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A Study on Sources of Cytoplasmic Genetic Male Sterility, Heterosis, and Combining Ability in Pearl Millet

# A Study on Sources of Cytoplasmic Genetic Male Sterility, Heterosis, and Combining Ability in Pearl Millet

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## Abstract

Because of its great genetic diversity and the availability of an effective cytoplasmic genetic male sterility system, pearl millet has been a popular crop in recent years. Due to the protogynous character of its flowers; Pearl millet is a highly cross-pollinated crop with an out crossing extent of more than 85%, making it very heterozygous and diverse. The authors of this work investigate the genetic bases for male sterility, heterosis, and combining ability in pearl millet by looking at its cytoplasm.

**Keywords:** Pearl Millet, Male Sterility, Heterosis, Combining Ability.

**Tob Regul Sci.™ 2021;7(4): 510-532**

**DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52783/trs.v7i4.1306>**

## 1. Introduction

When it comes to warm-season cereal crops, pearl millet has the highest drought tolerance. Millions of people who live in areas with unpredictable rainfall and nutrient-poor soil rely on it as a staple food grain and a source of feed, fodder, and food. The efficient utilisation of soil moisture and greater degree of heat tolerance than sorghum and maize make it the sole acceptable and effective crop for dry and semiarid tropic environments. Farmers choose this crop not just out of personal preference, but also out of economic need . Nutritionally, pearl millet outshines both sorghum and wheat in terms of protein, fat, calcium, phosphorus, and iron.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to its use as a food crop, pearl millet is grown as a green fodder crop in certain areas. Green feed is preferred over sorghum because it has no HCN. Pearl millet is an essential cereal crop because of its adaptive and nutritional qualities, as well as its production potential, which may help mitigate the effects of climate change, water scarcity, land degradation, and food-related health problems.<sup>2-3</sup>

Improving yield and its associated qualities in every crop requires the recombination of numerous desired features spread out across different distinct genotypes. Methods like Mahalanobis's D2 statistics for analysing genetic diversity in a population have been shown to be beneficial. It has been shown that offspring of genetically heterogeneous parents have the best possible probability of being isolated from their strays.<sup>4-5</sup>

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It helps find the most promising recombinants in the populations. The purpose of this research is to examine the genetic variety of the samples. Understanding the genetic structure of pearl millet and the anticipated prepotency of parents in hybrid combinations is essential for developing a successful heterosis breeding scheme.<sup>6-8</sup>

Hybrid breeding does not provide desirable outcomes when selection is based only on phenotypic performance. Therefore, research into the combined abilities of prospective parents is crucial. There are a number of biometric methods now in use for assessing cognitive abilities, including the parents' combined capacity to select for heterosis in breeding is often investigated via line x tester analysis. It helps to establish the worth of source populations and the best practises for implementing a crop improvement strategy. Having this information will aid with the commercialisation of heterosis.<sup>9-10</sup>

## 2. Material And Methods

### • Experiment-I

Assessing the potential of germplasm to reverse cytoplasmic male sterility in a variety of animal and plant species.

Three isonuclear female parents were obtained from the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Patancheru, India, and 50 eliterestorers were developed at the in-house Pearl millet breeding programme at Nuziveeduseeds in Hyderabad, India, for this study.

### Crossing Programme

The 2014 kharif and rabi seasons were used for the crossover project. In order to ensure that there would be enough seeds, sowings of the parents were staggered. For each of the three CMS sources (A1, A4, and A5), and fifty hybrids were created.

In 2015's summer and kharif, farmers sowed 150 hybrid seeds (50 from each of three different cytoplasm). The hybrids were planted in a single 4-meter-long row with 15-centimeter-wide intra-row and 50-centimeter-wide inter-row gaps. The whole set of best practices was implemented.

### Collection of data

Prior to blooming, we self-fed five plants in each condition using parchment paper bags, and we utilized the same plants to make the following observations.

### Plant height (cm)

The mature height of a plant was measured from the soil line to the top of the main stem in centimetres (cm).

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### Percentage of seed setting

When the seeds were mature, they were counted as a proportion of the total number of spikelets in the ear head.

Distance between clusters  $i$  and  $j$ , shown by the notation " $D_{ij}$ ," is the sum of the squares of all conceivable combinations ( $n_{ij}$ ) of the cluster  $i$  and  $j$ 's elements.

$n_i$  = number includes  $i$  entries

$n_j$  = entry count includes  $j$

- **Experiment 2**

Studies on Combining Ability and Heterosis

The line x tester analysis was used to determine heterosis and combining capacity.

### Material

The purpose of this study was twofold: (1) to determine the impact of various cytoplasmic quantitative characteristics, and (2) to investigate the use of several sources of male sterility in the creation of hybrids. There were a total of 3 females and 50 males used in this investigation. Females were derived from three male sterile lines (A1, A4, and A5) that represented distinct cytoplasmic backgrounds against the nuclear background of Tift 23A and had a wide range of dissimilar characteristics. In order to restore fertility, each of these three female parents were crossed with 50 pollen parents with genetic heterogeneity. In Tables 1 and 2, we see a complete breakdown of the parental setup. The experimental material consisted of 150 F1s, 53 parent, and 50 male parents from a crossing programme conducted in Kharif, Rabi, and the summer of 2014 in LxTashion.

### Method

During kharif 2015, a RBD with three replicates was used to conduct an experiment with 150 F1s, 53 parents, and 86M64 checks. Each entry's seed was planted in a 4-meter-long row. The distance between rows was 50 cm, and there was 15 cm between individual rows. The parents grew up on an adjacent block. Only the hybrids (F1) and their parents were randomly assigned. The crop was grown using the recommended package of practices. Operations for weed control, cross-cultural work, and plant protection were performed as required.

### Collection of data

Five competing plants each replication were randomly labelled, and their performance was recorded. The parameters given in the preceding experiment were used to calculate treatment means for these plants.

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### Combining ability

The Line x Tester approach proposed by Arunachalam (1989) and Kempthorne (1957) was used to calculate the combining ability variances necessary for testing the combining ability impacts of parents (gca) and crosses (sca).

