

Effect of genotype × environment interaction on grain yield factors in durum wheat

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Abstract

Identifying environment-specific and widely adapted genotypes is necessary through understanding of environmental interaction (GEI). To estimate the enormosity of genotype (G), environment (E) and GEI results on yield and yield components and it is necessary to conduct multi-locations trials of durum wheat. During the year 2019/20 cropping season eleven (11) durum wheat genotypes were appraised under three locations within Balochistan, Pakistan. Almost all traits exhibit significant results for combined analyses of variance for genotypes (G) and Genotype X Environmental Interaction (GEI), the results of the genotypes were not uniform transversely the locations shows strong effect of environments. Commonly, out of total variation, GEI explicated chief share of deviation and thus had greater effect than genotypes (G) and environment (E) on the countenance of makeup for all characters. Mean value of three environments indicates that the genotype/line (G-9) produced supreme value for grain yield (4682.4 Kg ha⁻¹) and harvest index (34.66%), signifying it as reputable their exact malleability in corresponding environments. Among environments, E-02 was acknowledged as exceedingly fruitful environments in relations of grain yield. High yielding and widely adaptable genotype thus seemed as principal genotype/line for supreme of the production traits. Likewise, in all three environments G-9 had produced higher grain yield excluding E-03. Analysis of correlation exposed momentous positive link of grain yield with plant density m⁻² (rg = 0.40*), biological yield (rg = 0.39*) and harvest index (rg = 0.82*). The genotype/line G-9 was originated as extraordinary yielding genotype/line and consequently could be suggested for commercialization in Balochistan.

Keywords: *Triticum durum*; Genotypic environmental interaction (GEI); Correlation; Yield components.

1. Introduction

The people of Pakistan use wheat as primary source of food. In our country wheat was cultivated on 9.1 million hectares and the production was 27.4 M tons with mean yield of 3.01-ton ha⁻¹ (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics 2021-22), whereas in Balochistan, it was planted on 0.427 million hectares and production was 0.867 million tons with a mean yield 2.03-ton ha⁻¹ (Agriculture Statistics Balochistan 2019-20).

The Pakistan country wide mean yield is extremely beneath than world agro technologically advanced countries. The situation in Balochistan is more poorest where the durum wheat production is lower than the country wide mean yield. The causes of lesser grain yield are shortage of irrigation water, erratic rainfall, heat/could stress, unobtainability of high yielding varieties and quality seed. With increase in world population the demand of durum wheat crop is also increase due to staple food crop. The production of durum wheat can be increased by introduction of high yielding cultivars and brings more area under durum wheat cultivation. The cultivation of durum wheat on large area is restricted; though introduction of high yielding with broader adaptability to environment play significant part for their high production. The act of varieties/cultivars mostly base on their genetic makeup (G), environment (E) and their interactions (GEI). Akcura et al., 2009; Karimizadeh et al., 2012 and Mohammad et al., 2012 reported that mutable retort

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of genotypes diagonally in assessment environments are common phenomenon, identified as GEI. The yield potential of varieties/cultivars depends on the act ended environment/location and year. Therefore, to identify high yielding and comparatively stable genotypes/lines are prerequisite for GEI. Annicchiarico, 2002 reported that the trials in numerous locations, the GEI rules the identification of the utmost unwavering genotypes/lines that are appropriate for explicit environment/location. The genetic homeostasis is necessary to boost up mean yield of durum wheat. The cultivars with broader genetic makeups and healthier presentation under different agro-climatic conditions can increase the durum wheat production. The genetic improvement of durum wheat course is naturally slow but it can be speed up by using selective process of man via proper supervision of environmental aspects. Mohammad, 2011 reported that the genetic progress is more complex due to traits are governed by environment. With reference to identifying widely adopted genotypes/lines, keeping in the prominence of GEI, the present experiment was designed using eleven (11) durum wheat genotypes including one check wheat variety Shalkot-14. The research trials were sown transversely in three (3) environments to examine GEI effects on durum wheat production and its other traits, classify high yielding, more suitable genotypes/lines with constant yield, assess genetic correlation coefficients among yield and yield components in durum wheat.

