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Association between productivity parameters and iron deficiency chlorosis in groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.)

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Abstract

Iron deficiency chlorosis in groundnut is a common problem causes reduction in yield particularly in calcareous, alkaline and black soils. The association study in eleven groundnut genotypes and minicore was studied under iron deficient calcareous soil. The association study in mini core and eleven genotypes indicated significant negative correlation between VCR (Visual chlorophyll ratting) with all other iron absorption efficiency and productivity parameters (haulm weight and pod yield). The SCMR (Spade chlorophyll meter reading) has significant positive correlation with ferrous and chlorophyll ('a', 'b' and 'total') content and yield per plant.

Keywords: Groundnut, VCR, SCMR, IDC, Minicore

Introduction

Groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) is an important oilseed legume crop grown in arid and semiarid regions of the world. Plants require many essential nutrient for competing their life cycle among them iron is an essential nutrient required for completing life-sustaining process i.e. respiration to photosynthesis. It plays an important role in the synthesis of chlorophyll, carbohydrate production and cell respiration, chemical reduction of nitrate and sulphate and nitrogen assimilation. To maintain optimum growth plants need to maintain 10-9 to 10-4 M Fe in the concentration but it is a challenging due to low solubility of Fe in soil solution. Any factor that interfere its absorption and translocation may cause the plant to develop chlorosis. Iron present in abundant in nature but in the presence of oxygen at neutral or basic pH it forms insoluble hydroxide complexes which is an unavailable form of iron for the plants (Guerinot and Yi, 1994). The deficiency of iron indicates by yellowish interveinal parts of leaves on younger leaves referred as 'iron chlorosis'. In severe deficiency leaves convert into almost pale white due to loss of chlorophyll. In general, plants are prone to iron deficiency in soils which are alkaline, calcareous, coarse textured and eroded soils with low organic matter and coldweathered except flooded rice (Tandon, 1998) ^[34].

The soils with high calcium carbonate content show the chlorosis immediately after irrigation or high rainfall because in the presence of high bicarbonate plant cannot absorb the iron. The yield reduction up to 16-32% (Potdar and Anderes, 1995; Singh *et al.*, 1995; Singh, 2001)^[19, 30] due to iron deficiency chlorosis whereas in severe cases it may lead to complete crop failure. There IDC severity is quite high in crop grown in post-rainy/ summer under irrigation. The IDC problem can be overcome by the soil application of iron in the form of ferrous sulphate (FeSO₄) but this approach is not feasible to the farmer and crop as iron gets convert into ferric compound which are unavailable to plants. The most feasible approach to overcome the iron chlorosis is development of iron deficiency chlorosis resistant cultivars by exploiting the genetic variability (Reddy *et al.*, 1993; Kulkarni *et al.*, 1994; Samdur *et al.*, 1999, 2000)^[8, 24, 23]. Growing IDC resistant groundnut cultivars under calcareous soils has shown significantly higher pod yield compared to susceptible cultivars (Samdur *et al.*, 1999; Prasad *et al.*, 2000)^[23, 20].

Identification of iron deficiency chlorosis resistant groundnut genotypes to overcome/ minimize lime induced chlorosis with higher productivity is a better and long lasting option for sustainable agriculture. The iron deficiency chlorosis effect the many yield attributing character therefore the association study between iron deficiency chlorosis parameters and productivity parameters was conducted.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in the field with calcareous soil at RARS, Vijayapur. Vijayapur comes under Northern dry zone (Zone 3) of Karnataka and situated at 16°49" N latitude,

75°43" E longitude with an altitude of 593 m above mean sea level. The soil collected for the experimentation is clay in texture. The soil samples were collected from a depth of 0 to 15 cm, powdered and mixed thoroughly to obtain a homogeneous mixture and chemical properties were analyzed by following standard procedures (Table 1). The recommended dose of nitrogen (25 kg ha⁻¹), phosphorus (75 kg ha⁻¹) and potassium (25 kg ha⁻¹) were added to the field at the time of sowing. Iron containing fertilizers were avoided. There are two set of experiment were conducted for association study. In first set one hundred ninety six groundnut genotypes which include 184 groundnut genotypes from ICRISAT mini core collection, 4 ICRISAT control genotypes and 8 local checks sown under unbalanced alpha lattice design with two replications. Each genotype was planted as one row of 2 m length with a spacing of 30 x 10 cm for bunch types and 60 x 10 cm for spreading types. The recommended cultivation practices were followed to maintain healthy plant population. The iron absorption efficiency was recorded based on severity of calcium induced interveinal chlorosis at different stages viz., 15, 30, 45, 60, 75 and 90 days after sowing (DAS) using VCR (Visual chlorophyll ratting) and SCMR (Spade chlorophyll meter reading). The yield and yield components viz., main stem height (cm), number of primary branches, number of pods per plant, pod yield per plant (g), shelling per cent and hundred seed weight (g) were recorded at harvest or after harvest for all the genotypes.

