

Screening of Ideal Forage Maize (*Zea Mays L.*) Accessions for Plant Height and Number of Leaves Per Plant

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Abstract: In present study one hundred forage maize (*Zea mays L.*) accessions were evaluated with a control variety African tall to study the nature and magnitude of stability for various fodder yielding traits. The experiments were conducted on same lines under three different environments. Observation on various parameters contributing to fodder yield potential were recorded at 50% silking stage of the accession. Plant height was measured from the base to the tip of main shoot. A count of total number of leaves was taken from basal node to the uppermost node. The accessions were grouped on the basis of three stability parameters like mean ($\bar{x}$), regression coefficient (b_i) and mean square deviation (S^2_{di}). Result revealed that maximum number of accessions were found predictable and stable for both characters, indicating that plant height and number of leaves per plant are more stable characters in forage maize. African tall was stable for both characters confirming its wide adaptability.

Keywords: Forage Maize, Stability Analysis, Plant Height and number of leaves per plant.