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Protein, Micronutrient, Antioxidant Potential and Phytate Content of Pearl Millet Hybrids and Composites Adopted for Cultivation by Farmers of Haryana, India

M.K. Berwal^{1*}, L.K. Chugh², Preeti Goyal³, Ramesh Kumar² and Dev Vart²

¹ICAR-Central Institute for Arid Horticulture, Bikaner, India

²Bajra Section, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, CCS HAU Hisar, India

³Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, CCS HAU Hisar, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

Keywords

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Protein, micronutrient, antioxidant potential, polyphenols and phytate content of popular hybrids and composites of pearl millet has been estimated for two consecutive seasons. Crude protein content of pearl millet hybrids and composites analyzed varied from 9.49 to 13.09 and 9.05 to 14.73 %, Fe content from 39 to 66 and 22 to 75 mg/kg, Zn content from 32 to 49 and 21 to 56 mg/kg, polyphenols from 210 to 297 mg/100 g and 221 to 345 mg/100 g, and phytate content from 4.74 to 6.29 and 5.54 to 6.67 mg/g during kharif-2013 and kharif-2014, respectively. Similarly total antioxidant activity of these genotypes ranged from 732 to 1231 and 884 to 1189 µg vitamin C equi./g as DPPH scavenging capacity and 3592 to 4884 µg trolox equi./g as ABTS⁺ scavenging capacity. Tested nutritional characters of these hybrids/composites were not affected to an appreciable extent by the growing season. TAA of all the tested genotypes was higher than that of commercial samples of wheat (550 µg vitamin C equi./g) and maize (680µg vitamin C equi./g). The widely adopted and most popular short duration hybrid HHB 67 imp possessing high protein (12.39%) and moderate Fe (60mg/kg) contents and dual purpose composite variety HC 10 with high contents of protein (12.36 %) as well as Fe (71mg/kg) are well suited for nutritional security of part of the population of Haryana and neighboring states consuming pearl millet as staple food.

Introduction

Plant-based food products are the main staple food for human beings in many parts of the world. They constitute an important source of carbohydrates, protein, dietary fiber, vitamins and anti-nutrients (Katina *et al.*, 2005). Pearl millet [*Pennisetum glaucum* (L) R. Br.] is an important hardy coarse cereal crop grown mostly in marginal environments in the arid and semi-arid tropical regions of south Asia and sub-saharan Africa. Pearl millet, being a

C4 plant, has a very high photosynthetic efficiency and dry matter production capacity. It is usually grown under most adverse agro-climatic conditions where other crop fails to produce economic yields. In spite of this, pearl millet has a remarkable ability to respond to favorable environments because of its short developmental stages and capacity for higher growth rates, thus making it excellent crop in short growing season under

improved crop management. Therefore, pearl millet is a central component of the food and fodder security of the rural poor in dry areas with very limited rainfall. In India, it is grown over an area of 7.90 million hectares with total production of 9.20 million tones and productivity of 1.16 tones/ha (Anonymous, 2013). The major pearl millet growing states in order of area are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. These states account for 87% of the total area under cultivation. In Haryana, area under this crop during *kharif-2013-14* was 4.04 lakh hectare, with total production of 8.31 lakh tones and productivity of 2.06 tones/ha (Anonymous, 2014).

Health benefits associated with the consumption of millets have been documented. Their antioxidant and antimicrobial properties have been reported (Varsha *et al.*, 2009; Chandrasekara and Shahidi, 2011; Chethan and Malleshi, 2007). Phenolic extracts from millets have been reported to inhibit intestinal α -glucosidase and pancreatic α -amylase, and may play a vital role in the management of postprandial hyperglycemia (Shobana *et al.*, 2009) and wound healing properties has been reported (Hegde *et al.*, 2005). Pearl millet supplies energy equivalent to 360 kcal/100 g (Aykroyd, 1951). Singh *et al.*, (2010) however, reported 2900 kcal metabolizable energy of pearl millet. The starch content of pearl millet grain ranges from 62.8 to 70.5%, amylose from 21.9 to 28.8%, soluble sugars from 1.4 to 2.6% and reducing sugars from 0.1 to 0.26% (Abdella *et al.*, 1998). Protein content in pearl millet as low as 6.4%, and as high as 24% has been reported by many investigators (Abdella *et al.*, 1998; Anonymous, 2013). Grain protein content of pearl millet hybrids and varieties released in India ranges between 8.00 to 13.00 % (Anonymous, 2013). Pearl millet is also a good source of fat having about 5.0 to 7.5%