In second set eleven selected groundnut genotypes viz., ICGV 86031, TAG 24, RIL 52, RIL 146, RIL 307 (Recombinant Inbred Lines from TAG 24 x ICGV 86031), A30b, ICGV 06146, GPBD 5, Dh 86, TMV 2 and G2-52, were sown in 2 sets, in iron-deficient calcareous soil in Factorial randomized block design (Factorial RBD). One set was sown under calcareous soil without any iron supplementation and second set in calcareous soil but with iron supplementation (foliar application 0.5% Fe EDDHA at two stages *i.e.* 30 and 45 DAS). Each genotype was planted in five rows of 3 m length with a spacing of 30 X 10 cm in 3 replications in each set. The recommended cultivation practices were followed to maintain healthy plant population. The iron absorption efficiency parameter viz., VCR, SCMR, Leaf chlorophyll content and iron was recorded at different stages viz., 30, 45, 60, 75 and 90 days after sowing (DAS). The yield and yield components viz., main stem height (cm), number of primary branches, number of pods per plant, pod vield per plant (g), shelling per cent and hundred seed weight (g) were recorded at harvest or after harvest for all the genotypes. The association between productivity parameters and iron chlorosis deficiency trait in mini core and eleven genotypes was calculated by the using of WINDOSTAT statistical package.

Results and Discussion

Association studies in groundnut genotypes under iron sprayed and unsprayed condition: Association studies in genotypes are clearer under unsprayed condition as compared to sprayed condition. The study revealed that under iron unsprayed condition VCR had significant negative correlation with SCMR, ferrous and chlorophyll ('a', 'b' and 'total') content. VCR has non - significant negative correlation with number of primary branches per plant per plant, haulm weight per plant and yield per plant (Table 2). The VCR under sprayed condition had non- significant negative correlation with SCMR, chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, total chlorophyll and hundred seed weight. It's has non-significant positive correlation with active iron content (Fe^{2+}), number of primary branches per plant, number of pod per plant, shelling per cent, haulm weight per plant and yield per plant. This is because in iron sprayed condition iron deficiency has been recovered by plant whereas in unsprayed condition plant show the iron deficiency chlorosis which cause significant the yield reduction. Thus VCR could be used as a suitable selection trait to identify resistant genotypes.

A significant positive correlation was observed between ferrous and chlorophyll ('a', 'b' and 'total') content which is because iron is a major constituent element of chlorophyll (Table 2). Similar positive correlation has been noted earlier in groundnut (Nagarathnamma, 2006; Boodi, 2014; Singh, 2015) [15, 32] and in French bean (Zhang et al., 1995). Significant positive correlation was found between SCMR and chlorophyll content ('a', 'b', and 'total') in the leaf. Similar results were observed earlier in groundnut (Samdur et al., 2000; Boodi, 2014; Singh, 2015; Motagi et al., 2000) [32, ^{24]} and moong bean (Srinives *et al.*, 2010). Highly significant positive correlation was found between SCMR and ferrous content. Similar positive correlation was reported earlier in groundnut (Nagaratnamma, 2006; Lee et al., 2009; Boodi, 2014; Singh, 2015; prakyat, 2016) ^[32]. SPAD values are related to the chlorophyll content of plants and there exists correlation between SPAD values and chlorophyll concentration (Samdur *et al.*, 2000) ^[24]. Higher values of SPAD were found to be positively correlated with chlorophyll content in the genotypes, confirming earlier findings that SPAD values measures the greenness and indirectly the chlorophyll content in plants. Painawadee et al. (2009) and Arunyanark et al. (2008, 2009) reported that SCMR is positively related to chlorophyll density and it is an indicator of the photo synthetically active light-transmittance characteristics of the leaf (Richardson et al., 2002). These association studies suggest that SCMR can be used as supporting trait for VCR, chlorophyll content and ferrous content for identification of iron chlorosis resistant genotypes in groundnut.

A negative correlation of VCR with various yield and yield parameters like plant height, number of primary branches per plant, haulm weight per plant and yield per plant was observed whereas, SCMR had significant positive correlation with various yield and yield parameters like plant height, number of primary branches per plant, haulm weight per plant and yield per plant (Table 2). Similar results were reported by Singh et al. (2005), Savita and Koti (2004), Nagarathnamma (2006) ^[15], Boodi, (2014), Singh, (2015) ^[32] and prakyat, (2016). This is obvious due to the fact that there is a direct relation between source (leaves) to sink (pods) in any crop in general and groundnut in particular. SCMR, chlorophyll ('a', 'b' and 'total') and iron content recorded positive correlation with various yield and yield parameters like plant height, number of primaries per plant, haulm weight per plant and yield per plant due to the fact that there is direct relation between source (leaves) to sink (pods) in any crop in general and groundnut in particular.

