

Original Research Article

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## Analysis of Agro-Morphological Characters in Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) Genotypes for Yield and Yield Components

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### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords

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The present experiment was conducted to evaluate the yield and yield components of 30 wheat varieties for identification desirable genotypes. Two consecutive *rabi* cropping seasons of 2014-15 and 2015-16 trial was carried out at Crop Research Farm (CRF) of department of Agronomy. Morphological data for agronomic characters were recorded for plant height (cm), number of spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup>, number of grains spike<sup>-1</sup>, 1000-grain weight, grain yield and harvest index. The analysis of variance for agronomic traits (plant height, number of spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup> number of grains spike<sup>-1</sup>, 1000-grain weight, grain yield and harvest index) revealed significant variation in first cropping season, number of grains per spike was non-significant in second cropping season and number of spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup> was non-significant in second cropping season as well as in pooled data. Majority of the wheat genotypes possessed yield higher levels. Higher yielding varieties had recorded higher values of harvest index. The present study demonstrated high grain yield genotypes possessed the combination of other agronomic desirable characters.

### Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is one of the major staple food crops grown worldwide on more than 17% of the cultivated land and produced in a wide range of climatic environments systems, where and geographic regions (Gupta *et al.*, 2008). It is the leading cereal grain produced, consumed and traded in the world. India harvested a record 86.53 million tonnes of wheat during the crop year 2014-15 (DWR, Annual Report, 2016). India witnessed the dramatic successes of the green revolution and has been able to rise from a deficit state to a self-sufficient one going on to have surplus production at times. This is indeed an important and reassuring milestone.

During the past four decades, wheat has made a significant contribution to the increase in global food production as total production rose steadily through the use of higher yielding, water- and fertilizer-responsive, and disease-resistant varieties supported by a strengthened input system, tailored management practices and improved marketing (Dixon *et al.*, 2009).

Morphological and agronomic characters of wheat have a special role in determining the importance of each trait in increasing yield, so these traits were used in breeding programs which at least led to improving yield and

introducing commercial varieties (Mollasadeghi *et al.*, 2011).

Improvement of wheat yield based on breeding concept and use of large number of germplasm and best cultivars as a parent. The success in breeding process is not simple because of complex relationships between grain yield and yield components. Some of yield components are in positive correlation and other in a negative correlation which presents difficulties in efficiency of selection genotypes for yield. The wheat yield is affected by many factors: genetic, environment and their interaction. The value of yield varied in dependence of yield components such as stem height, leaf area, spike length, number of spikelets per spike and number of kernels per spike were also found associated with the vegetative growth period (Knezevic *et al.*, 2012). Agronomically important traits are valuable for a species in cultivation and form the basis for the breeder's selection of promising plant material. Number of kernels per spike associated by the number of spikelets per spike which have direct connection with productivity in wheat (Knezevic *et al.*, 2007). Days to heading, spike number per square meter, flag-leaf area and grain yield are mainly controlled by environmental variance, like temperatures and water stresses in post-anthesis period which have influence on reduction of kernels developing and filling in wheat as a result both grain weight and grain number are found to decline (Mohammadi *et al.*, 2011). The two most frequently cited factors contributing to the increase in grain yield are improved cultivars and fertilizer application. Yield contributors *i.e.* effective tillers per plant, grain yield and biological yield increase with the progressive increase in fertilizer dosage (Abraham and Lal, 2004).

The present study was performed to evaluate the yield and yield components of 30 wheat

varieties for identification desirable genotypes for further utilization in plant breeding programs.

## Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted during two consecutive *rabi* cropping seasons of 2014-15 and 2015-16 at Crop Research Farm, Department of Agronomy, Allahabad School of Agriculture, SHIATS, Allahabad (UP), which is located at 25° 24' 42" N latitude, 81° 50' 56" E longitude and 98 m altitude above the mean sea level. The soil pH was 7.5 and 7.4 with an electrical conductivity (EC) of 0.10 dSm<sup>-1</sup> and 0.10 dSm<sup>-1</sup> in 2015 and 2016, respectively. The organic carbon content was 0.40 % during both the years. The soil available phosphorus was analyzed to be (18.90 and 17.80 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) and available potassium was analyzed (292.10 and 327.3 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) in 2015 and 2016 respectively. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Block Design replicated thrice. Thirty wheat genotypes were included in the study, given in table 1. Genotypes were grown in a plot size of 1.2m × 2.5m (6 rows of 2.5m length with 20 cm space between rows) with seed rate of 12g/m<sup>2</sup>.

Optimum dose of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium *i.e.* @ 120, 60, 40 kg/ha was used respectively at the time of seed bed preparation and crop growth periods. Sowing was done by hand drilling and covered lightly with soil. Five irrigations were applied at critical stages; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> irrigation was given at 24, 50, 75 and 105 DAS, respectively. All other agronomic practices are done as recommended for wheat production in the area. Morphological data on plant height (cm), number of spikelets spike<sup>-1</sup>, number of grains spike<sup>-1</sup>, 1000-grain weight (g), grain yield (t ha<sup>-1</sup>) and harvest index (%) were recorded manually in each genotype per replication.

## Results and Discussions

The two years data associated with their pooled data is presented in table 2a and 2b. It is observed that among the agronomic traits, almost all traits were significant during both of the experimental years. Traits such as, plant height, 1000- grains weight, grain yield ( $t\ ha^{-1}$ ) and harvest index (%), were significant across the years as well as their pooled. Only, two traits number of spikelets  $spike^{-1}$  and number of grains  $spike^{-1}$  showed non- significant variation in 2016 and the pooled data of number of grains  $spike^{-1}$  was found to be non- significant.

During first and second experimental years as well as pooled data minimum plant height (78.4 cm, 79.3 cm and 78.9 cm) was recorded under K 8020. All most all genotypes was found to have normal plant height, however, the HUW 251 and HUW 213 genotypes have recorded higher plant height. Wheat plant height is considered as an important trait, since taller cultivars are more vulnerable to lodging than medium or short stature cultivars. There was significant variation among the genotypes for this trait, so selection within the genotype can be done for the promise varieties. Similar findings have been reported by Munsif *et al.*, (2015).

Number of spikelets  $spike^{-1}$  showed wide range of variation. Genotype HUW251 recorded to have higher (18.7) number of spikelets  $spike^{-1}$  in first cropping seasons, while genotype Raj1972 recorded maximum number of spikelets  $spike^{-1}$  in second cropping season as well as in pooled data of two cropping seasons (18.9) and (18.7) respectively. Number of spikelets  $spike^{-1}$  plays a very important role in the possible increase of grain yield of wheat because it significantly affects the grain number and grain mass per spike in wheat. Therefore, best performing genotypes of this study can be

selected and incorporated for further breeding program. Similar findings have also been reported by Zecevic *et al.*, (2009) and Amagai, *et al.*, (2014).

Number of grains  $spike^{-1}$  showed significant differences in the first cropping season only, while it was non-significant in second cropping season as well as in pooled data, which could be due to environmental factor. Highest number of grains  $spike^{-1}$  (48.9) was recorded under HD2385 genotype in the first cropping season. Number grain  $spike^{-1}$  is the main yield component in the cereal crops as well as in wheat. Improvement in number grain  $spike^{-1}$  is important to achieve genetic gains in wheat yield. Number of grain  $spike^{-1}$  is dependent on floret production and survival from flag leaf initiation period to anthesis when the grain number  $spike^{-1}$  is determined. Similar findings have been reported by (Knezevic, *et al.*, 2012) and (Farooq, *et al.*, 2011).

