12), IC-421816 (13), IC-421834 (23), IC-421815 (32) and PLG-85 (38) showed high mean, regression value less than unity and non significant deviation from regression line indicating above average stability suitable for unfavourable environment (Table 2).

f) Length of dry pod (cm)

As per Eberhart and Russell model of stability no one genotype exhibited stable trend. The genotypes viz., IC-370742 (02), IC-415160 (05), IC-421801(09), IC-421816 (13), IC-421821(15), IC-421837(24), IC-329639 (31), IC-415109(37), IC-329036 (39), IC-373427 (41), IC-311441 (43) and IC-369868 (52) recorded high mean, regression value greater than unity and non significant deviation from

regression line indicating these genotypes were well adapted to favourable environments indicating below average stability. The genotype IC-298638(01), IC-415102(03), IC-415163 (06), IC-421803(10), IC-421843(29), RGC-936 (45), RGC-1031(46), IC-373480 (48), IC-369861 (49) RGC-986 (53), HG-3-100 (54) and AVT-GR-11(55) showed high mean, regression value less than unity and non significant deviation from regression line indicating above average stability suitable for unfavourable environment (Table 3).

g) Width of dry pod (cm)

Considering the three parameters together of high mean, regression value nearer to unity and non significant deviation from regression line, four genotypes IC-421801 (09), IC-329639 (31), IC-324032 (34) and IC-369866 (52). exhibited this trend. The genotypes IC-298638 (01), IC-415102 (03), IC-421816 (13), IC-421828 (19), IC-421842(28), IC-421843 (29) and IC-373480 (48) recorded below stability due to more width of dry pods and bi value more than one with non significant S²di, explaining its suitability in favourable environments. The genotype IC-370742 (02), IC-415160(05), IC-415163 (06), IC-415165 (07), IC-421797 (08), IC-421803 (10), IC-421806 (11), IC-421811(12), IC-421820 (14), IC-421831 (21), IC-421834 (23), IC-421841 (27), IC-329036 (39) and IC-421798 (51) recorded above average stability due to more width of dry pod and bi value less than one with non significant S²di, explaining its suitability in poor environments (unfavourable) (Table 3).

h) Dry pod yield hectare⁻¹ (q)

Three genotypes namely IC-421839 (25), IC-324032 (34), IC-329036 (39) IC-421816 (13), IC-421815 (32) and IC-421834 (23) recorded average stability as it had higher dry pod yield hectare⁻¹ with regression coefficient near to unity and non significant deviation from regression line with predictable performance across the environments for this yield component trait i.e. stable genotypes. Seven genotypes recorded below average stability viz. IC-298638 (01), IC-421797 (08), IC-421830 (20), IC-248087 (33), IC-370478 (36), IC-373480 (48) and IC-369861 (49) had recorded higher dry pod yield hectare⁻¹ with bi value greater than one with non significant S²di indicating suitability of these genotypes under favourable environmental situations with predictable performance. The genotypes viz. IC-421831 (21), IC-421837 (24) and IC-421798 (51) recorded above average stability as it had more dry pod yield hectare⁻¹ and bi value less than one with non significant S²di, explaining its suitability in poor environments (unfavourable) with predictable performance whereas dry pod yield hectare⁻¹ observed additional stable genotypes namely IC-421834 (23) & IC-421815 (32), IC-421834 (23) and IC-421816 (13) & IC-421815 (32) respectively (Table 1).

i) Seed yield plot⁻¹ (20 plants) (g)

The genotypes namely IC-421834 (23), IC-421839 (25), IC-421815 (32), IC-324032 (34) and IC-421798 (51) recorded higher seed yield plot⁻¹ with regression coefficient near to unity and non significant deviation from regression line indicating its average stability with predictable performance across the environments for this yield component trait i.e. stable genotypes. The genotypes viz. IC-298638 (01), IC-415163 (06), IC-421797 (08), IC-248087 (33), IC-370478 (36), IC-329036 (39), RGC-1031 (46), IC-373480 (48) and IC-369861 (49) had recorded higher seed yield plot⁻¹ with bi

value greater than one with non significant S^2di indicating suitability of these genotypes under favourable environmental situations with predictable performance with below average stability. Three genotypes viz. IC-421816 (13), IC-421831 (21) and IC-421837 (24) recorded more seed yield plot⁻¹ and bi value less than one with non significant S^2di , explaining its suitability in poor environments (unfavourable) with predictable performance with above average stability (Table 3).