Association studies in mini core

Association studies in mini core revealed that VCR had significantly negative correlation with SCMR (Table 3). This

is obvious due to SPAD measures the greenness and indirectly the chlorophyll content in plants. Earlier studies on screening several released varieties and germplasm of groundnut for iron absorption efficiency, negative correlation was observed between VCR and SCMR (Samdur *et al.*, 2000, Savita and Koti, 2004, and Nagarathnamma 2006; Boodi, 2014; Singh, 2015; Prakyat, 2016) ^[24, 32, 15]. This shows that VCR could be suitable trait to identify iron deficiency chlorosis resistant genotypes.

and yield parameters like plant height, number of primary branches per plant, number of pods per plant, shelling per cent haulm weight per plant and pod yield per plant whereas, SCMR had positive correlation with various yield and yield parameters like plant height, number of primary branches per plant, number of pods per plant, shelling per cent, haulm weight per plant and yield per plant (Table 3). Similar observations were reported by Singh *et al.* (2005), Savita and Koti (2004), Nagarathnamma (2006) ^[15], Singh, (2015) ^[32], Boodi, (2014) and Prakyat, (2016).

VCR also exhibited negative correlation with various yield

| Sl. No. | Parameter | Unit | Values | | |
|---------|---|---------------------------|--------|--|--|
| 1 | pН | | 8.02 | | |
| 2 | EC | dsm ⁻¹ | 0.53 | | |
| 3 | Organic carbon | % | 0.64 | | |
| 4 | Available Nitrogen | kg/ha | 294.00 | | |
| 5 | Available P ₂ O ₅ | kg/ha | 48.75 | | |
| 6 | Available K ₂ O | kg/ha | 468.00 | | |
| 7 | Available Ca | Cmol (p ⁺)/kg | 19.25 | | |
| 8 | Available Mg | Cmol (p+)/kg | 5.55 | | |
| 9 | Available Sulphur | mg/kg | 18.20 | | |
| 10 | Free Lime | % | 8.93 | | |
| 11 | CEC | Cmol (p+)/kg | 58.00 | | |
| 12 | Base Saturation | % | 42.75 | | |
| 13 | Zinc | Ppm | 3.12 | | |
| 14 | Iron | Ppm | 0.09 | | |
| 15 | Copper | Ppm | 2.24 | | |
| 16 | Manganese | Ppm | 0.23 | | |

 Table 1: Chemical characteristics of the soil in experimental site

EC: Electric conductivity; CEC: Cation exchange capacity

Table 2: Correlation between iron absorption efficiency traits at 60 days DAS and productivity traits under sprayed and unsprayed condition

