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Test Cross Performance

Combining Ability of Maize

Highlights

Coastal Farmers Perception

Contract Farming in Sugarcane

Discovering Thoughts, Inventing Future

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Test Cross Performance and Combining Ability of Maize (*Zea Mays L.*) Inbred Lines at Bako, Western Ethiopia

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Abstract- Information on combining ability and heterotic grouping for newly developed inbred lines is of paramount importance to design future breeding strategies for the development of hybrid and synthetic varieties. The objectives of the present study were to examine combining ability and to determine heterotic groups of the inbred lines for grain yield and other desirable traits. Twenty five inbred lines were used for the formation of the experimental crosses using line x tester mating design. The resulting 50 F1 crosses plus two standard checks (BH540 and BH543) were evaluated at Bako, Western Ethiopia in 2012 main cropping season. The entries were arranged in alpha lattice design with three replications.

Keywords: SCA, GCA, heterotic group.

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Test Cross Performance and Combining Ability of Maize (*Zea Mays L.*) Inbred Lines at Bako, Western Ethiopia

Girma C. Hosana ^α, Sentayehu Alamerew ^σ, Berhanu Tadesse ^ρ & Temesgen Menamo ^ω

Abstract- Information on combining ability and heterotic grouping for newly developed inbred lines is of paramount importance to design future breeding strategies for the development of hybrid and synthetic varieties. The objectives of the present study were to examine combining ability and to determine heterotic groups of the inbred lines for grain yield and other desirable traits. Twenty five inbred lines were used for the formation of the experimental crosses using line x tester mating design. The resulting 50 F1 crosses plus two standard checks (BH540 and BH543) were evaluated at Bako, Western Ethiopia in 2012 main cropping season. The entries were arranged in alpha lattice design with three replications. Data on grain yield, other agronomic traits and disease reactions were recorded under field condition. The highest grain yield was recorded from L24 x T1 (CML312/CML442) (9.97 t ha⁻¹). The analysis due to mean squares for crosses was highly significant for all traits except for plant aspect, ear per plant, and number of plants per plot, and thousand kernel weights indicating the existence of genetic variability for all traits. GCA of line was significant for grain yield, agronomic traits and disease severity index. The mean square due to SCA for line by tester combinations were also significant for grain yield, stalk lodging, root lodging, ear rot, husk cover, maturity date, 50% silking day, and Turcicum leaf blight. Significant GCA and SCA effects were indicative of the importance of both additive and non additive gene effects in the control of the traits. However, in all traits, the proportion of GCA sum of square was higher than SCA sum of squares indicating the preponderance of additive gene effects in the control of all traits. Based on the SCA of crosses, the two testers used in this study successfully classified nine out of 25 tested inbred lines into two heterotic groups, A and B: six inbred lines belong to heterotic group A, while the remaining three belong to heterotic group B. These two group can be maximized heterosis by crossing inbred lines belonging to different heterotic groups/unrelated strains.

Keywords: SCA, GCA, heterotic group.

1. INTRODUCTION

Maize (*Zea mays L.*; 2n =20) is an important cereal crop of the world, belonging to the tribe Maydeae of the grass family *Poaceae*. It has great worldwide significance as human food, animal feed and as a source of hundreds of industrial products. Apart from the manufacture of mixed feed, maize

products include maize starch, maltodextrins, maize oil syrups of the large milling industry, and well-known products of the fermentation and distilling industries (Troyer 2004).

As the cultivation of early maize spread to different geographical regions from Mexico and Central America, where maize is widely believed to have originated, there was a rapid evolution of many races adapted to a wide variety growing conditions. It was introduced to West Africa in the early 1500s by Portuguese traders and then to Ethiopia during the 1600s and 1700s (Dowsell *et al.* 1996).

Cereals are the major crops produced in the country and they constitute the largest share of domestic food production. In 2011/12 main cropping season, cereals were cultivated on 9.6 million hectares producing 188.1 million Qt of food grains (CSA 2012). This represented 79.34% and 86.05% of the total area and production of food grains in the country, respectively. Among cereals, maize ranked second to *tef* in area coverage, and first in total production and productivity. Although it is one of the strategic crops for the achievement of food security in the country, more than 90% of the production is handled by small-scale farmers under rain-fed growing condition (CSA 2012).

Maize constitutes a major food source for the majority of the Ethiopian population, being the second most important cereal crop in area and first in total production in Ethiopia (CSA 2012). The per capital consumption of maize of maize in Ethiopia is about 60kg per annum; however, the level of consumption varies from place to place. In major maize producing areas, maize is staple food, and in other areas it is used in mixtures with other food grains (Mosisa *et al.* 2011).

Since 1952 maize research has been ongoing at different capacities to generate and recommend improved technologies for maize production. With the dissemination and utilization of improved maize technologies by the farmers, the national average yield has been increasing starting in late 1990s. Even though, the current average national maize yield of Ethiopia, 2.95 tones ha⁻¹ (CSA 2012), is better than the national yield of many African countries; it is still low compared to that of the world, China, and that of United States with average annual yield of 5.1, 5.6, and 9.7 tones ha⁻¹, respectively (FAOSTAT 2008). This is due mainly due to

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the poor adoption of improved technologies by the predominantly small scale maize farmers', shortage of high yielding varieties, biotic and abiotic stresses (Mosisa *et al.* 2011). This indicates the need to develop high yielding maize varieties that perform well under both stress and non-stress conditions. In order to achieve this, potentially suitable parents and superior combinations must be identified.

During the early stages of maize breeding in Ethiopia, the main focus was the development of open pollinated varieties (OPVs) (Benti *et al.* 1993; Kebede *et al.* 1993). This was mainly due to the assumption that small-scale farmers did not have the skill required to manage hybrid maize (Gebre *et al.* 2002), unavailability of improved germplasm locally for hybrid development, lack of experience in hybrid development and absence of seed producers. Later, the high yield realized on the state farms with hybrids imported from Kenya, Zimbabwe and Malawi in the early 1980s together with high yield potential recorded from some experimental hybrids in the research centers convinced the breeders to go for wide development and testing of maize hybrids locally. This led to a shift in the breeding strategy from development of only OPVs to development of both hybrids and OPVs in the early 1980s, today, both hybrids and OPVs of different maturity groups are the main focus of the national maize research strategy, particularly for the mid-altitude and highland sub-humid maize growing areas of Ethiopia (Mosisa *et al.* 2011).

Development and release of maize varieties have been an eminent phenomenon in breeding programs mainly to accommodate a range of weather conditions, varying disease prevalence, and volume and distribution of rainfall. The main focus in this case is to come up with more advanced varieties than the existing ones in many aspects (Mosisa *et al.* 2011). Maize improvement involves formation, evaluation, selection, and recombination of genetically variable families or inbred lines (Pixley *et al.* 2006). Test cross performance of experimental lines is the prime selection criterion in hybrid breeding of maize (Mihaljevic *et al.* 2005). With a common tester, differences among the crosses are generally assumed to arise from genetic variability among the S0 plants or inbred lines crossed on to it (Genter and Alexander 1965). The superior individual lines identified after crossing with a tester can be inbred for potential use as a cross pollinated cultivar or as a parent of synthetic or hybrid cultivar (Fehr 1987). This could be achieved through ecological based development of superior inbred lines and identification of their best hybrid combinations.

Different methods of inbreeding are employed for the development of inbred lines, ear-to-row being the common method of inbred line development. The resulting inbred lines are used in the hybrid breeding program or for the development of synthetic (OPV) varieties. For such use, information on the performance

of the inbred lines, both per se and cross, is very crucial. Usually, the inbred lines are evaluated for their per se performance, a yield potential, resistance to major foliar diseases and flowering characteristics. At Bako National Maize Research Program, Ethiopia, the first cross performance of the materials (early test cross) is done when the inbred lines reach the S3 stage. At this stage, the inbred lines are crossed to the common testers of known heterotic groups (A and B) and the resulting test cross progenies are evaluated in multi-location trials. Finally, inbred lines with good cross performance are selected for further advancement and classified into heterotic group for further use in the breeding program.

In maize breeding program, analysis of general combining ability (GCA), specific combining ability and heterosis would help to identify best inbred lines for hybrid development and hybrid combinations for better specific combining ability. Combining ability is an effective tool which gives useful genetic information for the choice of parents in terms of their performance in series of crosses (Sprague and Tatum 1942). The development of populations with high combining abilities has a fundamental role in the efficient use of heterosis (Vasal *et al.* 1992). Therefore, germplasm evaluation is a decisive aspect in maize breeding programs.

Line x tester is useful in deciding the relative ability of female and male lines to produce desirable hybrid combinations (Kempthorne 1957). It also provides information on genetic components and enables the breeder to choose appropriate breeding methods for hybrid variety or cultivar development programmes. Information on combining ability effects helps the breeder in choosing the parents with high general combining ability and hybrids with high specific combining.

So far, combining ability effects in maize and heterotic classification of inbred lines has been extensively studied in Ethiopia for different sets of new inbred lines developed/introduced and adapted at different times (Nigussie and Zelleke 2001; Bayisa *et al.* 2005; Dagne *et al.* 2007; CIMMYT-Zimbabwe 2008; Worku *et al.* 2008). It is always mandatory for any breeding program to generate such information for any new batch of inbred lines generated or received outside of the program. Understanding the relative importance of general (GCA) and specific combining ability effects for different traits for newly developed inbred lines is of paramount importance to design future breeding strategies for the development of hybrid and/or synthetic varieties. The heterotic classification will also assist in determining the relationship existing among the different inbred lines.

Currently, at Bako National Maize Research Center there are a number of new batches of inbred lines generated through different methods of inbred line development. So far, little or no information is available

on these particular set of new inbred lines on their specific and general combining ability effects. Furthermore, these inbred lines are not grouped into the known heterotic groups. Therefore, keeping in view the above this study was conducted with two objectives: a) to estimate the general and Specific combining ability (GCA) of the new inbred lines of crosses for grain yield and other agronomic traits using Line x Tester mating design; and b) to classify the new inbred lines into different heterotic groups for future use in the breeding program.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

a) Description of Experimental Sites

The study was conducted at Bako Agricultural Research Centre, Western Ethiopia, in 2012 main cropping season. The centre is located 250 kilometres west of Addis Ababa. The locations represent sub-humid and mid-altitude maize growing mega-environments of sub-Saharan Africa (White *et al.* 2001). The site lies between 9°06' N latitude and 37°09' E longitude at an altitude of 1650 m.a.s.l. The soil of the centre is reddish brown clay (nitrosol) with pH of 6.0 and 5.9 for top soil (0 – 30cm) and sub-soil (30 – 60cm), respectively. The total precipitation during the growing season (May to November 2012) was 828.5 mm, and the mean minimum and maximum temperatures were 14.4.1°C and 26.8.0°C, respectively. The long term total annual rainfall is 1245 mm, with mean, minimum and maximum temperatures of 13.5°C and 28°C, respectively.

b) Experimental Materials

The experiment consisted of 52 maize crosses (including 50 test crosses formed by crossing 25 inbred lines to two testers in line x tester mating design in 2011) and two standard checks (BH543 and BH540). The inbred lines were developed at Bako Agricultural Research Center from available germplasm using ear-to-row and backcross inbred line development approaches. The two testers used; CML312/CML442 (Tester 1) and CML395/CML202 (Tester 2) are single crosses and obtained from CIMMYT. They are developed from commercial CIMMYT Maize Lines (CMLs) of known heterotic groups; viz. CML312 and CML442 are heterotic group A while CML395 and CML202 are heterotic group B. These single cross testers are commonly used by CIMMYT and many other national maize research programs in Africa (Dagne *et al.* 2008).

The most important stresses against which the inbred parents of the testers were selected include diseases (grey leaf spot, leaf rust and turicum leaf blight), low nitrogen, high density and drought. The lines x tester crosses were made at Bako Agricultural Research Center during the off-season of 2011/12. BH543 and BH540 are commercial maize hybrids

released for the mid-altitude and sub-humid maize agro-ecology of Ethiopia. BH543 is a three way-cross commercial hybrid released by Bako National Maize Research Project in 2005. It is a medium maturing hybrid that takes about 145 days for grain maturity at Bako and similar environments. The hybrid is a high yielding, tolerant/resistance to major maize diseases known in the country and well adapted to mid-altitude environments (1000-1700 m.a.s.l) receiving high rainfall. The other check BH540 is a popular single cross commercial hybrid released by the same center in 1995. It is a medium maturing hybrid that matures in about 140 days at the adaptation areas of BH543.

c) Experimental Design and Field Management

A total of 52 entries, the 50 three way crosses plus two hybrid checks adapted to the mid-altitude agro ecology of Ethiopia were planted using alpha lattice (0, 1) design (Patterson and Williams 1976) with four plots per an incomplete block and 13 incomplete blocks in each three replicates. Each entry was placed in a two-row plot of 5.1 m long and 0.75 m apart with 0.3 m between plants.

Trial was hand planted with two seeds per hill, which was later be thinned to one seed per hill to get a total plant population of 44, 444 per hectare. Planting was done in the rainy season the 4th of June, 2012 after reliable moisture level of soil attained to ensure good germination and seedling development. All agronomic practices were done as per the recommendation for Bako research centre.

d) Statistical analysis and procedures

Data Collected and analysis of Variance: Data were recorded on seventy different traits included: Days to 50% tasselling, Days to 50% silking, Days to 50% maturity, Ear rot percent, Husk covers percent, Grain yield, Ear height, Plant height, Disease score, Number of ears per plant, Ear aspect, Ear length, Ear diameter, Stalk lodging percent, Root lodging percent, Number of rows per ear and Number of kernels per row. Disease score and Ear aspect, were recorded visually and scale (1-5). Analysis of variance for all parameters studied was computed using the PROC MIXED procedure and test for significance differences among the genotypes was performed using SAS software (SAS 2008).

Combining ability analysis: Line x tester analysis was done for traits that showed statistically significant differences among crosses using the adjusted means based on the method described by Kempthorne (1957). General combining ability (GCA) and specific combining ability effects for grain yield and other agronomic traits were calculated using line x tester model using SAS software.

Classification of the inbred lines into different heterotic group: Classifying maize inbred lines into heterotic groups is the initial step in maize breeding program

which would provide maximum exploitation of heterosis. Systematic studies on classifying inbred lines into heterotic groups have been reported (Vasal et al. 1992). Melchinger (1999) proposed that when large number of inbred lines is available and proven testers exist, the performance of the lines in test crosses with proven testers can be used as a main criterion for grouping of lines. Vasal et al. (1992) used this approach in evaluating the performance of test crosses of 92 tropical and 88 subtropical maize lines using two dent and two flint line testers. On the basis of ANOVA and SCA effect for grain yield of the testcrosses was used to classify the inbred 25 lines into two heterotic groups. An inbred line that expressed negative SCA effects when crossed to a certain tester implied that the inbred line belongs to the same heterotic group with the tester. On the other hand, if the same line manifests positive SCA effect with the same tester, it is classified into opposite heterotic group (Vasal et al. 1992).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

a) Analysis of Variance

Analysis of variance showed highly significant differences ($P < 0.01$) among tested materials for all the

traits except for number of plants, number of ear per plant, plant aspect and thousand kernel weight (Table 1). The existence of highly significant differences for all traits indicates the presence of inherent variation among the materials, which makes selection possible. In support of the present finding, earlier studies reported significant differences among genotypes for Grain yield tons per hectare (YLDT) and YLDT related traits in different sets of maize genotypes (Tuna 2004; Dagne et al. 2007; Nepir 2007).

In addition, highly significant differences were observed among entries for grey leaf spot (GLSSID) and Turicum leaf blight (TLBSID), indicating the variable reaction of the tested genotypes against the two diseases. The use of inbred lines from diverse sources of germplasm for generation of the crosses might have contributed to the significant difference observed among crosses for most of the traits considered. Similarly, Worku et al. (2008) and Legesse et al. (2009) reported significance difference in the genotypes they tested in combining ability study of maize inbred lines.

Table 1 : Mean squares of genotype and error for grain yield and other related traits in 25x2 lines by tester cross of maize at Bako (2012/13)

So.var	DF	DT	DS	MD	PH	EH	NP	PA
Rep	2	14.54**	9.31**	128.58**	1021.43**	535.55**	0.04	0.64
B(Rep)	36	1.14	2.21**	2.11	128.22**	72.41*	1.22	0.12
ENTRY	51	2.14**	2.33**	3.33**	301.68**	304.63**	1.37	0.12
ERROR	66	0.76	0.67**	1.30441	110.65**	63.79**	0.95	0.09
So.var	DF	ERP	ERP ⁺	HCP	HCP ⁺	TLBSID	TLBSID ⁺	EL
Rep	2	0.61	0	0.5	0.0002	2.56	0.0003	1.99*
B(Rep)	36	1.90*	0.001	2.58*	0.001	204.94*	0.0246*	1.67*
ENTRY	51	6.20**	0.013	67.66**	0.036**	264.37**	0.0309**	3.55**
ERROR	66	1.16	0.001	1.92	0.0009	120.86	0.0143	1.47
So.var	DF	SLP	SLT ⁺	RLP	RLP ⁺	EA	YLDT	
Rep	2	3.33*	0.001	4.12*	0.002*	0.03	2.93**	
B(Rep)	36	2.66*	0.001	2.35*	0.001*	0.06*	0.31*	
ENTRY	51	50.31**	0.026**	23.78**	0.012**	0.31**	1.63**	
ERROR	66	2.19	0.001	2.88	0.001	0.07	0.38	
So.var	DF	GLSSID	GLSSID ⁺	NEP	ED	NRE	TKW	
Rep	2	4863.56**	0.59**	0.06	0.002	0.03*	10932.7	
B(Rep)	36	246.79	0.03	1.12	0.066**	0.76	3306.61	
ENTRY	51	549.36**	0.07**	1.23	0.052**	1.31**	3804.59	
ERROR	66	175.91	0.02	0.87	0.027	0.51	3751.84	

+ Traits with transformed data

*=significant at 0.05 probability level, **=significant at 0.01 probability level

DT=day of 50% tassiling, DS=days of 50% silking, MD =Maturity date, PH=Plant height, EH=Ear height, NP=number of plant per plot, PA=Plant aspect, ERP= ear rot percent, HCP=husk cover percent, TLBSID=Turicum leaf blight severity index, EL=Ear length; SLP=stalk lodging percent, RLP= root lodging percent, EA=Ear aspect, YLDT=Grain yield tones per hectare, GLSSID=Gray leaf spot severity index, NEP= number ear per plot, ED=Ear diameter, NRE=Number of kernel rows per ear, TKW=Thousand kernel weight

b) Mean performance of crosses and checks

Grain yield (YLDT): The mean grain yield (YLDT) for genotypes tested under this experiment ranged from 6.8 t ha⁻¹ (L1xT1) to 9.97 t ha⁻¹ (L24xT1) with a mean value

of 8.23 t ha⁻¹ (Appendix 1). Among the crosses, 33 crosses showed significantly higher yield than the hybrid check BH540 and 26 crosses revealed significantly higher yield than the check hybrid BH 543. The best 11

crosses with yield advantages of 25% over the best check hybrid were L24xT1, L22xT1, L19xT2, L18xT1, L24xT2, L2xT2, L18xT2, L17xT1 L20xT1, L21xT1 and L22xT2.

Fifty percent tasseling(TD) and silking days(SD): The number of days to 50% tasseling ranged from 79.00 days (L3xT1) to 82.67 days (L24xT1) with overall mean of 81.04 days (table 2). Cross L24xT1 was late in tasseling and scored the longest day and became the highest yielder (9.97 t/ha) which could be due to high photosynthetic product accumulation during the longer growing period. The trait days to 50 percent silking showed a similar variation pattern with days to tasseling and ranged from 81 days (L7xT1, L8xT2 and L3xT1) to 84.67 days (L24xT1 and L17xT2). Crosses L3xT1, L7xT1 and L8xT2 had similar silking dates with that of hybrid check BH540. The rest 47 crosses revealed significantly higher days to silking as compared to hybrid check BH540. Crosses L3xT1, L7xT1 and L8xT2 were significantly earlier in silking than the check hybrid BH543.

Maturity days (MD): The days to maturity ranged from 147.67 (L6xT2 and L15xT2) to 153.33 days (L22xT1). Crosses L6xT2, L15xT2, L6xT1, L9xT2, and L8xT1 were earlier and showed similar maturity date to that of the check hybrid BH540. Twenty seven crosses showed significantly late maturity date when compared to the check hybrid BH540 while 23 crosses had similar maturity date as that of BH-540. Six crosses viz., L17xT1, L18xT2, L21xT1, L22xT2, L22xT1 and L24xT2 showed significantly late maturity date than hybrid check BH543 while L6xT1, L6xT2 and L15xT2 were significantly earlier than BH543 (Table 4). From the tested crosses, 41 crosses had similar maturity dates with hybrid check BH543. In this study, crosses with late maturity dates showed long days to tasseling as well as long days to silking day with longer anthesis silking interval and this might contributed to the late maturing of the crosses, while on contrary crosses with earlier anthesis and silking with shorter anthesis silking interval showed earlier maturity. Late maturing crosses could be used in breeding programs for the development of genotypes and better performing hybrids could be released for areas receiving sufficient precipitation for more than 155 days. Early maturing crosses also could be used for the development of early maturing varieties.

Plant Height (PH): The mean value for plant height ranged from 252.67 cm (L5xT1) to 299.33 cm (L17xT1) and the mean PH was 274.26 cm. Twenty five crosses exhibited significantly higher plant height than check hybrid BH543, while 15 crosses had similar plant height to BH543. From the tested crosses, 13 crosses were significantly taller than the check hybrid BH-540 while 37 crosses exhibited similar plant height to BH-540. In this study, crosses that showed significantly higher plant height gave higher grain yield, which could be attributed

to high photosynthetic products accumulation during long period for grain filling. Crosses L21xT1, L2xT2, L19xT2, and L20xT1 were in the range of high yielding crosses with intermediate height which is desirable in this particular trait.