Significant differences were observed among genotypes for 1000-grain weight. Maximum value of 1000-grain weight was recorded for genotype HD2687 and HD2278 (44.5 g) and (48.6 g) in first and second cropping seasons respectively, while genotype K8020 had recorded higher value (45.1 g) of 1000-grain weight in pooled of two years data. 1000-grain weight is one of the most 1000-grain weight is wheat major yield traits and grading parameter that measure the agronomic yield of a wheat cultivars. Enhancing grain size in wheat breeding programs can improve grain weight to increase crop yield important yield components and could be used as potential selection criteria for grain yield. Similar findings have also been reported by Ghuttai *et al.*, (2015) and Ramya *et al.*, (2010).

Genotype HD1941 showed maximum grain yield ( $4.9\ t\ ha^{-1}$ ) in the first cropping season and genotype K9162 showed maximum grain

yield (4.4 t ha<sup>-1</sup>) in second cropping season, while for pooled of two years, genotype HUW37 showed higher value (4.5 t ha<sup>-1</sup>). Grain yield is a complex quantitative trait and it is directly or indirectly influence by other plant traits. Ultimate goal of any wheat breeding is to get maximum yield. The most

important task of wheat breeding is to develop cultivars possessing high genetic yield potential. Grain yield is a complex inherited trait associated with combination of several plant characteristics. Similar findings have also been reported by Longove *et al.*, (2014) and Ali *et al.*, (2007).

**Table.1** List of wheat genotypes and their pedigree

No.	Genotypes	Pedigree/Parentage
1	HD 1982	YT54/N10B//HD845
2	HD2643	VEE"S"/ HD2407 //HD 2329
3	HD2428	HD1949 /HD2160
4	HD2402	HD2177//CNO67/BB/3/HD2160/4/HD2236
5	HD2204	HD 2092 //HD 1962/E 4870/K 65
6	HD 2891	WL711 // HD 2624
7	HD 2177	HD1962-E 4870-K65/HD1593
8	HD 2385	HI686/ HD 2263
9	HD 2270	HD 1962/E4870/ K65/HD 2119 /247
10	HD 2236	HD 2119 / HD 1981
11	HD 2278	HD 2119 //HD 1912 /HD 1592/3/HD 1962/E 4870/4/ K65
12	HD 2954	DL 975-1/BAVIOCRA
13	HD 2824	PTO-1 / CNO 79 / PRL /GAA /3/HD 1951
14	HD 1941	E 5477 * S64
15	HD 2687	CPAN 2009 / HD 2329
16	HUW 37	KALYANSONA / S 331 // HD 1982
17	HUW 318	HUW 206 / HUW 202
18	HUW 251	WH-147/HD-2160//2*WH-147
19	HUW 213	NORTENO / MOTI // HD 2160
20	HUW 55	E 4870 / HD 1982 // INIA 66 /HD 2189
21	K 88	VEERY "S" / WL 711
22	K 9162	K 7827/HD 2204
23	K 9006	CPAN 1687 /HD 2204
24	K 9533	HI 1077/HUW 234
25	K 8020	KALYANSONA/HD 1982
26	Raj 3765	HD 2402/VL639
27	Raj 6560	TOPDY 6
28	Raj 3077	HD 2267/RAJ 1482/5/BB/INIA66'S'/NAPO
29	Raj 1555	COCORIT'S' / RAJ 911
30	Raj 1972	HD 2195 / HD 2160