D'almeida and Tikka (2003) observed genotypes HGS-843, RGC-1022, RGC-1017, GAUG-8832 and GG-1 gave stable performance for seed yield, whereas genotype GAUG-9003 was found to be highly responsive to unfavourable environments in cluster bean. Chaudhary *et al.* (2005a) [2] observed thirty genotypes gave stable performance for seed yield. Average, above average and below average responses were exhibited by 15, 8 and 7 genotypes, respectively, indicating that these will be suitable for across the environments, favourable and less favourable environments, respectively. Genotypes RGC-1038, RGC-1031, HGS-844, RGM-112, RGC-1002, HGS-891, RGM-114 and HGS-365 had above average seed yield, average response ($b=1$) and deviation to regression ($S^2di=0$), thereby indicating that it will be suitable for wider range of environments in cluster bean. Jain *et al.* (2012) [7] observed the genotypes viz., GAUG-0309 and GAUG-0511 were the most stable under rainfed situation for improvement of seed yield in cluster bean.

j) Seed to husk ratio

No genotypes showed average stability performance for this trait. Seven genotypes viz. IC-415165 (07), IC-421840 (26), IC-421841(27), IC-421815 (32), IC-248087 (33), IC-324032 (34) and IC-415159 (42) recorded higher seed to husk ratio with bi value greater than one with non significant S^2di indicating suitability of these genotypes under favourable environmental situations. The thirteen genotypes viz. IC-421803 (10), IC-421828 (19), IC-421831 (21), IC-421832 (22), IC-421839 (25), IC-329639 (31), IC-415109(37), IC-373427 (41), RGC-936 (45), IC-369861 (49), IC-369868 (52), RGC-986 (53) and HG-3-100 (54), recorded more seed to husk ratio and bi value less than one with non significant S^2di , explaining its suitability in unfavourable environments (Table 3).

Considering overall performance of the genotypes, six genotypes viz., IC-421839, IC-324032, IC-329036, IC-421816, IC-421815 and IC-421834 were stable in performance for dry pod yield hectare⁻¹ and the genotypes namely IC-421834, IC-421839, IC-421815, IC-324032 and IC-421798 were stable in performance for seed yield plot⁻¹ (20 plants). Considering above facts there is better chances of utilizing these genotypes in breeding programme to develop superior genotypes having stable performance than existing ones.

Table 1: Analysis of variance for stability of different characters over four environment (two *summer* and two *kharif*, 2014)

Sr. No.	Source of variation	d.f.	Mean sum of square				
			Plant spread cm ² (90 DAS)	Internodal length (cm)	Number of dry pod clusters plant ⁻¹	Number of dry pod cluster ⁻¹	Days to first picking of dry pod.
1	Rep within Env.	4	4.72	0.14	0.83	0.04	1.49
2	Genotypes	54	857.67**++	0.69**++	31.70**++	1.82**++	8.59**++
3	Environments	3	314.19**++	5.15**++	70.57**++	78.21**++	5283.17**++
4	Genotype x Environment	162	38.36++	0.22**++	8.28++	0.82**++	7.01**++
5	Total	219	244.16	0.40	14.91	2.12	79.68
6	Pooled error	216	3.27	0.10	1.09	0.03	2.55
7	Environment +(Genotype x Environment)	165	43.38++	0.31**++	9.41++	2.23**++	102.94**++
8	Environment (Linear)	1	942.57**++	15.45**++	211.70**++	234.61**++	15849.51**++
9	Genotype x Environment (Linear)	54	33.56++	0.41**++	6.59++	2.18**++	11.82**++
10	Pooled deviation	110	40.02++	0.12	8.96++	0.14++	4.52++
Sr. No.	Source of variation	d.f.	Length of dry pod (cm)	Width of dry pod (cm)	Dry Pod yield hectare ⁻¹ (g)	Seed yield plot-1 (g) (20 plant)	Seed to husk ratio
1	Rep within Env.	4	0.01	0.00	1.22	149.85	0.0003
2	Genotypes	54	0.34**++	0.01**++	149.48**++	7454.85**++	0.101**++
3	Environments	3	5.58**++	0.19**++	2006.20**++	122491.11**++	0.28**++
4	Genotype x Environment	162	0.09**++	0.002**	34.43++	1842.14++	0.02**++
5	Total	219	0.22	0.01	89.81	4878.82	0.04
6	Pooled error	216	0.01	0.0015	7.1800	401.51	0.0003
7	Environment+(Genotype x environment)	165	0.19**++	0.01**++	70.28**++	4035.75**++	0.02**++
8	Environment (Linear)	1	16.73**++	0.56**++	9018.90**++	367473.31**++	0.82**++
9	Genotype x Environment (Linear)	54	0.24**++	0.0031**++	38.09++	2276.4++	0.05**++
10	Pooled deviation	110	0.01	0.0011	32.01++	1595.46++	0.0012++

* Significant at 5% level against pooled deviation, + significant at 5% level against pooled error, ** Significant at 1% level against pooled deviation and ++ Significant at 1% level against pooled error

	SE (m)+	0.10	0.17		0.02	0.32		2.17	0.54		15.96	0.50		0.05	0.28	
	CD 5%	0.29			0.06			6.04			44.38			0.13		
	CD 1%	0.38			0.07			7.95			58.43			0.16		

*,**,- significant at 5% and 1% level and bi= regression coefficient, S2di = deviation from regression line

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