2. Materials and methods

To explain genotype with reference to environmental interaction (GEI) for grain yield and related traits, ten (10) durum wheat genotypes with one check wheat variety Shalkot-14 were tested over 3 environments of Balochistan, Pakistan during 2019/20, the experimental material was planted in Balochistan Agricultural Research & Development center Quetta (E-01), farmer field Sibi (E-02) and farmer field Khuzdar (E-03).

Table 1 Genotypes/cultivars Pedigree

| Sr. # | Genotypes/cultivars | Name/Pedigree | Selection History |
|-------|---------------------|--|---|
| 1. | G-1 | Stj3//Bcr/Lks4/3/Ter3 | ICD99-0091-T-3AP-AP-10AP-AP |
| 2. | G-2 | Azeghar1/4/IcamorTA0462/3/Maamouri3 //Vitron/Bidra1/5/Mgnl3/Ainzen1 | ICD06-0230-BLMSD-0AP-12AP-0Tr- 3AP-0Tr-11AP-0THT-0AP -0TR |
| 3. | G-3 | Ossl1/Stj5/5/Bicrederaa1/4/BezaizSHF//SD19539/Waha/3/Stj/Mrb3/6/Icajihan12 | ICD07-094-BLMSD-0AP-6AP-0Tr-1AP-0THT-0AP -0TR |
| 4. | G-4 | Mrb3/Mna1//Ter1/3/ICAMORTA0459/ Ammar7/4/Beltagy2 | ICD06-0279-0AP-2AP-0AP-1AP-0THTD |
| 5. | G-5 | Ossl1/Stj5/5/Bicrederaa1/4/BEZAIZSHF//SD19539/Waha/3/Stj/Mrb3/6/Mgnl3/Aghrass2 | ICD06-1525-0AP-1AP-0AP-5AP-0THTD |
| 6. | G-6 | Terbol975/Geruftel2 | ICD06-1790-0AP-4AP-0AP-4AP-0THTD -0TR |
| 7. | G-7 | ARMENT//SRN_3/NIGRIS_4/3/CANELO_9.1/7/SRN_3/AJAIA_15 | CDSS04B00764D-11Y-0M-3Y-0M-4Y-0B |
| 8. | G-8 | Icasyr1/3/Gcn//Stj/Mrb3 | ICD02-1016-C-6AP-0TR-1AP-0AP-7AP-0AP-3AP-0AP-0TR-0AUB |
| 9. | G-9 | 20048Traikia(Mor)/Mrb5//Stj3 | ICD92-0511-MABL-0AP-16AP-0TR-12AP-0AP |
| 10. | G-10 | Terbol975/Geruftel2 | ICD06-1790-0AP-4AP-0AP-4AP-0THTD -0TR-0AUB |
| 11. | G-11 | Shalkot-14 | |

The experimental material was planted in plot size of 5m⁻² with RCBD in factorial strategy with three repeats at each location. Each plot size had 4x5-meter long x 0.25 m apart. Recommended rate of nitrogen 120 Kg ha⁻¹ and phosphorous 80 Kg ha⁻¹ was used. Throughout the growing period standard culture practices were used. At physiological maturity plant height was dignified from bottom to the top of selective plants. Plant density m⁻² was measured by using quadrat succeeding the technique defined by Sayre et al., (1997). At maturity the plot size of 5m⁻² (4 rows) were harvested and measured to record the biological yield and then calculate in Kg ha⁻¹. The harvested crop was sun drying for the period of a week, then threshed for record grain yield/plot and then tuned into Kilo gram per hectare. The harvest Index was measured by dividing economical yield with biological yield and multiplied by 100 (tuned in to percentage). Adopted the procedure of Singh and Chaudhry (1997) computed genetic correlations of morphological and yield traits.

The observed data of numerous yield and yield traits were statistically examined transversely in three locations suitable for RCBD factorial design using SAS computer program, averages were disjointed using LSD test at 5% level of likelihood for substantial differences.

3. Results

Significant differences were observed amid genotypes, locations and interaction between genotype by environment (GEI) in all characters for Combined analysis of variance (Tab.5). Across different environments the GEI. revealed significant difference, it means that the performance of genotypes was not uniform and hereafter right to ensued for further analysis of genotypes in specific environments.

