

Genetic variability and stability analysis for seed yield and its components in chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.)

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Abstract

Chickpea is the prime pulse crop of India, India has the distinction of being the largest chickpea producer and accounts for about 64 to 68 per cent of its total area and production in the world, respectively (Anonymous, 2004). Chickpea is grown on about 7.5 m ha area producing 6.1 m tonnes of grain, which represents 33 and 47 per cent of the national pulses acreage and production, respectively. The variability and stability was maximum for the character viz., days to 50% flowering, Days to maturity, Plant height (cm), No. of branches, No. of pods per plant, No. of seeds per pods, 100 seed wt. (g), Biological yield per plant (g), Seed yield per plant (g), Harvest index (%) and Protein content (%). The seed yield the genotypes viz, BG-1107, Pusa-261, Pusa-244, GB-1024, AT-2-1113, Pusa-1053, were found to be stable and suitable for high fertility environments. Genotypes Pusa- 362, Pusa-261, BG-1094, AT-1113, BG-1094, BG-1065 and BGD-112 were found to be most suitable for both western and Bundelkhand region of U.P.

Key words: Biological yield, Seed yield, genotypes, Protein, Harvest index

Introduction

The fact that pulses play a predominant role in our food and farming is well recognized and needs no emphasis. Pulses not only provide high nutritive food, but they are also good source of nutritive green fodder and rich feed for our livestock. Pulses are unique by virtue of their inbuilt capacity of fixing atmospheric nitrogen through *Rhizobium* bacteria present in their root nodules. Thus, they meet substantially their own nitrogen requirement in the soil and leave nitrogen in the soil for use by the succeeding crops. The production of pulses did not keep pace with the population growth in the last two decades, resulting that the per capita per day availability of pulses declined from 69 gram during 1961 to 37 gram during 2004. The Indian council of Medical research (ICMR) has recommended 50gram per day per capita requirement of pulses but presently we consume less due to short fall in total pulses production in the country.

In India, the productivity of pulse crops including chickpea is low because of several constraints like inadequate availability of quality seed of improved

varieties, cultivation of pulses on the poor and marginal lands under rainfed conditions without recommended input application and moreover, there is lack of high yielding and stable varieties of this crop in our country.

The breeding approaches and crop improvement programme have been initiated by government of India and state agricultural universities to improve the productivity of chickpea through development of high yielding plants types and other improved production technologies. It's also important to improve resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, yield potential and stability of available cultivars. The breeding efforts are being made to improve genetic base of different cultivars. Most of the available varieties of chickpea generally produce excessive vegetative growth with poor economic yield. Therefore, there is an urgent need for identifying chickpea genotypes with higher productivity, responsiveness to inputs and consistent yield under various condition as has been emphasized by various research workers (Lather, 1999).

Genetic variability is very important for the improvement of crop plants. More the variability in the population, the greater are the chances for producing desired plant types. Heritability estimates and genetic advance in a population provides information about the

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expected gains in the following generations.

Materials and Methods

The present investigation was carried out using 40 chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) genotypes were conducted using Randomized Block Design with three replications during rabi seasons of 2003 and 2004 at the Research Farm of J.V. (P.G.) College, Baraut (Baghpat) and Research Farm of Bundelkhand University, Jhansi under rainfed and restricted irrigation conditions. Thus, the genotypes were evaluated under eight following environments: E₁=Irrigation only before flowering stage at Baraut in 2003, E₂=Rainfed at Baraut in 2003, E₃=Irrigation only before flowering stage at Jhansi in 2003, E₄=Rainfed at Jhansi in 2003, E₅=Irrigation only before flowering stage at Baraut in 2004, E₆=Rainfed at Baraut in 2004, E₇=Irrigation only before flowering stage at Jhansi in 2004, E₈=Rainfed at Jhansi in 2004. The row to row and plant to plant spacing were 40 cm and 20 cm respectively and row length four meters. The various genetic parameter viz. genotypic and phenotypic coefficients of variation, heritability estimate in broad sense and expected genetic advance were estimated and selection indices were formulated as suggested by Burton *et al.* (1952). Stability is the ability of a certain variety to maintain stable yield under changing environmental conditions and assessed through several stability parameters. Among them, regression coefficient (bi) and deviation from regression (S²di) proposed by Eberhart and Russell (1966) have extensively been used in multi-environment trials.