lipids (Goyal *et al.*, 2014). It is free from major anti-nutrients but contain variable amount of phenolics and phytate (Goyal *et al.*, 2014; Lestienn *et al.*, 2005). Antioxidants in cereals have the advantage of keeping their antioxidant capacity inside the human body too, and not only in the plant have they derived from (Serea and Barna, 2011). Bran, a byproduct of milling has antioxidant potential due to phenolic acids such as p-coumaric acid and vanillic acids that are concentrated in the bran portion of cereal kernels. Antioxidant activity of five bran extracts exhibited appreciable levels of total phenolics, flavonoids and DPPH radical scavenging activities (Iqbal *et al.*, 2007). Reports on antioxidant activity of pearl millet however, are scanty. Ilesanmi and Akinloye (2013) observed appreciable amount of DPPH scavenging activity of pearl millet. Pushparaj and Urooj, (2014) demonstrated that antioxidant activity of pearl millet was influenced both by the processing methods and the cultivars. Fibre content in pearl millet has been reported to be 1.6 g/100 g (Malleshi *et al.*, 1986).

Though mineral profile of pearl millet is also better than other cereals but bioavailability of bivalent minerals like Fe, Mg etc. is low in pearl millet due to presence of some inherent factors like phytate (Raboy, 2009). Pearl millet contains 300 mg/100g to 825 mg/100g phytate (Reddy, 2002; Lestienn *et al.*, 2005). A recent study showed that pearl millet accounts for 50% of the cereal consumption in some of the pearl millet growing areas of India, and it is the cheapest source of grain iron and zinc as compared to other cereals and vegetables (Parthasarathy Rao *et al.*, 2006). Recently, Fe bio-fortified composite ICTP 8203 has been released as ICTP 8203 Fe10-2 with a common name Dhanshakti by ICRISAT. Consumption of 200g of pearl millet variety Dhanshakti (70 mg/kg Fe and 40 mg/kg Zn) can meet 82% of the

recommended daily allowance (RDA) of Fe in adult man (17 mg) and 66% of the RDA of non-pregnant and non lactating (NPNL) women (21 mg) in India. It can also meet 66% of the RDA of Zn (12 mg) in men and 80% of the RDA in NPNL women (10 mg), based on the assumption of 5% bioavailability of Fe and 25% bioavailability of Zn content (ICRISAT, 2013). Keeping these views in mind the present investigation was carried out to explore the nutritional status of the pearl millet hybrids and composites, intensely adopted by farmers of Haryana as well as neighboring districts of Rajasthan, Uttar pardesh and Punjab.

Materials and Methods

Plant materials

Grain samples of popular pearl millet [*Pennisetum glaucum* (L.) R. Br.] seven hybrids (HHB 67 Improved, HHB 94, HHB 146, HHB 197, HHB 223, HHB 226, HHB 234) and four composites (WHC 901-445, HMP 802, HC 10, HC 20) widely adopted for cultivation by farmers of Haryana, grown during kharif-2013 and kharif-2014 were procured from Bajra Section, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar. The grain samples freed of extraneous matter were stored at ambient temperature for further use. The flour was prepared with flour mill and sieved through 30 micron mesh sized sieve and this flour was used for all the estimations.

Crude protein

Crude protein content of the pearl millet grain was calculated by multiplying percent nitrogen by a factor 6.25. Nitrogen was estimated by following Micro-Kjeldahl's method (AOAC, 1990).

Total antioxidant activity

Total antioxidant activity (TAA) was estimated by following the methods described by Brand-Williams *et al.*, (1995). For TAA determination, 500 mg ground sample was extracted in 10 ml ethanol (95%, v/v) for four hours on a shaker in tight capped plastic bottles. After that centrifuged (Remi CPR-24) the content at 10000 rpm for 10 minute and collected the supernatant and made up the final volume to 10 ml with ethanol (95%, v/v). For estimation DPPH scavenging capacity, took 200 µl of the supernatant and added 300 µl of water and 2.5 ml of 0.006% (w/v) DPPH solution, incubated it under dark for 30 minute. Absorbance was recorded on a UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific, EVOLUTION 201) at 517 nm. A blank was also run simultaneously without extract. Ascorbic acid standard (5 to 30µg) was used for calculating TAA in terms of Vitamin C equi./g.