The semi-dwarf durum wheat cultivars are resistance to lodging and nitrogen reactive. Environment effects plant height and it is may different in varying environmental circumstances (Petrovi et al., 1997). Combined analysis of variance for plant height discovered substantial differences (P≤0.05) amid genotypes, locations, and their GEI. Significant effect was noted for environment and genotypes but had seized least sum of squares. The variation clarified by environments was 14.30% and genotypes 24.84% of variation, while GEI effects was 20.43% (Tab.5). Averaged main effect of genotypes over three environments/locations, plant height between 92.33 to 81.55 cm with mean value of 87.57 cm (Tab.2).

Table 2 Main effect of genotypes in three environments

| Genotype | Plant height (cm) | Plant Density m ⁻² | Biological Yield (Kg ha ⁻¹) | Grain Yield (Kg ha ⁻¹) | Harvest Index (%) |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| G-1 | 88.55abc | 473.78c | 14760a | 4258.6d | 30 d |
| G-2 | 85.77 c | 490.56ab | 14351b | 4055.6e | 28.55 ef |
| G-3 | 90.77ab | 470.00c | 14272b | 4481.9b | 31.33 c |
| G-4 | 87.88 bc | 485.22ab | 14214bc | 4239.2d | 29.89 d |
| G-5 | 87.11 bc | 487.11ab | 14155bc | 4246.9d | 32.55 b |
| G-6 | 86.44 c | 491.67ab | 14111bc | 4334.9c | 29.44 de |
| G-7 | 85.88 c | 484.67b | 13958bc | 3794.8f | 27.33 g |
| G-8 | 81.55 d | 492.11ab | 13840cd | 4339.0c | 31.44 c |
| G-9 | 89.11abc | 487.67ab | 13545 d | 4682.4a | 34.66a |
| G-10 | 92.33a | 493.11a | 13019e | 4457.3b | 31.55bc |
| G-11 | 87.88 bc | 473.33c | 13015e | 3630.0g | 27.88fg |
| LSD Value (0.05) | 4.004 | 8.3238 | 397.08 | 65.45 | 1.018 |

Values within the same column followed by the same letters are not significantly different, using LSD Range Test at 5% level.

Recorded maximum plant height for G-10 (92.33 cm), which was at par with G-3 (90.77 cm), G-9 (89.11 cm) and G-1 (88.55 cm) followed by G-4 (87.88 cm), G-11 (87.88 cm) and G-5 (87.11 cm) while least plant height was documented for G-8 (81.55 cm). Among environments, higher plant height was 90.30 in E-02 followed by E-03 (87.06 cm) and E-01 (85.36 cm) table-3. Extreme plant height was perceived for G-3 in E-02 (95.66 cm); G-10 in E-01 (93.66 cm); G-11 in E-02 (93.66 cm); G-9 (92.66 cm) in E-02; G-10 in E-02 (91.66 cm); G-10 in E-03 (91.66 cm); G-9 in E-03 (91.33 cm); G-1 in E-02 (90.33 cm); G-7 in E02 (89.33 cm) and G-6 in E-02 (89.00 cm) and minimum was recorded in G-8 in E-01 (Tab.4).

Table 3 Mean value of genotypes in three environments

| Environment/Location | Plant height (cm) | Plant Density m ⁻² | Biological Yield (Kg ha ⁻¹) | Grain Yield (Kg ha ⁻¹) | Harvest Index (%) |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 (Quetta) | 85.36 b | 481.30b | 1403a | 4221.2ab | 30.24a |
| 2 (Sibi) | 90.30a | 487.76a | 13967ab | 4254a | 30.45a |
| 3 (Khuzdar) | 87.06 b | 484.36ab | 13795b | 4211.6b | 30.57a |
| LSD Value (0.05) | 2.091 | 4.3469 | 207.37 | 34.180 | 0.5316 |

Values within the same column followed by the same letters are not significantly different, using LSD Range Test at 5% level.