Results and Discussion

The estimates of heritability were generally high for most of the traits particularly for seed weight, number of pods per plants, seed yield. In environments I, 100-seed weight recorded highest heritability (99.60%) followed by number of pods per plant (99.20%). Biological yield (99.90%), harvest index (99.90) and 100-seed weight noted higher value of heritability in environments II, 100-seed weight (99.9%), number of pods per plant (99.40) and number of branches per plant (99.60%) in environment III, and number of branches per plant (99.70%), 100-seed weight (99.90%) and biological yield per plant (99.90%) in environments in IV. The traits like 100-seed weight, number of pods per plant and number of branches per plant recorded higher heritability in other environments. The low heritability estimates recorded for days to 50% flowering. Similar findings have been reported by various other workers for these different characters (Wahid and Ahmad, 1998, Nimbalkar, 2000, Singh *et al.*, 2002, Muhammad *et al.*, 2003 and Parshurand *et al.*, 2003). High genetic

Table 1: Summary of h²bs and GA % for all characters in chickpea under all the environments studies

S. No.	Characters	Heritability (h ² bs)								Genetic advance as percentage of mean GA (%)							
		E ₁	E ₂	E ₃	E ₄	E ₅	E ₆	E ₇	E ₈	E ₁	E ₂	E ₃	E ₄	E ₅	E ₆	E ₇	E ₈
1.	Days to 50% flowering	74.10	93.80	88.50	58.50	70.30	67.00	68.50	55.40	3.03	3.16	3.20	2.08	2.95	2.55	2.74	1.90
2.	Days to maturity	90.70	96.40	82.80	99.10	77.20	77.70	79.60	82.70	4.20	4.29	4.07	4.60	3.72	3.61	3.98	4.56
3.	Plant height (cm)	98.00	98.60	97.80	98.70	97.80	97.20	97.50	96.60	13.41	13.36	12.61	12.78	13.07	13.31	12.17	11.81
4.	No. of branches	99.80	99.70	99.60	99.70	99.70	99.90	99.90	99.70	31.86	32.77	30.09	32.67	30.96	32.05	29.29	31.76
5.	No. of pods/plant	99.20	99.20	99.40	99.00	99.40	99.30	99.10	99.40	21.82	21.12	20.25	20.94	21.46	19.65	20.15	19.96
6.	No. of seeds/pods	94.60	96.80	98.80	97.40	93.90	96.50	89.70	92.30	6.25	6.20	7.03	6.98	7.58	10.45	6.06	6.82
7.	100 seed wt. (g)	99.90	99.90	99.90	99.90	99.70	99.70	99.70	99.70	40.93	40.99	40.84	41.38	40.38	39.84	43.04	39.43
8.	Biological yield/plant (g)	99.80	99.90	99.30	99.90	98.80	99.40	98.70	99.30	24.02	31.77	22.51	30.55	21.48	29.54	19.67	27.46
9.	Seed yield/plant (g)	99.40	99.60	99.50	99.80	99.50	99.40	99.40	99.40	28.95	30.02	26.93	29.36	28.49	28.50	25.57	26.98
10.	Harvest index (%)	98.80	99.90	98.30	99.80	94.60	98.60	96.90	98.30	15.31	35.36	21.89	34.53	15.80	33.23	19.30	31.33
11.	Protein content (%)	98.20	97.90	97.90	98.30	98.20	99.40	99.20	98.10	12.69	12.47	13.11	12.78	12.61	12.37	12.64	12.93

advance has been reported by above workers for pod number, 100-seed weight, seed yield per plant. In the present investigation also, the estimates of genetic advance for these traits were high.

The heritability values gave a useful indicator of the relative value of the importance of selection in material in hand, but to arrive at more reliable conclusion, heritability and genetic advance should be jointly considered. In the present material, high genetic grain accompanied with high values of heritability was observed for 100-seed weight, seed yield per plant, number of pods per plant which may probably be due to high additive genetic effect.

These values of genetic advance were higher specifically for the traits like 100- seed weight, number of branches seed yield and biological yield as compared to all other traits in all the environments. It is pointed out that the estimates of genetic advance for Harvest index were generally high under in rain fed condition at both the locations. It was evident that the values of estimates of genetic advance as percent of mean were also high for all above traits as compared to other characters when these estimates were worked out based on the mean data over eight environments.

Stability analysis

The highest seed yield per plant was recorded for genotype BG 1094 (16.00) in environment VII and lowest for genotype BG 1086 (7.52 g) and in environment IV (Table 2). On the basis of pooled analysis, the mean value for grain yield per plant was observed highest in Pusa 261 (13.22 g) followed by Pusa 362 and Pusa 1090 (11.86 g) whereas the genotype AT-2-1185 (8.35 g) recorded lowest grain yield per plant, indicating the presence of ample genetic variability in experimental material for this trait and general mean was 10.55 g.