Ear height (EH): L11xT1 was the cross with the lowest EH (126.33 cm) while L20xT2 had manifested the highest ear height (174.33cm). The mean EH for all genotypes was 145.33 cm. Among all the tested genotypes, 13 crosses exhibited significantly higher ear placement than the check hybrid BH540 while crosses L11xT1, L8xT1, L6xT1 and L9xT2 showed significantly lower ear height. Fourteen crosses showed significantly higher ear height than check hybrid BH543, while only L11xT1 cross showed significantly lower ear height. Crosses L2xT2 and L21xT1, which were among the top grain yielding hybrids, showed intermediate ear height. Plant and ear heights are the major concern to plant breeders since plants with increased ear and plant heights are vulnerable to lodging and hence yield reduction. Therefore, the variability existed in the tested crosses could help in the improvement of these traits. But it is evident that farmers use the maize Stover for different alternative uses like fire wood, fencing and livestock feed. In particular, farmers in crop-livestock mixed farming systems use the maize stover as animal feed and they usually prefer taller plants than shorter one to get large biomass. While trying to respond to the needs of farmers, care should be taken not to introduce taller varieties that are susceptible to lodging into the farming system where lodging is prevalent due to the occurrence of heavy wind.

Stalk lodging Percentage (SLP): L20xT1, L4xT2, L7xT2, L23xT1, L4xT1 and L19xT1 were crosses that manifested no stalk lodging (0%) while L15xT2 was most affected by stalk lodging (26.28%). The overall mean for this trait was 4.38%. Nine crosses showed significantly higher percentage of lodging to both hybrid checks, while 7 crosses exhibited significantly lower percent lodging. Among the tested crosses, six crosses scored 0% stalk lodging, which is a desirable feature that have been contributed either by the line or tester or due to the expression of hybrid vigor. The standard checks BH540 and BH543 exhibited stalk lodging percentage of 4.20 and 4.17, respectively.

Root lodging percentage (RLP): The mean for root lodging was 4.56% with minimum and maximum values of 0.0% (L21xT1) and 19.79% (L25xT1), respectively. Hybrid L25xT1 showed significantly higher root lodging to check hybrid BH540 and BH543. Among tested crosses, 49 showed significantly lower root lodging to BH540 and 43 crosses revealed significantly lower root lodging to BH543. L24xT1, L4xT1, L5xT2 and L2xT1 showed low percent root lodging next to L21xT1. The check hybrids, BH540 (11.69%) and BH543 (9.38%)

exhibited higher percent lodging next to cross L25xT1 (19.79%).

Ear aspect (EA): it is the visual evaluation of harvested ears for general performance with regard to diseases and uniformity. Ear aspect was scored on 1-5 scale and the mean values ranged from 1.33 for L18xT2, L19xT2, and L22xT1 to 2.5 for L9xT1 with overall mean of 2.08. Crosses L18xT2, L19xT2, L22xT1, L22xT2, L21xT2, L24xT2, L23xT2, L24xT1 and L19xT1 showed significantly lower score (1.33 to 1.5). They exhibited significantly lower score for trait crosses is in the desirable direction which implied these crosses showed clean, uniform, large and well filled ears and could be promoted to the next stage of trial evaluation if they are high yielding and have performed well in other traits. However, the check hybrids BH540 and BH543 showed intermediate score of 2.5 and 2.17, respectively.

Ear rot percentage (ERP): Mean ER value ranged from 0.0% for L18T2, L22xT2, L21xT2, L17xT2, L20xT1, L16xT2, L7xT2, L23xT1, L6xT1 and L19xT1 to 6.22% for L4xT2 with the overall mean of 2.27%. Among the tested crosses, 21 showed significantly higher ear rot percent to the hybrid BH540 while 4 crosses were significantly higher in ear rot percent to hybrid check BH543. In addition, 33 crosses showed significantly lower score as compared to BH543. These shows there are promising materials that are less affected by ear rot as compared to the standard checks. Based on their yield and overall performance, these materials could be advanced to advanced stages of trials to confirm their performance across locations and years.

Husk cover percentage (HCP): Poor husk cover, increases the susceptibility of genotypes for ear rot and field infestation of weevil before harvest. Generally, materials with good husk cover could promote to the next stages of trial evaluation. In the current study, mean values for husk cover ranged from 0.0% (L10xT1, L10xT2, L11xT1, L25xT2, L24xT2, L1xT2, L18xT2 and L2xT2) to 24.16% (L3xT2). The mean value for husk cover was 5.19%. Four crosses scored significantly higher percent while 46 crosses showed significantly lower husk cover percent to hybrid BH540. Among the tested crosses, 23 exhibited higher score while 27 crosses showed significantly lower husk cover percent when compared to check hybrid BH543. In this experiment, entries that manifested the highest husk cover percentages are the ones that showed the highest score for ear rot.

Turcicum leaf blight severity index (TLBSI): The mean values scored for TLBSI ranged from 20% for L13xT2 to 72% for L17xT1 with mean value of 35.82% severity index. The level of infection varies from slight to severe leaf infection and none of the entries showed complete resistant to *Turcicum* leaf blight. The low severity was recorded for L13xT2, L10xT1, L8xT1, L4xT1, L6xT1, and L9xT1 with severity percent of 20, 21.33, 22.67, 22.67,

24.00 and 25.33, respectively. From the tested crosses 16 crosses showed significantly higher leaf infection when compared to hybrid check BH540 while 24 crosses exhibited similar in reaction to TLBSI. BH-543 showed severe index (61.33%) while, BH-540 showed moderate severity index (22.67%). The highest index for BH543 is because of the susceptibility of one of its parents for *turcicum* leaf blight. As a result of that, this variety is also affected by this disease when grown in *turcicum* hot spot areas. There is a need for proper positioning of this variety in order to avoid the growing of it in areas where the occurrence of the disease is high.

Gray leaf spot severity index (GLSSI): Mean value of GLSSI ranged from 20% for L18xT2 to 78.67% for L16xT1. Over all mean value for the trait was 35.24%. Among the tested crosses, 10 crosses showed significantly higher severity index percent due to grey leaf spot when compared to hybrid check BH540. The only cross showed significantly higher GLSSI was L16xT1 while 15 crosses revealed significantly lower GLSSI when compared to BH543. Crosses L18xT2, L22xT2, L25xT1, L21xT1, L7xT2, L5xT2 and L11xT2 revealed relatively low leaf infection and could be used in the development of resistant genotypes against grey leaf spot. Check hybrid BH543 (45.33%) exhibited high leaf infection above the overall mean (35.24%). Therefore, care should be exercised not to grow this variety in areas where the incidence of occurrence of both *Turcicum* leaf blight and gray leaf spot is high.

Ear length (EL): Of all the genotypes tested, L19xT2 attained the maximum ear length (21.3 cm) while L1xT2 was genotypes with shortest ear length (16.6 cm). The overall mean for all the genotypes evaluated was 18.62 cm. Among all crosses, 16 showed significantly higher ear length as compared to BH540. Among the tested crosses, L19xT2, L19xT1, L20xT1 and L24xT2 showed significantly higher ear length compared to BH543 while L1xT2 and L25xT2 exhibited lower ear length. Crosses L19xT1, L24xT2, L20xT1 and L19xT2 were crosses with the best ear length and are among the 11 best crosses with larger ear length.

Ear diameter (ED): L25xT2 manifested the highest ear diameter (5.17cm) of all the genotypes studied. On the other hand, L14xT2 has shown the least ear diameter of 4.47cm. The average ear diameter for all the genotypes included in this study was 4.79 cm. L25xT2, L3xT2, L25xT1, L17xT2 and L18xT2 showed significantly higher ear diameter than BH540 while 13 crosses exhibited higher ear diameter than BH543.

Number of kernels row per ear (NKRE): NKRE was a significant difference between crosses. It varies from 13.07 to 16.67 with average 14.46. The minimum NKRE was recorded from L14xT2 cross and the maximum was from L23xT2 cross.

Number of kernel per row (NKR): The number of kernels per row ranged from 36.60 (L25xT2) to 47.00 (L20xT2) and had mean value of 41.24 for the trait. Out of 50 crosses tested, 21 showed significantly higher number of kernels per rows when compared with BH540 while 9 crosses showed significantly higher NKR when compared with BH543. The two check hybrids, BH540 and BH543 showed 38.07 and 39.73 kernels per row which was below the overall mean (41.24) of tested genotypes.

A number of crosses showed better performances for more than one trait as compared to

the best hybrid check used in the study. Therefore, crosses that had high grain yield could be used in the breeding program to improve the grain yield and other traits of interest. Similarly, hybrids that were late in anthesis and silking, longer in ear and plant heights could be used as sources of genes for development of late maturing and longer statured varieties. In agreement with the present results, investigators in their studies identified experimental varieties performing better than the best check for most yield and related traits (Nepir 2007; Wegary et al. 2010).

Table 2 : Mean Minimum, Maximum, CV (%) and F-test values of grain yield and related traits evaluated

Traits	MEAN	MIN	MAX	CV (%)	LSD (5%)	F-test
TD	81.04	78.67	82.67	1.08	1.43	**
SD	82.60	79.67	84.67	0.99	1.34	**
MD	150.22	147.67	153.33	0.76	1.86	**
PH(cm)	274.26	252.67	299.33	3.84	17.15	**
EH(cm)	145.33	126.33	174.33	5.50	13.02	**
SLP (%)	4.38	0.00	26.28	33.77	2.41	**
RLP (%)	4.56	0.00	19.79	37.25	2.77	**
EA(scale)	2.08	1.33	2.5	12.77	0.43	**
ERP (%)	2.27	0.00	6.23	47.32	1.75	**
HCP (%)	5.19	0.00	24.16	26.67	2.26	**
YLDT(tones)	8.23	6.80	9.97	7.50	1.01	**
TLBSI	35.82	20.00	72.00	30.69	17.92	**
GLSSI	35.24	20.00	78.67	37.63	21.62	**
EL(cm)	18.62	16.60	21.30	6.51	1.98	**
ED(cm)	4.79	4.47	5.17	3.40	0.27	**
NKRE	14.46	13.07	16.67	4.95	1.17	**
NKR	41.24	36.60	47.60	5.12	3.44	**
Traits	MEAN	MIN	MAX	CV (%)	LSD (5%)	F-test
TD	81.04	78.67	82.67	1.08	1.43	**
SD	82.60	79.67	84.67	0.99	1.34	**
MD	150.22	147.67	153.33	0.76	1.86	**
PH(cm)	274.26	252.67	299.33	3.84	17.15	**
EH(cm)	145.33	126.33	174.33	5.50	13.02	**
SLP (%)	4.38	0.00	26.28	33.77	2.41	**
RLP (%)	4.56	0.00	19.79	37.25	2.77	**
EA(scale)	2.08	1.33	2.5	12.77	0.43	**
ERP (%)	2.27	0.00	6.23	47.32	1.75	**
HCP (%)	5.19	0.00	24.16	26.67	2.26	**
YLDT(tones)	8.23	6.80	9.97	7.50	1.01	**
TLBSI	35.82	20.00	72.00	30.69	17.92	**
GLSSI	35.24	20.00	78.67	37.63	21.62	**
EL(cm)	18.62	16.60	21.30	6.51	1.98	**
ED(cm)	4.79	4.47	5.17	3.40	0.27	**
NKRE	14.46	13.07	16.67	4.95	1.17	**
NKR	41.24	36.60	47.60	5.12	3.44	**

*=significant at 0.05 probability level **=significant at 0.01 probability level a Figures in parenthesis were transformed values.

TD=50% Tasseling days, SD=50% silking days MD =Maturity day, PH=Plant height, EH=Ear height, SLP=stalk lodging percent, RLP= root lodging percent, EA=Ear aspect, ERP= ear rot percent, HCP=husk cover percent, TLBSI=Turicum leaf blight severity index, GLSSI=Gray leaf spot severity index, YLDT=Grain yield tones per hectare, EL=Ear length, ED=Ear diameter, NKRE=Number of kernel rows per ear, NKR=Number of kernels per row

c) *Combining Ability*

The mean squares due to crosses were partitioned into lines, testers and line by tester mean squares using the line by tester procedure (Singh and Chaudhary 1979; Dabholkar 1999). As a result, mean squares due to GCA of lines and tester, and SCA of crosses were determined (Table 3). The analysis indicated that both additive and non-additive gene effects were involved in the control of most of these traits. However, the proportion of GCA sum of squares was higher than that of SCA for all traits. This showed the greater contribution of the additive gene effects to genetic variability of the traits than the non-additive genetic variance in the crosses.

The mean squares due to GCA of line and SCA of line x tester were significant ($P<0.01$) and ($P<0.05$) respectively for grain yield (YLDT). However, mean square due to GCA of tester showed non-significant difference for grain yield. Significant GCA and SCA mean squares implied the importance of additive and non-additive gene actions in governing grain yield. In the analysis, significant GCA and SCA mean squares were observed for grain yield (table 3). In agreement with the present study, Nepir (2007) using line x tester analysis of QPM versions of early generation highland maize inbred lines and reported significant GCA mean squares due to lines at Holeta. Dagne *et al.* (2007) and Abakemal *et al.* (2011) reported the importance of both additive and non-additive gene actions in governing grain yield in maize. Legesse *et al.* (2009) reported significant GCA mean squares due to lines and testers and significant SCA mean squares for grain yield. On the contrary, Pswarayi and Vivek (2008) using diallel analysis among CIMMYT's early maturing maize germplasm reported significant GCA mean squares and non-significant SCA mean squares for grain yield. On the contrary, Asefa *et al.* (2008) found non-significant GCA effects for grain yield in line by tester study of transition highland inbred lines at Kulumsa. Worku *et al.* (2008) reported the mean squares due to GCA effects for grain yield to be more important than SCA effects under high-N conditions. Legesse *et al.* (2009) also found significant GCA mean squares of lines and testers and significant SCA mean squares for grain yield. Tamirat *et al.* (2014) reported that GCA Mean squares were significant, but SCA mean squares were non-significant for all traits what they were studied.

The mean square due to GCA of line and tester was significant ($P<0.01$) for GLSSI. The mean square due to SCA was significant ($P<0.05$) for TLBSI. However, GCA of line and tester and SCA for GLSSI were not significant. Similarly, Dagne *et al.* (2007) observed highly significant GCA and SCA effects for GLSSI in maize inbred lines. The contribution of GCA effects were higher than SCA effects for GLSSI in the present study as GCA contributed 80.28% and SCA contributed 19.72% of the cross sum of squares. Worku

et al. (2008) also reported higher proportion of GCA effect as compared to SCA for GLSSI. Legesse *et al.* (2009) found highly significant SCA mean squares for GLSSI. From the results of this finding, GLSSI tolerant varieties could be developed from inbred lines having desirable GCA effects.

The mean squares due to GCA of lines for PH showed highly significant differences ($P<0.01$). However, mean square of GCA of testers and SCA of line x tester did not showed significant differences. EH the mean square due to GCA of line was highly significant differences ($P<0.01$) and GCA of tester showed significant differences ($P<0.05$) among genotypes. Similar results were reported by Leta *et al.* (1998) in Ethiopian maize composites who observed a highly significant GCA effects for both PH and EH while the SCA effect was non-significant. Worku *et al.* (2008) reported high mean square due to GCA and SCA effects under high-N.

In this study, GCA mean squares of line explained 91.29% of the variation for EH. The proportional contribution of GCA for the total variation was higher indicating the importance of additive gene effects than the non additive (table 4). Similarly, Worku *et al.* (2008) also observed higher proportion of GCA sum of squares than SCA sum squares for secondary traits (ear height and plant height) in large number of (635) CIMMYT tropical mid altitude inbred lines evaluated under contrasting nitrogen (both low and high nitrogen) environments. The highly significant ($p<0.05$) GCA observed for PH in the present study was in accordance with the findings of Sughrue and Hallauer, (1997), Dagne *et al.* (2007), and Amiruzzaman *et al.* (2010).

The mean square of GCA of line and tester for ERP did not showed significant differences. However, the mean square due to SCA of line by tester showed highly significant ($P<0.01$) differences. Non additive gene effects were found to be important for the control of ERP as manifested by a highly significant SCA effects. Worku *et al.* (2008) also observed higher proportion of GCA mean squares for ERP than SCA.

The mean square estimates due to GCA of lines for ED and EL showed highly significant differences ($P<0.01$) and significant differences ($P<0.05$) for tester ED. The result of the present study is in line with the findings of Dagne *et al.* (2007). In the present study, GCA accounted for about 81.10% of the total sum of squares for ED. This indicated the greater contribution of additive genetic portion for the total variation observed in the crosses for this trait. Several investigators reported the importance of both additive and non-additive gene effects in the inheritance of ED. Dange *et al.* (2007), Assefa *et al.* (2008) and Abdel-Moneam *et al.* (2009) observed highly significant GCA and SCA for ED and EL. On the contrary, Ojo *et al.* (2007) reported a non significant GCA and SCA effect for ED and EL.

Estimate of GCA effects of line and tester for NKRE revealed a highly significant ($p < 0.01$) mean square and non-significant SCA effects (Table 6). The proportional contribution of line GCA sum of squares to the cross sum of squares was higher (83.07%), indicating the higher share of additive gene effects to the total variation observed in crosses for NKRE in this particular set of cross combinations. Several workers reported a significant GCA effects for the traits (Dagne *et al.* 2007; Abdel-Moneam *et al.* 2009; Amiruzzaman *et al.* 2010). Similar to the present study, Bayisa, (2005) and Dange *et al.* (2007) reported a significant GCA and non significant SCA effect for NKRE.

The mean squares due to GCA of line and SCA for SD showed highly significant differences ($P < 0.01$) and non-significant difference for tester. The present finding is in agreement with the findings of Assefa *et al.* (2008). Many other authors also reported (Abebe 1983; Mulatu *et al.* 1993; Beyene 1998) reported the importance of both additive and non-additive gene effects for the control of the trait. TD or SD, the greatest share of variability observed in crosses was contributed by the GCA of lines which accounted, 70.60% for TD and 77.00 for SD of the total sum of squares. Similar to the current result, Mosisa *et al.* (2008) observed higher proportion of GCA for most of the secondary traits they studied including TD and SD.

The mean square of GCA of lines for TD) revealed significant differences ($P < 0.05$). However, tester did not revealed significant differences. Mean square of GCA of line contributed 70.30% of the total sum of square. The SCA effects due to line x tester showed non-significant differences. Similarly, Wagary (2002), Bayissa (2005) Tuna (2004) and Bhatnagar *et al.* (2004) reported significance differences of mean squares due to GCA of anthesis days.

The mean square of GCA of line for maturity date (MD) showed highly significant ($P < 0.01$) and showed non-significant for tester GCA effects. The mean square due to SCA of line x tester showed significant ($P < 0.05$). The present finding is in agreement with the findings of Legesse *et al.* (Legesse *et al.* 2009). Many other authors also reported (Abebe 1983; Kebede *et al.* 1993; Beyene 1998; Nigusie 1999; Nigussie and Zelleke 2001) the importance of both additive and non-additive gene effects for the control of the trait. In preset study, the greatest share of variability observed in crosses was contributed by the GCA of lines which accounted, 78.7% of the total sum of squares.

The mean square of GCA of line for HCP revealed highly significant ($P < 0.01$). However, GCA of tester was not significant. The mean square due to SCA for line by tester showed highly significant differences ($P < 0.01$). This result is consistent with the findings of Worku *et al.* (2008) who reported the significances of

GCA mean squares for secondary trait. The proportional contribution of lines GCA to the cross mean of squares was higher indicating the higher share of additive gene effects to the total variation observed in crosses for HCP in this particular set of cross combinations.

Estimate of GCA effect of line for SLP was highly significant ($p < 0.01$). However, GCA of tester was not significant. The mean square of SCA due to line x tester showed highly significant ($p < 0.01$). The finding is in accordance with the findings of various workers. Bhatnagar *et al.* (2004) reported the predominance of additive gene action for root lodging and the predominance of both additive and non additive gene action for stalk lodging. In this study, sum of squares explained 78.1% of the variation for SLP.

The mean square of SCA due to line x tester for RLP showed highly significant ($p < 0.01$). However, GCA of line and tester did not showed significant differences. The result of present study is in agreement with Bhatnagar *et al.* (2004) who reported the predominance of additive gene action for root lodging and the predominance of both additive and non additive gene action for stalk lodging.

The estimate of GCA effects of line for NKR revealed highly significant differences ($P < 0.01$). However, mean square due to GCA of tester and SCA of line x tester did not show significant differences. The present result was in agreement with Dange *et al.* (2007) who reported a non significant SCA effect for NKR in their study for heterosis and combining ability for grain yield and its components in selected maize inbred lines. Similarly, ear length showed highly significant mean square due to GCA of lines ($P < 0.01$). The present study is in line with the findings of Wagary (2002) and Dagne *et al.* (2007).

The Mean square due to GCA of line for ear aspect revealed highly significant differences ($P < 0.01$). However GCA of tester and SCA of line x tester did not show significant differences.