The following mathematical model was used in the analysis:

$$Y_{ijk} = \mu + m_i + f_j + S_{ij} + e_{ijk}$$

Where,

$\mu$  = population mean

$m_i$  = Impact of the Father Gene on Offspring

$f_j$  = gca effect to  $f_j$  th (female) parent

$S_{ij}$  = gca of  $(i \times j)$ th cross

$e_{ijk}$  = Error-Prone Randomness Associated with the  $(ij)$ th Observation  $(k)$ th.

For both hybrids and their parents, we performed an RBD study of cross-pollination using a Line x Tester analysis.

- **Anova for Combining Ability**

### Combiningability

The following effects were computed using a two-way table of lines versus testers, with each figure representing the combined results of all three tests..

$$\mu = x_{...} / ltr$$

$$g_i = x_{i..} / tr - x_{...} / ltr$$

$$g_j = x_{.j} / ltr - x_{...} / ltr$$

$$S_{ij} = x_{ij} / r - x_{i..} / tr - x_{.j} / lt + x_{...} / ltr$$

$x$  = Hybrid Number

$x_{i..}$  = Total number of females on the internet

$x_{.j}$  = the sum of all male  $j$ -testers

$x_{ij}$  = The  $ij$ th possible permutation

$l$  = Amount of broadcast lines

$t$  = Number of tester

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r= uantity of Repeatations

### Estimated standard deviations

The following formula was used to determine the uncertainties in the estimations.

The square root of the variances is the standard error of the estimations.

$$S.E.(gca \text{ forline}) = (M_4/rt)^{1/2}$$

$$S.E.(gca \text{ for tester}) = (M_4/rl)^{1/2}$$

$$S.E. (sca \text{ effect}) = (M_4/t)^{1/2}$$

Where,

$M_4$  =error variance

r = replication

l =lines

t=testers

Standard errors were multiplied by the table 't' value at the 5% and 1% probability levels for error degrees of freedom to determine the important differences.

### Estimation of heterosis

It was determined how much heterosis there was in comparison to the check value, the better parent, and the average parent. These were determined by comparing the values of the F1 to those of the MP, BP, and Ch using the formulas developed by Turner (1953) and Hayes et al. (1955).

(a) Heterosis over midparent ( $H_1$ )

$$\% H_1 = \frac{\overline{F_1} - \overline{MP}}{\overline{MP}} \times 100$$

(b) Heterosis over better parent ( $H_2$ )

$$\% H_2 = \frac{\overline{F_1} - \overline{BP}}{\overline{BP}} \times 100$$

(c) Heterosis over check ( $H_3$ )

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$$\% H_3 = \frac{\overline{F_1 - \text{Check}}}{\text{Check}}$$

### 3. Results

#### • Investigations on the Genotype-Specific Reproductive Response to Multiple Cytoplasmic Male Sterility Systems

Thirty elite genotypes were tested for their potential to reverse male sterility caused by three different kinds of cytoplasm (A1, A4, and A5). The proportion of seeds produced by F1 plants when selfed was used as the primary criterion for evaluating restoration potential; the results are shown in Table 3. The achieved outcomes are summarised below.

#### 1. Percentage of seeds that are set depends on the season.

##### Hybrids based on A1 cytoplasm

There were 32 hybrids with a high seed setting percentage (>90%), 6 hybrids with a high seed setting percentage (>80%), 5 hybrids with a decent seed setting percentage (>60%), and 7 F1's with an inadequate seed setting percentage (60%). Restoration on the A1 cytoplasmic source was shown for 86% of genotypes. The average seed set value disclosed by distinct fertile F1's was computed, and it was found to be 85.04 percent of 50 fertile F1's during the inkharif season (as opposed to the summer, when it was only 79.88 percent). Over the course of two seasons, 82.46 percent of seed sets delivered viable F1 offspring.

There was a large variation in the amount of seed set on A1 cytoplasm from one restorer to the next, both within each season and between seasons. Some genotypes as well as some others, exhibited greater values of seed set % throughout two seasons. In general, kharif has a greater seed set than summer.

##### A4 cytoplasm based hybrids

Thirty different genotypes had seed set on a self-pollinated panicle, with 24 hybrids recording above 60% and 6 hybrids recording less than 60%.

On A4 male infertility sources, only 48% of genotypes were shown to be effective restorers. No seeds were formed in twenty different hybrids. 50 viable hybrids had a higher mean seed set percentage during kharif (82.63 percent) than during summer (74.93 percent). Over the course of two growing seasons, the average seed set disclosed by fertile F1's was 78.77 percent.

In hybrids developed from the NB525 and NB600 pollen sources, the highest documented seed set was 99.12 percent during the kharif season and 92.15 percent during the summer, respectively.

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A5cytoplasmbasedhybrids

On A5 cytoplasm, 19 of the 30 genotypes demonstrated seed set, with 14 showing more than 60% seed setting. There were 31 items with a maintainer reply. In all, 28% of the genotypes were effective restorers. The average percentage of seeds that 19 fertileF1s produced during kharif was 76.83 percent and during summer it was 68.61 percent. Over the course of two growing seasons, the average seed yield from fertileF1s was 72.71 percent.

Table 1: The proportion of F1 hybrids developed from CMS lines that set seed

| Sl. No. | FemaleParent | A1     |        |       |        | A4     |       |        |        | A5    |  |
|---------|--------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--|
|         | Season       | Kharif | Summer | Mea n | Kharif | Summer | Mea n | Kharif | Summer | Mea n |  |
|         | MaleParent   |        |        |       |        |        |       |        |        |       |  |
| 1       | NB 525       | 97.70  | 93.40  | 95.55 | 99.12  | 88.23  | 93.68 | -      | -      | -     |  |
| 2       | NB 526       | 93.09  | 82.95  | 88.02 | 97.33  | 89.93  | 93.63 | -      | -      | -     |  |
| 3       | NB 527       | 96.67  | 89.90  | 93.28 | 95.13  | 88.93  | 92.03 | -      | -      | -     |  |
| 4       | NB 528       | 97.40  | 94.21  | 95.80 | 98.70  | 89.76  | 94.23 | -      | -      | -     |  |
| 5       | NB 530       | 96.67  | 93.40  | 95.03 | 96.05  | 92.05  | 94.05 | 93.70  | 80.15  | 86.92 |  |
| 6       | NB 580       | 93.79  | 83.71  | 88.75 | -      | -      | -     | -      | -      | -     |  |
| 7       | NB 590       | 20.73  | 10.53  | 15.63 | -      | -      | -     | -      | -      | -     |  |
| 8       | NB 595       | 74.11  | 63.91  | 69.01 | -      | -      | -     | -      | -      | -     |  |
| 9       | NB 600       | 87.86  | 80.05  | 83.96 | -      | -      | -     | -      | -      | -     |  |