Micronutrients (Fe and Zn)

Fe and Zn were estimated by Energy Dispersive X-rays fluorescence (EDXRF), at ICRISAT Patancheru, Hyderabad, method described by Paltridge *et al.*, (2012).

Polyphenols

Polyphenols content was estimated by following the method of Malik and Singh, (1980). Weighed exactly 1 g dry flour and ground it with a mortar and pestle in 10 ml of 80% (v/v) ethanol and centrifuged the homogenate at 10,000 rpm for 10 minutes. The supernatant was collected and re-extracted the residue twice with five ml 80% (v/v) ethanol. Pooled the supernatants and made final volume to 15 ml. Took one ml of the supernatant and made up the final volume to 4.0 ml with distilled water. Then added 0.5 ml of 1N *Folin-Ciocalteu* reagent and then

after three minutes, 2 ml of saturated Na₂CO₃ solution was added to each tube. The contents were mixed thoroughly and placed the tube in boiling water bath for exactly one minute. Tubes were cooled and absorbance was recorded on UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific, EVOLUTION 201) at 650 nm against a reagent blank. A standard curve prepared using different concentrations of catechol (0-100 mg/ml) was used to calculate polyphenol content. Results are expressed as mg catechol equi./100 g dry flour.

Phytate

Phytic acid was determined by employing the method of Haug and Lantgsch, (1983). Finely ground sample (500 mg) was extracted with 25 ml of 0.2 N HCl for 3 hours with continuous shaking on orbital shaker. After proper shaking it was filtered through whatman No. 1 filter paper.

The filtrate was used for phytate estimation. An aliquot (0.5ml) of above filtrate was taken in a test tubes and 0.9 ml distilled water was added. To all the tubes 1 ml 0.02% ferric ammonium sulphate solution (prepared in 0.2N HCl) was added and then placed in a boiling water bath for 30 minute. Cooled the tubes and one ml of cooled mix transferred to another test tube and to that 1.5 ml of 1% bipyridine solution was added. The absorbance was measured UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific, EVOLUTION 201) at 519 nm against distilled water blank. Phytate content was calculated by using standard curve of sodium phytate (200µg/ml).

All the estimation were done in three replicates and the data were statistically analyzed in completely randomized design for calculating CD using software 'Statistical Package for Agriculture Scientists', OPSTAT (www.hau.ernet.in).

Results and Discussion

Proteins

Average crude protein content of hybrids and composites was 12.16 % which ranged from 9.74 % (HHB 146) to 13.24 % (WHC 901-445) during kharif-2013 (Table 1). In this group composites had higher protein content than that of hybrids. For example among hybrids highest protein content (12.55 %) was present in grains of HHB 226 while in those of WHC 901-445 and HMP 802, the protein content was 13.24 % and 13.07 % respectively. Similar trend in protein content of hybrids and composites was discerned when grown during kharif-2014. Thus, protein content varied from 9.05 to 14.73% with an average value of 11.81 %, which was slightly lower than that was determined in grains produced during kharif-2013 (Table 1). The hybrid HHB 67 improved and the composite WHC 901-445 had highest crude protein content grown during kharif-2014 as well. On the basis of mean of both the seasons, protein content of HHB 67imp and HHB 234 was highest (12.39 %, in each) whereas that of HHB 146 was lowest among the hybrids. In pearl millet, the crude protein content ranging from 6-21% has been reported (Serna-Saldivar *et al.*, 1991; Baniwal *et al.*, 2003). On the contrary, a lower variation in crude protein content (9-15%) in pearl millet genotypes was also reported (Goswami *et al.*, 1970). From a nutrition point of view, high protein pearl millet varieties are much preferred compared with varieties lower in protein content in spite of the negative correlation between protein concentration and protein quality (Singh *et al.*, 1987).

