

Stability Analysis for Number of Leaves Per Plant in Forage Maize (*Zea Mays* L.) Accessions Under Different Environmental Conditions

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Abstract: *Maize leaves can be used in various forms, including fresh, dried, or as a component of silage. Leaves are significant source of forage, providing essential nutrients and energy for livestock. Observation on various parameters contributing to fodder yield potential were recorded at 50% silking stage of the accessions. Stability parameters were computed as method suggested by Eberhart and Russell. A count of total number of leaves was taken from basal node to uppermost node. 69 accessions and African Tall showed absence of G x E interaction whereas three accession showing presence of linear and non-linear component. Accessions namely IC-335035, followed by IC-335041, IC-334876, IC-335053, IC-335032 and IC-334889 had their mean values more than population mean. African Tall had maximum number of leaves per plant (17.44) and suited to all type of environments. Among accessions, IC-335035 had maximum leaves/plant but not suited to all type of environments.*

Keywords: Forage maize, stability analysis, G x E interaction, number of leaves/plant.