The A5 cytoplasm restorers varied in the proportion of seeds they were able to establish. In contrast to A4 and A5, the percentage of lines recovering fertility on A1 was higher in a comparison of seed-setting observations recorded on different cytoplasm. Overall, 45 were successful on A1 cytoplasm, 24 on A4, and 14 on A5 cytoplasm out of a total of 30 genotypes. Regardless of cytoplasmic sources or restorer genotypes, the average seed set % was highest during the kharif season.

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- Effect of season on other plant characters

### Plant height

Different A1-based hybrids reached different maximum heights depending on the season: in kharif, 173.0 cm (A1 x NB789, A1 x NB782) to 246 cm (A1 x NB670), and in summer, 165 cm (A1 x NB789) to 263 cm (A1 x NB737). In terms of average length, the height in kharif was 203 cm and the summer was 193 cm. The average was 198 cm.

The summer height range for A4 cytoplasm-based plants was 91 cm (A4 x NB612) to 274 cm (A4 x NB590), while the kharif range was 166 cm (A4 x NB803) to 231 cm (A4 x NB747). The mean plant height during kharif and summer was 194 cm and 179 cm respectively. The average (over both seasons) was 187 cm. In the kharif season, A5 x NB627 and A4 x NB580 produced plants that reached a height of 151 cm, whereas in the summer, A5 x NB527 produced a plant that reached a height of 249 cm. Plants grew an average of 198 centimetres tall during kharif, compared to 186 centimetres during summer. The average height over the course of two seasons was 192 cm.

**Table 2: Evaluation of the F<sub>1</sub> hybrids derived from CMS lines for plant height**

| Sr. No. | Female Parent | A1     |        |      | A4     |        |      | A5     |        |      |
|---------|---------------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|------|
|         | Season        | Kharif | Summer | Mean | Kharif | Summer | Mean | Kharif | Summer | Mean |
|         | Male Parent   |        |        |      |        |        |      |        |        |      |
| 1       | NB 525        | 210    | 198    | 204  | 189    | 177    | 183  | 216    | 205    | 211  |
| 2       | NB 526        | 210    | 194    | 202  | 209    | 193    | 201  | 231    | 214    | 223  |
| 3       | NB 527        | 220    | 208    | 214  | 210    | 190    | 200  | 249    | 233    | 241  |
| 4       | NB 528        | 235    | 224    | 230  | 213    | 199    | 206  | 246    | 235    | 241  |
| 5       | NB 530        | 230    | 225    | 228  | 203    | 191    | 197  | 236    | 225    | 231  |
| 6       | NB 580        | 193    | 177    | 185  | 183    | 170    | 177  | 151    | 140    | 146  |
| 7       | NB 590        | 208    | 202    | 205  | 193    | 274    | 234  | 186    | 175    | 181  |
| 8       | NB 595        | 197    | 188    | 193  | 185    | 169    | 177  | 211    | 200    | 206  |
| 9       | NB 600        | 193    | 182    | 188  | 201    | 190    | 196  | 196    | 190    | 193  |



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|    |        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 10 | NB 611 | 200 | 193 | 197 | 210 | 190 | 200 | 200 | 188 | 194 |
| 11 | NB 612 | 220 | 200 | 210 | 200 | 91  | 146 | 201 | 182 | 192 |
| 12 | NB 614 | 207 | 199 | 203 | 204 | 192 | 198 | 201 | 195 | 198 |
| 13 | NB 616 | 212 | 201 | 207 | 200 | 189 | 195 | 196 | 183 | 190 |
| 14 | NB 619 | 205 | 200 | 203 | 200 | 180 | 190 | 191 | 183 | 187 |
| 15 | NB 624 | 218 | 209 | 214 | 220 | 204 | 212 | 196 | 181 | 189 |
| 16 | NB 627 | 203 | 194 | 199 | 180 | 169 | 175 | 151 | 131 | 141 |
| 17 | NB 645 | 185 | 178 | 182 | 201 | 180 | 191 | 211 | 200 | 206 |
| 18 | NB 647 | 242 | 226 | 234 | 210 | 190 | 200 | 211 | 199 | 205 |
| 19 | NB 648 | 197 | 184 | 191 | 208 | 189 | 199 | 206 | 197 | 202 |
| 20 | NB 652 | 184 | 175 | 180 | 197 | 185 | 191 | 216 | 208 | 212 |
| 21 | NB653  | 213 | 206 | 210 | 204 | 189 | 197 | 196 | 175 | 186 |
| 22 | NB 654 | 203 | 191 | 197 | 189 | 177 | 183 | 196 | 187 | 192 |
| 23 | NB 656 | 212 | 203 | 208 | 200 | 179 | 190 | 206 | 194 | 200 |
| 24 | NB 657 | 234 | 228 | 231 | 201 | 189 | 195 | 191 | 179 | 185 |
| 25 | NB 667 | 204 | 192 | 198 | 220 | 206 | 213 | 181 | 176 | 179 |
| 26 | NB 670 | 246 | 229 | 238 | 189 | 177 | 183 | 191 | 177 | 184 |
| 27 | NB 693 | 191 | 171 | 181 | 186 | 167 | 177 | 194 | 181 | 188 |
| 28 | NB 714 | 183 | 170 | 177 | 179 | 163 | 171 | 186 | 181 | 184 |
| 29 | NB 717 | 191 | 198 | 195 | 175 | 162 | 169 | 211 | 195 | 203 |
| 30 | NB 718 | 200 | 186 | 193 | 184 | 188 | 186 | 206 | 194 | 200 |
| 31 | NB 720 | 196 | 185 | 191 | 191 | 180 | 186 | 186 | 174 | 180 |
| 32 | NB 732 | 198 | 187 | 193 | 201 | 190 | 196 | 191 | 184 | 188 |
| 33 | NB 733 | 231 | 223 | 227 | 221 | 210 | 216 | 229 | 209 | 219 |
| 34 | NB 734 | 186 | 174 | 180 | 186 | 175 | 181 | 226 | 210 | 218 |

