

# Stability analysis for grain yield and physiological traits in synthetic derived RILs population under different moisture regimes in wheat

Rahul Gajghate, Harikrishna, Dipanti Chourasiya<sup>1</sup>, P. K. Singh, Neelu Jain, S. V. Sai Prasad<sup>2</sup>, G. P. Singh<sup>3</sup> and R. K. Sharma<sup>\*</sup>

Division of Genetics, <sup>2</sup>IARI-Regional Station, Indore, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; <sup>1</sup>ICAR-Indian Institute of Soybean Research, Indore 452 001; <sup>3</sup>ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal 132 001

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# Abstract

Drought stress is one of the major yield limiting factors in wheat among the abiotic stresses. In the present study, different physiological traits at different growth stages and grain yield were examined in the recombinant inbred lines population derived from Synthetic 46 genotype in six test environmental conditions. Grain yield per plot showed significant positive correlation with SPAD1 and SPAD2, but negative correlation with CT2, NDVI1, NDVI2, NDVI3 and NDVI4. Combined analysis of variance suggested genotypic effect as a predominant source of variation followed by GEI and environment effect. AMMI and GGE biplot analysis were used to analyze the effects of GEI on grain yield, and to compute the AMMI stability value and yield stability index which identified G127, G120, G105, G190 and G154 genotypes (RILs) that are highly adapted, stable and high yielding. Hence, the selected RILs according to yield stability index could be used as donors to develop stable high-yielding genotypes and the physiological traits can be best utilized to screen out the lines under different moisture stress regimes.

Key words: Wheat, drought, AMMI analysis, GGE biplot

# Introduction

Bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L. em Thell) is a major cereal crop that provides staple food to more than 2.5 billion of world population, with a production of 107.18 million tons (13.99 % of global) in an average area of 30.55 million hectares (13.80 % of global) in India (USDA 2020). By the year 2050 the global population will increase to ~9 billion, for that huge population wheat yield have to be increased by 60% (United Nations 2019). To address the challenge, the wheat production

must increase by at least 1.6% per year from the current level of 1% (GCARD 2012). However, change in the climatic conditions with the unpredicted rainfall hindered the crop yield (IPCC 2013). The rising in average global temperature and inconsistent rainfall due to climate change results into reoccurrence of drought stress across the globe (Trenberth 2011; Hui-Mean et al. 2018). The impact of drought stress on wheat yield is experienced more in the reproductive developmental stage and its impact increases to many folds if drought is sustained for long time (Daryanto et al. 2016; Fahad et al. 2017; Ding et al. 2018). The physiological traits in wheat reported to be linked with drought tolerance includes normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) (Lopes and Reynolds 2012; Ramya et al. 2016; Condorelli et al. 2018), total chlorophyll content (Kira et al. 2015; Paul et al. 2016), canopy temperature (CT) (Mason and Singh 2014; Deery et al. 2019) and carbon isotope discrimination (Dixon et al. 2019; Shrestha et al. 2020). Indirect selection of the ideal physiological traits that contribute to yield are better than direct selection for higher yield (Fischer et al. 2018).

It is more precedence if the selected physiological trait has more heritability under a stress environment than yield itself, that evidence have greater possibility of triumph for the development of stress tolerant variety. This implies that estimates of yield attributing physiological traits impartial with grain yield improves the efficiency of selection by reducing the reliance on final grain yield. This allow a window of

\*Corresponding author's e-mail: sharma.rk.rk@gmail.com

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opportunity for the development of more successful crosses in a breeding program by taking advantage of additive gene action (Ataei et al. 2017; Dolferus et al. 2019).

Additive main effects and the multiplicative interaction (AMMI) model helps to study the genotype by environment interaction (GEI) (Gauch 1992). AMMI and GGE (genotype main effect plus genotype x environment interaction) biplot were best suited model for the purpose of development and evaluation of cultivars or genotypes which are stable across the different environmental conditions (Yan 2002; Farshadfar et al. 2011). In AMMI model, the analysis of variance of genotype and environment combines the main effect with principal components analysis (PCA) of the GEI (Gauch and Zobel 1997). The AMMI stability value (ASV) and the yield stability index (YSI) derives from the AMMI model's IPCA1 and IPCA2 (interaction principal components axes 1 and 2, respectively) and mean yield across the environments scores for each genotype incorporate into single criterion (Purchase et al. 2000; Mkumbira et al. 2003). These values commensurate with the stability methods given by Eberhart and Russell (1966) and Shukla (1972). To graphically analyze GEI, GGE biplot is effective way to find identification of high-yielding, stable genotypes, especially in multi-environment trials (Butron et al. 2004; Samonte et al. 2005; Laffont et al. 2007; Ahmadi et al. 2012). The objective of this study was to evaluate and characterize the recombinant inbred lines (RILs) derived from parental cross of Synthetic 46/HD2932 in different moisture regimes for different physiological traits along with grain yield to identify best genotypes with high and stable grain yield.

