

Stability Analysis for Stem Girth in Forage Maize (Zea Mays L.) Accessions

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Abstract: *Stem girth is a critical phenotypic parameter for forage maize, integral to yield prediction and lodging resistance assessment. One hundred and one forage maize accessions including African Tall were evaluated during kharif seasons to identify stability for stem girth in forage maize. Study revealed that most of the accessions had non- significant b_i and S^2d_i showing absence of $G \times E$ interaction. Similarly many accessions and African Tall had b_i values equal to one or unity, indicating their adaptability to favourable, unfavourable and general environments, respectively. Thickest stem was observed in African Tall (2.94), which was stable to all type of environments ($b_i = 0.87$). Among stable maize accessions maximum stem girth was recorded for IC-335048 (2.37) followed by IC-334848 and was stable to favourable environments.*

Keywords: Forage maize, stability analysis, stem girth, $G \times E$ interaction