Table 3 : Mean square for GCA of lines, testers and SCA of line x tester for 17 characters in 25 x 2 line by tester crosses evaluated at Bako (2012/13)

	DF	MF	FF	MD	PH	EH	EA
Rep	2	14.54**	9.31**	128.58**	1021.43**	535.56**	0.030
Block (Rep)	36	1.140	1.46**	2.11*	128.22**	72.410	0.063
Entry	51	2.14**	2.33**	3.33**	301.68**	304.63**	0.31**
Cross	49	0.59**	1**	1.86**	146.93**	155.5**	0.14**
GCA line	24	0.85*	1.57**	2.99**	247.42**	284.33**	0.23**
GCA tester	1	0.180	0.020	0.020	15.300	132.29*	0.110
SCA (L x T)	24	0.350	0.48**	0.81*	51.910	27.640	0.040
Check	1	13.50**	10.670	8.17*	140.167	13.500	0.167
Cross vs. Check	1	4.813	15.898	6.896	862.450	108.000	0.390
Pooled error Entry	66	0.765	0.671	1.304	110.654	63.791	0.071
Pooled Error Crosses	62	0.250	0.220	0.450	38.230	22.080	0.020
Pooled error checks	2	0.500	0.667	0.167	76.167	6.500	0.042
	DF	SLP	SLP ⁺	RLP	RLP ⁺	ERP	ERP ⁺
Rep	2	3.334	0.001	4.122	0.002	0.612	0.000
Block (Rep)	36	2.659	0.001	2.352	0.001	1.90*	0.00*
Entry	51	50.31**	0.03**	23.79**	0.01**	7.00**	0.01**
Cross	49	21.65**	0.01**	9.33**	0**	3.32**	0.01**
GCA line	24	34.53**	0.02**	9.870	0.00	3.950	0.010
GCA tester	1	10.520	0.000	0.350	0.00	0.330	0.000
SCA (L x T)	24	9.24**	0.01**	9.17**	0**	2.82**	0.01**
Check	1	0.002	0.000	8.050	0.003	6.30**	0.01**
Cross vs. Check	1	0.238	0.004	223.131	0.101	0.187	0.001
Pooled error Entry	66	2.189	0.001	2.879	0.001	1.159	0.001
Pooled Error Crosses	62	0.760	0.000	0.890	0.000	0.410	0.000
Pooled error checks	2	0.002	0.000	2.014	0.001	0.047	0.000

0.05 probability level **=significant at 0.01 probability level, MF=male flowering, FF=female flowering, MD =Maturity date, PH=Plant height, EH=Ear height, EA=Ear aspect, SLP=stalk lodging percent, RLP= root lodging percent, ERP= ear rot percent

Continuo table

	DF	HCP	HCP ⁺	YLDT	TLBSID	TLBSID ⁺	NKR
Rep	2	0.503	0.000	2.93**	2.564	0.000	4.185
Block (Rep)	36	2.577	0.001	0.309	204.94*	0.02*	3.687
Entry	51	67.66**	0.04**	1.63**	264.37**	0.03**	14.62**
Cross	49	28.91**	0.02**	0.64**	106.84**	0.01**	6.05**
GCA line	24	46.34**	0.02**	1.13**	139.170	0.020	10.55**
GCA tester	1	5.000	0.000	0.010	205.400	0.020	3.420
SCA (L x T)	24	12.49**	0.01**	0.23*	70.4*	0.01*	1.650
Check	1	206.15**	0.08**	0.240	2242.667	0.277	4.167
Cross vs. Check	1	47.401	0.031	9.393	238.281	0.031	34.085
Pooled error Entry	66	1.920	0.001	0.381	120.865	0.014	4.465
Pooled Error Crosses	62	0.670	0.000	0.130	37.530	0.000	1.470
Pooled error checks	2	1.186	0.000	0.020	514.667	0.069	11.247
	DF	GLSSID	GLSSID ⁺	EL	ED	NKRE	
Rep	2	4863.56**	0.59**	1.989	0.002	2.37*	
Block (Rep)	36	246.789	0.030	1.670	0.07**	0.759	
Entry	51	549.36**	0.07**	3.55**	0.05**	1.31**	
Cross	49	214.28**	0.03**	1.49**	0.02**	0.5**	
GCA line	24	270.8**	0.03**	2.61**	0.03**	0.77**	
GCA tester	1	1930.07**	0.24**	0.000	0.04*	1.8**	
SCA (L x T)	24	86.270	0.010	0.450	0.010	0.170	
Check	1	560.667	0.077	4.507	0.042	2.667	
Cross vs. Check	1	1.117	0.000	3.234	0.070	3.309	

Pooled error Entry	66	175.906	0.021	1.470	0.027	0.513
Pooled Error Crosses	62	55.090	0.010	0.490	0.010	0.170
Pooled error checks	2	1260.66	0.158	1.322	0.207	0.187

*= significant at 0.05 probability level **=significant at 0.01 probability level, HCP=husk cover percent, YLDT= Grain yield tones per hectare, TLBSID=Turicum leaf blight severity index, NKR=Number of kernels per row, GLSSID=Gray leaf spot severity index, EL=Ear length, ED=Ear diameter, NKRE=Number of kernel rows per ear,

i General combining ability estimates

Grain yield: The GCA estimates of parental lines ranged from -1.39 to 1.42 for grain yield. The female parent, L24 was the best general combiner for GY with a highly significant ($P<0.01$) and positive GCA effect of 1.42 t ha⁻¹ followed by L22 and L18 with GCA effect of 1.20 and 1.11 t ha⁻¹, respectively (table 4). In addition, L2, L17, L19, L20, L21, L22 and L24 had highly significant ($P<0.01$) positive GCA effects of 0.88 and 0.81, respectively. These inbred lines are desirable parents for hybrid development as well as for inclusion in the breeding programs, as the lines may contribute favorable alleles in the synthesis of new varieties. Parental lines L1, L4, L6, L7, L8, L9, L10, L11, L12 and L25 showed significantly negative GCA effects to the undesirable direction. Among the testers (males), none of them showed significant GCA effects for grain yield per hectare. Result of the current study are in accordance with the findings of Amiruzzaman *et al.* (2010), Legesse *et al.* (2009), Nepir (2007), Tuna (2004) and Dagne *et al.* (2007) who reported significant positive and negative GCA effects for grain yield.

Fifty percent silking and tassling days: The GCA estimates of parental lines ranged from -1.66 to 1.84 for silking days. The female parent L24, L17, L22, L2, L20, were the best general combiners for SD with high and significant difference ($P<0.01$). L24 and L17 had high positive GCA effect of 1.84 days respectively. These inbred lines had the tendency to increase late maturity. On the other hand, L7, L8, L9, L11, L13, L18, L19 and L25 showed highly significant GCA effects. Hence, the inbred lines had contributed to earliness in maturity in

their crosses as these lines showed negative and highly significant negative GCA effects of -1.16 days, -1.66 and -1.16, respectively. Similarly, Gudeta (2007) and Wagary (2010) reported significant positive and negative GCA effects for silking in their combining ability study.

The GCA estimates of parental lines ranged from -1.06 to 1.44 for Tasseling days. The female parents L24, L16, L1, L2, L10, L12, L15, L17, L20, L21 and L22 revealed significant and positive GCA effects contributed to late maturity. Lines L3, L25, L19, L8, L6, L7 and L18 showed significant and negative GCA effects contributed to early maturity and were best combiners for early maturity as they showed the tendency to increase early flowering. None of the testers showed significant GCA effects for both silking and tasseling. Result of the current study are in accordance with the findings of Nepir (2007) and Dagne (2007) who reported significant positive and negative GCA effects for anthesis in their combining ability study.

The GCA estimates of lines ranged from -2.34 to 2.66 days for maturity date (MD). L22 showed highly significant positive GCA effect of 2.66 days. In addition, L17, L18, L19, L24 showed highly significant ($P<0.01$) GCA of 1.16 whereas, L6, L8, L11, L14 and L15 revealed highly significant GCA effects in the negative direction. The female line (L6) could be used in breeding program for the introgression of gene for early maturing. Testers showed non-significant effects to MD. The result of this study is in accordance with Legesse (2009) who found desirable GCA effects for physiological maturity in combining ability of highland transition maize inbred line.

Table 4 : Estimates of general combining ability (GCA) effect of lines and tester for grain yield and agronomic traits in 25x2 line by tester crosses evaluated at Bako(2012/13)

Lines	TD	SD	MD	PH	EH	SLP	EA
1	0.44*	0.34	-0.34	-7.23**	-4.99*	3.3**	0.34**
2	0.44*	0.84**	0.16	-0.73	0.51	1.12**	0.18**
3	-1.06**	-0.66**	0.16	-11.56**	-8.83**	-3.33**	0.34**
4	-0.06	-0.16	-0.84**	-5.39*	-11.16**	-4.39**	0.09
5	-0.06	-0.16	-0.34	-16.56**	-9.33**	-2.84**	0.01
6	-0.56**	-0.16	-2.34**	-13.39**	-15.33**	-2.4**	0.26**
7	-0.56**	-1.16**	-0.84**	-14.56**	-12.66**	-0.71*	-0.24**
8	-1.06**	-1.66**	-1.34**	-3.06	-12.16**	-0.87*	0.43**
9	-0.06	-0.66**	-0.84**	-9.39**	-12.49**	0.14	0.26**
10	0.44*	0.34	0.16	2.61	0.84	2.8**	0.26**
11	-0.06	-0.66**	-1.34**	-11.06**	-14.99**	-0.93**	0.34**
12	0.44*	0.34	-0.84**	5.27*	-3.16	0.07	0.26**
13	-0.06	-1.16**	-0.34	-5.9*	1.51	7.21**	0.09
14	-0.06	-0.16	-1.34**	-8.06**	-5.83**	1.21**	0.34**

	15	0.44*	-0.16	-1.34**	12.94**	9.67**	15.97**	0.09
	16	0.94**	0.34	0.66*	2.77	-3.32	0.65	0.18**
	17	0.44*	1.84**	1.16**	21.27**	14.01**	-0.87*	-0.16**
	18	-0.56**	-0.66**	1.66**	17.44**	21.84**	-1.87**	-0.41**
	19	-1.06**	-0.66**	1.16**	0.61	5.51**	-3.87**	-0.66**
	20	0.44*	0.84**	0.66*	12.11**	20.51**	-2.81**	-0.07
	21	0.44*	0.34	2.16**	-9.9**	-4.33*	-0.9*	-0.49**
	22	0.44*	1.34**	2.66**	14.94**	11.01**	-1.42**	-0.66**
	23	-0.06	0.34	0.66*	11.77**	20.51**	-1.34**	-0.32**
	24	1.44**	1.84**	1.16**	13.94**	17.67**	-1.86**	-0.57**
	25	-1.06**	-0.66**	-0.34	1.11	-4.99*	-2.02**	0.09
	SE ¹	0.20	0.19	0.27	2.47	1.88	0.35	0.06
	SEd	0.29	0.27	0.39	3.57	2.71	0.50	0.08
Tester	1	-0.06	0.02	-0.02	0.55	-1.63**	-0.46**	0.05**
	2	0.06	-0.02	0.02	-0.55	1.63**	0.46**	-0.05**
	SE ²	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	SEd	0.08	0.08	0.11	1.01	0.77	0.14	0.02

1GCA lines standard error. 2 GCA testers standard error.

TD=number of days to 50% tasseling SD= number of days to 50% silking , MD =Maturity date, PH=Plant height, EH=Ear height, SLP=stalk lodging percent, EA=Ear aspect, SLP=stalk lodging percent

Continue Table 4

Lines	HCP	YLDT	GLSSID	EL	ED	NKRE	NKR
1	-4.54**	-1.39**	-7.23*	-1.83**	-0.04	-0.96**	-1.77**
2	-2.59**	0.69**	6.77*	-1.4**	0.07	-0.83**	-0.18
3	17.69**	-0.11	-10.56**	-0.42	0.27**	1.24**	0.17
4	2.58**	-0.61**	-10.56**	-0.05	0.04	0.24	0.93
5	0.55	0.16	-7.89**	-1.08**	-0.01	0.64**	-0.57
6	-0.11	-0.98**	-7.23*	-1.4**	0.01	0.04	-2.98**
7	0.89**	-0.63**	7.44*	0.09	0.02	0.17	-2.03**
8	3.4**	-0.76**	-6.56*	0.2	-0.12**	0.11	-3.47**
9	3.44**	-0.56**	15.44**	-0.18	-0.04	0.18	-1.43**
10	-5.08**	-0.33*	2.77	-0.93**	-0.16**	0.44**	-3.27**
11	-3.12**	-0.86**	-3.23	-0.11	-0.03	0.31	-0.86
12	-1.59**	-0.36*	14.11**	0.85**	-0.08	-0.16	0.94
13	-0.96**	0.01	2.77	0.03	-0.04	-0.49**	0.5
14	5.58**	-0.18	8.11**	-0.33	-0.17**	-0.89**	-0.63
15	-2**	0.02	18.11**	-0.11	-0.11**	-0.46**	1.1*
16	-4.07**	-0.05	29.44**	-1.56**	0.04	-1.03**	-1.86**
17	-3.61**	0.47**	8.1**	1.42**	0.19**	0.11	1.97**
18	-3.12**	1.11**	-13.89**	0.14	0.08	0.11	0.07
19	3.13**	0.81**	-7.9**	2.45**	-0.17**	-0.33	3.24**
20	4.92**	0.42**	2.11	1.62**	-0.04	-0.42*	5.7**
21	-0.55	0.71**	-11.89**	0.32	-0.13**	0.38*	1.47**
22	-2.58**	1.2**	-13.89**	1.68**	0.08	0.31	3.34**
23	-0.6	0.64**	8.11**	0.92**	0.09*	1.51**	0.97
24	-3.57**	1.42**	-8.56**	1.25**	-0.03	0.11	2.1**
25	-4.1**	-0.88**	-13.89**	-1.55**	0.31**	-0.36*	-3.47**
SE ¹	0.33	0.14	2.97	0.28	0.04	0.16	0.48
SEd	0.47	0.21	0.00	0.40	0.56	0.24	0.70
Tester							
1	-0.32**	0.02	6.21**	0	0.03**	0.19**	-0.26*
2	0.32**	-0.02	-6.21**	0	-0.03**	-0.19**	0.26*

SE ²	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
SEd	0.13	0.06	1.21	0.11	0.02	0.07	0.20

1GCA lines standard error. 2 GCA testers standard error.

*=significant at 0.05 probability level **=significant at 0.01 probability level, HCP=husk cover percent, ERP= ear rot percent, GLSSID=Gray leaf spot severity index EA=Ear aspect, YLDT=Grain yield tons per hectare, EL=Ear length, ED=Ear diameter, NKRE=Number of kernel rows per ear, NKR=Number of kernels per row.

Plant height: The GCA estimate of parental lines ranged from -16.56 to 21.75 cm for plant height (PH). L18, L17, L20, L22, L15, L23, L12, and L24 showed positive and significant GCA effects indicating that these lines significantly contributed to taller plant stature. On the other hand, L5, L6, L3, L11, L9, L1, L4, L9, L14, L21, and L7 showed negative GCA effects, indicating that these lines contributed to reduced plant stature in their crosses. None of the testers showed significant GCA effects for PH. In line with the present study Tuna (2004) and Wagary (2010) found significant positive and negative GCA effects for plant height.

Ear height (EH): The GCA estimate of parental lines ranged from -15.33 to 21.84cm for ear EH. Parental lines: L18, L19, L15, L20, L23, L24, L17 and L22 showed positive and significant GCA effects indicating that these lines significantly contributed to taller plant stature. On contrary, L11, L6, L7, L9, L8, L4, L5, L1, L14 and L3 showed negative GCA effects, indicating that these lines contributed to reduce plant ear height in their crosses. Regarding the testers, T2, showed positive GCA effects for EH, indicating that this tester contributed to increased plant stature whereas T1 depicted negative and significant GCA effects for EH. Similarly, Tuna (2004) and Wegary et al. (2010) found significant positive and negative GCA effects for plant height.

Grey leaf spot severity index (GLSSI): The GCA estimate of parental lines ranged from -13.89 to 29.44 for GLSSI. Parental lines, L18, L22, L25, L21, L3, L4, L24, L5, L6, L1, L8 and L19 and revealed GCA effect of -13.89, -13.89, -13.89, -11.89, -10.56, -10.56, -8.56, -7.9 -7.89, -7.23, -6.56, -7.9 respectively. These inbred line had greater tolerances to GLS as the line had negative significant GCA effects while, L16, L15, L9, L12, L2, L7, L14, L17 and L23, showed positive and significant GCA effects to undesirable direction as these increased the susceptibility of crosses they involved, which was evident from their highly significant positive GCA effect of 29.44, 18.11, 15.44, 14.11, 6.77, 7.44, 8.11, 8.1, 8.11 respectively. The result of this study is in agreement with Menkir (2005), Asefa et al (2008) and Legesse et al. (2009).

Ear length (EL): The GCA estimate of parental lines ranged from -1.83 to 2.45cm for EL. Parental lines, L19, L17, L20, L22, L23, L12, and L24 showed positive a and significant GCA effects to the desirable direction and contribute to increased grain yield in its hybrid combinations. On contrary, L1, L2, L5, L6, L10, L16 and L25 showed negative SCA effects. Similarly, Dagne et al.

(2007) reported significant positive and negative GCA effects for this trait.

Ear diameter(ED): The GCA estimate of parental lines ranged from - 0.17 to 0.31cm for ED. Parental lines, L25, L3, L23 and L17 showed positive and significant GCA effects to the desirable direction and contribute to increased grain yield in its hybrid combinations. On contrary, L8, L10, L14, L15, L19 and L21 showed negative and significant GCA effects which is undesirable. The GCA estimate for testers showed that, T1 revealed positive and significant GCA effect While, T2 showed negative significant GCA effect. This result revealed T1 contributed towards the increments of yield in its hybrid combinations. The present study is in agreement with Dagne et al. (2007), and Nepir (2007), who reported significance positive and negative GCA effects for ear diameter.

Number of kernels row per ear (NKRE): The GCA estimate of parental lines ranged from -1.03 to 1.51 for NKRE. Parental lines L23, L3, L5 and L10 revealed positive and significant GCA effects to the desirable direction and contributed to increased grain yield in its hybrid combinations. L1, L2, L13, L14, L15, L16, L20 and L25 showed negative and significant GCA effects. The GCA estimate for testers showed that, T1 revealed positive and significant GCA effect While, T2 showed negative significant GCA effect. T1 contributed towards the increments of yield in its hybrid combinations. Similar results were found by Dagne et al. (2007), Tuna (2004) and Nigusie (1999).

Number of Kernels per row (NKR): The GCA estimate of parental lines ranged from -3.47 to 3.34 for NKR. Parental line, L22, L19, L17, L24, L20, L21 and L15 showed positive and significant GCA effects to the desirable direction and contributed to increased grain yield in its hybrid combinations. On the other hand, L1, L6, L7, L8, L9, L10, L16 and L25 revealed negative and significant GCA effects. The GCA estimate for testers showed that, T1 revealed negative and significant GCA effect While, T2 showed high and positive significant GCA effect. This result revealed T2 contributed towards the increments of yield in its hybrid combinations. The current result is in agreement with Dagne et al. (2007) and Nepir (2007).

Stalk lodging percent (SLP): The GCA estimate of parental lines ranged from -4.39 to 15.97 for SLP. Parental lines, L15, L13, L14, L1, L2, and L10 showed positive and significant GCA effects to the undesirable and vulnerable effect. On the other hand parental lines,

L3, L4, L5, L6, L7, L8, L11, L17, L18, L19, L20, L21, L22, L23, L24 and L25 revealed negative and significant GCA effects which is to the desirable direction and could be used in breeding program for the development of stalk lodging tolerant improved maize varieties. Regarding testers, T1 showed high and negative GCA effect which is desirable while, T2 showed positive and GCA effect which contributed towards lodging. The current result agrees with Bhatnagar et al. (2004) who found significant differences among GCA effects for the same trait.

Ear aspect (EA): The GCA estimate of parental lines ranged from -0.66 to 0.43 for EA. Parental lines, L8, L1, L3, L11, L9, L12, L2, L6, L10, L16 and L14 showed high and positive significant GCA effects to the undesirable direction. On the other hand, L7, L19, L22, L24, L23, L21, L18 and L17 revealed a high and negative GCA effect which is to the desirable direction with good ear character that could be used in breeding programs for trait.

Husk cover percentage (HCP): The GCA estimate of parental lines ranged from -5.08 to 17.69 for HCP. Parental lines, L3, L20, L19, L14, L9, L8, L7, and L4 showed high and positive significant GCA effects to the undesirable direction contributed to open husks. On the other hand, L10, L1, L16, L25, L24, L22, L18, L17, L11, L12, L13, L15 and L2 revealed negative and significant GCA effect which is to the desirable direction plants with good ear character that could be exploited in breeding programs for unopened husk cover.

ii Specific combining ability estimates

Grain yield: Crosses L2xT2, L5xT2, L11xT2, L12xT1, L14xT1, L17xT2, L19xT1, L20xT2 and L22xT2 (table 5) revealed positive and significant SCA effects for grain yield with SCA values of 0.42, 0.55, 0.47, 0.37, 0.35, 0.43, 0.63, 0.41 and 0.43t/ha, indicating that these crosses were good specific combinations for grain yield. Crosses with the higher value of SCA effect also showed higher values of mean grain yield performance, indicating good correspondence between SCA effects and mean grain yield. Hence, such cross combinations

could effectively be exploited in hybrid breeding program in maize research. On the other hand, five cross combinations L19xT2, L5xT1, L11xT1, L17xT1, L20xT1, L14xT2, L12xT2, L2xT1 and L22xT1 expressed negative and significant SCA effects for grain yield which is undesirable as these crosses showed a tendency to reduce grain yield performance. The finding of the current study are in agreement with that of Nigussie (1999) who reported significant positive and negative SCA effects for grain yield in 8 x 8 diallel study of drought tolerant maize populations at Melkasa. and Dagne et al. (2007) also reported similar results for grain yield. However, Psarayi and Vivek (2008) and Jumbo and Carena (2008) reported non-significant positive and negative SCA effects for grain yield which is inconsistent with the present study.

Fifty percent silking: Crosses, L3xT1, L4xT1, L7xT2, L10xT1, L15xT1, L17xT1, L20xT2, L14xT2, L13xT1, L6xT2, L5xT1, L2xT1 and L18xT1, manifested positive and significant SCA effects for silking. This indicated these crosses were good specific combiners for lateness in female flowering (silking). On the other hand crosses L3 x T2, L4xT2, L7 x T1, L10 x T2, L15 x T2, and L17 x T2, expressed negative and significant SCA effects indicating earliness in flowering (Table 10). These are the best hybrids that could be used for developing early maturing hybrids. This finding agrees with Tuna (Tuna 2004), Nepir (2007) and Wegary et al. (2010) who found positive and negative SCA effects for silking.

Maturity day (MD): The SCA effect for MD ranged from -1.48 to 1.48. Crosses L10xT2, L13xT1, L15xT1, L16xT2 and L20xT1 manifested negative and significant SCA effects indicating that these crosses were good specific combinations for early maturity date. Hence, such cross combinations could effectively be exploited in hybrid breeding program in maize research for reduced maturity dates. On the other hand, cross combinations L5xT2, L10xT1, L13xT2, L15xT2, L16xT1 and L20xT2 expressed positive and significant SCA effects for maturity date which are undesirable as these crosses showed a tendency to increase maturity date.