Table 4 Mean effect of Genotype*Environment interaction in three environment

| Sr .# | Geno type | Plant height (cm) | | | Plant Density m ⁻² | | | Biological Yield (Kg ha ⁻¹) | | | Grain Yield (Kg ha ⁻¹) | | | Harvest Index (%) | | |
|-------|-----------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | Quetta (E-01) | Sibi (E-02) | Khuzdar (E-03) | Quetta (E-01) | Sibi (E-02) | Khuzdar (E-03) | Quetta (E-01) | Sibi (E-02) | Khuzdar (E-03) | Quetta (E-01) | Sibi (E-02) | Khuzdar (E-03) | Quetta (E-01) | Sibi (E-02) | Khuzdar (E-03) |
| 1 | G-1 | 87.66 bcdefgh | 90.33a bcde | 87.66 bcdegh | 449.00 j | 488.33a bcdefg | 484.00b cdefgh | 14109b cdefghi | 14455a bcdef | 14253b cdefgh | 4054. 3lmn | 4363. 7fgh | 4357. 7fgh | 29.00 hijkl | 30.33 efghi | 30.66 defgh |
| 2 | G-2 | 83.00g h | 88.66b cdefgh | 85.66 defgh | 496.67a b | 487.33a bcdefg | 487.67a bcdefg | 14380a bcdefg | 14347a bcdefgh | 13914d efghij | 3958. 3no | 4117. 3kl | 4091. 0klm | 27.66 klmn | 28.66 ijklm | 29.33 ghijk |
| 3 | G-3 | 86.66 cdefgh | 95.66 a | 86.66 cdefgh | 474.00g hi | 464.33i | 471.67hi | 14662a bc | 14338a bcdefgh | 14052d efghi | 4504. 7cd | 4540. 3c | 4400. 7defg | 31.00 cdefg | 31.66 cdef | 31.33 cdef |
| 4 | G-4 | 90.33a bcde | 87.66b cdefgh | 85.66d efgh | 479.00e fgh | 495.33a bcd | 481.33d efgh | 13832ef ghijk | 14149bc defghi | 14484a bcde | 4000. 7mn | 4419. 0def | 4298. 0ghi | 29.00 hijkl | 31.33 cdef | 29.33 ghijk |
| 5 | G-5 | 84.66ef gh | 88.00b cdefgh | 88.66b cdefgh | 487.67a bcdefg | 484.00b cdefgh | 489.67a bcdef | 12998n o | 12963n o | 13095 lmno | 4236. 3ij | 4232. 3ij | 4272. 0hij | 32.66 bc | 32.33 bcd | 32.66 bc |
| 6 | G-6 | 85.00d efgh | 89.00a bcdefg | 85.33d efgh | 489.00a bcdef | 495.33a bcd | 490.67a bcdef | 14791a b | 15011a | 14478a bcdef | 4304. 7ghi | 4365. 7fgh | 4334. 3fghi | 29.33 ghijk | 29.00 ijkl | 30.00f ghij |
| 7 | G-7 | 83.33fg h | 89.33a bcdefg | 85.00d efgh | 484.67b cdefgh | 481.67c defgh | 487.67a bcdefg | 13741g hijkl | 14059cd efghi | 14073c defghi | 3870. 3op | 3678. 3q | 3835. 7p | 28.33 jklm | 26.33 n | 27.33l mn |
| 8 | G-8 | 73.33i | 86.66c defgh | 84.66ef gh | 495.33a bcd | 500.00a | 481.00d efgh | 14539a bcd | 13496ij klmn | 13485 ijklmn | 4574. 0bc | 4267. 7hij | 4175. 3jk | 31.66 cdef | 31.33 cdef | 31.33 cdef |
| 9 | G-9 | 83.33fg h | 92.66a bc | 91.33a bcde | 482.33b cdefgh | 494.67a bcd | 486.00a bcdefgh | 13795fg hijk | 13691hi jklm | 13148k lmno | 4837. 0a | 4672. 0b | 4538. 3c | 35.33 a | 34.00 ab | 34.66 a |
| 10 | G-10 | 93.66a b | 91.66a bcde | 91.66a bcde | 492.67a bcde | 496.00a bc | 490.67a bcdef | 14186b cdefgh | 14094cd efghi | 14053c defghi | 4487. 7cde | 4509. 0cd | 4375. 3efgh | 31.66 cdef | 32.00 cde | 31.00 cdefg |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------|------------------|-------------|--------|---------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 1 | G-11 | 88.00b cdefgh | 93.66a b | 82.00h | 464.00i | 478.33e fghi | 477.67fg hi | 13303jk lmno | 13027m no | 12716 o | 3605. 3q | 3635. 7q | 3649. 0q | 27.00 mn | 28.00 klmn | 28.66i jklm |
| LSD Value (0.05) | 6.93 | | | 14.41 | | | 687.76 | | | 113.36 | | | 1.763 | | | |

Values within the same column followed by the same letters are not significantly different, using LSD Range Test at 5% level.