Micronutrients (Fe and Zn)

In contrast to the extent of variation in other parameters, a higher magnitude of variation in

Fe content was observed. Hybrids/composites differed in respect of Fe content varying from 39 to 66 mg/kg with an average value of 47 mg/kg during kharif-2013, and from 22 to 75mg/kg with an average value of 55 mg/kg during kharif-2014 (Table 1). On the basis of both season's average Fe content of hybrids and composites, HHB 67 Imp (60 mg/kg) amongst the hybrids and HC 10 (71 mg/kg) followed by WHC 901-445 (67mg/kg) amongst the composites were found superior. The hybrids and composites also varied significantly in grain Zn content but to a lesser extent than that of Fe content. Mean Zn content of these genotypes varied from 27 mg/kg to 51 mg/kg grains. HHB 67 Imp. (51 mg/kg), HC 20 (49 mg/kg) and WHC 901-445 (49 mg/kg) were superior to the other hybrids and composites in respect of Zn content (Table 1). Overall, micronutrients profile of HHB 67 Imp (60 mg/kg Fe and 51 mg/kg Zn), WHC 901-445 (67 mg/kg Fe and 49 mg/kg Zn) and HC 10 (71 mg/kg Fe and 48 mg/kg Zn) was better than the others. The screened pearl millet hybrids and composites varied significantly in respect of contents of both the micronutrients (Fe and Zn), raised during both the seasons. A strong positive correlation was observed between Fe and Zn contents with correlation coefficient of 0.776, $P < 0.01$ (Table 3). These results are comparable with the earlier reports. Velu *et al.*, (2007, 2008) reported a large variability for grain Fe and Zn content in pearl millet, involving inbred lines, improved open pollinated varieties and germplasm. Nithya *et al.*, (2006) reported 86ppm and 88ppm Iron and 52ppm and 41ppm zinc content in traditional (Co7) and hybrid (Cohcu-8) pearl millet varieties respectively. Abdella *et al.*, (1998) also reported 10 to 66 mg/kg Fe and 53 to 70 mg/kg Zn in pearl millet varieties. Recently, Fe biofortified composite ICTP 8203 has been released as ICTP 8203 Fe10-2 with a common name Dhanshakti by ICRISAT (2013). Finkelstein *et al.*, (2015)

has reported improved bioavailability of Fe as well as Zn in school going children on consuming biofortified pearl millet Dhanshakti.

Total antioxidant activity

TAA of hybrids/composites during kharif-2013 varied from 732 (WHC 901-445) to 1231 μg Vitamin C equi./g (HHB 223) with an average value of 1014 μg Vitamin C equi./g (Table 2). HHB 94 (1138 μg Vitamin C equi./g), HHB 226 (1128 μg Vitamin C equi./g), HHB 197 (1106 μg Vitamin C equi./g) among the hybrids and HMP 802 (1093 μg Vitamin C equi./g) among the composites had fairly good TAA (Table 2). Qualitatively and quantitatively, almost similar antioxidant activity of the hybrids/composites was discerned during kharif-2014 with both the methods of estimation. Thus, during kharif-2014 TAA of hybrids/composites varied from 884 to 1189 μg Vitamin C equi./g with an average value of 1055 μg Vitamin C equi./g. Mean of TAA of the hybrids/composites grown during kharif-2013 and kharif-2014 indicated that except HHB 67imp and WHC 901-445 (both had lower activity) all the tested genotypes in this category demonstrated excellent antioxidant capacity. Berwal *et al.*, (2016) reported a wide variation in pearl millet total antioxidant activity from 332 to 1529 μg Vitamin C equi./g (DPPH scavenging capacity) and 3970 to 6804 μg Trolox equi./g (ABTS+ methods) when studied the pearl millet germplasm. Pushparaj and Urooj, (2014) demonstrated that antioxidant activity of pearl millet was influenced both by the processing methods and the cultivars. They also reported a positive correlation between TAA (DPPH scavenging capacity) and flavonoid content of pearl millet grains. Ilesanmi and Akinloye, (2013) observed appreciable amount of DPPH scavenging activity of pearl millet. Pushparaj and Urooj, (2014) reported in pearl millet that

bran rich fraction showed high antioxidant activity which was due to the tannin, phytic acid and flavonoid levels. Antioxidant activity of five bran extracts exhibited appreciable levels of total phenolics, flavonoids and DPPH radical scavenging activities (Iqbal *et al.*, 2007). The TAA of pearl millet genotypes determined by DPPH method (vitamin C equivalent) and ABTS+ methods (Trolox equivalent) showed significant positive correlation with a correlation coefficient of 0.623 (Table 3). Different studies also showed the similar relationship in DPPH and ABTS+ dependant antioxidant potentials. Dudonne *et al.*, (2009) also reported a strong positive correlation between ABTS and DPPH assay with a Pearson correlation coefficient of $r = 0.906$, $p < 0.001$ when used for 30 aqueous plants extracts.