Table 5 : Estimates of Specific combining abilities of 25 x 2, Line x tester crosses evaluated for yield, agronomic and disease traits at Bako (2012/13)

Entry	CODE	SD	MD	SLP	RLP	ERP	HCP	YLDT	TLBSID
1	L1xT2	-0.02	0.02	-1.13**	-1.03**	-0.51	0.86*	-0.10	0.00
2	L1xT1	0.02	-0.02	1.13**	1.03**	0.51	-0.86*	0.10	2.70
3	L2xT1	0.48*	-0.48	1.96**	-1.06**	1.49**	2.81**	-0.42**	3.97
4	L2xT2	-0.48*	0.48	-1.96**	1.06**	-1.49**	-2.81**	0.42**	-3.97
5	L3xT2	-1.02**	-0.48	0.44	-1.16**	0.93**	-1.07**	0.22	-2.69
6	L3xT1	1.02**	0.48	-0.44	1.16**	-0.93**	1.07**	-0.22	2.69
7	L4xT2	-0.52**	-0.48	0.46	-1.13**	-2.17**	-1.25**	-0.02	-4.03
8	L4xT1	0.52**	0.48	-0.46	1.13**	2.17**	1.25**	0.02	4.03

9	L5xT1	0.48*	-0.98**	-0.01	2.52**	0.45	-2.13**	-0.55**	3.97
10	L5xT2	-0.48*	0.98**	0.01	-2.52**	-0.45	2.13**	0.55**	-3.97
11	L6xT2	0.48*	0.02	0.49	-0.05	-1.23**	0.39	-0.05	-4.03
12	L6xT1	-0.48*	-0.02	-0.49	0.05	1.23**	-0.39	0.05	4.03
13	L7xT1	-0.52**	0.52	4.13**	1.77**	1.88**	0.22	0.1	-1.36
14	L7xT2	0.52**	-0.52	-4.13**	-1.77**	-1.88**	-0.22	-0.1	1.36
15	L8xT2	-0.02	0.02	2.02**	-2.49**	-1.05**	1.85**	0.03	-8.69**
16	L8xT1	0.02	-0.02	-2.02**	2.49**	1.05**	-1.85**	-0.03	8.69**
17	L9xT1	-0.02	0.52	1.93**	-0.57	-0.1	-0.22	0.03	-3.36
18	L9xT2	0.02	-0.52	-1.93**	0.57	0.1	0.22	-0.03	3.36
19	L10xT2	-1.02**	-1.48**	-1.49**	0.41	-0.07	0.32	-0.04	-4.70
20	L10xT1	1.02**	1.48**	1.49**	-0.41	0.07	-0.32	0.04	4.70
21	L11xT2	-0.02	0.02	-0.03	0.45	-1.06**	-1.64**	0.47**	3.30
22	L11xT1	0.02	-0.02	0.03	-0.45	1.06**	1.64**	-0.47**	-3.30
23	L12xT2	-0.02	-0.48	1.91**	0.93*	-0.1	1.82**	-0.37*	-8.03**
24	L12xT1	0.02	0.48	-1.91**	-0.93*	0.1	-1.82**	0.37*	8.03**
25	L13xT1	0.48*	-0.98**	-4.04**	-3.4**	-1.21**	2.29**	-0.23	7.31**
26	L13xT2	-0.48*	0.98**	4.04**	3.4**	1.21**	-2.29**	0.23	-7.31**
27	L14xT2	0.48*	0.02	-1.91**	-1.00*	0.01	-6.05**	-0.35*	1.97
28	L14xT1	-0.48*	-0.02	1.91**	1.00*	-0.01	6.05**	0.35*	-1.97
29	L15xT2	-0.52**	1.02**	-5.47**	0.00	1.51**	2.42**	-0.02	-0.69
30	L15xT1	0.52**	-1.02**	5.47**	0.00	-1.51**	-2.42**	0.02	0.69
31	L16xT1	-0.02	1.02**	-1.52**	-1.54**	-0.59*	0.32	-0.02	2.64
32	L16xT2	0.02	-1.02**	1.52**	1.54**	0.59*	-0.32	0.02	-2.64
33	L17xT2	-0.52**	0.52	2.94**	1.42**	0.96**	0.81*	0.43**	20.64**
34	L17xT1	0.52**	-0.52	-2.94**	-1.42**	-0.96**	-0.81*	-0.43**	-20.64**
35	L18xT1	0.98**	0.02	1.86**	-0.67	0.41	2.28**	0.07	6.64**
36	L18xT2	-0.98**	-0.02	-1.86**	0.67	-0.41	-2.28**	-0.07	-6.64**
37	L19xT2	-0.02	0.52	-0.06	-0.62	-1.63**	-0.78*	-0.63**	0.64
38	L19xT1	0.02	-0.52	0.06	0.62	1.63**	0.78*	0.63**	-0.64
39	L20xT2	0.48*	1.02**	-1.12**	0.36	-0.59*	-7.72**	0.41**	0.64
40	L20xT1	-0.48*	-1.02**	1.12**	-0.36	0.59*	7.72**	-0.41**	-0.64
41	L21xT1	-0.02	0.52	0.92*	-3.14**	1.91**	0.78*	0.07	-3.36
42	L21xT2	0.02	-0.52	-0.92*	3.14**	-1.91**	-0.78*	-0.07	3.36
43	L22xT2	-0.02	0.02	-0.49	2.43**	1.95**	-1.20**	0.43**	-4.03
44	L22xT1	0.02	-0.02	0.49	-2.43**	-1.95**	1.20**	-0.43**	4.03
45	L23xT1	-0.02	0.02	-2.59**	0.88*	-1.58**	1.80**	0.03	0.64
46	L23xT2	0.02	-0.02	2.59**	-0.88*	1.58**	-1.80**	-0.03	-0.64
47	L24xT1	0.48*	-0.48	1.02**	-0.59	0.44	1.83**	0.25	-4.03
48	24xT2	-0.48*	0.48	-1.02**	0.59	-0.44	-1.83**	-0.25	4.03
49	L25xT2	-0.02	0.02	-0.24	7.3**	-0.10	1.30**	0.21	-0.69
50	L25xT1	0.02	-0.02	0.24	-7.3**	0.10	-1.30**	-0.21	0.69
SCASE		0.19	0.27	0.35	0.38	0.26	0.33	0.14	2.45
SEd		0.38	0.55	0.71	0.77	0.52	0.67	0.29	5.00

*=significant at 0.05 probability level, **=significant at 0.01 probability level

SD=Silking day, MD =Maturity date, SLP=stalk lodging percent, RLP= root lodging percent,

HCP=husk cover percent, ERP= ear rot percent, TLBSID=Turicum leaf blight severity index, YLDT=Grain yield tones per hectare,

stalk lodging(SLP): Crosses L1xT2, L2xT2, L7xT2, L8xT1, L16xT1, L17xT1, L18xT2, L20xT2, and L23xT1 revealed negative and significant SCA effects for SLP with SCA

values of -1.13, -1.96, -4.13, -2.02, -1.93, -1.49, -1.91, -4.04, -1.91, -5.47, -1.52, -2.94, -1.86, -1.12, -2.59 respectively, indicating that these crosses were good specific combinations for reduced stalk lodging. On the other hand, crosses L1xT1, L2xT1, L7xT1, L8xT2, L9xT1, L10xT1, L12xT2, L13xT2, L14xT1, L15xT1, L16xT2, L17xT2L18xT1, L20xT1, L23xT2, L24xT1 revealed positive and significant SCA effects for stalk lodging which are undesirable as these crosses showed increased stalk lodging. The current results are in accordance with Bhatnagar et al. (2004) who found significant SCA effects in the study of combining ability of QPM inbred lines.

Root lodging percent(RLP): Crosses L1xT2, L2xT1, L3xT2, L4xT2, L5xT2, L7xT2, L8xT2, L13xT1, L16xT1, L17xT1, L21xT1, L22xT1, L25xT1 expressed negative and significant SCA effects for RLP with SCA values of -2.81, -1.07, -1.25, -2.13, -1.85, -1.64, -1.82, -2.29, -6.05, -2.42, -2.28, -7.72, -1.20, -1.80, -1.83, -1.30 respectively, indicating that these crosses were good specific combinations for resistance to root lodging. On the other hand, crosses L1xT1, L2xT2, L3xT1, L4xT1, L7xT1, L8xT1, L13xT2, L16xT2, L17xT2, L21xT2, and L25xT2 revealed positive and significant SCA effects for root lodging percent which are undesirable as these crosses showed higher root lodged percent in their hybrid combinations. Similarly, Bhatnagar et al. (2004) reported SCA significance for the same trait.

Husk cover percent (HCP): Crosses L2xT2, L1xT1, L5xT1, L3xT2, L4xT2, L5xT1, L8xT1, L11xT2, L12xT1, L13xT2, L14xT2, L15xT1, L17xT1, L18xT2, L19xT2, L20xT2, L21xT2, L22xT2, L23xT2, L24xT2, L25xT1 expressed negative and significant SCA effects for HCP indicating that these crosses were good specific combinations for resistance to husk cover. On the other hand, crosses L1xT2, L1xT2, L5xT2, L3xT1, L4xT1, L11xT1, L12xT2, L13xT1, L14xT1, L15xT2, L17xT2, L18xT2, L19xT1, L20xT1, L22xT1, L23xT1, L24xT1, L25xT2 revealed positive and significant SCA effects for husk cover percent which are undesirable as these crosses showed higher opened husk percent in their hybrid combinations.

Ear rot percent (ERP): Crosses L2xT2, L3xT1, L4xT2, L6xT2, L7xT2, L8xT2, L11xT2, L13xT1L15xT1, L17xT1, L19xT2, L21xT2, L22xT1, L23xT1 expressed negative and significant SCA effects for ear rot percent (ERP) with SCA values of 1.49, 0.93, 2.17, 1.23, 1.88, 1.05, 1.06, 1.21, 1.51, 0.96, 1.63, 1.91, 1.95, 1.58 respectively, indicating that these crosses were good specific combinations for resistance to ERP. Hence, such cross combinations could effectively be exploited in hybrid breeding program in maize research for developing ear rot free genotypes. The result of this finding agrees with Worku et al. (2008) who found significant GCA effect for the same trait.

Turcicum leaf blight severity index (TLBSI): Crosses L8xT2, L12xT2, L13xT2, L17xT1, L18xT2, revealed negative and significant SCA effects for TLB with SCA values of 8.69, 8.03, 7.31, 20.64, 6.64 respectively, indicating that these crosses were good specific combinations for resistance to TLB. Hence such cross combinations could effectively be exploited in hybrid breeding program in maize research for developing tolerant maize genotypes to Turcicum leaf blight. On the other hand, crosses L8xT1, L12xT1, L13xT1, L17xT2, and L18xT1, revealed positive and significant SCA effects for Turcicum leaf blight which are undesirable as these crosses showed higher percent incidence in their hybrid combinations. On contrary to this finding, Legesse et al. (2009) reported non-significant SCA effects for the same trait.

In Summary, the preponderance of GCA effects for expression of YLDT and yield related traits considered in this study indicated the possibility for improvement of these traits through simple selection procedures. However, the chance of success could be hampered in the presence of substantial amount of epistatic component. In such cases selection procedure would not be fruitful in immediate progenies and process has to be delayed to later generations when appreciable homozygosity is achieved (Sofi et al. 2006). For complex traits like YLDT and similar traits, recurrent selection procedure that exploits both the additive and non additive component of genetic variation are more appropriate in bringing about a better improvement. Similar suggestion was made by Worku et al. (2008) for secondary traits.

d) Heterotic Grouping of inbred lines

Study on test cross performance and combining ability of maize (*Zea mays L.*) inbred lines was undertaken and evaluated for performance, general and specific combining ability and heterotic groups using line by tester mating design. Twenty five inbred lines were crossed to two CIMMYT testers: Tester 1 (CML 312/CML442) and Tester 2 (CML395/CML202) which belongs to maize heterotic group A and B, respectively. Heterotic grouping designate broad classes in maize with diverse genetic base that are complimentary and result in expression of heterosis after crossing. On the other hand, synthetic varieties are developed from inbred lines belonging to the same heterotic group.

In heterotic grouping, an inbred line express negative SCA effect when crossed to a certain tester implies that both the line and the tester belong to the same heterotic group, while the reverse is true when the SCA effect is positive (Vasal et al. 1992). Table 6 shows that six inbred lines expressed significant negative SCA effects and three inbred lines expressed positive SCA effects when crossed to CML312/CML442 and when crossed to CML395/CML202, six inbred lines expressed

positive and three expressed negative SCA effects. The study exhibited that the six inbred lines belong to heterotic group A, while the remaining three belong to heterotic group B.

In order to maximize genetic diversity and therefore heterosis during hybrid variety development using these inbred lines, one parent should come from the six inbred lines belonging to heterotic group A while

the other parent should be from the three inbred lines belonging to heterotic group B. In the case of the development of synthetic varieties, inbred lines belonging to the same heterotic group should be used. Likewise, Legesse et al. (2009) using population and inbred line testers separated inbred lines into different heterotic groups on the basis of grain yield SCA values.

Table 6 : Grain yield mean, SCA effect and heterotic group of 9 maize inbred lines teste crosses to CML312/CML442 and CML395/CML202 tested for one year at Bako (2012/13)

Line	Tester (CML312/CML442)		Tester 2(CML395/CML202)		Heterotic group
	Grain yield	SCA	Grain yield	SCA	
1	6.80	0.1	6.97	-0.1	---
2	8.57	-0.42**	9.37	0.42**	A
3	8.40	-0.22	7.93	0.22	---
4	7.67	0.02	7.67	-0.02	---
5	7.90	-0.55**	8.97	0.55**	A
6	7.27	0.05	7.33	-0.05	--
7	7.77	0.1	7.53	-0.1	--
8	7.57	-0.03	7.47	0.03	--
9	7.77	0.03	7.67	-0.03	--
10	7.93	0.04	7.97	-0.04	--
11	7.90	-0.47**	6.93	0.47**	A
12	7.57	0.37*	8.27	-0.37*	B
13	8.07	-0.23	8.50	0.23	--
14	7.77	0.35*	8.43	-0.35*	B
15	8.30	0.02	8.30	-0.02	--
16	8.23	-0.02	8.23	0.02	--
17	9.20	-0.43**	8.30	0.43**	A
18	9.47	0.07	9.30	-0.07	--
19	8.47	0.63**	9.70	-0.63**	B
20	9.13	-0.41**	8.27	0.41**	A
21	9.07	0.07	8.90	-0.07	--
22	9.93	-0.43**	9.03	0.43**	A
23	8.97	0.03	8.87	-0.03	--
24	9.97	0.25	9.43	-0.25	--
25	7.63	-0.21	7.17	0.21	--

*=significant at 0.05 probability level, **=significant at 0.01 probability level

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The analysis of variance showed the genotypes were significantly different at ($P < 0.01$ or $P < 0.05$) for all traits tested except for number of ear per plant. Moreover, Mean squares due to crosses were significant for all traits studied. In addition, significant differences were not found among the checks and checks vs crosses for most traits.

Out of the 50 crosses, 30 crosses recorded more than 10 percent higher grain yield advantage as compared to the best check BH543. The mean performance for crosses revealed L24xT1, L22xT2, L19xT2, L18xT1, L24xT2, L2xT2, L18xT2, L17xT1, L20xT1, L21xT1 and L22xT2 with mean grain yield of 9.97, 9.93, 9.70, 9.47, 9.43, 9.37, 9.30, 9.20, 9.13, 9.07, 9.03 t ha⁻¹. These hybrids could be included in further

investigation for grain yield and related traits and could be possible candidates of future release after verifying their yield stability across more environments.

Mean squares due to GCA of lines and SCA of line by tester interactions were also significant ($P < 0.01$) or ($P < 0.05$) for most studied traits. This indicated that both additive and non-additive genetic variances were important in the control of traits revealed in the crosses. Mean squares due to GCA of testers were significant for EH, GLSSI, ED and NKRE. It showed non-significant differences for the rest of the traits. The additive gene effects were responsible for variability observed in grain yield and most agronomic traits.

Based on combining ability analysis L2, L17, L18, L19, L20, L21, L22, L23 and L24 were found the best general combiners for grain yield. Inbred lines with a high GCA effect for grain yield are desirable for

hybrids and open pollinated varieties development as well as for inclusion in breeding program.

Inbred lines with significant positive GCA effects were found for NKRE, NKR, EL and ED, suggesting presence of divergence to improve these traits. Thus, the inbred lines L17, L19, L20, L21 L22 and L24 showed significant positive GCA effects for increase NKR. For NKRE significant positive GCA effects were shown by inbred lines L3, L5, L10 and L23. L12, L17, L19, L20, L22, L23 and L24 showed significant positive GCA effects for EL. For ED L3, L17, L23 and L25 recorded significant positive GCA effects.

For days to anthesis/Tasseling, L3, L6, L7, L8, L18, L19 and L25 and for silking L7, L8 and L13 were the best combiners, indicating that these lines had favorable allele frequency for early maturity. Inbred lines L5, L6, L3, L11 and L7 were good general combiners for shorter plant height, which are desirable for lodging resistance.

For grain yield crosses L2xT2, L5xT2, L11xT2, L12xT1, L14xT1, L19xT1, L20xT2 and L22xT2 had good specific combining ability. These hybrids could be included for further studies for the improvement of grain yield and related traits.

Crosses L8xT2, L12xT2, L13xT2, L17xT1 and L18xT2 displayed negative and significant SCA effects for TLB, indicating that these crosses were good specific combinations for resistance to Turcicum leaf blight (TLB). Hence, such cross combinations could effectively be exploited in hybrid breeding program in maize research for developing tolerant maize genotypes to Turcicum leaf blight.

Based on the SCA and GCA effects for grain yield, only nine maize inbred lines were established into A and B heterotic groups. These heterotic groups could serve as sources for developing inbred line and hybrids. However, the testers used in the current study could not clearly discriminate most of the inbred lines into distinct heterotic groups. Therefore, further studies should explore the possibility of separating these and other inbred lines into distinct heterotic groups using the currently used and other more divergent testers.

From this study, it can be concluded that better performing testcrosses, inbred lines with desirable GCA and cross combinations with desirable SCA effects for grain yield and other grain yield related traits were successfully identified. These germplasm constitute a source of valuable genetic material that could be used for future breeding work. In general, the results of this study could be useful for researchers who need to develop high yielding varieties of maize particularly adapted to the mid altitude areas of Ethiopia.

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Appendix 1: Mean value of 25x2 line by tester crosses of maize evaluated for grain yield and other related traits at Bako (2012/13)

ENTRY	Crosses	TD	SD	MD	PH	EH	SLP	SLP ⁺	RLP	RLT ⁺	EA	ERP	ERP ⁺
1	L1xT2	81.33	83.00	149.67	263.00	139.00	9.27	0.31	7.96	0.28	2.33	3.95	0.19
2	L1xT1	82.00	83.33	149.67	272.00	142.00	6.10	0.24	6.07	0.24	2.50	3.10	0.18
3	L2xT1	81.33	83.67	150.00	285.00	147.00	7.01	0.26	1.04	0.10	2.33	6.09	0.24
4	L2xT2	81.67	82.67	151.33	263.00	145.00	4.01	0.20	3.00	0.17	2.17	2.94	0.17
5	L3xT2	81.00	83.33	150.67	261.33	139.00	1.08	0.10	6.26	0.25	2.33	3.13	0.18
6	L3xT1	79.00	81.00	149.67	265.00	134.33	1.04	0.10	4.11	0.20	2.50	5.15	0.22
7	L4xT2	81.00	83.00	150.00	273.00	132.33	0.00	0.00	3.13	0.18	2.33	6.23	0.25
8	L4xT1	81.33	82.33	149.00	265.67	136.33	0.00	0.00	1.04	0.10	2.00	2.06	0.14
9	L5xT1	81.33	83.33	149.33	252.67	131.33	1.08	0.10	6.22	0.25	2.17	2.08	0.14
10	L5xT2	80.67	82.33	151.33	263.67	141.00	2.02	0.14	1.01	0.10	2.00	1.01	0.10
11	L6xT2	79.67	82.00	147.67	262.00	131.33	1.96	0.14	2.94	0.17	2.17	2.29	0.15
12	L6xT1	81.33	82.67	148.00	260.67	129.00	2.02	0.14	3.01	0.17	2.50	0.00	0.00
13	L7xT1	80.00	81.00	149.67	259.67	130.67	7.35	0.27	6.86	0.26	1.83	3.92	0.20
14	L7xT2	80.67	82.00	149.33	260.67	135.00	0.00	0.00	3.16	0.18	1.83	0.00	0.00

ENTRY	Crosses	TD	SD	MD	PH	EH	SLP	SLP ⁺	RLP	RLT ⁺	EA	ERP	ERP ⁺
15	L8xT2	79.67	81.00	149.33	274.67	138.67	1.96	0.13	6.90	0.26	2.50	5.97	0.24
16	L8xT1	79.67	81.33	148.67	268.67	128.00	5.08	0.23	2.08	0.14	2.50	4.04	0.20
17	L9xT1	80.67	82.33	149.67	272.67	137.00	6.00	0.24	2.02	0.14	2.50	4.01	0.20
18	L9xT2	81.00	82.00	148.67	258.00	129.00	3.06	0.18	3.00	0.17	2.17	4.04	0.20
19	L10xT2	82.00	83.67	151.67	275.67	145.00	9.13	0.30	2.08	0.14	2.33	1.01	0.10
20	L10xT1	80.67	82.33	148.67	279.00	147.67	5.24	0.23	3.06	0.18	2.33	1.04	0.10

21	L11xT2	81.33	82.33	148.67	264.67	134.67	3.95	0.19	4.96	0.22	2.33	3.95	0.19
22	L11xT1	81.33	82.33	149.00	262.67	126.33	2.97	0.17	6.03	0.24	2.50	2.00	0.14
23	L12xT2	81.67	83.00	150.00	277.33	138.33	3.00	0.17	3.98	0.20	2.33	1.01	0.10
24	L12xT1	81.33	82.67	148.67	282.67	146.33	5.91	0.24	6.00	0.25	2.33	0.98	0.10
25	L13xT1	80.67	82.00	148.67	274.33	147.00	7.10	0.27	2.00	0.14	2.50	2.05	0.14
26	L13xT2	80.67	81.33	150.67	263.33	147.00	16.10	0.41	8.63	0.30	1.83	4.31	0.21
27	L14xT2	81.00	82.33	149.00	269.33	140.00	7.96	0.28	5.02	0.22	2.50	3.00	0.17
28	L14xT1	81.00	82.67	149.00	264.00	139.33	3.23	0.18	3.19	0.18	2.33	3.19	0.18
29	L15xT2	81.67	82.67	147.67	290.67	159.33	26.28	0.54	3.95	0.20	2.33	2.02	0.14
30	L15xT1	81.33	82.33	150.00	284.67	151.00	14.43	0.39	4.11	0.20	2.00	5.21	0.23