Table 5 Pooled SS and MS for various traits of durum wheat genotypes across three environments/Locations

| Traits | Environment (df=2) | | | Genotypes (df=10) | | | GXE (df=20) | | | Replication (df=2) | | | Error (df=64) | | |
|------------------|--------------------|----------|-------|-------------------|----------|-------|-------------|----------|-------|--------------------|---------|------|---------------|--------|-------|
| | SS | MS | SS % | SS | MS | SS % | SS | MS | SS % | SS | MS | SS % | SS | MS | SS % |
| Plant height | 415.70 | 207.848* | 14.30 | 721.96 | 72.196* | 24.84 | 593.86 | 29.693* | 20.43 | 17.64 | 8.818 | 0.61 | 1157.03 | 18.079 | 39.81 |
| Plant density | 688.00 | 344.010* | 3.86 | 6166.7 | 618.669* | 34.74 | 4325.3 | 216.266* | 24.29 | 1608.8 | 804.404 | 9.03 | 4999.9 | 78.123 | 28.08 |
| Biological yield | 975393 | 487697* | 4.54 | 3773326 | 2674498* | 17.58 | 4949627 | 247481* | 23.06 | 386777 | 193389 | 1.80 | 11378303 | 177786 | 53.01 |
| Grain yield | 33707 | 16853* | 0.35 | 8313696 | 831370* | 85.97 | 1008052 | 50403* | 10.42 | 5995 | 2997 | 0.06 | 309127 | 4830 | 3.20 |
| Harvest index | 1.879 | 0.9394* | 0.35 | 419.293 | 41.9293* | 79.08 | 33.677 | 1.6838* | 6.35 | 0.545 | 0.2727 | 0.10 | 74.788 | 1.1686 | 14.11 |

*: Significant relation at 5% level of probability, whereas ns= non-significant

Table 6 Estimate of simple correlation coefficients (Pearson) between different characters (Weighting Variable) in durum wheat cultivars at ($P < 0.05$)

| | Plant height | Plant density | Biological Yield | Grain Yield |
|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| Plant density | 0.0206 | | | |
| P-Value | 0.8398 | | | |
| Biological Yield | -0.1158 | 0.2532 | | |
| | 0.2535 | 0.0115 | | |
| Grain Yield | 0.0575 | 0.4033 | 0.3942 | |
| | 0.5717 | 0.00 | 0.0001 | |
| Harvest Index | 0.1305 | 0.2790 | -0.1809 | 0.8251 |
| | 0.1979 | 0.0052 | 0.0731 | 0.0000 |

In durum wheat production plant density are measured as key trait. It has been appraised that round about main stem produced 30% to 50% of the grain yield in durum wheat and 50% to 70% produced from lateral tillers under ordinary circumstances (Elhani et al., 2007). Substantial variances ($P \leq 0.05$) was observed between genotypes, locations and GEI for plant density m^{-2} for combined study of difference. The results accessible in tab.5 exhibiting that 1.22 times more variation due to GEI which was 34.74% then combined effect of environments/locations (3.86%) and genotypes (24.29%) so it can be concluded that average presentation and position of genotypes were primarily due to their interaction with locations. The main effect of genotypes averaged over three environments, plant density m^{-2} extended from 493 to 470 tillers m^{-2} with the average value of 484.47 tillers m^{-2} (Tab.2). Higher number of tillers was fashioned by G-10 (493.11 tillers m^{-2}), followed by G-8 (492.11 tillers m^{-2}), G-6 (491.67 tillers m^{-2}), G-9 (487.67 tillers m^{-2}), G-5 (487.11 tillers m^{-2}) and G-4 (485.22 tillers m^{-2}), however least number of tillers were observed for G-3 (470.00 tillers m^{-2}). Among locations, plant density m^{-2} in between from 481.30 to 487.76 tillers m^{-2} . No anyone of genotype was utterly dominated on rest of genotypes in all environments/locations, observing site exact performance for plant density m^{-2} . Environment E-02 (487.76 tillers m^{-2}) and E-03 (484.36 tillers m^{-2}) were acknowledged as exceedingly fruitful and less fruitful locations, correspondingly for of tillers m^{-2} (Tab.3). Genotype G-8 produced maximum tillers m^{-2} in E-02 (500 tillers m^{-2}) and minimum was observed in G-1 in E-01 (449.00 tillers m^{-2}) Table- 4.