Number of pods per plant

The showed that eight varieties viz., Pusa-362, BG 1095, Pusa-261, BG 1106, BG 390, AT-2-1184, BG 1094, and BG 391 had more than sixty pods per plant which were higher than all other varieties. Seventeen varieties had b^i values near to unity ($b=1$) and hence these were responsive to medium environmental conditions, while seventeen varieties were responsive to better environmental conditions as these had b^i values higher than one ($b>1$). Six varieties had b^i values less than unity ($b<1$) and hence these were responsive to poor environmental conditions. Thirty three varieties were found to be stable as the estimates of the their S^2di values were non-significant whereas the remaining eight varieties were unstable as their mean

square deviation were high and significant. Taking into account all the three stability parameters, the most promising genotypes were BG 1091, Pusa-261, BG 1106, AT-2-1184, BG 1094 and BG 391.

100-seed weight

Highest 100-seed weight was recorded in genotypes BG 2002 (31.67 gm) followed by BG 1106 and BG 1107. Eleven varieties had regression coefficient (b^i) equal to unity ($b=1$) revealing that these genotypes were moderately responsive to environments, whereas eighteen genotypes had b^i values higher than one ($b > 1$) and hence these genotypes were more suited to the better environments. Remaining eleven varieties were poor in response ($b<1$) to the environments as these had b^i values less than unity ($b<1$) and hence these were most suited to poor environments. The estimates of mean sum of squares of deviation (S^2di) for various genotypes showed that two varieties were unstable as these had higher values of S^2di while remaining thirty-eight varieties had very less and negligible values for S^2di indicating that these were stable in performance for 100-seed weight. Taking into account all the three parameters viz. X , b^i and S^2di it was obvious that BG 1107, BG 1108, BG 1116, BG-1092, BGD-112, BG-1098, BG 1063, genotypes like BG 1090, BG 1094, Pusa-209 and AT-2-1139 were most promising genotypes.

Seed yield per plant'

The estimates of parameters of stability for seed yield indicated that high yielding varieties were BG 1091, Pusa-261, BG 1107, BG 1108, BG 112, 3G-1024, BG 1098, AT-2-1113, BG 390, BG 72, Pusa-1090, BG 1094 and BG 1053. Fourteen genotypes had b^i values equal to unity ($b=1$) and hence these genotypes were responsive to moderate environmental conditions. Fifteen genotypes had b^i values more than unity ($b>1$) indicating thereby that all these genotypes were responsive to better environmental conditions. Eleven genotypes had b^i values less than unity, therefore, these genotypes were responsive to poor environmental conditions. Thirty genotypes had low values of mean sum of squares for deviation and hence these genotype were stable for seed yield per plant whereas other ten genotypes were unstable as the values of their S^2di were comparatively higher. The genotypes viz, Pusa 362, Pusa, 261, BG 1107, BG 1092, BG112, BG 1024, AT-2-1113, Pusa 1090 and BG 1094, were found to be stable for grain yield. Therefore, the above-mentioned genotypes, which are stable in grain yield and few other characters, should be used in breeding programmes for developing high yielding and ideal plant types in chickpea.

Table 2: Performance of chickpea genotypes for Seed yield under different environments