ENTRY	Crosses	TD	SD	MD	PH	EH	SLP	SLP ⁺	RLP	RLT ⁺	EA	ERP	ERP ⁺
31	L16xT1	81.67	83.33	151.67	280.33	142.67	3.06	0.18	3.06	0.18	2.33	0.00	0.00
32	L16xT2	82.33	83.33	150.33	274.67	141.67	7.01	0.27	5.97	0.24	2.17	1.01	0.10
33	L17xT2	80.67	84.67	150.67	292.67	153.67	1.04	0.10	4.10	0.20	2.00	0.00	0.00
34	L17xT1	82.33	84.33	152.33	299.33	165.33	6.00	0.24	7.12	0.27	1.83	2.08	0.14
35	L18xT1	81.33	82.67	151.67	288.33	163.67	3.92	0.20	1.96	0.14	2.00	0.98	0.10
36	L18xT2	80.33	81.33	152.33	296.00	171.00	1.11	0.11	3.14	0.18	1.33	0.00	0.00
37	L19xT2	80.00	82.00	150.67	270.67	156.00	1.04	0.10	6.16	0.25	1.33	3.09	0.17
38	L19xT1	80.33	82.00	151.67	280.00	146.00	0.00	0.00	5.05	0.22	1.50	0.00	0.00
39	L20xT2	81.33	82.67	150.33	298.67	174.33	3.16	0.18	2.08	0.14	2.00	1.01	0.10
40	L20xT1	82.33	83.67	151.67	275.00	157.67	0.00	0.00	2.97	0.17	2.00	0.00	0.00
41	L21xT1	81.00	82.67	152.67	261.33	133.00	3.95	0.19	0.00	0.00	1.67	3.98	0.20
42	L21xT2	81.67	83.00	151.67	268.33	149.33	3.03	0.17	6.12	0.24	1.50	0.00	0.00
43	L22xT2	82.33	83.67	152.67	285.33	157.00	3.92	0.20	3.13	0.18	1.50	0.00	0.00
44	L22xT1	81.00	83.67	153.33	294.00	156.00	2.02	0.14	8.15	0.29	1.33	4.07	0.20
45	L23xT1	81.00	82.67	151.33	280.33	159.67	0.00	0.00	4.01	0.20	2.00	0.00	0.00
46	L23xT2	81.33	82.67	151.33	292.67	172.33	6.09	0.24	2.08	0.14	1.50	3.00	0.17
47	L24xT1	82.67	84.67	151.33	291.00	161.33	3.09	0.17	1.01	0.10	1.50	2.02	0.14
48	L24xT2	82.33	84.33	152.33	286.33	165.00	1.96	0.13	2.02	0.14	1.50	0.98	0.10

49	L25xT2	80.00	82.00	149.67	268.67	143.00	3.06	0.17	5.03	0.22	2.33	1.04	0.10
50	L25xT1	80.00	81.67	150.00	283.00	138.00	1.67	0.13	19.79	0.46	2.00	1.01	0.10
51	BH-540	78.67	79.67	148.00	267.33	142.67	4.20	0.21	11.69	0.35	2.50	1.08	0.10
52	BH-543	81.67	82.33	150.33	257.67	139.67	4.17	0.21	9.38	0.31	2.17	3.13	0.17
MEAN		81.04	82.6	150.22	274.26	145.33	4.38	0.18	4.56	0.2	2.08	2.27	0.13
MINIMUM		78.67	79.67	147.67	252.67	126.33	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1.33	0.00	0.00
MAXIMUM		82.67	84.67	153.33	299.33	174.33	26.28	0.53	19.79	0.46	2.5	6.23	0.25
CV(%)		1.08	0.99	0.76	3.84	5.5	33.77	17.81	37.25	18.05	12.77	47.32	19.97
LSD (5%)		1.43	1.34	1.86	17.15	13.02	2.41	0.05	2.77	0.06	0.43	1.75	0.04

+ Traits with transformed data

*=significant at 0.05 probability level, **=significant at 0.01 probability level

TD=50% days to tasseling SD=50% days to silking, MD =Maturity date, PH=Plant height, EH=Ear height, SLP=stalk lodging percent, RLP= root lodging percent, EA=Ear aspect, , ERP= ear rot percent

Continue appendix 1

ENTRY	Crosses	HCP	HCT	YLDT	TLBSI	TLBSI ⁺	GLSSI	GLSSI ⁺	EL	ED	NKRE	NKR
1	L1xT2	0.00	0.00	6.97	42.67	0.71	21.33	0.48	16.60	4.80	13.73	39.00
2	L1xT1	1.08	0.10	6.80	41.33	0.70	34.67	0.62	17.03	4.70	13.33	40.13
3	L2xT1	4.99	0.22	8.57	42.67	0.71	46.67	0.75	17.10	4.80	13.60	41.40
4	L2xT2	0.00	0.00	9.37	30.67	0.58	37.33	0.65	17.40	4.93	13.73	40.90
5	L3xT2	24.16	0.51	7.93	29.33	0.57	21.33	0.48	18.13	5.13	16.00	40.60
6	L3xT1	21.39	0.48	8.40	28.00	0.55	28.00	0.55	18.33	5.00	15.47	42.40
7	L4xT2	9.23	0.31	7.67	26.67	0.54	20.00	0.46	19.20	4.80	14.40	43.33
8	L4xT1	6.10	0.24	7.67	22.67	0.49	29.33	0.56	18.00	4.87	15.07	41.20
9	L5xT1	3.19	0.18	7.90	56.00	0.86	34.67	0.62	17.50	4.87	15.07	39.13
10	L5xT2	8.08	0.29	8.97	44.00	0.72	20.00	0.46	17.63	4.70	15.20	42.40
11	L6xT2	4.90	0.21	7.33	28.00	0.55	30.67	0.58	17.13	4.80	13.73	38.43
12	L6xT1	5.05	0.22	7.27	24.00	0.51	25.33	0.52	17.37	4.80	15.33	38.27
13	L7xT1	5.88	0.24	7.77	32.00	0.60	65.33	0.95	18.70	4.93	14.93	40.27
14	L7xT2	6.07	0.24	7.53	30.67	0.59	20.00	0.46	18.77	4.70	14.40	38.33
15	L8xT2	6.95	0.26	7.47	36.00	0.64	22.67	0.49	19.47	4.67	14.40	38.40
16	L8xT1	10.02	0.32	7.57	22.67	0.49	34.67	0.63	18.23	4.67	14.80	37.33
17	L9xT1	7.99	0.29	7.77	25.33	0.53	61.33	0.91	18.33	4.80	15.07	39.53
18	L9xT2	9.06	0.30	7.67	28.00	0.55	40.00	0.68	18.60	4.70	14.27	40.27
19	L10xT2	0.00	0.00	7.97	26.67	0.54	28.00	0.55	17.30	4.63	14.93	36.93
20	L10xT1	0.00	0.00	7.93	21.33	0.48	48.00	0.77	18.13	4.63	14.93	39.20
21	L11xT2	3.92	0.20	6.93	26.67	0.54	20.00	0.46	18.27	4.73	14.80	39.87
22	L11xT1	0.00	0.00	7.90	37.33	0.66	44.00	0.73	18.80	4.80	14.80	41.07
23	L12xT2	1.99	0.14	8.27	41.33	0.70	42.67	0.71	19.83	4.70	14.27	42.87
24	L12xT1	4.99	0.22	7.57	29.33	0.57	56.00	0.86	19.17	4.73	14.40	41.67
25	L13xT1	6.09	0.25	8.07	38.67	0.67	41.33	0.70	18.53	4.77	14.00	41.33
26	L13xT2	2.15	0.15	8.50	20.00	0.46	34.67	0.62	18.83	4.73	14.00	42.33
27	L14xT2	17.03	0.43	8.43	37.33	0.65	34.67	0.62	18.63	4.47	13.07	41.27
28	L14xT1	4.30	0.21	7.77	45.33	0.74	52.00	0.83	18.00	4.77	14.13	40.13
29	L15xT2	0.98	0.10	8.30	32.00	0.60	44.00	0.72	17.80	4.60	13.93	42.13
30	L15xT1	5.18	0.23	8.30	34.67	0.62	62.67	0.95	19.27	4.77	14.13	42.73
ENTRY	Crosses	HCP	HCP ⁺	YLDT	TLBSI	TLBSI ⁺	GLSSI	GLSSI ⁺	EL	ED	NKRE	NKR
31	L16xT1	1.01	0.10	8.23	34.67	0.62	78.67	1.09	17.00	4.93	13.60	38.27
32	L16xT2	1.01	0.10	8.23	25.33	0.52	50.67	0.79	17.17	4.73	13.33	40.67
33	L17xT2	0.98	0.10	8.30	26.67	0.53	45.33	0.73	20.00	5.00	14.27	45.07
34	L17xT1	1.96	0.14	9.20	72.00	1.02	41.33	0.69	20.13	4.97	14.93	41.53
35	L18xT1	3.92	0.20	9.47	49.33	0.78	22.67	0.49	18.60	4.77	15.07	40.93
36	L18xT2	0.00	0.00	9.30	32.00	0.60	20.00	0.46	18.97	4.97	14.13	41.87
37	L19xT2	9.31	0.31	9.70	25.33	0.53	25.33	0.52	20.90	4.57	13.73	44.47
38	L19xT1	7.11	0.27	8.47	30.67	0.59	29.33	0.56	21.30	4.67	14.60	44.67

39	L20xT2	18.04	0.44	8.27	41.33	0.69	22.67	0.49	19.30	4.67	13.87	47.60
40	L20xT1	1.96	0.14	9.13	46.67	0.75	52.00	0.82	21.23	4.83	14.27	46.47
41	L21xT1	4.99	0.22	9.07	50.67	0.79	20.00	0.46	18.77	4.73	14.67	41.67
42	L21xT2	4.07	0.20	8.90	53.33	0.82	26.67	0.53	19.17	4.60	15.07	43.93
43	L22xT2	4.02	0.20	9.03	44.00	0.72	20.00	0.46	20.33	4.77	14.13	44.87
44	L22xT1	0.98	0.10	9.93	40.00	0.68	22.67	0.49	20.33	4.97	15.47	44.47
45	L23xT1	5.97	0.25	8.97	45.33	0.74	60.00	0.90	20.20	4.93	16.67	42.47
46	L23xT2	3.00	0.17	8.87	40.00	0.69	26.67	0.53	18.93	4.83	15.33	42.13
47	L24xT1	3.03	0.17	9.97	38.67	0.67	25.33	0.52	18.57	4.83	14.67	41.33
48	24xT2	0.00	0.00	9.43	42.67	0.71	28.00	0.55	21.23	4.70	14.53	45.53
49	L25xT2	0.00	0.00	7.17	28.00	0.55	22.67	0.49	16.60	5.17	14.27	36.60
50	L25xT1	1.96	0.14	7.63	30.67	0.58	20.00	0.46	17.60	5.03	14.00	39.13
51	BH-540	13.81	0.38	6.80	22.67	0.49	26.00	0.52	17.03	4.77	13.07	38.07
52	BH-543	2.09	++	7.20	61.33	0.92	45.33	0.75	18.77	4.60	14.40	39.73
MEAN		5.19	0.19	8.23	35.82	0.64	35.24	0.63	18.62	4.79	14.46	41.24
MINIMUM		0	0	6.8	20	0.46	20	0.46	16.6	4.47	13.07	36.6
MAXIMUM		24.16	0.51	9.97	72	1.02	78.67	1.09	21.3	5.17	16.67	47.6
CV(%)		26.67	14.99	7.5	30.69	18.79	37.63	23.1	6.51	3.4	4.95	5.12
F-TEST		**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
LSD (5%)		2.26	0.05	1.01	17.92	0.2	21.62	0.24	1.98	0.27	1.17	3.44

+ Traits with transformed data

*=significant at 0.05 probability level, **=significant at 0.01 probability level

HCP=husk cover percent, YLDT=Grain yield tones per hectare, TLBSID=Turcicum leaf blight severity index, GLSSID=Gray leaf spot severity index, EL=Ear length, ED=Ear diameter, NKRE=Number of kernel rows per ear, NKR=Number of kernels per row

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Contract Farming in Sugarcane and Reactions of the Farmers – A Study in Odisha

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Abstract- Contract farming requires a long term commitment from both the contracted growers and sponsoring firms. Exploitative arrangements can jeopardize agribusiness investments. The study revealed that the contracted sugarcane growers reacted significantly towards immediate payment, arranging credit for infrastructure, implements and machineries on custom hiring, increasing risk bearing abilities, conflict resolution, quality production, transparency in measurement, contingent measures in catastrophes, exposure visit etc. The sponsoring firms have to analyze all these reactions of the respondents and extend all possible supports for sustainability of the contract farming in sugarcane cultivation.

Keywords: *contract farming, sugarcane cultivation, respondents, support.*

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Contract Farming in Sugarcane and Reactions of the Farmers – A Study in Odisha

Dr. Sangram Paramaguru ^α, Dr. (Mrs) Anindita Saha ^σ, Mrs.Sanghamitra Mohapatra ^ρ & Miss Plabita Ray ^ω

Abstract- Contract farming requires a long term commitment from both the contracted growers and sponsoring firms. Exploitative arrangements can jeopardize agribusiness investments. The study revealed that the contracted sugarcane growers reacted significantly towards immediate payment, arranging credit for infrastructure, implements and machineries on custom hiring, increasing risk bearing abilities, conflict resolution, quality production, transparency in measurement, contingent measures in catastrophes, exposure visit etc. The sponsoring firms have to analyze all these reactions of the respondents and extend all possible supports for sustainability of the contract farming in sugarcane cultivation.

Keywords: contract farming, sugarcane cultivation, respondents, support.

I. INTRODUCTION

Contract farming would appear to have considerable potential where small scale Agriculture continues to be wide spread. It is a win-win situation for both the contracted growers and sponsoring firms in improvement of farm income, development of Agro-processing and expansion of rural economy. The contracted growers get the benefits of input and production services, exposure to appropriate technology, develop knowledge and skill competency in successful crop management, guaranteed and fixed sale price as well as access to reliable markets. However; increased risk, unsuitable technology, crop incompatibility, monopoly and manipulation of quality specifications by the contracting firms are some of the potential problems faced by the farmers. These potential problems however can be minimized by efficient management, regular guidance and close monitoring of fields operations. A study was therefore designed to assess the reactions of the sugarcane growers towards successful contract farming.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in Dhenkanal and Khurdha districts of Odisha during 2012. Dhenkanal sadar and Kamakshyanagar blocks in Dhenkanal

as well as Bolagarh and Begunia blocks in Khurdha districts were selected considering the potentialities of sugarcane cultivation and involvement of farmers under contract farming. Twenty sugarcane growers each under contract farming from three panchayats of each blocks were selected randomly as the respondents for the study covering total sample size of 240.

Reactions of the respondents towards planning, organizing, input supply, credit and finance, technological backstopping, infrastructure support, harvesting and marketing were selected as the variables. Information was collected personally from the respondents with a semi-structured schedule pre-tested earlier. The data collected on scale point of regularly, occasionally and never over the framed statements were analyzed with score value of 3, 2 and 1 respectively. Mean score, gap percentage and multiple regression tests were employed to reveal the results.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Planning is the most fundamental function of management. Effective planning provides for co-operative and coordinated efforts, facilitates timely execution of tasks, reduce uncertainties and makes implementation easier. Analysis of data (Table – 1) revealed that considerable percentages of gaps

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Table1: Reactions towards planning by contracting firms

Sl. No.	Reaction	Dhenkanal district (n=120)		Khurdha district (n=120)		Total (n=240)	
		Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)
1.	Participatory decision making	1.82	39.33	1.78	40.67	1.80	40.00
2.	Cluster approach	1.82	39.33	1.98	34.00	1.90	36.67
3.	Optimum utilization of available resources	1.98	34.00	1.87	37.67	1.93	35.67
4.	Participatory selection of land	2.12	29.33	2.07	31.00	2.10	30.00
5.	Beneficiary selection with common agreement	1.84	38.67	1.78	40.67	1.81	39.67
6.	Due attention for environment protection	1.93	35.67	1.98	34.00	1.96	34.67
7.	Detail understanding of the objectives	1.86	38.00	1.95	35.00	1.91	36.33

(Maximum obtainable score – 3)

were observed on various aspects of planning as mentioned in the table. Participatory decision making facilitates team spirit, coordination and cooperation among the growers. Cluster approach makes effective monitoring and supervision as well as optimum utilization of resources. Moreover, the growers should have detail understanding about contract farming. The officials of the contracting firms have to analyze these

deficiencies and take steps accordingly while planning for sugarcane cultivation.

Community organization and group formation are essential for developing team spirit and interest among the farmers to involve under contract farming. As revealed from the study (Table – 2), the respondents of both the

Table 2 : Reactions towards organizational support

Sl. No.	Reaction	Dhenkanal district (n=120)		Khurdha district (n=120)		Total (n=240)	
		Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)
1.	Community organization	1.75	41.67	1.85	38.33	1.80	40.00
2.	Group formation	1.83	39.00	1.68	44.00	1.76	41.33
3.	Leadership development	2.11	29.66	2.03	32.33	2.07	31.00
4.	Motivating for risk bearing ability	2.21	26.33	2.38	20.67	2.30	23.33
5.	Climate of team work	1.98	34.00	2.05	31.67	2.02	32.67
6.	Conflict resolution	1.67	44.33	1.53	49.00	1.60	46.67
7.	Assigning responsibility individually	1.95	35.00	1.93	35.67	1.94	35.33

(Maximum obtainable score – 3)

districts had favorably opined for leadership development, motivating for the risk bearing abilities and climate of team work. Further emphasis may be given for community organization, group formation, conflict resolution and assigning responsibility to individual growers for the sustainable continuance of sugarcane cultivation under contract farming.

Many contractual agreements involve considerable production supports in addition to the supply of basic inputs like seeds, fertilizers, plant protection chemicals etc. for desired production with quality parameters. The data in Table-3 revealed for the

contradictory opinions among the respondents of both the

Table 3 : Reactions towards input support

Sl. No.	Reaction	Dhenkanal district (n=120)		Khurdha district (n=120)		Total (n=240)	
		Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)
1.	Pre-arrangement of inputs	2.07	31.00	1.68	44.00	1.88	37.33
2.	Timely supply and use	2.08	30.67	1.88	37.33	1.98	34.00
3.	Supply of quality inputs	1.98	34.00	2.06	31.33	2.02	32.67
4.	Developing competency in use of inputs	2.17	27.67	2.25	25.00	2.21	26.33
5.	Arranging additional inputs	1.92	36.00	1.93	35.67	1.93	35.67
6.	Transparency in supply of inputs	1.67	44.33	1.82	39.33	1.75	41.67

(Maximum obtainable score – 3)

have to analyze all these reactions of the growers and ensure availability of quality inputs in time for optimum quality production.

Contract farming facilitates the access of the growers to the credit institutions for credit support since

sugarcane crop required more production inputs. Reactions of the respondents revealed (Table-4) that very poor

Table 4 : Reaction towards credit and finance support

Sl. No.	Reaction	Dhenkanal district (n=120)		Khurdha district (n=120)		Total (n=240)	
		Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)
1.	Providing credit for crop management	1.67	44.33	1.70	43.33	1.69	43.67
2.	Arranging credit for crop inputs	1.58	47.33	1.80	40.00	1.69	43.67
3.	Liasoning for subsidy facilities	1.46	68.49	1.62	46.00	1.54	48.67
4.	Arranging credit for infrastructure	1.33	55.67	1.48	50.67	1.41	53.00
5.	Crop insurance	1.48	50.67	1.53	49.00	1.51	49.67

(Maximum obtainable score – 3)

attempts were taken for providing necessary credit support. The contracting firms have either to provide credit for production management or make arrangement of credit from the credit institutions enabling the respondents to use recommended inputs for desired quality production as well as developing infrastructure. Liasoning have also to be made for crop insurance and

subsidy facilities to develop interest among the growers for continuance of the contract farming.

Farm mechanization is of paramount importance due to labour scarcity and wage hike. Moreover; irrigation facilities are required for successful crop rising. As observed from Table – 5, the respondents had favourably opined for

Table 5 : Reactions towards infrastructure support

Sl. No.	Reaction	Dhenkanal district (n=120)		Khurdha district (n=120)		Total (n=240)	
		Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)
1.	Motivating for farm mechanization	2.05	31.67	2.17	27.67	2.11	29.67
2.	Arranging implements/ machineries on custom hiring	1.54	48.67	1.40	53.33	1.47	51.00
3.	Developing irrigation facilities	1.77	41.00	1.62	46.00	1.70	43.33
4.	Skill competency in use of implements	2.42	19.33	2.12	29.33	2.27	24.33
5.	Arranging credit for infrastructure	1.58	47.33	1.73	42.33	1.66	44.67

6.	Increasing risk management abilities for infrastructure	1.51	49.67	1.68	44.00	1.60	46.67
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(Maximum obtainable score – 3)

farm mechanization and skill competency in use of implements. But the reactions of the respondents towards arranging implements and machineries on custom hiring, developing irrigation facilities, credit for developing own infrastructure along with increasing their risk bearing abilities are genuine and suggested for favorable action by the contracting firms towards these infrastructure support.

Technologies are changing very fast. Small scale farmers are reluctant frequently to adopt these new technologies because of possible risk and cost involved. These new technologies should therefore be initiated in a well managed and structured farming operation. Reactions of the respondents towards technological support indicated (Table – 6) that the respondents of

Table 6 : Reactions towards technological support

Sl. No.	Reaction	Dhenkanal district (n=120)		Khurdha district (n=120)		Total (n=240)	
		Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)
1.	Developing knowledge competency	2.31	23.00	2.32	22.67	2.32	22.67
2.	Skill competency in use of technology	2.25	25.00	2.30	23.33	2.28	24.00
3.	Patience in educating farmers	1.96	34.67	1.97	34.33	1.97	34.33
4.	Exposure visit for gaining experience	1.77	41.00	1.75	41.67	1.76	41.33
5.	Continuous flow of information	1.98	34.00	2.03	32.33	2.01	33.00
6.	Proper guidance	2.08	30.67	2.13	29.00	2.11	29.67
7.	Sharing information with farmers	1.70	43.33	1.73	42.33	1.72	42.67
8.	Timely feed back	1.73	42.33	1.70	43.33	1.72	42.67
9.	Encouraging farmers for discussion	1.75	41.67	1.82	39.33	1.79	40.33
10.	Believe farmers ability in success	2.25	25.00	2.46	18.00	2.36	21.33

(Maximum obtainable score – 3)

both Dhenkanal and Khurdha district were almost of similar opinions. The respondents had favourably opined for developing knowledge and skill competency as well as believe farmers ability in success. But, further strengthening are suggested towards sharing of information with farmers for detail understanding, timely guidance, encouraging for discussions to clarify doubts, exposure visit for experience.

