



## STUDIES ON GENETIC VARIABILITY IN TWO F<sub>3</sub> POPULATIONS OF GROUNDNUT (*Arachis hypogaea* L.)

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ABSTRACT

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The present study aims to reveal the importance of quantitative traits and genetic variability existing in F<sub>3</sub> generation of two crosses, TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073 and TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043 of groundnut. The coefficient of variation at genotypic levels were high for number of secondary branches, number of pegs per plant, SLA, SLW, total biomass per plant, shoot weight per plant, number of mature pods per plant, mature pod weight per plant and kernel weight per plant and moderate for number of primary branches per plant, number of immature pods per plant, shelling out-turn and harvest index. Plant height and SCMR at 30 DAS and SCMR 60 DAS showed low GCV. From the results, high heritability coupled with high genetic advance observed for number of secondary branches per plant, number of pegs per plant, total biomass per plant, shoot weight per plant, mature pods per plant, harvest index, mature pod weight per plant, kernel weight per plant, SLA and SLW indicated the presence of additive gene effects and simple selection would be effective for improvement of these traits

**KEYWORDS:** Genetic variability, PCV, GCV, heritability, genetic advance, pod yield, groundnut.

### INTRODUCTION

Groundnut is not only a major oilseed crop but also an important food crop in India. In India, groundnut occupies an area of 37 lakh ha with a production of 57 lakh tonnes and productivity of 1546 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> in *kharif* season (2015-16). In *rabi*-*summer*, it is being grown in 7.4 lakh ha with production of 14.5 lakh tonnes with productivity of 1960 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> (2015-16). In Andhra Pradesh, in *kharif* season, it is cultivated in an area of 6.8 lakh ha with a production of 5.9 lakh tonnes and productivity of 865 kg ha<sup>-1</sup>. In *rabi* season it is cultivated in 0.95 lakh ha with a production of 1.98 lakh tonnes and productivity of 2329 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> (Anonymous, 2016). For the improvement and stabilization of yields, in these situations it is necessary to combine the good attributes from Spanish and Valencia bunch types and Virginia types to develop short duration high yielding varieties to fit into the cropping pattern of Andhra Pradesh. In this context, it is necessary to understand genetics of traits that contribute for high yield and good plant type for these two major situations-rainfed and irrigated. Hence, the present study was planned to study genetic parameters in two F<sub>3</sub> populations having common female parent TCGS 1157 (a high yielding short statured variety with 105-115 days duration) and male parents, TCGS 1073 and TCGS 1043.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out at Regional Agricultural Research Station, Tirupati. The experimental material consisted of two F<sub>3</sub> populations *viz.*, TCGS 1157 × TCGS 1043 and TCGS 1157 × TCGS 1073 which were derived from TCGS 1157, TCGS 1043 and TCGS 1073. The F<sub>3</sub> generation of two crosses were raised in unreplicated plots of 5 m length separately along with the parents during *kharif*, 2016. A spacing of 30 cm x 10 cm was adopted. 90-120 random competitive plants were picked up in population of each cross while 30 random competitive plants were taken in each parent for recording observations. Data was recorded for yield, harvest index and water use efficiency related traits *viz.*, number of primary branches per plant, number of secondary branches, plant height, number of pegs, pegs to pod ratio, SLA, SLW, SCMR, total biomass per plant, shoot weight per plant, number of mature pods per plant, number of immature pods per plant, shelling out-turn, harvest index, mature pod weight per plant and kernel weight per plant. The data thus generated were subjected to statistical analysis computation of genetic variability, heritability and genetic advance estimates as per the procedures (Nadarajan and Gunasekaran, 2005).

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## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The test of heterogeneity of crosses revealed highly significant differences among the two crosses for all 17 characters indicating presence of considerable variation in the breeding material under rainfed conditions. The estimates of genetic parameters are presented in Table 1. Since F<sub>2</sub> generation is a segregating population the range of variability present in all the two crosses was quite high for most of the traits suggesting the application of individual plant selection for high yield and water use efficiency.