**Table.2a** Mean performance of thirty wheat genotypes for different agronomic traits

S. No.	Genotypes	Plant height			Number of spikelets spike <sup>-1</sup>			Number of grains spike <sup>-1</sup>		
		2015	2016	Pooled	2015	2016	Pooled	2015	2016	Pooled
1	HD 1982	104.8	104.3	104.5	18.1	17.5	17.8	48.1	40.9	44.5
2	HD 2643	86.6	85.3	85.9	17.3	17.5	17.4	42.3	45.9	44.1
3	HD 2428	87.1	93.3	90.2	18.3	18.7	18.5	39.5	41.5	40.5
4	HD 2402	84.9	86.3	85.6	17.3	17.1	17.2	37.9	42.2	40.0
5	HD 2204	85.6	87.8	86.7	18.2	17.9	18.1	41.4	39.5	40.4
6	HD 2891	87.3	89.9	88.6	17.5	18.1	17.8	44.7	42.1	43.4
7	HD 2177	83.1	83.3	83.2	16.7	16.2	16.5	42.9	43.1	43.0
8	HD 2385	87.2	85.8	86.5	18.2	18.2	18.2	48.9	39.9	44.4
9	HD 2270	83.1	80.9	82.0	18.1	17.9	18.0	40.5	43.5	42.0
10	HD 2236	92.7	92.9	92.8	18.6	18.5	18.5	43.1	45.5	44.3
11	HD 2278	92.5	93.1	92.8	17.7	17.8	17.7	44.1	45.5	44.8
12	HD 2954	88.2	88.9	88.6	16.6	17.3	16.9	42.0	38.9	40.5
13	HD 2824	91.5	90.3	90.9	18.2	18.2	18.2	46.2	39.8	43.0
14	HD 1941	90.2	84.6	87.4	17.7	16.9	17.3	43.4	40.2	41.8
15	HUW 37	81.3	83.1	82.2	17.5	17.4	17.5	41.1	43.7	42.4
16	HUW 318	83.5	80.7	82.1	18.1	17.1	17.6	40.5	40.4	40.4
17	HUW 251	113.0	114.1	113.6	18.7	17.5	18.1	43.1	38.3	40.7
18	HUW 213	112.9	113.2	113.0	16.9	18.8	17.8	46.3	46.7	46.5
19	HUW 55	85.9	87.7	86.8	17.0	17.9	17.5	48.7	42.1	45.4
20	K 88	81.2	83.4	82.3	17.5	17.1	17.3	38.4	40.1	39.2
21	K 9006	95.7	94.7	95.2	17.7	17.9	17.8	38.5	40.9	39.7
22	K 9533	94.0	93.9	94.0	16.6	18.5	17.5	41.4	40.6	41.0
23	K 8020	78.4	79.3	78.9	17.5	17.9	17.7	40.7	44.0	42.4
24	Raj 3765	104.1	105.9	105.0	18.2	17	17.6	44.9	42.5	43.7
25	Raj 6560	97.9	99.0	98.5	15.9	17.9	16.9	44.3	41.3	42.8
26	Raj 3077	87.6	93.7	90.7	17.4	19.3	18.3	45.9	46.5	46.2
27	Raj 1555	94.3	93.6	93.3	18.2	17.8	18.0	42.7	45.9	44.3
28	Raj 1972	92.5	91.0	91.8	18.6	18.9	18.7	43.1	43.7	43.4
29	HD 2687 (C1)	91.2	85.0	88.1	16.5	17.8	17.1	43.3	39.6	41.4
30	K 9162 (C2)	94.4	92.9	93.7	17.5	18.6	18.1	40.7	42.3	41.5
	SEd (±)	1.55	1.16	0.98	0.76	0.86	0.57	2.97	3.84	2.95
	CD (P = 0.05)	3.1	1.32	1.96	1.53	NS	1.14	5.95	NS	NS