Contact farming provides market guarantee to the growers along with procurement of produce with remunerative price. The analyzed data reflected in Table-7 revealed that the respondents both Dhenkanal and Khurdha district had

Table 7 : Reactions towards harvesting and marketing support

Sl. No.	Reaction	Dhenkanal district (n=120)		Khurdha district (n=120)		Total (n=240)	
		Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)	Mean score	Gap (%)
1.	Educating for timely harvest	2.38	20.67	2.33	22.33	2.36	21.33
2.	Participatory decision on harvesting	2.33	22.33	2.25	25.00	2.29	23.67
3.	Fixing remunerative sale price	1.68	44.00	1.88	37.33	1.78	40.67
4.	Immediate lifting of the produce	1.78	40.67	1.68	44.00	1.73	42.33
5.	Due attention for quality maintenance	1.77	41.00	1.53	49.00	1.65	45.00
6.	Immediate measurement at factory side	1.96	34.67	1.68	44.00	1.82	39.33

7.	Transparency in measurement	1.71	43.00	1.60	46.67	1.66	44.67
8.	Immediate payment	1.40	53.33	1.15	61.67	1.28	57.33

(Maximum obtainable score – 3)

reacted for not fixing remunerative sale price, insufficient attempt for quality maintenance, no transparency in measurement, not lifting the produce in time and no immediate payment. All these indicated for the deviation of contracting norms and monopolies of the sponsoring firms. Hence, the sponsoring firms have to analyze these reactions and take appropriate steps for the sustainability of the contract farming in sugarcane cultivation.

Multiple regressions revealed (Table-8) that the best fitted regression equation could explain only 17.90% of the total variance in influencing the attitudes of the respondents towards sugarcane cultivation under contract farming. It is therefore inferred that socio-economic variables of the respondents had not much influence in developing interest among the growers towards sugarcane cultivation under contract farming.

Table 8 : Regression analysis of the socio-economic variables influencing sugarcane cultivation (N=240)

Sl. No.	Variable	Un standardized Co-efficient		Standardized Co-efficient		T value	Significance
		Beta	Std. Error	Beta	Std. Error		
1	Age	-0.637	3.042	-0.016	0.077	-0.210	0.834
2	Caste	0.302	1.321	0.015	0.065	0.228	0.819
3	Education	-2.456	2.027	-0.099	0.081	-1.212	0.227
4	Family type	3.063	3.677	0.065	0.078	0.833	0.406
5	Family size	2.679	2.485	0.083	0.077	1.078	0.282
6	Social participation	-0.195	1.279	-0.011	0.071	-0.152	0.879
7	Extension contact	-0.061	0.597	-0.007	0.070	-0.102	0.919
8	Cosmopolitaness	0.086	0.666	0.009	0.074	0.129	0.897
9	Housing pattern	1.015	1.483	0.046	0.067	0.685	0.494
10	Holding size	3.523	1.981	0.166	0.093	1.778	0.077
11	Occupation	2.739	2.071	0.095	0.072	1.323	0.187
12	Possession of farm implements	0.431	0.302	0.157	0.111	1.424	0.156
13	Sources of information	0.716	0.829	0.057	0.066	0.863	0.389
14	Annual income	-1.113	1.474	-0.049	0.065	-0.755	0.451
15	Social character	-0.188	0.513	-0.052	0.143	-0.367	0.714
16	Economic character	0.179	0.637	0.040	0.142	0.281	0.779

$R^2=0.179$, $Adj.R^2=0.113$, $S.E = 15.187$

IV. CONCLUSION

Sugarcane growers are usually opting for contract farming due to assured marketing with remunerative price, technological expertise and supply of quality inputs. But the findings revealed that the respondents had reacted much towards weak supports on immediate payment, arranging credit for farm mechanization and irrigation, implements and machineries on custom hiring, increasing risk bearing abilities, conflict resolution, quality production, transparency in measurement, contingent measures in catastrophes, exposure visit etc. Socio-economic variables of the respondents had not much influence in accelerating the proficiency of the respondents.

It is therefore suggested that the sponsoring firms have to analyze these reactions and extend all possible support for sustainability of the contract farming in sugarcane cultivation.

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Coastal Farmers' Perception of Climate Change Effects on Agriculture at Galachipa Upazila under Patuakhali District of Bangladesh

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Abstract- Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change with a very high population density. The increasing risks from climate change, sea level rise, and natural and man-made hazards—such as cyclones, storm surge, flooding, land erosion, water logging, and salinity intrusion in soil and water have already adversely affected livelihoods of people living in environmentally fragile coastal areas of Bangladesh. This study identifies the relationship between the characteristics of the farmers and their perception of climate change effects on coastal agriculture at Patuakhali district of Bangladesh. To make the outcomes useful, both qualitative and quantitative approaches of field investigations were done.

Keywords: agriculture, coastal, climate change, farmer, perception, adaptation.

GJSFR-D Classification : FOR Code: 960399, 079999



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Coastal Farmers' Perception of Climate Change Effects on Agriculture at Galachipa Upazila under Patuakhali District of Bangladesh

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Abstract- Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change with a very high population density. The increasing risks from climate change, sea level rise, and natural and man-made hazards—such as cyclones, storm surge, flooding, land erosion, water logging, and salinity intrusion in soil and water have already adversely affected livelihoods of people living in environmentally fragile coastal areas of Bangladesh. This study identifies the relationship between the characteristics of the farmers and their perception of climate change effects on coastal agriculture at Patuakhali district of Bangladesh. To make the outcomes useful, both qualitative and quantitative approaches of field investigations were done. The perception scores of the farmers ranged from 50 to 88 with a mean and standard deviation 78.03 and 5.72 respectively. Majority (80.20 percent) of the farmers has low to medium perception and 19.80 percent high perceptions were found in this area. The research showed that some respondents had a clear understanding of climate change which directly affecting their lives and livelihoods. Most respondents were also aware of to adapt to the climate change effects on coastal agriculture. However, the most respondents were less able to understand about climate change impacts on agriculture due to several factors which also characterize in this study. Among the selected personal characteristics some were positively related and some were negatively related with their perception on climate change effects on coastal agriculture. The perceived aspects according to the perceived frequency/index were increased temperature, increased disease of crop, longer summer, increased insect infestation, unexpected rainfall, during winter water shortage hinder fish production, increase in poultry disease, unavailability of fish, reduced soil fertility, Saline water intrusion due to increased tidal flow, climate change occur due to deforestation, emission of industrial CO₂ cause global warming, etc.

Keywords: agriculture, coastal, climate change, farmer, perception, adaptation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone of economy of Bangladesh. About 80% of the population lives in rural areas and directly or indirectly depends on agriculture. There are concerns regarding agricultural

sector as Climate change effects on the same sector as Climate change effects on the same becoming prominent. Climate change is a major challenge to agricultural development in the country like Bangladesh and the world at large. It is not only challenge to agricultural development but to food security and the general livelihood conditions of any population. Agriculture, being one of the most weather-dependent of activities is highly vulnerable to climate change because of its dependence on rain fed agriculture, high levels of poverty, and low levels of human and physical capital, inequitable land distribution and poor infrastructure.

Bangladesh is located between 20°34' to 26°38' North latitude and 88°01' to 92°42' East longitude. The country occupies an area of 147,570 sq. km (BBS, 2012). Bangladesh is one of the most populated countries in the world having a coastal area of 47,211 sq. km. which is 32% of its entire land. The coast of Bangladesh is approximately 711 km. long which has a very low-lying flat land. Sixty two (62%) percent of the land has an elevation less than 3 meters and 86% have less than five meters (Mobassarul et al., 2009) [20]. The population of the coastal zone of Bangladesh was 36.8 million in 2001. Agricultural labourers, small farmers, fisherfolk and the urban poor make up 71 percent of the 6.85 million households (Ahmad, 2004) [1]. Severe floods, cyclones, tornados are hitting every year; salinity and cold spell claims human lives as well as damage crops. According to experts these are early sign of global warming effects. Sea level rise in the coming decades will create over 25 million climate refugees (Climate Change Cell, 2007) [8]. According to UNFCCC (2005) [29] Bangladesh is one of the top risked countries in terms of natural disaster in the world.

The effects of climate change in Bangladesh are still being understood, but it is likely that changes include higher temperatures throughout the year and problems with rainfall predictability leading to greater shortages in some seasons and flooding in others (Khan 2011; Rana, Rajib, and Rahman 2011; Shahid 2010a; Thurlow et al. 2012) [17][22][25][27]. Some studies predict that rainfall will increase in the wet monsoon season and decrease in the dry winter and spring months (Shahid 2010a; Thurlow et al 2012) [25][27], while other studies vary in predicting which

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months will be most affected by erratic rainfall (Thomas et al. 2013) [26]. In coastal areas, it is likely that sea level rises will lead to increased salinity of groundwater. Moreover, greater frequency of cyclones and storm surges is likely (Karim and Mimura 2008) [15]. These complex changes interact with other trends not directly caused by climate change—particularly the impact of increased agricultural water extraction and potential adverse water availability impacts from diversion of rivers upstream in India—in depleting river flow and replenishment of ground water aquifers in Bangladesh.

Thurlow et al. (2012) [27] predict that climate change may reduce dry (winter) season (irrigated) boro production more than wet season aus and aman, and increase food insecurity in Bangladesh. Karim et al. (1996) [16] reported that the 1988 flood caused reduction of agricultural production by some 45 percent. Prolonged flood can cause death of livestock through a number of direct and indirect mechanisms (Ahmad and Mirza, 2000; Choudhury et al., 2003) [2][7]. Climate change has increased the extent of monsoon flooding and threat to culture fishes has also increased under climate change (GOB, 2005) [10]. Cyclone and storm surge have both immediate and long term consequences on coastal agriculture (Uddin, 2012) [28]. The saline water hampers the productivity of the soil for several years. In recent cyclone SIDR, among the productive sectors, damage was highest (USD 0.43 Million) in agriculture. According to the latest estimates, about 800,000 to 1300,000 MTs of paddy have been destroyed in SIDR which created severe food insecurity among the affected people (GoB, 2008) [11]. Shrimp culture in ghers both inside and outside embankments are threatened by high tides and flood (Howlader et. al., 2015) [12]. Livestock also suffer large-scale death in cyclonic storm surge (Haider et al., 1991)[13].

Droughts disturb land preparation and ploughing activities, delaying the broadcasting, sowing and the planting of crops. Boro, wheat and other crops grown in the dry season are also affected by drought. After independence major droughts occurred in Bangladesh causing substantial reduction in food production. FAO (2008)[9] forecast that, dry season rainfall may decrease by 37 percent, which will increase the risk of droughts significantly. The local elder persons said that, gradual increase in salinity also increased competition for freshwater resources; the livestock suffered the brunt of such a calamity (RVCC, 2003) [23].

Bangladesh has been ranked as the 3rd most vulnerable in the world to sea level rise in terms of the number of people and in the top ten in terms of percentage of population living in the low elevation coastal zone. World Bank (2000) [30] estimated that by the year 2020, 2050 and 2100 the sea level of Bangladesh would increase 10 cm, 25 cm and 1 m. Sea level rise could potentially force around 33 million people to lose their home by 2050 and up to 43 million

by 2080 (Mohal & Hossain, 2007) [21]. CEGIS (2006)[6] has shown that rice suitable areas would decrease significantly due to sea level rise along the coastal region of Bangladesh. Sea level rise has increased coastal flood frequency which caused salinity intrusion and the secondary impact is a significant reduction of rice yield in coastal area (Ali, 2005) [3]. A World Bank (2000) [30] study suggest that increased salinity alone from a 0.3 meter level sea rise will cause a net reduction of 0.5 million metric tons of rice. Global Circulation Model (GCM) results predict an average temperature increase in Bangladesh due to climate change of 1.0°C by 2030 and 1.4°C by 2050 (IPCC,2007)[14].

Perception refers to the process concerned with the acquisition and interpretation of information from one's environment (Maddox, 1995) [19]. Maddison (2006)[18] described that adaptation to climate change requires that farmers first notice that the climate has changed, and then identify useful adaptations and implement them. Another important issue related to adaptation in agriculture pointed out by Bryant et al. (2000) [5] is how perceptions of climate change are translated into agricultural decisions. Howlader et al., (2015) [12] described that adaptation towards climate change is affected by mostly the same factors affect farmers perception in this study, thus perception is the preliminary stage to adaptation towards climate change. Maddison (2006) [18] argues that if farmers learn gradually about the change in climate, they will also learn gradually about the best adaptation options towards it. According to him, farmers learn about the best adaptation options through three ways: (1) learning by doing, (2) learning by copying, and (3) learning from instruction. So, Farmers' perception of climate change need to be documented for these are thought to influence the success of agricultural production compared to other factors. Therefore, study of farmers' perception of climate change effects on coastal agriculture should be appraised as well as identify gaps where scientists and other stakeholders including extension agents could provide vital inputs to assists farmers. Thus the need for this research to assess the farmers' perceptions of climate change effects on costal agriculture to meet the need of this important group of stakeholders in the agricultural development system.

a) *Purpose and Objectives*

The overall purpose of the study was to identify the perception of climate change effects on coastal agriculture among farming households of Coastal Bangladesh. Specifically, the paper sought to:

1. To determine and describe the extent of farmer's perceptions of climate change effects on coastal agriculture.
2. To explore the relationship between the dependent variables (farmers' perception) and the independent variables (farmers selected characteristics)

II. MATERIALS AND METHOD OF THE STUDY

a) Study location and Sampling

The study area was coastal area namely Galachipa upazila at Patuakhali district of Bangladesh. The geographic location of the study area is 22.1639°N 90.4306°E. Galachipa upazila has 13 unions from which Galachipa union was selected randomly. From 12 villages 5 villages viz. Boalia, East Ratandi, Gorabala, Kalikapur and Pokkhia were selected randomly. Landless and absentee farmers were discarded from the farmers list with the help of SAOs. Thus the Sample population was 1012. Then 10 percent of the sample population from each village was selected separately as the sample of the study by simple random sampling procedure. Thus the sample size was 101. A reserve list of 10 percent of the sample size was also prepared in case of absence of the selected sample during data collection despite all attempts.

b) Data collection and processing

Data were collected personally by the researcher himself through face to face visit to all the selected farmers during 1st August, 2014 to 10th September, 2014. The collected data were systematically recorded, edited, arranged, compiled, tabulated, computerized and analyzed in accordance with the objectives of the study. Different statistical treatments like frequency, range, mean, percentage, distribution, standard deviation, categories and indices etc. were used to describe, represent and explaining the relationship among variables in this study.

c) Variables of the study

In the present study, ten selected characteristics namely age, education, farm size, farming experience, annual income, training experience, communication exposure, organizational participation, agricultural knowledge and fatalism were selected as the independent variable, which measured using the prevailing standard methods.

Farmers' perception of climate change effects on coastal agriculture was the dependent variable. The procedure followed in measuring the dependent variable is presented below.

d) Measurement of Farmers' perceptions on effects of climate change on coastal agriculture

A-five point rating scale ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree" was developed to measure the extent of perception of climate change effect in affected areas. Strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree and strongly disagree was assigned as 4,3,2,1 and 0. The extent of perception of climate change found by the farmers was computed by adding all scores obtained from 25 aspects of perception on climate change observed by respondents. The perception of climate change score of

the respondents ranged from 0 to 100 where 0 indicating no perception of climate change and 100 indicating extreme perception.

To find out the relationship between the farmers' perception of climate change effects on coastal agriculture and the selected characteristics of the farmers, the Pearson's Product Correlation was computed. To determine the interrelationships among the variables Correlation matrix was also computed. Five percent (0.5) levels of significance were used as the basis of statistical significance.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The perception scores of the farmers ranged from 50 to 88. The mean and standard deviation were 78.03 and 5.72 respectively. On the basis of perception scores of the farmers were classified into three groups viz. "low perception", "medium perception", "high perception" The distribution of the farmers based on their perception score shown in Figure 1.

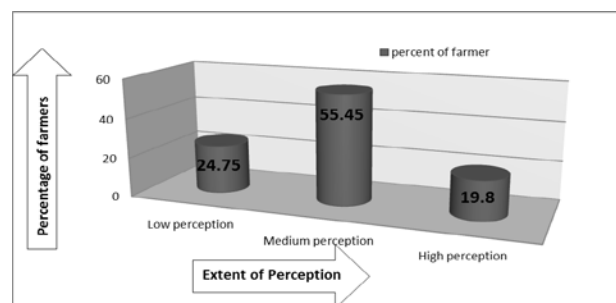


Figure 1 : Distribution of farmers according to their perception

Slightly less than three-fifth (55.45 percent) of the farmers had medium perception compared to 24.75 percent of them having low and 19.80 percent high perception were found in this area. Thus majority (80.20 percent) of the farmers has low to medium perception.

a) Rank order of Farmers perceived aspects of climate change effects on coastal agriculture

It was necessary to have an understanding about the comparative perception of the farmers on the 25 selected aspects. A perception Index (PI) for selected 25 aspects was computed to serve the purpose by using the formula.

$$\text{Perception Index (PI)} = \text{Pl} \times 1 + \text{Pm} \times 2 + \text{Ph} \times 3$$

Where,

Pl = Percentage of farmers having low perception.

Pm = Percentage of farmers having medium perception.

Ph = Percentage of farmers having high perception.

Perception Index (PI) for any of the selected aspects could range from 0 to 404, where 0 indicating minimum perception and 404 indicating maximum

perception. However, computed perception index ranged from 222- 382.

Table 1 : Rank order of farmer's perceived aspect of climate change effects on coastal agriculture

Statements	Perception index	Rank
Increased Temperature	386	1 st
Increased disease of crop	384	2 nd
Longer Summer	382	3 rd
Increased insect infestation	381	4 th
Unexpected rainfall	378	5 th
During winter water shortage hinder fish production	375	6 th
Increased poultry disease	371	7 th
Unavailability of fish	370	8 th
Reduced Biodiversity	358	9 th
Reduced Soil fertility	357	10 th
Increased soil salinity	348	11 th
Crop failure increased due to seasonal change	339	12 th
Decreased yield	326	13 th
Scarcity of irrigation water in Drought season	311	14 th
River erosion decreases Agricultural land	303	15 th
Frequency of flood/cyclone increased	291	16 th
Lower production of cattle due to scarcity of grazing land at drought season	283	17 th
Increased Food shortage	275	18 th
Intensified winter	270	19 th
Increased water logging condition	266	20 th
Shorter winter	265	21 st
Saline water intrusion due to increased tidal flow	260	22 nd
Deforestation cause climate change	243	23 rd
Emission of industrial CO ₂ cause Global warming	242	24 th
Greenhouse gas cause climate change	222	25 th

i. *Measurement of independent variables*

In this study 10 selected characteristics of the farmers were selected for investigation. The characteristics were age, education, farm size, farming experience, annual family income, training experience,

communication exposure, organizational participation, agricultural knowledge and fatalism. The salient features of the different characteristics have been presented below-

Table 2 : Distributions of the farmers according to their personal characteristics

Characteristics	Categories	Number	Percentage	Mean	SD
Age	Young (up to 35)	20	19.80	44.50	8.67
	Middle aged (36-50)	54	53.50		
	Old (>50)	27	26.70		
Education	Illiterate (0)	15	14.85	4.56	3.40
	Can sign only(0.5)	22	21.80		
	Primary (1-5)	30	29.75		
	Secondary (6-10)	28	27.70		
	Above secondary(>10)	6	5.90		
Farm size	Marginal (>.02-.20 ha)	8	7.90	2.16	1.67
	Small (.21-1.00 ha)	20	19.80		
	Medium (1.01-3.00 ha)	50	49.50		
	Large (above 3.01 ha)	23	22.80		
Farming experience	Short (8-19 years)	30	29.70	24.40	8.21
	Medium (20-30 years)	47	46.50		
	Long (>30 years)	24	19.80		
Annual family income ('000' tk)	Low (90-200)	73	72.30	185.64	79.58
	Medium (201-300)	20	19.80		
	High (>300)	8	7.90		
Training experience	No (0 days)	28	27.70	14.12	12.86
	Short (1-12 days)	12	11.90		
	Medium (13-20 days)	44	43.56		
	Long (>20 days)	18	17.84		
Communication exposure	Low (22-30)	14	13.87	37.21	4.84
	Medium (31-38)	62	61.38		
	High (>38)	25	24.75		

Organizational participation	No (0)	27	26.73	6.49	4.36
	Low (1-7)	30	29.70		
	Medium (8-14)	34	33.67		
	High (> 14)	10	9.90		
Agricultural knowledge	Low (up to 30)	20	19.80	32.68	3.10
	Medium (31-35)	63	62.37		
	High (>36)	18	17.83		
Fatalism	High (>41)	17	16.83	37.60	4.17
	Medium (34-40)	56	55.45		
	Low (27-33)	28	27.72		

Data presented in table 2 indicate that Majority of the respondents were having low level of education (69.30 percent). Majority (72.30 percent) were aged 35 to 65 years, with farming experience ranging from 20 to 45 years (66.3%). Most of the farmers (79.20 percent) have medium to marginal farm size and majority of them belongs to low income (72.30 percent). About 27.70 percent of the respondents have no training experiences. Majority (56.43 % and 73.25%) of respondents had low to medium organizational participation and communication exposure respectively. Majority of the farmers (72.28 percent) are fatalistic in behavior.

b) *Relationship between selected characteristics of the farmers and their perception of climate change effects on coastal agriculture*

