

Variability, Heritability and Genetic Advance in Vegetable Cowpea (*Vigna Unguiculata* (L.) Walp)

Sivakumar Vavilapalli and Celine V A

Department of Olericulture, Kerala Agricultural University, Vellayani, 695522

ABSTRACT

Different parameters were estimated to assess the magnitude of genetic variability in 22 diverse genotypes of vegetable cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* subsp. *unguiculata*). The analysis of variance indicated the prevalence of sufficient genetic variation among the genotypes from all the characters studied. The high phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV) and genotypic coefficient of variation (GCV) were observed for pod weight, plant height, and pod length. High heritability coupled with high genetic advance were observed for all characters studied, except days to first flowering and days to first harvest indicating that these characters are governed by additive gene action. Hence, direct selection may be followed for the improvement of vegetable cowpea for these characters.

Key words : Genetic advance, Heritability, Variability, Vegetable cowpea.