**Table.2b** Mean performance of thirty wheat genotypes for different agronomic traits

S. No.	Genotypes	1000-grains weight (g)			Grain yield (t ha <sup>-1</sup> )			Harvest index (%)		
		2015	2016	Pooled	2015	2016	Pooled	2015	2016	Pooled
1	HD 1982	38.7	41.9	40.3	3.2	3.5	3.3	26.4	28.8	27.6
2	HD 2643	44.3	45.5	44.9	3.9	3.6	3.8	33.0	30.9	31.9
3	HD 2428	43.7	44.5	44.1	4.5	3.7	4.1	35.8	29.8	32.8
4	HD 2402	38.5	47.1	42.8	4.1	4.0	4.0	35.3	33.7	34.5
5	HD 2204	37.6	44.3	41.0	3.1	2.8	2.9	30.3	24.4	27.4
6	HD 2891	43.8	46.2	45.0	3.2	3.4	3.3	28.1	28.6	28.4
7	HD 2177	41.3	39.4	40.3	3.7	3.3	3.5	30.0	28.6	29.3
8	HD 2385	41.8	36.9	39.4	3.6	4.3	3.9	33.2	36.4	34.8
9	HD 2270	37.6	44.1	40.8	4.0	3.7	3.8	34.5	31.7	33.1
10	HD 2236	43.8	44.2	44.0	2.8	3.1	3.0	23.2	25.4	24.3
11	HD 2278	41.0	48.6	44.8	3.8	3.5	3.7	33.3	29.4	31.4
12	HD 2954	35.4	42.0	38.7	3.8	3.6	3.7	30.3	28.4	29.3
13	HD 2824	43.6	44.4	44.0	3.0	4.3	3.7	30.0	38.5	34.2
14	HD 1941	40.5	39.5	40.0	4.9	3.7	4.3	39.7	30.4	35.1
15	HUW 37	42.6	39.7	41.2	4.1	4.8	4.5	34.6	40.1	37.4
16	HUW 318	38.6	40.1	39.3	2.8	2.6	2.7	37.5	27.3	32.4
17	HUW 251	42.8	45.2	44.0	3.9	3.9	3.9	31.7	33.8	32.7
18	HUW 213	40.1	43.2	41.7	3.5	3.6	3.6	27.9	30.1	29.0
19	HUW 55	38.8	43.7	41.2	4.1	3.9	4.0	36.5	35.5	36.0
20	K 88	32.0	42.0	37.0	3.1	4.1	3.6	31.5	38.8	35.1
21	K 9006	41.0	38.7	39.8	4.2	3.0	3.6	27.0	19.1	23.1
22	K 9533	42.0	42.1	42.1	4.7	4.1	4.4	38.6	34.4	36.5
23	K 8020	42.2	48.1	45.1	3.9	4.5	4.2	33.8	38.8	36.3
24	Raj 3765	42.9	37.9	40.4	4.1	3.2	3.7	32.8	25.9	29.4
25	Raj 6560	37.8	40.5	39.1	3.7	3.6	3.6	30.0	29.0	29.5
26	Raj 3077	39.0	41.0	40.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	35.3	33.1	34.2
27	Raj 1555	43.7	42.2	42.9	4.0	4.3	4.2	32.2	34.6	33.4
28	Raj 1972	39.0	39.3	39.2	3.5	3.6	3.6	28.6	29.1	28.9
29	HD 2687	44.5	42.9	43.7	4.3	4.0	4.1	37.0	33.7	35.3
30	K 9162	45.4	34.6	40.0	4.2	4.4	4.3	33.1	36.6	34.9
	SEd (±)	1.5	2.03	1.17	0.28	0.19	0.17	2.66	2.1	1.65
	CD (P = 0.05)	3.01	4.06	2.34	0.56	0.38	0.34	5.32	4.21	3.3



Maximum value for harvest index was recorded for genotype HD1941 (39.7 %) in the first cropping season, while in the second cropping season and pooled of the two years, the higher values of harvest index were recorded for genotype HUW37 as (40.1 % and 37.4 %) respectively. Harvest index has direct effect on grain yield. Enhancing in harvest index will boost grain yield. Similar findings have also been reported by (Dai, *et al.*, 2016) and (Ahmad, *et al.*, 2010).

Finally, from the present finding it is concluded that the wheat varieties used in the present study showed that there was significant different among the genotype. High yield wheat genotypes possessed better agronomic performance in all yield related attributes across the years such as, number of spikelets per spike, number of grains per spike, 1000-grain weight and higher harvest index value. As a whole the study was efficient and the promising genotypes can be used in future wheat breeding programme.

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