Farmers' perception and adaptation strategies towards climate change effects on coastal agriculture studied in the study. The relationship of 10 selected characteristics of the farmers to their problem confrontation in the selected area was determined. In order to know the relationship of the selected 10 characteristics (independent variables) of the farmers with their perception (dependent variable), correlation analysis was done between the variables. The results of correlation analysis are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 : Relationship between selected characteristics of the farmers and their perception of climate change effects on coastal agriculture

Dependent variable	Independent variable (Farmers characteristics)	Coefficient of correlation (r)
Farmers' Perception of climate change effects on coastal agriculture	1.Age	.040
	2. Education	.305**
	3. Farm size	.239*
	4. Farming experience	.037
	5. Annual family income	.229 *
	6. Training experience	.168
	7. Communication exposure	.496**
	8. Organizational participation	.166
	9. Agricultural knowledge	.663**
	10. Fatalism	-.666 **

** = Significant at .01 level,

* = Significant at .05 level

IV. CONCLUSION

Bangladesh's coast is the worst victim to natural disasters. Climate change impacts are already adding significant stress to physical and environmental resources of the people, their human ability, and socio-economic activities. In this paper the perception of farmers towards climate change effects on coastal agriculture in the study has been explored. Out of 10 independent variables, the correlation coefficients of 6 variables were significant. These were education, farm size, annual family income, communication exposure, agricultural knowledge, and fatalism. Fatalism was negatively significant and rests of those were positively significant. It is found that majority farmers have unfavorable perception about climate change effects on agriculture as because most of the farmers have lower access to education, low communication exposure and they are highly fatalistic in nature. Most of them are living hand to mouth with small farm size and low income. Due to low income farmers children are drop out from schools at early age and those drop out students one day become farmer by tradition and they also bear the fatalistic behavior and seldom tries to adapt with the changed climatic effects on agriculture. If someone tries to take any adaptation measures due to lack of information they can't because of the lower communication exposure and extension agents are not available to them. Thus the fate of the coastal farmers remains unchanged as they are the victim of vicious cycle of poor. So the study conclude that proper stakeholders like NGOs, Government, donor agencies etc. should take necessary steps to educate the farmers children, prevent drop out of farmers children, subsidies for coastal students education under different projects, should initiate training programme for the coastal farmers about climate change effects on coastal agriculture and adaptation measures, which will increase their perception level towards climate change effects on coastal agriculture.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Firstly, the Government and other Organizations may set up further research to detect the perception level and the causes which hinder their perception towards climate change. Secondly, to identify the aftermath of global warming and take possible steps of how to counter it so that the harmful consequences of climate change can be lessened in the coastal areas. Thirdly, the Government may set up a center/cell under the control of its relevant Ministry and take policies to deal with climate change affectations especially in the affected areas. Fourthly, measures should be taken to give protection to the coastal-belt dwellers vulnerable to often occurred natural hazards so that they may be

saved from constant loss and poverty. Fifthly, a framework can be developed for constant assessment of climate change scenarios, its impacts for mitigation. Sixthly, relevant sectors (local, Govt. NGOs and other Agencies) can study climate change impacts and take possible adaptation measures for the livelihoods groups in terms of their regional basis acuteness of troubles. Seventhly, various agencies may come forward to train the people who can face challenges of climate change effects on coastal agriculture. Eighthly, it is to be ensured that all productive land in the coastal belt can be properly utilized to improve poverty situation. Ninthly, regular research, projects, field study, and subsequent evaluation are essentially required to address coastal climate change scenario. Tenthly, as the coastal areas are relatively vulnerable to different hazards on account of climate change, the physical infrastructure in such places is to be developed keeping in contemplation the effects caused by the climate change to change livelihood patterns across the coastal Bangladesh.

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List of Abbreviations

Aman= aman is transplanted at the onset of the monsoon in June-July and harvested in October-December;

Aus= Aus rice is direct-seeded or transplanted in the pre-monsoon period (April-

Boro= upland winter irrigated rice

CEGIS= Centre for Environmental Geographic Information Services

FAO= Food and Agriculture Organization

GCM = Global Circulation Model

Gher= Medium to large pond with protected mud embankment which are used to culture

GOB= Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

IPCC= Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (July) and harvested in August

RVCC= Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change

SAAO= Sub-Assistant Agricultural Officer

Union=Smallest Administrative rural geographic unit which consist of mauza and village, having institution,

Mauza =Smallest revenue geographic unit having jurisdiction list number

USD= United States Dollar



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Investigation of Microwave Power Effects on Drying Kinetics and Energy Efficiency of Banana Samples

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Abstract- The banana samples were dried in a laboratory scale microwave oven at different powers of 200, 300, 400 and 500 W. The results showed that microwave power significantly influenced the total heating time and energy efficiency of drying processing. In this study, the measured moisture ratio (MR) values were fitted and compared with predicted values obtained from Midilli's thin layer drying semi-empirical equation. Highest value of R^2 and the lowest values of χ^2 and RMSE for banana samples at different powers are obtained as 0.9999, 1.6618×10^{-5} and 0.0043 respectively. Also, within the range of microwave power values, 200–500 W, effective moisture diffusivities were found to be 1.4×10^{-5} to 5.52×10^{-5} m²/min. The microwave power dependence of the effective diffusivity coefficient followed an Arrhenius-type relationship.

Keywords: microwave power, energy efficiency, moisture diffusivity, activation energy, banana samples.

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Investigation of Microwave Power Effects on Drying Kinetics and Energy Efficiency of Banana Samples

Azar Khodabakhshi ^α, Mandana Mahfeli ^σ & Mohammad Zarein ^ρ

Abstract- The banana samples were dried in a laboratory scale microwave oven at different powers of 200, 300, 400 and 500 W. The results showed that microwave power significantly influenced the total heating time and energy efficiency of drying processing. In this study, the measured moisture ratio (MR) values were fitted and compared with predicted values obtained from Midilli's thin layer drying semi-empirical equation. Highest value of R² and the lowest values of χ^2 and RMSE for banana samples at different powers are obtained as 0.9999, 1.6618×10^{-5} and 0.0043 respectively. Also, within the range of microwave power values, 200–500 W, effective moisture diffusivities were found to be 1.4×10^{-5} to 5.52×10^{-5} m²/min. The microwave power dependence of the effective diffusivity coefficient followed an Arrhenius-type relationship. The activation energy for the moisture diffusion was determined to be 11.2 W/g. Increasing the microwave power resulted in a considerable increase in average energy efficiency and it was in the range of 8.8 to 39%.

Keywords: microwave power, energy efficiency, moisture diffusivity, activation energy, banana samples.

1. INTRODUCTION

Banana is one of the most prevalently consumed fruits and is amply available in tropical countries. Banana is an excellent source of potassium. it can help cure an upset stomach by stimulating the production of mucus and cells in the stomach, thus creating a barrier between the stomach lining and the acids that cause upset stomachs and heartburn. Banana has antibiotic properties to help fight off infections and viruses [1]. The qualities of fresh banana deteriorate rapidly after harvesting [2-4]. Considerable amounts of this fruit is wasted due to the lack of efficient preservation methods that are unique to banana. One of the oldest methods of food preservation is drying [2]. The basic objective in drying food products is the removal of water from solids to a certain level at which microbial decadence is avoided. The major motives of dried food popularity are Longer shelf life and significant reduction in the volume of the product. Characteristics of conventional drying is: prolonged drying time, hot

temperature, rapid drying and low energy efficiency which each one have Some disadvantages. Conventional drying may reduce the capacity of dried product, damage the flavour, colour and nutrients, vapourise volatile compounds, cause case-hardening and have low energy efficiency [5]. Therefore, there has been a search for an alternative method of drying for years. MD (Microwave Drying) seems to be a suitable method to reduce the disadvantages. A number of studies have been conducted to improve microwave drying [6-10]. Microwave drying is caused by water vapour pressure differences between interior and surface regions, which provide a driving force for moisture transfer. Microwave drying results in a high thermal efficiency, no case hardening, shorter drying time, reduced costs and improved product quality compared to conventional hot air drying [11]. However, microwave drying will reduce the product's quality if not properly applied [12]. Researchers have shown that applying the energy in decreasing rate or at low moisture content for finish drying results in a higher quality of product [13]. Medeni investigated banana samples drying using convection (60°C at 1.45 m/s), microwave (350, 490 and 700 W power) and convection followed by microwave (at 350 W, 4.3 mm thick sample) finish drying. The drying of banana slices took place in the falling rate drying period with convection drying taking the longest time. Higher drying rates were observed with the higher power level. Microwave finish drying reduced the convection drying time by about 64.3%. A physical model was employed to fit the experimental data and gave good fit for all experimental runs except microwave finish data. Microwave finish dried banana was lighter in colour and had the highest rehydration value [14]. Although the textural property improved at high temperature, the product color was brown as manifested by the low L- and hue values in particular at the drying temperature of 100 °C [12].

The drying time of the convective technique can be shortened by using higher temperatures which increase moisture diffusivity [15] and by cutting the material into small pieces [16]. The drying time can be greatly reduced [17] and the quality of finished product insured [18] by applying the microwave energy to the dried material. Furthermore, commonly used hot air techniques are limited by high energy consumption,

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long drying times, low energy efficiency and high costs, which is not desirable for the food industry. Due to these difficulties, more rapid, safe and controllable drying methods are required. Also, it is necessary to dry the product with minimum cost, energy and time. In microwave drying, drying time is shortened due to quick absorption of energy by water molecules, causes rapid evaporation of water, resulting in high drying rates of the food. One of the most important aspects of drying technology is the modeling of the drying process. There are various studies at the research level about drying of vegetables. For example; Bakal et al. [19] and Senadeera et al. [20] reported that the Page model best described the drying behaviour of potato. As little research has been performed effect of microwave power on energy consumption and drying efficiency in microwave drying method [21], the present research is focused on this issue. The aim of this study was to (i) describe the influence of microwave output power on drying kinetics and energy efficiency, and (ii) compare the measured findings obtained during the drying of banana samples with the predicted values obtained with Midilli's semi-empirical equation for the purpose of simulation and scaling up of the process.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Banana samples were purchased from a local market, in Tehran, Iran, and were stored in the refrigerator at temperature of $4 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ until the experiments were carried out. Samples were prepared as cubic shape with dimension of $30 \times 30 \times 30$ mm. The initial moisture content of the samples found about $77.9 \pm 1\%$ (w.b.) and was determined by drying in an air convection oven at $103 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ till the weight did not change any more [22]. A domestic microwave oven (M 945, Samsung Electronics Ins) with maximum output of 1000 W at 2450 MHz was used for the drying experiments. The oven has a fan for air flow in drying chamber and cooling of magnetron. The moisture from drying chamber was removed with this fan by passing it through the openings on the right side of the oven wall to the outer atmosphere. The microwave dryer was operated by a control terminal which could control both microwave power level and emission time. Experiments were performed at four microwave powers of 200, 300, 400 and 500 W. The moisture losses of samples were recorded at 30s intervals during the drying process by a digital balance (GF-600, A & D, Japan) and an accuracy of ± 0.01 g. For measuring the weight of the samples during experimentation without taking them out of the oven, the tray with sample was suspended on the balance with a nylon wire through a ventilation hole in the center of chamber ceiling. Drying was carried out until the final moisture content reaches to a level less than 1% (w.b.) [23]. All measurements were carried out

in triplicate. The moisture ratio (MR) was calculated using the following equation:

$$MR = \frac{M_t - M_e}{M_0 - M_e} \quad (1)$$

where, MR is the moisture ratio (dimensionless); M_t , M_e and M_0 are the moisture content at any time, the equilibrium moisture content, the initial moisture content (kg $[\text{H}_2\text{O}]/\text{kg}$ dry mater), respectively. The values of M_e are relatively small compared to M_t and M_0 , hence the error involved in the simplification by assuming that M_e is equal to zero is negligible.

The Midilli's model is an empirical modification of the simple exponential model to overcome its shortcomings. It was successfully used to describe the drying characteristics of a variety of biological materials. Therefore, the semi-empirical Midilli's equation (Eq. (2)) was used to describe the thin layer drying kinetics of samples [24]:

$$MR = \frac{M_t}{M_0} = a \exp(-kt^n) + bt \quad (2)$$

where k is the drying constant ($1/\text{min}$); a and b are constant coefficients and n is the dimensionless exponent. Statistical test using the coefficient of determination (R^2), reduced chi-square (χ^2) and root mean square error (RMSE) were calculated to evaluate the goodness of fit of each model. The statistical parameters were calculated using equations [25]:

$$R^2 = 1 - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (MR_{pre,i} - MR_{exp,i})^2}{\sum_{i=1}^N (MR_{pre,i} - \overline{MR_{exp,i}})^2} \quad (3)$$

$$\chi^2 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (MR_{pre,i} - MR_{exp,i})^2}{N - z} \quad (4)$$

$$RMSE = \left(\frac{\sum_{i=1}^N (MR_{pre,i} - MR_{exp,i})^2}{N} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad (5)$$

where MR_{exp} is the experimental dimensionless moisture ratio, MR_{pre} is the predicted dimensionless moisture ratio by Page model, N is the number of experimental data points, and z is the number of parameters in model. The model is said to be good if R^2 value is high and, χ^2 and RMSE values are low [26].

Drying rate was defined as:

$$DR = \frac{M_{t+\Delta t} - M_t}{\Delta t} \quad (6)$$

where $M_{t+\Delta t}$ is moisture content at time $t + \Delta t$ (kg $[\text{H}_2\text{O}]/\text{kg}$ dry mater), t is the time (min) and DR is the drying rate (kg $[\text{H}_2\text{O}]/\text{kg}$ dry mater.min).

Fick's second law of diffusion equation, symbolized as a mass-diffusion equation for drying agricultural products in a falling rate period, is shown in the following equation:

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial t} = D_{\text{eff}} \frac{\partial^2 M}{\partial x^2} \quad (7)$$

By using appropriate initial and boundary conditions, Crank [27] gave the analytical solutions for various geometries and the solution for slab object with constant diffusivity is given as:

$$MR = \frac{8}{\pi^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)^2} \exp\left(- (2n+1)^2 \pi^2 \frac{D_{\text{eff}} t}{4L^2}\right) \quad (8)$$

where D_{eff} is the effective diffusivity (m^2/s), and L is the half-thickness of samples (m), n is a positive integer.

For long drying times, only the first term ($n=0$) in the series expansion of the above equation can give good estimate of the solution, which is expressed in logarithmic forms as follows:

$$\ln(MR) = \ln\left(\frac{8}{\pi^2}\right) - \left(\frac{\pi^2}{4L^2} D_{\text{eff}} t\right) \quad (9)$$

The diffusion coefficients are typically determined by plotting experimental drying data in terms of $\ln(MR)$ versus drying time (t), because the plot gives a straight line with a slope as $\pi^2 D_{\text{eff}}/4L^2$ [28].

Inasmuch as temperature is not precisely measurable inside the microwave drier, the activation energy is found as modified from the revised Arrhenius equation. In this method it is assumed as related to effective moisture diffusion and the ratio of microwave output power to sample weight (m/p) instead of to air temperature. Then Equation (10) can be effectively used as follows [29]:

$$D_{\text{eff}} = D_0 \exp\left(-\frac{E_a m}{P}\right) \quad (10)$$

where E_a is the activation energy (W/g), m is the mass of raw sample (g), D_0 is the pre-exponential factor (m^2/s) and P is the microwave power (W).

The microwave drying efficiency was calculated as the ratio of heat energy utilised for evaporating water from the sample to the heat supplied by the dryer [30].

$$\eta = \frac{m_w \times \lambda_w}{P \times t} \quad (11)$$

where η is the microwave-convective drying efficiency (%); P is the microwave power (W); m_w is the mass of evaporated water (kg), and λ_w is the latent heat of vaporisation of water (2257 kJ/kg).

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The moisture content versus drying time curves for microwave drying of banana samples as affected by various microwave powers are shown in Fig. 1. The time required to dry banana samples from initial moisture content of $77.9 \pm 1\%$ (w.b.) to the final moisture content of $4 \pm 1\%$ (w.b.) was 29.5, 13, 8.5 and 6 min at 200, 300,

400 and 500 W, respectively. Drying microwave power had an important effect on drying time. The results indicated that mass transfer within the sample was more rapidly during higher microwave power heating because more heat was generated within the sample creating a large vapor pressure difference between the center and the surface of the product due to characteristic microwave volumetric heating.

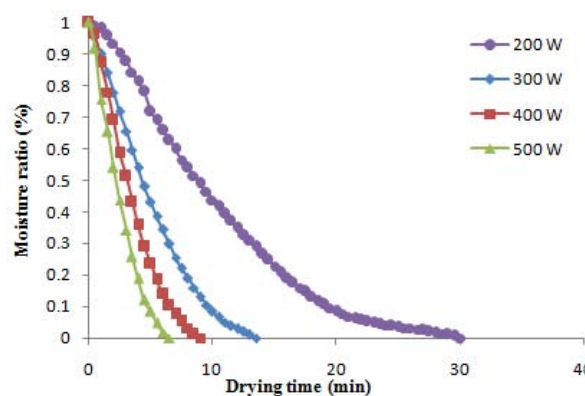


Figure 1 : The variation of the moisture content with drying time at various microwave powers

Fig. 2 shows how the drying rate of banana samples was changed with increased drying time under various drying conditions. The drying rates increased with the increasing microwave power levels. The maximum drying rates were approximately 0.243, 0.441, 0.739 and 1.134 kg $[\text{H}_2\text{O}]/\text{kg}$ dry mater .min, when the microwave powers of 200, 300, 400 and 500W were applied, respectively. The moisture content of the material was very high during the initial phase of the drying which resulted in a higher absorption of microwave power and higher drying rates due to the higher moisture diffusion. As the drying progressed, the loss of moisture in the product caused a decrease in the absorption of microwave power and resulted in a fall in the drying rate.

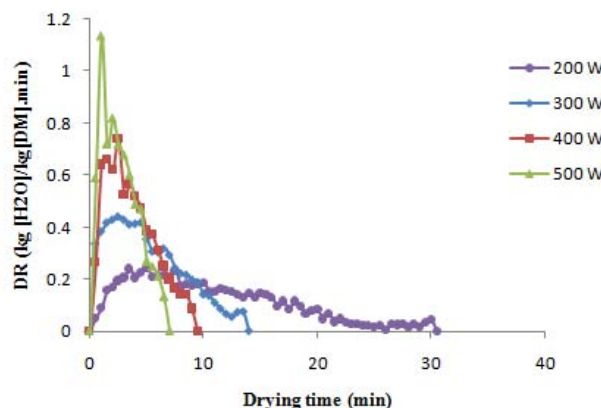


Figure 2 : Variation of drying rate with drying time for banana samples

The moisture content data obtained from the drying experiments was fitted to the Midilli model. The statistical results from the models such as R^2 , χ^2 and RMSE values are shown in Table 1. As it is seen, the R^2 , χ^2 and RMSE values range from 0.9991 to 0.9999, 1.6618×10^{-5} to 9.9983×10^{-5} and 0.0043 to 0.0102, respectively. The highest values of R^2 and the lowest values of χ^2 and RMSE indicate in the Midilli model a good fit. Based on the multiple regression analysis, the

Midilli model, the constants and coefficients were as follows:

$$k = 0.032 \exp(0.003P) \quad R^2 = 0.944$$

$$n = 0.992 + 0.001P - 2 \times 10^{-6}P^2 \quad R^2 = 0.988$$

$$a = 0.973 + 7 \times 10^{-5}P - 1 \times 10^{-8}P^2 \quad R^2 = 0.862$$

$$b = -0.011 + 6 \times 10^{-5}P - 1 \times 10^{-7}P^2 \quad R^2 = 0.972$$

Table 1 : Results of statistical analysis on the modeling (Midilli's model) of moisture content and drying time for banana samples

P (W)	Model Constants		R^2	$\chi^2 \times 10^{-5}$	RMSE
200	a= 0.9893	b= -0.00294	0.9991	9.9983	0.0101
	k= 0.0764	n= 1.282			
300	a= 0.9909	b= -0.00377	0.9998	2.0442	0.0047
	k= 0.0890	n= 1.36			
400	a= 1.005	b= -0.00488	0.9999	1.6618	0.0043
	k= 0.1349	n= 1.435			
500	a= 1.006	b= -0.01082	0.9993	8.5333	0.0102
	k= 0.2361	n= 1.443			

Plots of calculated versus experimental dimensionless moisture content are shown in Fig. 3. As can be observed in this figure, good agreement between the former variables is observed.

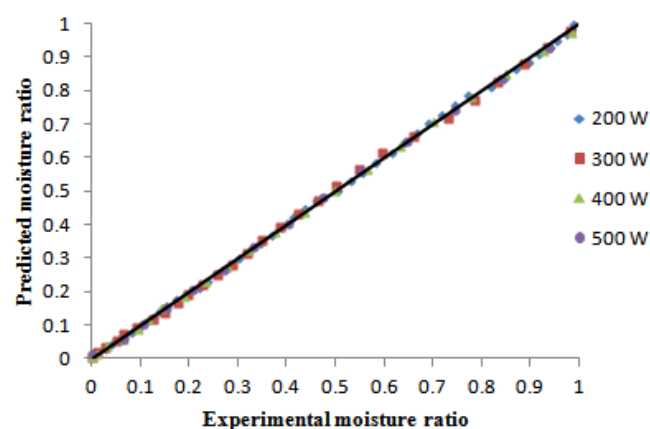


Figure 3: Comparison of experimental and calculated dimensionless moisture content values by the Midilli's model

The determined values of D_{eff} for different microwave powers are given in Table. 2. The values lie within the general range of 10^{-6} – 10^{-11} m^2/s for food materials. It can be seen that the values of D_{eff} increased with increasing microwave power. This might be explained by the increased heating energy, which

would increase the activity of the water molecules leading to higher moisture diffusivity when samples were dried at higher microwave power.

Table 2 : Effective diffusivity values for microwave drying of potato

P(W)	Effective diffusivity (m^2/min)
200	1.4×10^{-5}
300	2.86×10^{-5}
400	4.18×10^{-5}
500	5.52×10^{-5}

The activation energy was calculated by plotting the natural logarithm of D_{eff} versus sample amount/power (m/P) as presented in Fig. 4. The plot was found to be a straight line in the range of microwave power studied, indicating Arrhenius dependence as Fig. 5. Then, the dependence of the effective diffusivity of banana samples on the microwave power can be represented by the following equation:

$$D_{\text{eff}} = 13.2 \times 10^{-5} \exp\left(-11.2 \frac{\text{m}}{P}\right) \quad (12)$$

The activation energy for banana samples was found to be 11.2 W/g.