Total polyphenols

Among all the groups analyzed hybrids/composites had lowest average polyphenols content 254 mg/100 g and 273 mg/100 g, respectively, tested during kharif-2013 and kharif-2014 (Table 2). Average polyphenols content of the hybrid HHB 197 (315 mg/100 g) was maximum among the hybrids as well as composites followed by HHB 94 (306 mg/100 g), HHB 223 (282 mg/100 g) and HHB 226 (272 mg/100 g). HHB 67 Improved among the hybrids and HC 10 and HC 20 amongst the composites possessed comparatively low polyphenols contents.

Table.1 Crude protein, total phenol and micronutrient content of pearl millet hybrids and composites developed at CCS HAU Hisar

S.No.	Pedigree	Crude Protein (%)			Fe (mg/kg)			Zn (mg/kg)		
		K-13	K-14	Mean	K-13	K-14	Mean	K-13	K-14	Mean
1	HHB-67 Imb	11.78	12.99	12.39	54	65	60	49	52	51
2	HHB-94	11.42	11.3	11.36	39	44	40	47	44	46
3	HHB-146	9.49	9.05	9.27	43	49	46	34	38	36
4	HHB-197	11.22	10.97	11.10	40	47	44	35	32	34
5	HHB-223	12.24	10.59	11.42	49	48	49	37	42	40
6	HHB-226	12.55	11.36	11.96	44	49	47	40	49	45
7	HHB-234	12.26	12.51	12.39	39	54	47	43	37	40
8	WHC-901-445	13.09	14.73	13.91	61	72	67	48	50	49
9	HMP-802	13.07	13.11	13.09	41	22	32	32	21	27
10	HC-10	12.49	12.22	12.36	66	75	71	39	56	48
11	HC-20	12.82	11.84	12.33	45	70	58	45	52	49
Mean		12.16	11.81		47	55		41	43	
C.D. (p < 0.05)		0.5	0.46		4.14	3.86		3.18	3.04	
SE(d)		0.224	0.23		1.86	2.05		1.58	1.46	
C.V. (%)		1.106	1.84		3.94	4.28		3.51	3.26	

*K-13= Kharif 2013, K-14=Kharif 2014

Table.2 Total antioxidant activity and phytate content of pearl millet hybrids and composites developed at CCS HAU Hisar

S. No	Pedigree	TAA (DPPH) (µg vit.C equi./g)			TAA (ABTS ⁺) (µg Trolox equi./g)	Total Polyphenol (mg catechol equi/100g)			Phytate (mg/g)		
		K-13	K-14	Mean		K-13	K-14	Mean	K-13	K-14	Mean
1	HHB-67 Imp	979	884	932	4110	210	243	227	5.9	6.54	6.22
2	HHB-94	1138	1100	1119	4252	297	283	306	5.82	5.74	5.78
3	HHB-146	994	1124	1059	4728	262	255	259	6.15	5.65	5.9
4	HHB-197	1106	1059	1083	4170	284	345	315	6.29	5.85	6.07
5	HHB-223	1231	1021	1126	4354	254	310	282	6.24	6.05	6.15
6	HHB-226	1128	1069	1099	4367	258	286	272	6.23	5.69	5.96
7	HHB-234	942	1119	1031	4721	249	240	245	6.05	5.54	5.8
8	WHC-901-445	732	884	808	3592	243	305	274	5.79	6.67	6.23
9	HMP-802	1093	1108	1100	4616	257	238	269	5.98	5.78	5.88
10	HC-10	999	1189	1094	4793	259	221	240	5.94	6.08	6.01
11	HC-20	927	1148	1038	4884	223	254	239	4.74	6.62	5.68
Mean		1014	1055		4417	254	273		5.92	6.08	
C.D. (p <0.05)		52.18	73.7		458	22.11	14.45		0.358	0.15	
SE(d)		23.43	36.1		226	9.927	7.1		0.161	0.1	
C.V. (%)		2.288	3.5		4.43	3.908	2.38		2.717	1.25	