In the present study, the estimates of PCV for all the characters were little higher than the estimates of GCV, which may be due to the interaction of genotypes with the environment. The moderate to high estimate of coefficient of variation was registered for number of secondary branches, number of pegs per plant, SLA, SLW, total biomass per plant, shoot weight per plant, number of mature pods per plant, mature pod weight per plant and kernel weight per plant, moderate for number of primary branches per plant, number of immature pods per plant, shelling out-turn and harvest index indicating greater scope of selection for improvement of these characters. Similar results of high estimates of variability were reported by earlier workers for number of secondary branches (Dandu *et al.*, 2011; John *et al.*, 2012), SLA (Pushpa *et al.*, 2014), total biomass per plant (Shinde *et al.*, 2010), number of mature pods per plant and mature pod weight per plant (Padmaja *et al.*, 2013), kernel weight per plant (Ahamed, 1995 and Vishnuvardhan *et al.*, 2012), harvest index (Reddi *et al.*, 1986), number of immature pods per plant (Padmaja *et al.*, 2013), number of primary branches (Vishnuvardhan *et al.*, 2012) and corroborates the findings of the present study.

High heritability coupled with high genetic advance as a per cent of mean were recorded for number of secondary branches per plant, number of pegs per plant, total biomass per plant, shoot weight per plant, mature pods per plant, harvest index, mature pod weight per plant, kernel weight per plant, SLA and SLW which indicated the inheritance of additive gene effects in the genetic control of these traits. Hence, simple selection can be practiced to improve these traits. This was in conformity with the findings of Dandu *et al.* (2011) for number of secondary branches Girdthai *et al.* (2012) for total biomass per plant, Riaz *et al.* (2013) for shoot weight, Sumathi and Ramanathan (1995) for number of mature

pods per plant, and Jayalakshmi *et al.* (1998) for mature pods weight per plant. The knowledge on heritability of traits is helpful to decide the selection procedure to be followed to improve the trait in a situation. High heritability recorded in a trait indicates the low influence of environment on expression of the trait. Therefore, for improving these traits the selection will be more effective in early generation on the basis of *per se* performance of these traits. These traits may be improved by mass or progeny selection. High heritability recorded for pod yield per plant suggested that direct selection based on pod yield *per se* could be effective for its genetic improvement. High heritability coupled with moderate genetic advance as per cent of mean was recorded for SPAD chlorophyll reading and pegs/pod ratio. These are more likely to be controlled by both additive and non-additive gene effects. Hence, recombinant selection could be more effective to improve these traits.

## CONCLUSION

Based on results of this study, it could be concluded that there was considerable amount of variability present in the both the crosses. To sum up, genotypic co-efficient of variation, heritability and genetic advance as percentage of mean were moderate to high in both crosses for number of secondary branches per plant, pegs per plant, total biomass per plant, shoot weight per plant, mature pods per plant, immature pods per plant, harvest index, mature pod weight per plant, kernel weight per plant, SLA and SLW indicating that these are predominantly governed by additive genetic variance. Hence, it could be inferred that simple phenotypic selection would be effective in early generations in these crosses to make improvement in the characters mentioned above. Conversely, low estimates of GCV, heritability and genetic advance as per cent of mean were registered for SCMR and pegs/pod ratio indicating little scope of improvement of these traits by selection as they are governed by the non-additive gene effects.

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Table 1. Genetic parameters for 17 characters in two F<sub>3</sub> populations of groundnut