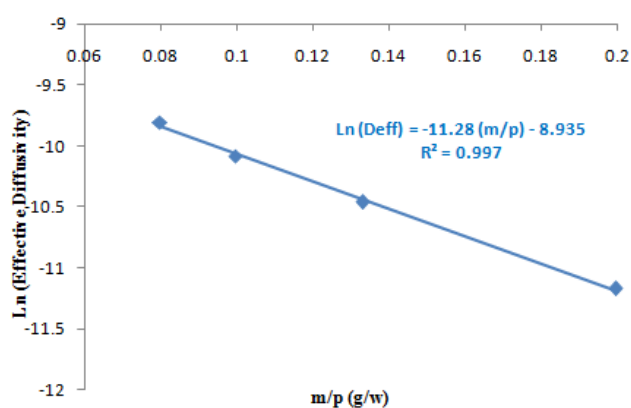


Figure 4 : Arrhenius-type relationship the values of $\text{Ln}(D_{\text{eff}})$ versus sample amount/power

Fig. 6 shows the variation of energy efficiency whit drying time for microwave drying of banana samples. The energy efficiency was very high during the initial phase of the drying which resulted in a higher absorption of microwave power. Following moisture reduction, the energy absorbed by the product decreased and reflected power increased. The best result with regard to energy efficiency was obtained from 500W microwave power levels among all microwave power. Average energy efficiency of banana samples ranged from 8.8 to 39% for the output microwave power.

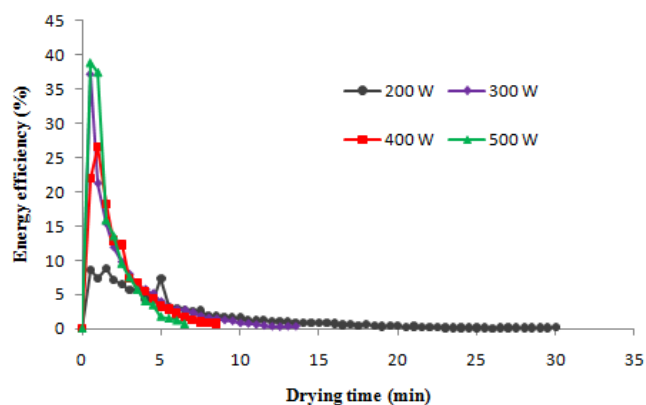


Figure 5 : Energy efficiency versus drying time for microwave drying of potato samples

IV. CONCLUSION

Characteristics of the microwave drying of banana samples (with dimension of 30×30×30 mm) were determined. Microwave drying period of samples lasted between 29.5 and 6 min at the microwave powers at 200 and 500 W, respectively. The changes of moisture content have been described by using Midilli's model. We concluded that 500 W is the optimum microwave power level in the microwave drying of banana samples with respect to drying time and energy efficiency. The values of effective diffusivity for microwave drying of banana samples ranged from

1.4×10^{-5} to $5.52 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^2/\text{min}$ and activation energy was found 11.2 W/g. Energy efficiency increases with the increase of microwave drying power and moisture content.

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Research letters: The letters are small and concise comments on previously published matters.

5. STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF MANUSCRIPT

The recommended size of original research paper is less than seven thousand words, review papers fewer than seven thousands words also. Preparation of research paper or how to write research paper, are major hurdle, while writing manuscript. The research articles and research letters should be fewer than three thousand words, the structure original research paper; sometime review paper should be as follows:

Papers: These are reports of significant research (typically less than 7000 words equivalent, including tables, figures, references), and comprise:

- (a) Title should be relevant and commensurate with the theme of the paper.
- (b) A brief Summary, "Abstract" (less than 150 words) containing the major results and conclusions.
- (c) Up to ten keywords, that precisely identifies the paper's subject, purpose, and focus.
- (d) An Introduction, giving necessary background excluding subheadings; objectives must be clearly declared.
- (e) Resources and techniques with sufficient complete experimental details (wherever possible by reference) to permit repetition; sources of information must be given and numerical methods must be specified by reference, unless non-standard.
- (f) Results should be presented concisely, by well-designed tables and/or figures; the same data may not be used in both; suitable statistical data should be given. All data must be obtained with attention to numerical detail in the planning stage. As reproduced design has been recognized to be important to experiments for a considerable time, the Editor has decided that any paper that appears not to have adequate numerical treatments of the data will be returned un-refereed;
- (g) Discussion should cover the implications and consequences, not just recapitulating the results; conclusions should be summarizing.
- (h) Brief Acknowledgements.
- (i) References in the proper form.

Authors should very cautiously consider the preparation of papers to ensure that they communicate efficiently. Papers are much more likely to be accepted, if they are cautiously designed and laid out, contain few or no errors, are summarizing, and be conventional to the approach and instructions. They will in addition, be published with much less delays than those that require much technical and editorial correction.



The Editorial Board reserves the right to make literary corrections and to make suggestions to improve briefness.

It is vital, that authors take care in submitting a manuscript that is written in simple language and adheres to published guidelines.

Format

Language: The language of publication is UK English. Authors, for whom English is a second language, must have their manuscript efficiently edited by an English-speaking person before submission to make sure that, the English is of high excellence. It is preferable, that manuscripts should be professionally edited.

Standard Usage, Abbreviations, and Units: Spelling and hyphenation should be conventional to The Concise Oxford English Dictionary. Statistics and measurements should at all times be given in figures, e.g. 16 min, except for when the number begins a sentence. When the number does not refer to a unit of measurement it should be spelt in full unless, it is 160 or greater.

Abbreviations supposed to be used carefully. The abbreviated name or expression is supposed to be cited in full at first usage, followed by the conventional abbreviation in parentheses.

Metric SI units are supposed to generally be used excluding where they conflict with current practice or are confusing. For illustration, 1.4 l rather than $1.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3$, or 4 mm somewhat than $4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}$. Chemical formula and solutions must identify the form used, e.g. anhydrous or hydrated, and the concentration must be in clearly defined units. Common species names should be followed by underlines at the first mention. For following use the generic name should be constricted to a single letter, if it is clear.

Structure

All manuscripts submitted to Global Journals Inc. (US), ought to include:

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Abstract, used in Original Papers and Reviews:

Optimizing Abstract for Search Engines

Many researchers searching for information online will use search engines such as Google, Yahoo or similar. By optimizing your paper for search engines, you will amplify the chance of someone finding it. This in turn will make it more likely to be viewed and/or cited in a further work. Global Journals Inc. (US) have compiled these guidelines to facilitate you to maximize the web-friendliness of the most public part of your paper.

Key Words

A major linchpin in research work for the writing research paper is the keyword search, which one will employ to find both library and Internet resources.

One must be persistent and creative in using keywords. An effective keyword search requires a strategy and planning a list of possible keywords and phrases to try.

Search engines for most searches, use Boolean searching, which is somewhat different from Internet searches. The Boolean search uses "operators," words (and, or, not, and near) that enable you to expand or narrow your affords. Tips for research paper while preparing research paper are very helpful guideline of research paper.

Choice of key words is first tool of tips to write research paper. Research paper writing is an art. A few tips for deciding as strategically as possible about keyword search:



- One should start brainstorming lists of possible keywords before even begin searching. Think about the most important concepts related to research work. Ask, "What words would a source have to include to be truly valuable in research paper?" Then consider synonyms for the important words.
- It may take the discovery of only one relevant paper to let steer in the right keyword direction because in most databases, the keywords under which a research paper is abstracted are listed with the paper.
- One should avoid outdated words.

Keywords are the key that opens a door to research work sources. Keyword searching is an art in which researcher's skills are bound to improve with experience and time.

Numerical Methods: Numerical methods used should be clear and, where appropriate, supported by references.

Acknowledgements: Please make these as concise as possible.

References

References follow the Harvard scheme of referencing. References in the text should cite the authors' names followed by the time of their publication, unless there are three or more authors when simply the first author's name is quoted followed by et al. unpublished work has to only be cited where necessary, and only in the text. Copies of references in press in other journals have to be supplied with submitted typescripts. It is necessary that all citations and references be carefully checked before submission, as mistakes or omissions will cause delays.

References to information on the World Wide Web can be given, but only if the information is available without charge to readers on an official site. Wikipedia and Similar websites are not allowed where anyone can change the information. Authors will be asked to make available electronic copies of the cited information for inclusion on the Global Journals Inc. (US) homepage at the judgment of the Editorial Board.

The Editorial Board and Global Journals Inc. (US) recommend that, citation of online-published papers and other material should be done via a DOI (digital object identifier). If an author cites anything, which does not have a DOI, they run the risk of the cited material not being noticeable.

The Editorial Board and Global Journals Inc. (US) recommend the use of a tool such as Reference Manager for reference management and formatting.

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Tables: Tables should be few in number, cautiously designed, uncrowned, and include only essential data. Each must have an Arabic number, e.g. Table 4, a self-explanatory caption and be on a separate sheet. Vertical lines should not be used.

Figures: Figures are supposed to be submitted as separate files. Always take in a citation in the text for each figure using Arabic numbers, e.g. Fig. 4. Artwork must be submitted online in electronic form by e-mailing them.

Preparation of Electronic Figures for Publication

Even though low quality images are sufficient for review purposes, print publication requires high quality images to prevent the final product being blurred or fuzzy. Submit (or e-mail) EPS (line art) or TIFF (halftone/photographs) files only. MS PowerPoint and Word Graphics are unsuitable for printed pictures. Do not use pixel-oriented software. Scans (TIFF only) should have a resolution of at least 350 dpi (halftone) or 700 to 1100 dpi (line drawings) in relation to the imitation size. Please give the data for figures in black and white or submit a Color Work Agreement Form. EPS files must be saved with fonts embedded (and with a TIFF preview, if possible).

For scanned images, the scanning resolution (at final image size) ought to be as follows to ensure good reproduction: line art: >650 dpi; halftones (including gel photographs) : >350 dpi; figures containing both halftone and line images: >650 dpi.



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TECHNIQUES FOR WRITING A GOOD QUALITY RESEARCH PAPER:

1. Choosing the topic: In most cases, the topic is searched by the interest of author but it can be also suggested by the guides. You can have several topics and then you can judge that in which topic or subject you are finding yourself most comfortable. This can be done by asking several questions to yourself, like Will I be able to carry our search in this area? Will I find all necessary recourses to accomplish the search? Will I be able to find all information in this field area? If the answer of these types of questions will be "Yes" then you can choose that topic. In most of the cases, you may have to conduct the surveys and have to visit several places because this field is related to Computer Science and Information Technology. Also, you may have to do a lot of work to find all rise and falls regarding the various data of that subject. Sometimes, detailed information plays a vital role, instead of short information.

2. Evaluators are human: First thing to remember that evaluators are also human being. They are not only meant for rejecting a paper. They are here to evaluate your paper. So, present your Best.

3. Think Like Evaluators: If you are in a confusion or getting demotivated that your paper will be accepted by evaluators or not, then think and try to evaluate your paper like an Evaluator. Try to understand that what an evaluator wants in your research paper and automatically you will have your answer.

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7. Use right software: Always use good quality software packages. If you are not capable to judge good software then you can lose quality of your paper unknowingly. There are various software programs available to help you, which you can get through Internet.

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9. Use and get big pictures: Always use encyclopedias, Wikipedia to get pictures so that you can go into the depth.

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11. Revise what you wrote: When you write anything, always read it, summarize it and then finalize it.



12. Make all efforts: Make all efforts to mention what you are going to write in your paper. That means always have a good start. Try to mention everything in introduction, that what is the need of a particular research paper. Polish your work by good skill of writing and always give an evaluator, what he wants.

13. Have backups: When you are going to do any important thing like making research paper, you should always have backup copies of it either in your computer or in paper. This will help you to not to lose any of your important.

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15. Use of direct quotes: When you do research relevant to literature, history or current affairs then use of quotes become essential but if study is relevant to science then use of quotes is not preferable.

16. Use proper verb tense: Use proper verb tenses in your paper. Use past tense, to present those events that happened. Use present tense to indicate events that are going on. Use future tense to indicate future happening events. Use of improper and wrong tenses will confuse the evaluator. Avoid the sentences that are incomplete.

17. Never use online paper: If you are getting any paper on Internet, then never use it as your research paper because it might be possible that evaluator has already seen it or maybe it is outdated version.

18. Pick a good study spot: To do your research studies always try to pick a spot, which is quiet. Every spot is not for studies. Spot that suits you choose it and proceed further.

19. Know what you know: Always try to know, what you know by making objectives. Else, you will be confused and cannot achieve your target.

20. Use good quality grammar: Always use a good quality grammar and use words that will throw positive impact on evaluator. Use of good quality grammar does not mean to use tough words, that for each word the evaluator has to go through dictionary. Do not start sentence with a conjunction. Do not fragment sentences. Eliminate one-word sentences. Ignore passive voice. Do not ever use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice. Verbs have to be in agreement with their subjects. Prepositions are not expressions to finish sentences with. It is incorrect to ever divide an infinitive. Avoid clichés like the disease. Also, always shun irritating alliteration. Use language that is simple and straight forward. put together a neat summary.

21. Arrangement of information: Each section of the main body should start with an opening sentence and there should be a changeover at the end of the section. Give only valid and powerful arguments to your topic. You may also maintain your arguments with records.

22. Never start in last minute: Always start at right time and give enough time to research work. Leaving everything to the last minute will degrade your paper and spoil your work.

23. Multitasking in research is not good: Doing several things at the same time proves bad habit in case of research activity. Research is an area, where everything has a particular time slot. Divide your research work in parts and do particular part in particular time slot.

24. Never copy others' work: Never copy others' work and give it your name because if evaluator has seen it anywhere you will be in trouble.

25. Take proper rest and food: No matter how many hours you spend for your research activity, if you are not taking care of your health then all your efforts will be in vain. For a quality research, study is must, and this can be done by taking proper rest and food.

26. Go for seminars: Attend seminars if the topic is relevant to your research area. Utilize all your resources.



27. Refresh your mind after intervals: Try to give rest to your mind by listening to soft music or by sleeping in intervals. This will also improve your memory.

28. Make colleagues: Always try to make colleagues. No matter how sharper or intelligent you are, if you make colleagues you can have several ideas, which will be helpful for your research.

29. Think technically: Always think technically. If anything happens, then search its reasons, its benefits, and demerits.

30. Think and then print: When you will go to print your paper, notice that tables are not be split, headings are not detached from their descriptions, and page sequence is maintained.

31. Adding unnecessary information: Do not add unnecessary information, like, I have used MS Excel to draw graph. Do not add irrelevant and inappropriate material. These all will create superfluous. Foreign terminology and phrases are not apropos. One should NEVER take a broad view. Analogy in script is like feathers on a snake. Not at all use a large word when a very small one would be sufficient. Use words properly, regardless of how others use them. Remove quotations. Puns are for kids, not grunt readers. Amplification is a billion times of inferior quality than sarcasm.

32. Never oversimplify everything: To add material in your research paper, never go for oversimplification. This will definitely irritate the evaluator. Be more or less specific. Also too, by no means, ever use rhythmic redundancies. Contractions aren't essential and shouldn't be there used. Comparisons are as terrible as clichés. Give up ampersands and abbreviations, and so on. Remove commas, that are, not necessary. Parenthetical words however should be together with this in commas. Understatement is all the time the complete best way to put onward earth-shaking thoughts. Give a detailed literary review.

33. Report concluded results: Use concluded results. From raw data, filter the results and then conclude your studies based on measurements and observations taken. Significant figures and appropriate number of decimal places should be used. Parenthetical remarks are prohibitive. Proofread carefully at final stage. In the end give outline to your arguments. Spot out perspectives of further study of this subject. Justify your conclusion by at the bottom of them with sufficient justifications and examples.

34. After conclusion: Once you have concluded your research, the next most important step is to present your findings. Presentation is extremely important as it is the definite medium through which your research is going to be in print to the rest of the crowd. Care should be taken to categorize your thoughts well and present them in a logical and neat manner. A good quality research paper format is essential because it serves to highlight your research paper and bring to light all necessary aspects in your research.

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Key points to remember:

- Submit all work in its final form.
- Write your paper in the form, which is presented in the guidelines using the template.
- Please note the criterion for grading the final paper by peer-reviewers.

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The introduction will be compiled from reference matter and will reflect the design processes or outline of basis that direct you to make study. As you will carry out the process of study, the method and process section will be constructed as like that. The result segment will show related statistics in nearly sequential order and will direct the reviewers next to the similar intellectual paths throughout the data that you took to carry out your study. The discussion section will provide understanding of the data and projections as to the implication of the results. The use of good quality references all through the paper will give the effort trustworthiness by representing an alertness of prior workings.



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Mistakes to evade

- Insertion a title at the foot of a page with the subsequent text on the next page
- Separating a table/chart or figure - impound each figure/table to a single page
- Submitting a manuscript with pages out of sequence

In every sections of your document

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- Align the primary line of each section
- Present your points in sound order
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- Use past tense to describe specific results
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The summary should be two hundred words or less. It should briefly and clearly explain the key findings reported in the manuscript-- must have precise statistics. It should not have abnormal acronyms or abbreviations. It should be logical in itself. Shun citing references at this point.

An abstract is a brief distinct paragraph summary of finished work or work in development. In a minute or less a reviewer can be taught the foundation behind the study, common approach to the problem, relevant results, and significant conclusions or new questions.

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- Reason of the study - theory, overall issue, purpose
- Fundamental goal
- To the point depiction of the research
- Consequences, including definite statistics - if the consequences are quantitative in nature, account quantitative data; results of any numerical analysis should be reported
- Significant conclusions or questions that track from the research(es)

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The **Introduction** should "introduce" the manuscript. The reviewer should be presented with sufficient background information to be capable to comprehend and calculate the purpose of your study without having to submit to other works. The basis for the study should be offered. Give most important references but shun difficult to make a comprehensive appraisal of the topic. In the introduction, describe the problem visibly. If the problem is not acknowledged in a logical, reasonable way, the reviewer will have no attention in your result. Speak in common terms about techniques used to explain the problem, if needed, but do not present any particulars about the protocols here. Following approach can create a valuable beginning:

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- Present a justification. Status your particular theory (es) or aim(s), and describe the logic that led you to choose them.
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Approach:

- Use past tense except for when referring to recognized facts. After all, the manuscript will be submitted after the entire job is done.
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- Present surroundings information only as desirable in order hold up a situation. The reviewer does not desire to read the whole thing you know about a topic.
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- As always, give awareness to spelling, simplicity and correctness of sentences and phrases.

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- Explain materials individually only if the study is so complex that it saves liberty this way.
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- Do not take in frequently found.
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- Materials may be reported in a part section or else they may be recognized along with your measures.

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- Report the method (not particulars of each process that engaged the same methodology)
- Describe the method entirely
- To be succinct, present methods under headings dedicated to specific dealings or groups of measures
- Simplify - details how procedures were completed not how they were exclusively performed on a particular day.
- If well known procedures were used, account the procedure by name, possibly with reference, and that's all.

Approach:

- It is embarrassed or not possible to use vigorous voice when documenting methods with no using first person, which would focus the reviewer's interest on the researcher rather than the job. As a result when script up the methods most authors use third person passive voice.
- Use standard style in this and in every other part of the paper - avoid familiar lists, and use full sentences.

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- Resources and methods are not a set of information.
- Skip all descriptive information and surroundings - save it for the argument.
- Leave out information that is immaterial to a third party.

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The principle of a results segment is to present and demonstrate your conclusion. Create this part a entirely objective details of the outcome, and save all understanding for the discussion.

The page length of this segment is set by the sum and types of data to be reported. Carry on to be to the point, by means of statistics and tables, if suitable, to present consequences most efficiently. You must obviously differentiate material that would usually be incorporated in a study editorial from any unprocessed data or additional appendix matter that would not be available. In fact, such matter should not be submitted at all except requested by the instructor.



Content

- Sum up your conclusion in text and demonstrate them, if suitable, with figures and tables.
- In manuscript, explain each of your consequences, point the reader to remarks that are most appropriate.
- Present a background, such as by describing the question that was addressed by creation an exacting study.
- Explain results of control experiments and comprise remarks that are not accessible in a prescribed figure or table, if appropriate.
- Examine your data, then prepare the analyzed (transformed) data in the form of a figure (graph), table, or in manuscript form.

What to stay away from

- Do not discuss or infer your outcome, report surroundings information, or try to explain anything.
- Not at all, take in raw data or intermediate calculations in a research manuscript.
- Do not present the similar data more than once.
- Manuscript should complement any figures or tables, not duplicate the identical information.
- Never confuse figures with tables - there is a difference.

Approach

- As forever, use past tense when you submit to your results, and put the whole thing in a reasonable order.
- Put figures and tables, appropriately numbered, in order at the end of the report
- If you desire, you may place your figures and tables properly within the text of your results part.

Figures and tables

- If you put figures and tables at the end of the details, make certain that they are visibly distinguished from any attach appendix materials, such as raw facts
- Despite of position, each figure must be numbered one after the other and complete with subtitle
- In spite of position, each table must be titled, numbered one after the other and complete with heading
- All figure and table must be adequately complete that it could situate on its own, divide from text

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- Make a decision if each premise is supported, discarded, or if you cannot make a conclusion with assurance. Do not just dismiss a study or part of a study as "uncertain."
- Research papers are not acknowledged if the work is imperfect. Draw what conclusions you can based upon the results that you have, and take care of the study as a finished work
- You may propose future guidelines, such as how the experiment might be personalized to accomplish a new idea.
- Give details all of your remarks as much as possible, focus on mechanisms.
- Make a decision if the tentative design sufficiently addressed the theory, and whether or not it was correctly restricted.
- Try to present substitute explanations if sensible alternatives be present.
- One research will not counter an overall question, so maintain the large picture in mind, where do you go next? The best studies unlock new avenues of study. What questions remain?
- Recommendations for detailed papers will offer supplementary suggestions.

Approach:

- When you refer to information, differentiate data generated by your own studies from available information
- Submit to work done by specific persons (including you) in past tense.
- Submit to generally acknowledged facts and main beliefs in present tense.



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