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|    | Source of Variations |      |       | df   | Days to Maturity | Plant height |      |      | Plant height |      |
|----|----------------------|------|-------|------|------------------|--------------|------|------|--------------|------|
|    |                      |      |       |      |                  |              |      |      |              |      |
| 35 | NB 737               | 221  | 263   | 242  | 221              | 204          | 213  | 216  | 196          | 206  |
| 36 | NB 747               | 192  | 184   | 188  | 231              | 211          | 221  | 191  | 184          | 188  |
| 37 | NB 782               | 173  | 167   | 170  | 196              | 176          | 186  | 181  | 169          | 175  |
| 38 | NB 785               | 197  | 185   | 191  | 192              | 177          | 185  | 206  | 193          | 200  |
| 39 | NB 788               | 183  | 171   | 177  | 171              | 160          | 166  | 176  | 164          | 170  |
| 40 | NB 789               | 173  | 165   | 169  | 186              | 172          | 179  | 171  | 164          | 168  |
| 41 | NB 797               | 210  | 199   | 205  | 166              | 155          | 161  | 186  | 170          | 178  |
| 42 | NB 799               | 214  | 202   | 208  | 181              | 162          | 172  | 191  | 180          | 186  |
| 43 | NB 803               | 194  | 177   | 186  | 166              | 145          | 156  | 176  | 160          | 168  |
| 44 | NB 805               | 204  | 184   | 194  | 171              | 159          | 165  | 183  | 171          | 177  |
| 45 | NB 809               | 183  | 167   | 175  | 166              | 149          | 158  | 200  | 180          | 190  |
| 46 | NB 812               | 185  | 174   | 180  | 189              | 176          | 183  | 192  | 186          | 189  |
| 47 | NB 815               | 182  | 171   | 177  | 171              | 159          | 165  | 176  | 167          | 172  |
| 48 | NB 816               | 192  | 187   | 190  | 196              | 185          | 191  | 221  | 210          | 216  |
| 49 | NB 826               | 189  | 180   | 185  | 181              | 166          | 174  | 181  | 169          | 175  |
| 50 | NB 827               | 192  | 180   | 186  | 166              | 150          | 158  | 181  | 172          | 177  |
|    | Mean                 | 203  | 193   | 198  | 194              | 179          | 187  | 198  | 186          | 192  |
|    | SD                   | 17.2 | 19.94 | 18.1 | 16.1             | 24.31        | 18.1 | 20.4 | 20.09        | 20.1 |
|    |                      | 8    |       | 3    | 7                |              | 5    | 8    |              | 8    |

• Variance analysis

Character variance analysis

Table 3 displays the results of a statistical analysis of variation for 53 parental and 150 hybrid samples. There was a large amount of genetic diversity and difference between the entries, as seen

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|                    |     |         |           |       |
|--------------------|-----|---------|-----------|-------|
| Replicates         | 2   | 15.45   | 23.86     | 1.05  |
| Treatments         | 202 | 69.82   | 2813.86   | 1.06  |
| Parents            | 52  | 78.07   | 1075.33   | 1.90  |
| Line               | 2   | 2.12    | 573.38    | 0.86  |
| Testers            | 49  | 64.58   | 1070.84   | 1.65  |
| Lines vs Testers   | 1   | 890.86  | 2299.30   | 16.31 |
| Parents vs Crosses | 1   | 6253.14 | 369740.18 | 0.29  |
| Crosses            | 149 | 25.44   | 958.01    | 0.77  |
| Line Effect        | 2   | 430.89  | 2599.81   | 7.90  |
| Tester Effect      | 49  | 34.41   | 1721.88   | 0.95  |
| Line x Tester Eff. | 98  | 12.68   | 542.56    | 0.53  |
| Error              | 404 | 0.16    | 0.6       | 0.82  |

the large amount of variance observed between the treatments. Except for 1000-grain weight, all other characteristics showed statistically significant variation across lines, testers, crosses, lines vs. testers, and parents vs. crosses.

#### Analysis of variance for combining ability

Except for the influence on grain production, all other characteristics in the analysis of variance for combining ability showed statistically significant differences. All of the characters investigated had statistically significant interaction effects.

#### Table 3: Nine characteristics of pearl millet were compared between the parents and the F1 hybrids

The results of integrating ability estimations of variances for several attributes. Non-additive genes had a role in all nine investigated traits, since the SCA variance was larger than the GCA variance. For all variables included in this analysis, dominance variance (2D) was shown to be larger than additive genetic variance (2A).

- **Combining ability effects (gcaandsca)**

Three lines and fifty testers' general combining ability (gca) effects and the specific combining ability (sca) impacts of 150 crossings across nine qualities are shown in tables. The effects of gca

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and sca are briefly described (in character order) below.

### Days to maturity

Lines with cytoplasm derived from A1 or A4 exhibited a negative gcaeffect, whereas lines derived from A5 showed a positive one. There was a statistically significant negative gcaeffect for NB580, NB590, NB670, NB718 and NB803, whereas a positive gcaeffect was seen for NB527, NB526, NB528 and NB619. 26 of the 50 tests found significant positive results, whereas 24 found significant negative results. Significant negative scaeffects for days to maturity were found in 23 crosses from the A1, 17 from the A4, and 21 from the A5 source. The most negative scaeffects were seen in the crosses ICMA05666 x NB619 (-5.78), ICMA07999 x NB667 (-4.73), ICMA05666 x NB530 (-3.68), and ICMA05666 x NB624 (-3.57).