S.No.	Genotypes	Environments								Mean
		E ₁	E ₂	E ₃	E ₄	E ₅	E ₆	E ₇	E ₈	
1.	Pusa 362	14.21	12.57	12.82	12.61	14.70	13.00	13.22	13.11	13.05
2.	AT-2 1185	8.74	7.43	9.41	7.82	9.20	7.83	9.91	8.22	8.35
3.	BG 1095	10.31	9.51	11.47	9.66	10.83	10.10	11.97	10.10	10.24
4.	BG 1091	12.40	10.31	11.82	10.44	12.90	10.90	12.22	10.22	11.24
5.	BG 1105	9.11	7.82	9.52	8.21	10.11	8.30	10.02	8.81	8.67
6.	Pusa 261	14.74	11.40	15.30	11.43	15.20	11.90	15.80	12.23	13.22
7.	BG 1079	10.30	8.71	11.41	8.75	10.80	9.20	11.91	9.53	9.79
8.	BG 1107	13.10	10.31	13.80	10.64	13.50	10.83	14.22	11.24	11.96
9.	Pusa 391	9.74	8.11	9.75	8.13	10.50	8.50	10.25	8.83	8.93
10.	Pusa 244	11.72	9.02	11.75	9.12	12.50	9.40	12.25	9.62	10.40
11.	BG 1108	12.31	10.41	13.05	10.43	13.00	10.33	13.55	10.93	11.55
12.	BG 1106	11.51	9.27	11.61	9.28	12.10	9.83	12.11	10.18	10.42
13.	BG 1100	9.82	8.23	10.30	8.24	10.30	8.53	10.90	8.84	9.15
14.	BG 1092	9.52	8.47	9.67	8.49	10.20	9.00	10.67	9.24	9.04
15.	BGD 112	12.47	11.71	13.47	11.12	13.40	12.20	14.47	11.82	12.19
16.	BG 1024	13.11	10.11	13.74	10.13	14.00	10.90	14.50	10.53	11.77
17.	BG 1098	12.52	9.52	12.53	9.53	13.10	10.00	12.30	10.23	11.03
18.	Pusa 93	9.54	7.52	9.56	7.53	10.20	7.90	10.26	8.13	8.54
19.	AT-2 1113	13.20	10.30	13.30	10.41	14.00	10.80	14.10	10.91	11.80
20.	Pusa 267	11.40	8.11	11.90	8.21	11.90	8.71	12.30	8.81	9.90
21.	BG 390	13.40	10.20	12.90	9.90	14.00	10.72	13.50	10.40	11.60
22.	Pusa 1063	9.14	7.40	10.20	8.20	9.89	7.90	10.90	8.70	8.73
23.	Pusa 372	11.40	9.50	10.90	9.40	11.50	10.00	11.80	9.90	10.30
24.	BG 2001	10.20	8.11	12.40	8.13	10.70	8.71	12.90	8.83	9.71
25.	Pusa 256	11.40	8.74	11.40	8.74	11.90	9.31	11.80	9.54	10.07
26.	BG 1086	10.80	7.52	10.70	7.52	11.20	8.12	11.50	8.12	9.13
27.	BGD 72	12.10	10.10	12.70	10.11	12.80	10.70	13.50	10.81	11.25
28.	Pusa 1090	12.40	11.07	12.90	11.08	12.60	11.77	13.50	11.88	11.86
29.	AT-2-1184	10.80	8.70	11.40	8.90	11.10	9.50	11.90	9.89	9.95
30.	BG 1094	14.50	12.30	15.00	12.40	15.10	12.80	16.00	12.84	13.55
31.	BG 391	11.50	9.80	9.54	9.90	12.50	10.30	10.32	9.89	10.18
32.	BG 372	8.75	7.84	11.61	7.85	9.00	8.40	12.30	8.85	9.01
33.	Pusa 209	11.52	10.31	10.38	10.43	11.54	10.90	11.18	10.93	10.66
34.	AT-2-1133	10.41	9.74	9.47	9.83	10.69	10.30	10.30	10.43	9.86
35.	BG 1065	9.51	11.50	9.82	12.40	9.70	12.10	10.52	12.84	10.81
36.	BG 1077	9.52	8.72	11.20	8.76	9.82	9.30	11.80	9.26	9.55
37.	BG 1088	10.33	9.52	11.47	9.66	10.45	10.12	12.27	10.26	10.25
38.	Pusa 1080	11.41	10.12	12.82	10.14	11.56	10.92	13.52	10.84	11.12
39.	Pusa 1053	12.81	11.40	11.74	11.50	13.00	11.70	12.57	12.00	11.86
40.	BG 2002	11.44	10.82	11.74	10.93	11.58	11.13	12.54	11.83	11.23
	Mean	11.33	9.56	11.66	9.64	11.83	10.07	12.28	10.23	10.55
	CD	0.194	0.136	0.172	0.102	0.180	0.182	0.190	0.174	0.078

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Table 3: Mean performance and stability for seed yield and its components in chickpea under all the environments

