

Genetic Variability, Heritability and Genetic Advance for Grain Yield and its Components in Maize (*Zea mays* L.)

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ABSTRACT

An investigation was carried out to assess the variability, heritability and genetic advance for nine characters viz., days to 50% tasseling, days to 50% silking, days to maturity, plant height, cob length, kernel rows per cob, 100-seed weight, protein content and grain yield per plant in 24 genotypes (fifteen hybrids, their eight parents along with a check). The results revealed that high PCV and GCV were observed for the character grain yield per plant. High heritability accompanied with high genetic advance had shown by the characters viz., 100-seed weight, grain yield per plant, cob length and plant height indicating the preponderance of additive gene action which may be exploited through breeding methods involving simple selection like mass selection, ear-to-row method, etc. are to be followed to improve these traits.

Key words : Genetic advance, Heritability, Maize, Variability.