### Plant height

Both the A1 and A4 cytoplasmic origins were positively associated with gca effects across all three lineages. When comparing to A4 sources, a negative gcaeffect was found. Fifty participants were tested, and twenty-five showed a significant positive gcaeffect and twenty-five showed a significant negative gcaeffect. The significant gcaeffect varied from - 22.95 (NB580) to 32.26 (NB528) percentage points among the test subjects. Good general-purpose testers were determined to be testers NB528, NB527, NB733, NB647, NB530, and NB526.

A statistically significant scaeffect was found in 117 out of 150 crossings. Twenty A1 crossovers, twenty-seven A4 crosses, and seventeen A5 crosses showed statistically significant positive scaeffects. The most favourable scaeffect (32.28) was found in the cross ICMA 99444 x NB670. The cross ICMA07999 x NB627 had the largest negative sca impact (-28.45) and was thus the worst particular combining cross.

### Productive tillers per plant

A1 had the most negative gcaeffect (-0.26) out of the three cytoplasmically different male sterile sources, whereas A4 and A5 had the largest positive gcaeffects (0.15 and 0.10). Twenty-two of the fifty testers showed a significant positive gca impact, whereas twenty-eight showed a significant negative gca effect. NB734 had the highest gcaeffect (0.74), whereas NB805 had the lowest (-0.74).

Twenty-two different cross combinations yielded statistically significant positive scaeffects for this character, eight of which included crossing A1 and A4, and six of which involved crossing A5. The greatest values were found in the CMA07999 x NB816 cross and the ICMA07999 x NB797 cross.

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Table 4: Pearl millet sca affects for nine character types over 30 crossings

| Crosses            | Days to Maturity | Plant height | Plant height |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1.ICMA99444xNB525  | -0.362           | -0.38        | 0.097        |
| 2.ICMA99444xNB526  | -0.582           | -6.490       | -0.126       |
| 3.ICMA99444xNB527  | -1.026           | -12.933      | 0.097        |
| 4.ICMA99444xNB528  | -1.696           | 1.957        | -0.292       |
| 5.ICMA99444xNB530  | 0.088            | 1.400        | 0.152        |
| 6.ICMA99444xNB580  | 0.304            | 13.177       | 0.374        |
| 7.ICMA99444xNB590  | 1.414            | 5.733        | 0.430        |
| 8.ICMA99444xNB595  | -0.142           | -4.603       | -0.181       |
| 9.ICMA99444xNB600  | -0.029           | -8.603       | -0.403       |
| 10.ICMA99444xNB611 | 0.088            | -7.827       | 0.430        |
| 11.ICMA99444xNB612 | -1.029           | 3.400        | -0.237       |
| 12.ICMA99444xNB614 | -0.472           | -2.823       | 0.486        |
| 13.ICMA99444xNB616 | -1.696           | 3.400        | 0.041        |
| 14.ICMA99444xNB619 | 1.304            | 8.397        | 0.041        |
| 15.ICMA99444xNB624 | -0.802           | 8.507        | -0.014       |
| 16.ICMA99444xNB627 | -0.359           | 21.950       | -0.348       |
| 17.ICMA99444xNB645 | -1.249           | -18.827      | 0.541        |
| 18.ICMA99444xNB647 | -1.476           | 18.290       | -0.07        |
| 19.ICMA99444xNB648 | -1.579           | -12.600      | 0.319        |
| 20.ICMA99444xNB652 | -1.136           | -13.160      | -0.07        |
| 21.ICMA99444xNB653 | -1.472           | 4.173        | -0.181       |
| 22.ICMA99444xNB654 | 0.861            | 5.287        | -0.292       |

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|                    |        |         |        |
|--------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| 23.ICMA99444xNB656 | 3.084  | 2.400   | -0.07  |
| 24.ICMA99444xNB657 | 2.754  | 20.060  | 0.263  |
| 25.ICMA99444xNB667 | 3.751  | 1.620   | 0.152  |
| 26.ICMA99444xNB670 | 1.974  | 32.287  | 0.041  |
| 27.ICMA99444xNB693 | -0.469 | -8.713  | 0.263  |
| 28.ICMA99444xNB714 | -0.139 | -4.710  | 0.263  |
| 29.ICMA99444xNB717 | 0.084  | 9.177   | -0.403 |
| 30.ICMA99444xNB718 | 1.311  | -12.380 | -0.403 |

• **Heterosis Studies**

Tables show the results of the thirty hybrids in comparison to the average parental value (standard heterosis), the superior parental value (heterobeltiosis), and the mid-parental value (relative heterosis). Below is a summary, organised by trait, of the character-altering effects of heterosis.

**Days to maturity**

Fifty hybrids were produced from each source, and substantial negative heterosis over MP for early maturity was seen in 43 hybrids from A1, 45 hybrids from A4, and 26 hybrids from A5. Source A4 (ICMA05666 x NB619) -12.69 and A1 (ICMA99444 x NB816) -9.38 were found to have very substantial and negative mid parent heterosis. Mid-parent heterosis was negative and statistically significant across all three sources in crosses when NB816 pollen parents were used. Heterosis performance was best on an A4 source (-4.81), next A1 (-3.89), and finally A5 (-1.28).

