

Stability Analysis for Days to 50% Silking Stage in Forage Maize (*Zea Mays L.*) Accessions

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Abstract: *No attempts have been made so far in India for classifying genetic materials of forage maize. Although maize is being used since a long time as a dual-purpose crop. One hundred and one forage maize accessions including African Tall were evaluated at central research farm of Indian Grassland and Fodder research Institute, Jhansi in a RBD design with three replications during the kharif, 2001, 2002 and 2003. The observations were recorded on various yield and yield contributing traits at 50% silking stage of the crop. Stability parameters for day to 50% silking stage showing both b_i and S^2_{di} values were non-significant in 72 accessions and African Tall revealing the absence of $G \times E$ interaction. Above average 50% silking were found in African Tall (59) followed by IC-334833 (55), IC-334853 (54) which are stable to late 50% silking and early accessions for this trait were IC-335056 (43), IC-334973 (43.22), IC-334996 (43.33) and IC-335000 (43.78). Hence, in forage maize, 50% silking (tasseling/flowering stage) generally occurs in 43- 59 days after sowing. The peak 50% silking stage is typically recommended for harvesting forage maize to balance nutrient quality.*

Keywords: *genetic materials*