Collective analysis of variance exposed substantial variances ($P \leq 0.05$) among genotypes, locations and genotypes/lines and GEI for biological yield. In the total sum of squares, 23.06% of dissimilarity was supplementary by GEI (Tab.5). The main effect of biological yield mean over three environments/locations, ranged from 14760 to 13015 $Kg ha^{-1}$ with an average value of 13940 $Kg ha^{-1}$ (Tab.2). Higher biological yield was renowned for G-6 (14760 $Kg ha^{-1}$), followed by G-3 (14351 $Kg ha^{-1}$) and G-1 (14272 $Kg ha^{-1}$), however lower assessment was verified for genotype G-11 (13015 $Kg ha^{-1}$). Average of three environments/locations, biological yield extended from 14031 to 13795 $Kg ha^{-1}$. Higher biological yield was observed for G-1 (14031 $Kg ha^{-1}$), followed by G-2 (13967 $Kg ha^{-1}$), however lower value was recorded for genotype G-3 (13795 $Kg ha^{-1}$) (Tab.3). Indoors, biological yield (GxE) fluctuated from 15011 $Kg ha^{-1}$ to 12716 $Kg ha^{-1}$ higher biological yield was logged for G-6 in E-02 (15011 $Kg ha^{-1}$) followed by G-6 in E-01 (14791 $Kg ha^{-1}$) whereas lower biological yield was noted in G-11 in E-03 (12716 $Kg ha^{-1}$) tab.4.

Among genotypes significant differences was observed for combined analysis of variance of environments/locations and GEI for grain yield. Least sum of squares was significant for environments/locations and GxE and captured 0.35% and 10.42%, individually. Similarly, genotype apprehended 85.97% of the total dissimilarity, displaying its part in average performance and position of genotypes diagonally environments (Tab.5). Mean value of three environments/locations, grain yield in between from 4211.6 to 4254.6 $Kg ha^{-1}$ with average value of 4229.13 $Kg ha^{-1}$ (Tab.3).

Generally, 8 genotypes had higher yielding than average yield, while all 10 genotypes had maximum yield than check variety (Fig.1). Genotype G-9 meaningfully produced higher grain yield (4682.4 $Kg ha^{-1}$), followed by G-3 (4481.9 $Kg ha^{-1}$) and G-10 (4457.3 $Kg ha^{-1}$), however lower value for grain yield was perceived for G-11 (3630 $Kg ha^{-1}$) table 2. The GEI ranged from 4837 $Kg ha^{-1}$ in G-9 E-01 to 3605.3 $Kg ha^{-1}$ in G-11 E-01. higher grain yield was noted for G-9 in E-01 (4837 $Kg ha^{-1}$), followed by G-9 in E-02 (4672 $Kg ha^{-1}$), however lower value was recorded for genotype G-11 in E-01 (3605.3 $Kg ha^{-1}$) table 4.