**Table5: Percentage of heterosis predicted for days until maturity**

| Crosses             | M<br>P        | B<br>P   | Ch<br>eck     | Crosses             | M<br>P        | B<br>P   | Ch<br>eck     | Crosses             | MP        | B<br>P   | Ch<br>eck     |
|---------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB525 | -<br>2.<br>00 | 5.<br>58 | -<br>1.6<br>0 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB670 | -<br>3.<br>46 | 1.<br>72 | -<br>5.2<br>0 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB525 | -<br>5.03 | 3.<br>51 | -<br>5.5<br>9 |
| ICMA9944            | -             | 6.       | -             | ICMA9944            | -             | -        | -             | ICMA0566            | -         | 7.       | -             |

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|                     |       |       |       |                     |       |       |       |                     |        |       |        |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| 4xNB526             | 4.25  | 44    | 0.79  | 4xNB693             | 5.33  | 0.86  | 7.60  | 6xNB526             | 4.48   | 46    | 1.99   |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB527 | -4.05 | 6.87  | -0.4  | ICMA9944<br>4xNB714 | -3.11 | 0.43  | -6.40 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB527 | -4.28  | 7.89  | -1.60  |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB528 | -3.56 | 4.72  | -2.40 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB717 | -5.39 | 1.72  | -5.20 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB528 | -2.19  | 7.46  | -1.99  |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB530 | -4.29 | 5.15  | -1.99 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB718 | -7.54 | 0.00  | -6.79 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB530 | -9.67  | 0.43  | -8.40  |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB580 | -3.80 | -2.14 | -8.80 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB720 | -5.35 | -1.28 | -7.99 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB580 | -3.19  | -0.43 | -9.19  |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB590 | -6.46 | -0.43 | -7.20 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB732 | -1.78 | 6.87  | -0.4  | ICMA0566<br>6xNB590 | -12.42 | -5.70 | -13.99 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB595 | -4.67 | 0.85  | -6.00 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB733 | -5.09 | 3.87  | -3.19 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB595 | -5.74  | 0.88  | -7.99  |

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|                     |               |               |               |                     |               |               |               |                     |                |               |               |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB600 | -<br>4.<br>09 | 0.<br>85      | -<br>6.0<br>0 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB734 | 1.<br>73      | 2.<br>17      | -<br>5.5<br>9 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB600 | -<br>6.81      | -<br>0.<br>88 | -<br>9.6<br>0 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB611 | -<br>5.<br>28 | 0.<br>01      | -<br>6.7<br>9 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB737 | -<br>3.<br>51 | 0.<br>43      | -<br>6.4<br>0 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB611 | -<br>5.13      | 1.<br>31      | -<br>7.6<br>0 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB612 | -<br>5.<br>79 | -<br>2.<br>14 | -<br>8.8<br>0 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB747 | -<br>2.<br>77 | 5.<br>15      | -<br>1.9<br>9 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB612 | -<br>3.96      | 0.<br>88      | -<br>7.9<br>9 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB614 | -<br>8.<br>13 | -<br>0.<br>43 | -<br>7.2<br>0 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB782 | -<br>2.<br>95 | -<br>1.<br>28 | -<br>7.9<br>9 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB614 | -<br>7.60      | 1.<br>31      | -<br>7.6<br>0 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB616 | -<br>3.<br>10 | 0.<br>85      | -<br>6.0<br>0 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB785 | -<br>1.<br>00 | 6.<br>87      | -<br>0.4      | ICMA0566<br>6xNB616 | 0.84           | 6.<br>14      | -<br>3.1<br>9 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB619 | -<br>3.<br>62 | 8.<br>58      | 1.2<br>0      | ICMA9944<br>4xNB788 | -<br>2.<br>90 | 0.<br>85      | -<br>6.0<br>0 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB619 | -<br>12.6<br>9 | -<br>0.<br>43 | -<br>9.1<br>9 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB624 | -<br>4.<br>40 | 2.<br>58      | -<br>4.3<br>9 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB789 | -<br>4.<br>01 | -<br>2.<br>57 | -<br>9.1<br>9 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB624 | -<br>8.69      | -<br>0.<br>88 | -<br>9.6<br>0 |



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|                     |               |               |               |                     |               |               |               |                     |           |          |               |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB627 | -<br>5.<br>20 | -<br>2.<br>14 | -<br>8.8<br>0 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB797 | 0.<br>21      | 2.<br>58      | -<br>4.3<br>9 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB627 | -<br>4.20 | 0.<br>00 | -<br>8.8<br>0 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB645 | -<br>6.<br>29 | -<br>0.<br>86 | -<br>7.6<br>0 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB799 | -<br>4.<br>09 | 0.<br>85      | -<br>6.0<br>0 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB645 | -<br>5.74 | 0.<br>88 | -<br>7.9<br>9 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB647 | -<br>5.<br>82 | 0.<br>85      | -<br>6.0<br>0 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB803 | -<br>5.<br>52 | -<br>0.<br>86 | -<br>7.6<br>0 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB647 | -<br>5.67 | 2.<br>20 | -<br>6.7<br>9 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB648 | -<br>5.<br>78 | 1.<br>30      | -<br>5.5<br>9 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB805 | -<br>5.<br>33 | -<br>0.<br>86 | -<br>7.6<br>0 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB648 | -<br>4.43 | 3.<br>95 | -<br>5.2<br>0 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB652 | -<br>5.<br>09 | 0.<br>00      | -<br>6.7<br>9 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB809 | -<br>0.<br>21 | 1.<br>72      | -<br>5.2<br>0 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB652 | -<br>5.35 | 0.<br>88 | -<br>7.9<br>9 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB653 | -<br>7.<br>33 | 0.<br>43      | -<br>6.4<br>0 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB812 | -<br>1.<br>85 | 2.<br>58      | -<br>4.3<br>9 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB653 | -<br>6.40 | 2.<br>63 | -<br>6.4<br>0 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB654 | -<br>2.<br>83 | 3.<br>43      | -<br>3.6<br>0 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB815 | -<br>1.<br>44 | 2.<br>58      | -<br>4.3<br>9 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB654 | -<br>1.84 | 5.<br>70 | -<br>3.6<br>0 |

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|                     |               |          |               |                     |               |               |               |                     |           |          |               |
|---------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB656 | 1.<br>44      | 5.<br>58 | -<br>1.6<br>0 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB816 | -<br>9.<br>38 | -<br>0.<br>43 | -<br>7.2<br>0 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB656 | -<br>5.00 | 0.<br>00 | -<br>8.8<br>0 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB657 | -<br>4.<br>56 | 7.<br>73 | 0.4<br>1      | ICMA9944<br>4xNB826 | -<br>3.<br>99 | -<br>1.<br>72 | -<br>8.4<br>0 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB657 | -<br>8.64 | 4.<br>38 | -<br>4.8<br>0 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB667 | 1.<br>20      | 8.<br>15 | 0.8<br>0      | ICMA9944<br>4xNB827 | -<br>2.<br>96 | 5.<br>58      | -<br>1.6<br>0 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB667 | -<br>3.04 | 4.<br>83 | -<br>4.3<br>9 |
|                     |               |          |               | Mean                | -<br>3.<br>89 | 1.<br>96      | -<br>4.9<br>9 |                     |           |          |               |

Midparent heterosis was found to have an extent of between -12.69 (ICMA0566A4 xNB619) and 4.22 (ICMA07999 xNB624) percent. There was considerable midparent heterosis in 36 of the 150 crossings, early maturity heterosis in 114, and late maturity heterosis in the remaining 36. Heterosis between the superior parents ranged from -16.70% (ICMA05666 x NB590) to 16.20% (ICMA07999 x NB619). Significant heterosis over check was seen in 144 crosses, while heterosis in the opposite direction was seen in 136 crosses.