| Traits | Cond. | VCR | SCMR | Chl. a | Chl. b | Total Chl. | Fe | PH | NPB | NPP | HSW | SP | HWP | YPP |
|-------------|-------|-------|----------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|--------|--------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| VCD | S | 1.000 | -0.101 | -0.297 | -0.238 | -0.326 | 0.110 | 0.000 | 0.099 | 0.215 | -0.330 | 0.267 | 0.263 | 0.206 |
| VCK | US | 1.000 | -0.904** | -0.858** | -0.925** | -0.887** | -0.909** | -0.285** | -0.138 | 0.147 | 0.051 | 0.041 | -0.305 | -0.038 |
| SCMD | S | | 1.000 | 0.365* | 0.405* | 0.407* | 0.109 | 0.006 | 0.192 | -0.211 | 0.451** | -0.402* | -0.075 | -0.434** |
| SCIVIK | US | | 1.000 | 0.851** | 0.913** | 0.879** | 0.871** | 0.238 | 0.248 | -0.121 | -0.068 | -0.058 | 0.354* | 0.205 |
| Ch1 - | S | | | 1.000 | 0.405* | 0.977** | 0.055 | 0.233 | -0.045 | -0.139 | 0.470** | -0.474** | -0.053 | -0.498** |
| Cni. a | US | | | 1.000 | 0.838** | 0.997** | 0.822** | 0.283 | 0.197 | -0.111 | -0.125 | -0.056 | 0.366** | 0.094 |
| Chl h | S | | | | 1.000 | 0.588** | -0.051 | 0.061 | 0.310 | -0.274 | 0.284 | -0.556** | -0.127 | -0.522** |
| CIII. U | US | | | | 1.000 | 0.879** | 0.909** | 0.268 | 0.259 | -0.102 | -0.145 | -0.090 | 0.365* | 0.043 |
| Total Chl | S | | | | | 1.000 | 0.032 | 0.218 | 0.033 | -0.192 | 0.480 ** | -0.544** | -0.078 | -0.565** |
| Total Cill. | US | | | | | 1.000 | 0.825** | 0.289 | 0.209 | -0.113 | -0.125 | -0.063 | 0.375* | 0.088 |
| Ea | S | | | | | | 1.000 | -0.018 | 0.037 | 0.274 | -0.063 | -0.049 | -0.034 | 0.046 |
| ге | US | | | | | | 1.000 | 0.147 | 0.301 | -0.212 | -0.069 | -0.077 | 0.233 | 0.124 |
| DLI | S | | | | | | | 1.000 | 0.302 | -0.083 | -0.145 | -0.003 | 0.698** | 0.074 |
| гп | US | | | | | | | 1.000 | 0.049 | 0.029 | -0.185 | -0.196 | 0.778** | -0.053 |
| NDD | S | | | | | | | | 1.000 | -0.146 | -0.110 | -0.101 | 0.270 | -0.277 |
| INFD | US | | | | | | | | 1.000 | -0.146 | -0.346* | 0.095 | 0.285 | 0.197 |
| NDD | S | | | | | | | | | 1.000 | -0.363* | 0.078 | -0.034 | 0.368* |
| INFF | US | | | | | | | | | 1.000 | -0.219 | 0.146 | -0.047 | 0.522** |
| usw | S | | | | | | | | | | 1.000 | -0.413* | -0.184 | -0.455** |
| пзүү | US | | | | | | | | | | 1.000 | -0.297 | -0.294 | -0.211 |
| SD | S | | | | | | | | | | | 1.000 | 0.196 | 0.601** |
| ы | US | | | | | | | | | | | 1.000 | -0.062 | 0.376* |
| LIWD | S | | | | | | | | | | | | 1.000 | 0.437* |
| п₩Р | US | | | | | | | | | | | | 1.000 | 0.216 |
| VDD | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1.000 |
| TPP | US | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1.000 |

*, ** significant at 5% and at 1% level of significance; S: Under sprayed condition; US: Unsprayed condition; VCR: Visual chlorotic rating; SCMR: SPAD chlorophyll meter reading; Chl. a: Chlorophyll a; Chl. b: Chlorophyll b; total chl.: Total chlorophyll; Fe: Ferrous content; PH: Plant height; NP: Number of primary branches per plant; NPP: Numbers pods per plant; HSW: Hundred seed weight; SP: Shelling per cent; HWP: Haulm weight per plant; YP: Yield per plant

| Table 3: Correlation between iron absorpt | ion efficiency traits at 60 DAS and | productivity traits in mini core lines |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
|---|-------------------------------------|--|

| Traits | VCR | SCMR | PH | NPB | NPP | HSW | SP | HWP | YPP |
|--------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|---------|
| VCR | 1.000 | -0.934** | -0.219** | -0.154** | -0.215** | 0.035 | -0.009 | -0.048 | -0.107 |
| SCMR | | 1.000 | 0.243** | 0.181** | 0.194** | -0.036 | 0.004 | 0.076 | 0.102 |
| PH | | | 1.000 | 0.262* | -0.041 | 0.015 | -0.091 | 0.045 | -0.003 |
| NPB | | | | 1.000 | 0.052 | 0.057 | -0.180** | 0.077 | 0.046 |
| NPP | | | | | 1.000 | -0.040 | 0.137** | 0.014 | 0.610** |
| HSW | | | | | | 1.000 | -0.120* | -0.032 | 0.238** |
| SP | | | | | | | 1.000 | -0.042 | 0.051 |
| HWP | | | | | | | | 1.000 | 0.030 |
| YPP | | | | | | | | | 1.000 |

*, ** significant at 5% and at 1% level of significance; VCR: Visual chlorotic rating; SCMR: chlorophyll meter reading; PH: Plant height; NP: Number of primary branches per plant; NPP: Numbers pods per plant; HSW: Hundred seed weight; SP: Shelling per cent; HWP: Haulm weight per plant; YPP: Yield per plant

Conclusion

Groundnut being sensitive to iron deficiency, iron chlorosis is most commonly seen in areas of groundnut cultivation particularly in calcareous, alkaline and black soils. Association studies between traits related to IDC productivity parameters both in mini core and eleven genotypes indicated negative significant correlation between VCR with all other iron absorption efficiency parameters (SCMR, chlorophyll 'a', chlorophyll 'b', 'total' chlorophyll and ferrous content) and productivity parameter (haulm weight and pod yield). So the VCR along with the SCMR value can be used as selectable criteria for selection of iron deficiency chlorosis resistance genotypes in groundnut.

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