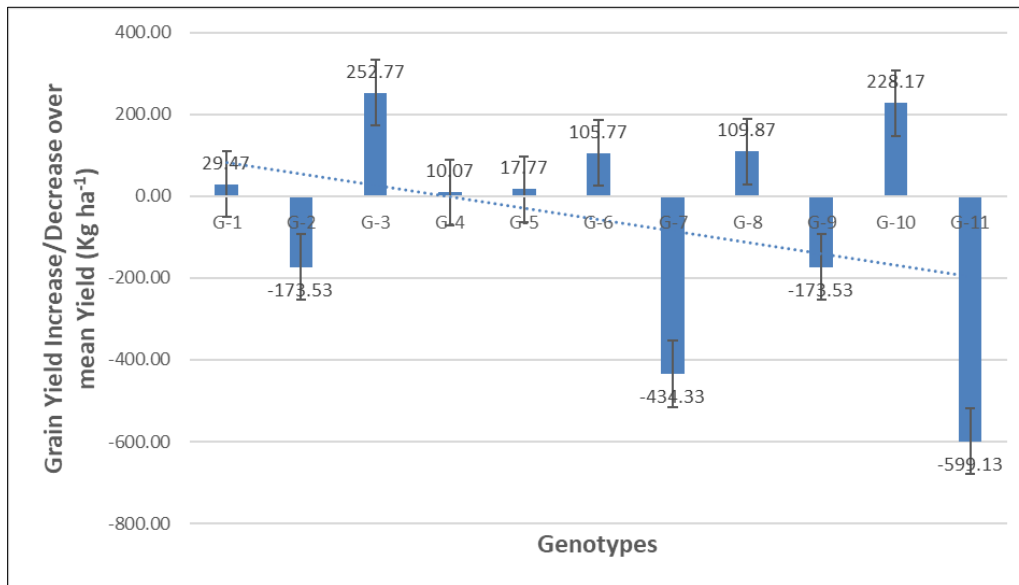


Figure 1 Grain yield increase/Decrease over mean yield (Kg ha⁻¹)

Combined analysis of difference represented significant variances ($P \leq 0.05$) among genotypes, environments and GEI for harvest index. While, variances for GEI was significant, but they apprehended fewer sum of squares. GEI explicated only 6.35% total difference, whereas maximum variation was captured (79.08%) by genotype and minimum was found in environment which was 0.35% (Tab.5). Mean value of three environments/locations, harvest index ranged from 30.57 to 30.24% with average value of 30.42% (Tab.3). The main effect of Genotype in three environments G-9 (34.66%) exhibited maximum value for harvest index which was at par with G-5 (32.55%) and G-10 (31.55%) whereas, minimum value was noted in G-7 (Tab.2). The GxI, higher value for harvest index was documented for G-9 in E-01 (35.33%) which was at par with G-9 in E-03 (34.66%) and G-9 in E-02 (34%). Minimum harvest index was recorded in G-7 in E-02 (26.33%) table 4.

The correlation coefficients were measured on average values of yield and yield components of 11 genotypes in three environments. The correlation investigation represented that grain yield had positive association with plant density m⁻² ($r_g = 0.40^*$), biological yield ($r_g = 0.39^*$) and harvest index ($r_g = 0.82^*$). Progressive affiliation of these aforesaid traits with grain yield designated that these traits had foremost impact towards grain yield however, plant density showed positive connotation with harvest index ($r_g = 0.27^*$), whereas negative correlations with biological yield ($r_g = -0.18^*$) table 6.

4. Discussion

Collective analysis of variance exposed significant differences among genotypes, environment and their interaction for plant height, plant density, biological yield and grain yield. Previously, Mohammad et al. (2012), Mehari et al. (2015) and Ebrahimnejad and Rameeh (2016) also described analogous results in wheat. Contrarily Khan et al. (2010) and Motamedi et al. (2013) conveyed non-significant variances among genotypes, environments and their interaction for tillers m⁻². The findings were not similar may be due to alteration in genetic makeup of genotypes and tested environmental conditions or both. The biological yield is a multiplicative yield integral with harvest index (Kozak et al., 2007). In durum wheat harvest index is an important trait and have direct impact on grain yield. However, harvest index has substantial genetic progress for higher grain yield was mostly attained, which increase plant size to dispense biomass into the reproductive parts (Sayre et al., 1997).

To develop high yielding lines/cultivars is the fundamental part of every plant breeding program which governs forthcoming of crop and its cultivators (Muflin, 2000). There are many challenges for plant breeder to get besides, to identify best potential lines for series of diverse environmental circumstances with stable yielding genotypes and maintained their productivity (Roozeboom et al., 2004; Loffler et al., 2005). Genotype G-9 displayed higher grain yield and harvest index and hereafter may be painstaking as most constant high yielding genotype for commercialization. Correlation analysis exposed that grain yield had positive connotations with plants m⁻², and harvest index. Mohsen et

al. (2011) also described that grain yield had positive correlations with above cited traits and recommended that plant breeders should deliberate these traits in durum wheat breeding for grain yield upgrading.

5. Conclusion

Presence of sufficient variability needs significant genetic variance for all traits to make effective selection among genotypes. Like wisely the recital of genotypes transversely locations for virtually all characters was not uniformed, directed that significant relationship between genotypes by environment interactions (GEI). The superior properties in the phenotypic countenance of all characters due to GEI apprehended major share of sum of squares. Significant positive associations of grain yield with plants m^{-2} and harvest index signifying that these traits had major impact towards grain yield in durum wheat in correlation analysis. Higher grain yield and harvest index transversely all locations were produced by the genotype G-9, recognized as high yielding cultivar and recommended for commercialization in Balochistan.

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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