

Assessment of Variability, Heritability and Genetic Advance for Quantitative Characters in Finger millet [*Eleusine coracana* (L.) Gaertn] Germplasm

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ABSTRACT

The experimental material comprised 30 finger millet (*Eleusine coracana* (L.) Gaertn) germplasm accessions. The data collected on twelve quantitative traits to know the genetic variability, heritability and genetic advance existing in the material. The analysis of variance (ANOVA) revealed highly significant differences ($P < 0.01$) among the accessions for all twelve characters, except for leaf width, number of productive tillers per plant and finger width. The genotypic coefficient of variation for all the characters studied was lesser than the phenotypic coefficient of variation indicating the effect of environment. High PCV and GCV was recorded for leaf width, finger width, ear length and finger length. High heritability coupled with high genetic advance as percent of mean was recorded for all the characters except for plant height, number productive tillers per plant, days to 50 % flowering and days to maturity. Thus, these traits are predominantly under the control of additive gene action and hence these characters can be improved by selection.

Keywords: *Finger millet, Variability, Heritability and Genetic advance*