### Plant height

The hybrids have considerable positive mid-parent heterosis across all three cytoplasmic sources. After A5 (ICMA07999xNB 527) and A4 (ICMA05666xNB611), the hybrid (ICMA99444xNB670) on A1 source reported positive and much increased heterosis.

Table shows that A1 (52.0) has the greatest mean mid-parent heterosis, followed by A4 (50.72) and A5 (40.03). From 9.75 percent (ICMA07999 x NB580) to 90.14 percent (ICMA99444 x NB670), the heterosis over the midparent varied. From -3.97 percent (ICMA07999xNB657) to 83.25 percent (ICMA99444 xNB670), the range of superior parents was wide. The ICMA07999 x NB527 cross showed the highest levels of heterosis (41.27 percent) compared to the gold standard check (86M64).

### Productive tillers per plant

Six hybrids exhibited strong and positive mid-parental heterosis, but 68 hybrids passed the

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conventional hybridization test, out of a total of 150 hybrids. Sources A4 (ICMA05666 x NB737) and A5 (ICMA07999 x NB627) showed quite substantial positive heterosis.

Table 6: Height heterogeneity (in %) estimate

| Crosses             | M<br>P        | BP            | Che<br>ck | Crosses             | M<br>P        | BP            | Ch<br>eck | Crosses             | M<br>P        | BP        | Che<br>ck |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB525 | 59<br>.7<br>9 | 53<br>.0<br>9 | 16.<br>32 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB670 | 90<br>.1<br>4 | 83<br>.2<br>5 | 37.<br>52 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB525 | 47<br>.5<br>4 | 36.7<br>9 | 3.9<br>4  |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB526 | 64<br>.3<br>5 | 54<br>.7<br>6 | 21.<br>95 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB693 | 35<br>.0<br>5 | 23<br>.8<br>3 | 3.3<br>8  | ICMA0566<br>6xNB526 | 62<br>.9<br>3 | 48.5<br>7 | 17.<br>07 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB527 | 76<br>.1<br>5 | 75<br>.2<br>0 | 21.<br>95 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB714 | 42<br>.1<br>6 | 37<br>.0<br>1 | 2.8<br>2  | ICMA0566<br>6xNB527 | 76<br>.7<br>2 | 71.6<br>7 | 18.<br>20 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB528 | 73<br>.3<br>8 | 58<br>.4<br>9 | 33.<br>21 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB717 | 47<br>.7<br>4 | 29<br>.8<br>0 | 19.<br>32 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB528 | 59<br>.4<br>5 | 41.3<br>0 | 18.<br>76 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB530 | 63<br>.6<br>6 | 47<br>.8<br>3 | 27.<br>58 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB718 | 37<br>.3<br>2 | 23<br>.4<br>4 | 7.6<br>9  | ICMA0566<br>6xNB530 | 49<br>.6<br>3 | 31.0<br>9 | 13.<br>13 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB580 | 49<br>.1<br>6 | 43<br>.0<br>7 | 8.4<br>4  | ICMA9944<br>4xNB720 | 35<br>.7<br>5 | 19<br>.7<br>9 | 9.0<br>1  | ICMA0566<br>6xNB580 | 46<br>.1<br>4 | 35.6<br>4 | 2.8<br>2  |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB590 | 52<br>.3<br>8 | 42<br>.3<br>9 | 14.<br>07 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB732 | 45<br>.1<br>9 | 33<br>.9<br>4 | 10.<br>32 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB590 | 46<br>.1<br>8 | 32.3<br>2 | 6.0<br>0  |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB595 | 57<br>.6<br>9 | 56<br>.6<br>5 | 10.<br>50 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB733 | 39<br>.5<br>5 | 12<br>.5<br>6 | 27.<br>77 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB595 | 52<br>.3<br>6 | 46.2<br>8 | 3.1<br>9  |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB600 | 56<br>.2<br>8 | 56<br>.0<br>6 | 8.6<br>3  | ICMA9944<br>4xNB734 | 36<br>.0<br>8 | 26<br>.7<br>5 | 2.2<br>5  | ICMA0566<br>6xNB600 | 69<br>.2<br>8 | 63.7<br>9 | 13.<br>70 |