*TAA-Total Antioxidant Activity

Table.3 Pearson correlation matrix among the nutritional parameters

	Protein	Fe	Zn	TAA (DPPH)	TAA (ABTS)	Phytate	polyphenol
Protein	1	0.353 ^{NS}	0.291 ^{NS}	-0.521 ^{NS}	-0.339 ^{NS}	0.213 ^{NS}	-0.249 ^{NS}
Fe		1	0.776**	-0.570 ^{NS}	-0.175 ^{NS}	0.418 ^{NS}	-0.522 ^{NS}
Zn			1	-0.459 ^{NS}	-0.249 ^{NS}	0.176 ^{NS}	-0.402 ^{NS}
TAA (DPPH)				1	0.623*	-0.489 ^{NS}	0.309 ^{NS}
TAA (ABTS+)					1	-0.724*	-0.422 ^{NS}
Phytate						1	0.059 ^{NS}
Polyphenol							1

*NS- non significant (Significant level @5% level of significance)

The present findings of polyphenol content of pearl millet are in agreement with the earlier reports (Khetarpaul and Chauhan, 1991; Hadimani *et al.*, 1995). They reported the concentration of polyphenols ranging from

608 to 788 mg/100 g. A range of 228-486 mg/100 g total polyphenols in pearl millet has been reported by Chavan and Hash, (1998). In whole grain, it was 80 mg/100 g the contradictory results reported on polyphenols

in the reports mentioned above might be due to different extraction methods and/or methods of estimation used or because of different standards used. α -glucosidase and pancreatic α -amylase inhibition properties of millet phenolics has been reported, therefore, it may play a vital role in the management of postprandial hyperglycemia (Shobana *et al.*, 2009) and wound healing properties has been reported (Hegde *et al.*, 2005). As polyphenols are major component of antioxidant potential but in pearl millet, polyphenols impart grey colour (Reichert, 1979) and limit protein and starch utilization either by binding with proteins or by inhibiting the digestive enzymes especially trypsin and amylase (Singh, 1984; Pawar and Parlikar, 1990). These compounds have also been identified as the agents that cause off odour in pearl millet flour (Reddy *et al.*, 1986). Thus low polyphenols content is desirable in pearl millet.

Phytate

Phytate content of hybrids/composites grown during kharif-2013 differed from each other within a range of 4.74 (HC 20) to 6.29 mg/g (HHB 197) with an average phytate equivalent to 5.92 mg/g of hybrids and composites (Table 2). During kharif-2014 almost similar results were observed for each hybrid and composite in respect of phytate content which varied from 5.54 to 6.67 mg/g with a mean value of 6.08 mg/g. Mean value of phytate content of the composites HC 20 was slightly lower compared to those of other hybrids and composites because of lower content recorded during kharif-2013. Thus, the selected hybrids and composites are at par in respect of the phytate concentration *i.e.* all are having high phytate content. These values are corresponded with the earlier reports. Reddy *et al.*, (1986) reported a wide variation in phytic acid content of pearl millet varieties, valued between 0.18 to 1.67 %, Kumar and

Chauhan, (1993) also reported 825.7 mg/100 g phytic acid in pearl millet flour. Lestienne *et al.*, (2005) reported in Gempela cultivar (yellow colour seeds) of pearl millet flour that phytate and iron binding phenolic compound contents were around 0.633 g/100 g. Reddy, (2002) also reported similar values for phytate content in pearl millet grains. In general, IP6 (inositol hexaphosphate) accumulates in the protein storage bodies as mixed salts called phytate that chelate a number of mineral cations. During the process of germination, endogenous grain phytase is activated, which degrades phytate, releasing stored phosphorus, myo-inositol and bound mineral cations that are further utilized by the developing seedlings (Raboy, 2009). On Pearson matrix negative correlation was observed between phytate content and ABTS⁺ dependant total antioxidant activity, but we couldn't find any literature showing this type of relationship between phytate and ABTS⁺ dependant TAA.

In conclusion, all the tested genotypes possess *in vitro* high antioxidant potential than that of commercial samples of wheat and maize. The widely adopted and most popular short duration hybrid HHB 67 improved possessing high protein (12.39%) and moderate Fe (60mg/kg) contents and dual purpose composite variety HC 10 with higher protein (12.36 %) along with Fe (71 mg/kg) are well suited for nutritional security of part of the population of Haryana consuming pearl millet as staple food. Along with these a white grain composite WHC 901-445 also had good nutritional profile with 13.09 % protein, 71 mg/kg Fe and 49 mg/kg Zn content might be an addition to the nutrient rich pearl millet hybrids/composites after its release. Along with nutritional richness, pearl millet is drought and temperature hardy crop which can give potential yield under very marginal soil and weather conditions therefore this crop has the potential to play a vital role in

providing food as well as nutritional security to the growing world population.

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