

Genetic variability for yield and yield component characters of pearl millet [*pennisetumglaucum* (L.) R. Br.]

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ABSTRACT

An experiment was conducted to assess the genetic variability, heritability and genetic advance among 60 inbred lines of pearl millet for grain yield and its ten component characters at Agricultural College Farm, Naira during *rabi*, 2015. The analysis of variance revealed highly significant differences among the genotypes for all the eleven characters studied. The traits, *viz.*, plant height, ear length, productive tillers per plant, head yield per plant, grain yield per plant, fresh stover yield per plant, dry matter yield per plant, 1000 grain weight and grain harvest index recorded high phenotypic and genotypic coefficient of variation, heritability and genetic advance expressed as percentage of mean suggesting that these traits are controlled by additive gene action and therefore selection of these characters would be useful in future Pearl millet breeding programme.

Keywords: *Heritability, Genetic Advance, Selection, Variability.*