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|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB611 | 66<br>.7<br>1 | 61<br>.9<br>9 | 12.<br>76 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB737 | 58<br>.5<br>5 | 47<br>.6<br>8 | 19.<br>14     | ICMA0566<br>6xNB611 | 82<br>.4<br>7 | 81.4<br>3 | 19.<br>14 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB612 | 60<br>.2<br>9 | 47<br>.7<br>3 | 21.<br>95 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB747 | 42<br>.8<br>2 | 33<br>.0<br>3 | 7.3<br>2      | ICMA0566<br>6xNB612 | 60<br>.3<br>1 | 43.1<br>8 | 18.<br>20 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB614 | 69<br>.5<br>6 | 68<br>.1<br>9 | 17.<br>07 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB782 | 36<br>.8<br>5 | 31<br>.1<br>1 | -<br>0.3<br>8 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB614 | 75<br>.5<br>3 | 70.9<br>5 | 17.<br>07 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB616 | 60<br>.8<br>2 | 52<br>.3<br>0 | 18.<br>58 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB785 | 51<br>.9<br>5 | 47<br>.3<br>4 | 9.1<br>9      | ICMA0566<br>6xNB616 | 57<br>.6<br>9 | 44.5<br>8 | 12.<br>57 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB619 | 59<br>.8<br>0 | 48<br>.8<br>4 | 20.<br>07 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB788 | 38<br>.6<br>8 | 31<br>.3<br>3 | 2.2<br>5      | ICMA0566<br>6xNB619 | 53<br>.3<br>5 | 38.3<br>7 | 11.<br>63 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB624 | 72<br>.9<br>3 | 68<br>.7<br>2 | 23.<br>45 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB789 | 25<br>.2<br>6 | 12<br>.7<br>1 | -<br>1.8<br>8 | ICMA0566<br>6xNB624 | 65<br>.7<br>6 | 56.4<br>1 | 14.<br>44 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB627 | 59<br>.7<br>9 | 54<br>.0<br>0 | 15.<br>57 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB797 | 45<br>.1<br>8 | 27<br>.5<br>5 | 17.<br>26     | ICMA0566<br>6xNB627 | 46<br>.1<br>2 | 36.2<br>6 | 2.2<br>5  |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB645 | 51<br>.2<br>9 | 49<br>.0<br>5 | 3.7<br>5  | ICMA9944<br>4xNB799 | 43<br>.1<br>1 | 23<br>.1<br>0 | 18.<br>95     | ICMA0566<br>6xNB645 | 70<br>.5<br>4 | 67.2<br>2 | 12.<br>95 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB647 | 78<br>.4<br>5 | 61<br>.9<br>8 | 38.<br>28 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB803 | 49<br>.4<br>8 | 43<br>.2<br>1 | 8.8<br>2      | ICMA0566<br>6xNB647 | 59<br>.8<br>0 | 40.6<br>5 | 20.<br>07 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB648 | 50<br>.1<br>9 | 44<br>.0<br>6 | 9.1<br>9  | ICMA9944<br>4xNB805 | 57<br>.7<br>0 | 52<br>.9<br>0 | 13.<br>32     | ICMA0566<br>6xNB648 | 64<br>.2<br>6 | 52.4<br>7 | 15.<br>57 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB652 | 44<br>.2<br>1 | 35<br>.0<br>5 | 7.6<br>9  | ICMA9944<br>4xNB809 | 29<br>.3<br>5 | 14<br>.2<br>6 | 3.7<br>5      | ICMA0566<br>6xNB652 | 54<br>.8<br>6 | 40.4<br>7 | 12.<br>01 |

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|                     |               |               |           |                     |               |               |           |                     |               |           |           |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB653 | 49<br>.5<br>3 | 31<br>.4<br>9 | 20.<br>64 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB812 | 42<br>.8<br>9 | 36<br>.0<br>9 | 4.6<br>9  | ICMA0566<br>6xNB653 | 48<br>.2<br>6 | 26.5<br>8 | 16.<br>13 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB654 | 70<br>.7<br>1 | 66<br>.5<br>7 | 15.<br>95 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB815 | 35<br>.2<br>4 | 25<br>.2<br>9 | 2.2<br>5  | ICMA0566<br>6xNB654 | 61<br>.3<br>7 | 59.7<br>7 | 5.8<br>2  |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB656 | 58<br>.7<br>9 | 48<br>.7<br>0 | 18.<br>58 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB816 | 23<br>.2<br>9 | 2.<br>12      | 8.2<br>5  | ICMA0566<br>6xNB656 | 56<br>.4<br>2 | 41.8<br>8 | 13.<br>13 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB657 | 44<br>.0<br>5 | 16<br>.1<br>9 | 31.<br>89 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB826 | 46<br>.8<br>3 | 44<br>.1<br>6 | 4.1<br>3  | ICMA0566<br>6xNB657 | 28<br>.5<br>0 | 0.99      | 14.<br>64 |
| ICMA9944<br>4xNB667 | 65<br>.1<br>8 | 64<br>.9<br>6 | 14.<br>82 | ICMA9944<br>4xNB827 | 48<br>.3<br>8 | 43<br>.0<br>1 | 7.3<br>2  | ICMA0566<br>6xNB667 | 78<br>.7<br>7 | 72.9<br>7 | 20.<br>07 |
|                     |               |               | -----     | Mean                | 52<br>.0      | 42<br>.2      | 13.<br>95 |                     |               | -----     | -----     |

The average of the six hybrids was much higher than the average of either parent. None of the hybrids showed a substantial heterosis in the superior parent's direction. The CMA0566xNB737 cross showed the greatest amount of heterosis (38.46 percent). Significant positive heterosis was found in 68 cross-checks.

#### Contribution of lines, tester and their interactions

In table we see the nine characters, the lines they contributed, the testers that worked on them, and the relationships between them. The findings showed that the contribution of line was highest for the number of days it took to reach 50% blooming and 100% maturity. The testers' greatest input was for the plant's height, followed by the panicle's diameter and finally its length. Panicle weight, grain production per plant, 1000 grain weight, panicle girth, and productive tiller count per plant were all significantly influenced by the L x T interaction.

Table 7: Lines', testers', and interactions' contributions

| S<br>No. | Characters                | Contributed by |             |                      |
|----------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------|
|          |                           | Lines (%)      | Testers (%) | Interaction (LxT)(%) |
| 1        | Days toMaturity           | 22.73          | 44.47       | 32.79                |
| 2        | Plantheight (cm)          | 3.64           | 59.11       | 37.25                |
| 3        | Productivetillersperplant | 13.77          | 40.59       | 45.63                |

### Conclusion

In order to increase the seed set % on various sources of male sterile lines, it was recommended that the population improvement programme be initiated based on the findings of the restoration investigations. Better 'B' and 'R' lines on various cytoplasmic sources may be created by using divergent pairings in different groups. Hybrids developed from the A4 source may be safely employed for commercial production, and the restoration development project based on the A4 source should be enhanced. Alloplasmic and isonuclear hybrids may be created by crossing common restorers on these different sources, and they can be used to study the impact of cytoplasm on different phenotypes. It is possible to test the consistency of the A4 source's productive crosses by growing them in different environments and at different times of year.

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