Character	Mean	Range	Phenotypic variance	Genotypic variance	Phenotypic coefficient of variation (%)	Genotypic coefficient of variation (%)	Heritability %	Genetic advance	Genetic advance as % of mean
<b>Primary branches per plant</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	4.68	2-8	0.98	0.37	21.20	13.07	38.04	0.78	16.61
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	4.58	3-7	0.54	0.13	16.05	7.77	23.45	0.36	7.75
<b>Secondary branches per plant</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	3.41	0-7	2.40	1.04	45.51	29.98	43.39	1.39	40.68
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	3.31	0-6	1.21	0.12	33.20	10.66	10.32	0.23	7.06
<b>Plant height (cm)</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	30.77	22-52	18.62	8.54	14.02	9.50	45.87	4.08	13.25
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	30.17	20-39	17.56	8.42	13.62	9.43	47.93	4.14	13.45
<b>Pegs number per plant</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	27.54	11-56	64.75	52.99	29.22	26.43	81.83	13.56	49.25
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	26.53	9-68	69.20	51.98	31.35	27.17	75.12	12.87	48.52
<b>Pegs/Pod</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	1.86(7.81)	6.38-10.18	0.54	0.06	9.41	3.14	11.10	0.17	2.15
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	1.97(8.03)	6.18-11.24	0.73	0.62	10.61	9.83	85.89	1.51	18.77
<b>Total biomass per plant (g)</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	22.95	8.80-48.70	36.99	26.62	26.50	22.48	71.96	9.02	39.28
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	19.24	8.30-48.60	43.28	32.40	34.19	29.59	74.87	10.15	52.74
<b>Shoot weight per plant (g)</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	15.78	5.40-53.50	49.07	41.74	44.38	40.93	85.07	12.28	77.78
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	11.68	4.90-34.00	23.75	15.77	41.73	34.01	66.41	6.67	57.09
<b>Mature pods per plant</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	10.24	3.00-22.00	16.37	9.74	39.51	30.48	59.51	4.96	48.44
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	10.34	3.00-20.00	11.26	3.36	32.45	21.04	42.05	2.91	28.11

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Table 1. Cont...

Character	Mean	Range	Phenotypic variance	Genotypic variance	Phenotypic coefficient of variation (%)	Genotypic coefficient of variation (%)	Heritability %	Genetic advance	Genetic advance as % of mean
<b>Immature pods per plant</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	4.90	1.00-11.00	4.52	0.48	43.39	14.18	10.68	0.47	9.55
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	3.39	1.00-9.00	3.25	0.27	53.19	15.34	8.32	0.31	9.12
<b>Shelling out-turn (%)</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	58.33(49.83)	29.40-57.07	18.52	15.08	8.64	7.79	81.40	7.22	14.48
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	54.70(47.72)	33.67-55.37	26.96	23.72	10.88	10.21	87.99	9.41	19.72
<b>Harvest index (%)</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	43.29(41.09)	30.74-55.06	23.60	20.52	11.82	11.02	86.95	8.70	21.17
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	47.26(43.40)	29.76-55.26	28.83	25.61	12.37	11.66	88.84	9.83	22.64
<b>Mature pod weight per plant (g)</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	8.60	2.10-18.70	7.55	4.34	31.96	24.22	57.41	3.25	37.79
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	10.76	2.70-20.00	10.76	7.08	41.57	33.71	65.78	4.45	56.33
<b>Kernel weight per plant (g)</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	5.01	1.10-10.80	2.86	2.02	33.78	28.38	70.61	2.46	49.13
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	4.23	1.10-12.10	2.87	1.94	40.04	32.94	67.67	2.36	55.82
<b>SCMR (30 days)</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	45.35	30.50-66.80	14.47	10.05	8.39	6.99	69.45	5.44	12.00
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	43.79	6.3-55.1	15.40	5.74	8.96	5.47	37.26	3.01	6.88
<b>SCMR (60 days)</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	48.47	30.00-58.70	29.41	20.30	11.19	9.30	69.03	7.71	15.91
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	47.65	32.40-58.40	21.64	7.96	9.76	5.92	36.77	3.52	7.39
<b>SLA</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	145.96	41.18-342.90	2140.28	1434.08	31.70	25.95	67.00	63.86	43.75
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	148.00	72.57-371.50	1510.65	931.07	26.26	20.62	61.63	49.35	33.34
<b>SLW</b>									
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1073	0.01	0.00292-0.02	0.0000063	0.0000045	33.18	28.04	71.42	0.003695	48.81
TCGS-1157 × TCGS-1043	0.0072	0.00269-0.01378	0.0000031	0.0000019	24.67	19.14	60.23	0.002201	30.61

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