S. No.	Genotypes	Pods plant ⁻¹			100-seed weight (g)			Seed yield plant ⁻¹ (g)		
		(X)	bi	S ² di	(X)	bi	S ² di	(X)	bi	S ² di
1.	Pusa 362	61.35	-2.15	14.67*	21.79	0.35	0.08	13.28	0.43	0.45*
2.	AT-2 1185	47.28	1.48	1.59	22.96	0.23	0.01	8.57	0.81	0.03
3.	BG 1095	57.15	0.73	1.01	25.87	0.79	0.15	10.49	0.75	0.13
4.	BG 1091	68.22	0.45	1.169	22.99	0.94	0.38	11.40	0.89	0.24*
5.	BG 1105	57.67	-0.31	3.12*	27.29	0.95	-0.01	8.99	0.77	0.06
6.	Pusa 261	68.05	1.21	0.22	16.53	1.43	0.10	13.50	1.78	0.07
7.	BG 1079	46.38	0.93	0.35	20.99	3.00	0.26	10.08	1.11	0.08
8.	BG 1107	56.07	1.68	0.26	30.69	0.88	0.05	12.20	1.48	0.05
9.	Pusa 391	51.92	0.62	1.71	28.90	1.51	0.64	9.23	0.87	0.05
10.	Pusa 244	49.30	0.96	0.23	23.80	2.73	0.19	10.67	1.38	0.11
11.	BG 1108	56.20	0.52	0.39	27.39	1.55	0.03	11.75	1.26	0.06
12.	BG 1106	69.45	1.10	0.13	31.24	2.62	0.39	10.74	1.13	0.03
13.	BG 1100	49.81	0.57	0.18	23.91	1.46	0.11	9.40	0.99	0.00
14.	BG 1092	54.80	0.72	0.56	28.92	1.55	0.01	9.41	0.70	0.05
15.	BGD 112	53.07	0.90	0.58	27.56	0.75	0.06	12.58	0.98	0.16
16.	BG 1024	56.58	0.66	0.51	24.24	1.06	0.05	12.13	1.74	0.07
17.	BG 1098	58.12	1.56	3.15*	29.07	1.14	0.01	11.22	1.36	0.26*
18.	Pusa 93	51.49	0.50	1.27	22.57	0.24	0.04	8.83	1.09	0.03
19.	AT-2 1113	49.70	0.45	1.00	26.99	-2.29	2.16*	12.13	1.54	0.07
20.	Pusa 267	48.68	1.00	0.99	18.93	2.27	1.57*	10.17	1.72	0.09
21.	BG 390	62.83	2.08	7.73*	19.92	0.33	0.04	11.88	1.54	0.30
22.	Pusa 1063	49.60	1.89	0.72	26.89	1.40	0.44	9.04	1.09	0.14
23.	Pusa 372	54.62	2.63	3.60*	24.15	-0.03	0.45	10.55	0.87	0.06
24.	BG 2001	50.65	1.69	0.63	19.12	1.18	0.04	10.00	1.66	0.44*
25.	Pusa 256	55.90	1.24	0.23	19.62	0.48	0.65	10.35	1.28	0.07
26.	BG 1086	52.52	1.13	0.40	22.11	0.60	0.03	9.44	1.62	0.09
27.	BGD 72	51.58	1.50	2.27*	17.14	1.23	0.04	11.60	1.24	0.04
28.	Pusa 1090	57.77	1.23	0.12	29.21	1.51	-0.01	12.15	0.78	0.05
29.	AT-2-1184	60.75	1.47	1.25	16.61	0.32	0.08	10.27	1.10	0.03
30.	BG 1094	64.47	1.84	1.88	29.79	1.44	-0.01	13.87	1.34	0.02
31.	BG 391	62.07	0.95	0.07	21.70	0.40	0.04	10.47	0.44	0.94*
32.	BG 372	55.92	2.34	3.12*	23.34	2.43	0.01	9.33	1.28	1.14*
33.	Pusa 209	53.06	0.76	0.29	28.60	0.69	0.04	10.90	0.28	0.18
34.	AT-2-1133	52.28	0.82	0.34	26.08	1.37	0.01	10.15	0.12	0.18
35.	BG 1065	49.58	0.83	0.30	21.79	0.38	0.08	11.05	-0.99	0.74*
36.	BG 1077	51.57	0.70	0.38	13.14	0.50	0.16	9.80	0.91	0.37*
37.	BG 1088	52.57	0.58	0.42	17.13	0.85	0.18	10.51	0.74	0.26*
38.	Pusa 1080	53.95	0.86	0.05	23.97	1.66	0.07	11.42	1.03	0.30*
39.	Pusa 1053	56.27	0.96	0.11	18.09	1.69	0.03	12.09	0.45	0.17
40.	BG 2002	51.65	0.714	0.68	31.67	0.32	0.05	11.50	0.42	0.12
	Mean	54.977			23.82			10.83		
	CD	0.455			0.262			0.167		
	S.E. of b	0.352			0.658			0.156		

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