#### Materials and methods

#### Experimental design and materials

A set of 188 RILs developed from a cross between Synthetic 46 and HD2932 were sown in  $\alpha$ -lattice design including parents under two sowing conditions, each with two replications constituting ten blocks (each block contains 19 test genotypes). Experiment was designed and carried out at two location (i) experimental farm, Division of Genetics, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi and (ii) ICAR-IARI, Regional station, Indore. Trials were conducted in *rabi* 2017 at Delhi under irrigated condition (DIR17); rainfed condition (DIR18); rainfed condition (DRF18), at Indore under irrigated condition (INDIR18); rainfed condition (INDRF18).

#### Phenotyping

The physiological traits *viz.*, total chlorophyll content, stay green and CT were recorded at different growth stages of plants of each RIL (genotypes) in each application from middle row of the three lines in the plot.

Total chlorophyll measurements were determined using a portable SPAD-502 sensor Chlorophyll Meter at two different stages viz., SPAD1 (heading stage) and SPAD2 (grain filling stage). Computation were made midway between the margin and midrib on one side of leaf to minimize any effect of a discontinue distribution of chlorophyll in the leaf (Li et al. 2012; Abd El-Halim and Omae 2020). NDVI were recorded with a portable spectroradiometer known as Green-Seeker at six different growth stages of plant viz., NDVI1 (vegetative stage; Zadok's 2-3), NDVI2 (booting stage; Zadok's 4), NDVI3 (heading stage; Zadok's 5), NDVI4 (grain filling stage; Zadok's 6-7), NDVI5 (double-dough stage; Zadok's 8) and NDVI6 (maturity stage; Zadok's 9) respectively. CT reading were recorded at vegetative stage (CT1) and heading stage (CT2) of the crop. CT measurements were taken up with help of Infrared Thermometer (Reynold et al. 1998; Ayeneh et al. 2002). The spikes per plot were harvested and threshed at physiological maturity, grains harvested were weighed and expressed as grain yield per plot in grams (GY).

# Statistical analysis

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) and best linear unbiased predicted value (BLUP) for all the variable were obtained by the software META-R (Multi Environment Trial Analysis with R) version 6.0. BLUPs values taken out of each six environments was used for analysis. The obtained data were used to enumerate Pearson's correlation coefficients among the different physiological traits and GY using the IBM SPSS statistic version 20 software. To find out GEI effects on grain yield, the recorded data for GY of all different environments were put forward for AMMI and GGE biplot analysis using software Gen Stat 14th edition (VSN International, Ltd, Hemel Hempstead, UK) and GEA-R Version 4.1 respectively.

AMMI model analysis helps to adjust the main or additive effect of genotype and environment, and its PCA inspect the residual interaction component (Farshadfar et al. 2011; Adjebeng-Danquah et al. 2017). The AMMI model engage the sum of several multiplicative terms rather than only single multiplicative term in estimating the performance of genotypes in different environments (Bernardo et al. 2010). AMMI analysis helps to determine stable performance of the genotypes across different locations using the PCA scores and ASV (Hagos et al. 2013). The ASV is a quantitative stability value based on the AMMI model's IPCA1 and IPCA2 scores of each genotype, and assign genotype in terms of rank (Purchase et al. 2000).

$$ASV = \sqrt{\left[\frac{1PCA1_{Sum of square}}{1PCA2_{Sum of square}}(1PCA1_{score})\right]^2 + (1PCA2_{score})^2}$$

 $\frac{1PCA1_{Sum of repure}}{1PCA2_{Sum of separe}}$  is the ratio of sum of squares of

IPCA1 by IPCA2. More absolute value of IPCA means greater adaptability of genotype for a certain environment. However lower ASV value shows more stability in different environments. Similarly, YSI was calculated using the following formula: YSI = RASV + RY, (Mkumbira et al. 2003). where RASV is the ranking of the ASV and RY is the rank of the genotypes based on yield across environments. Low value of YSI explain the genotype with high mean yield and stability (Olivera et al. 2014).

The GGE biplot is a best model, used to show the graphically depiction of stable genotypes with highyield across the different environments and also similarities/dissimilarities between environments by evaluating it based on the discriminative ability and representativeness of the GGE view, which is an advantage over the AMMI biplot analysis (Yan and Kang 2002; Yan et al. 2007; Aktas 2016).

# **Result and discussion**

### Correlations among traits

The relationship between two factors or variables is well defined by the correlation coefficient. It shows core concept of the relationship among various yield related traits, that is beneficial for the plant breeder to select the varieties having desired attributes (Ghafoor et al. 2013). Pearson's correlation coefficients for different physiological traits with grain yield under rainfed condition are given in Table 1. SPAD at heading and milking stage gives significant positive correlation with GY. Same relationship was earlier seen by Yildirim et al. (2010); Barutcular et al. (2016); Abd El-Halim and Omae (2020) who found positive correlations between SPAD values and grain yield at the heading and mid-milk grain development stage. Environmental stress is associated with chlorophyll loss and this loss in chlorophyll is regarded as a good indicator in moisture stress condition (Hendry and Price 1993; Barutcular et al. 2016). The distinctive relationship of SPAD value with GY shows the relationship of changes of soil moisture with the chlorophyll, and hence it may be used as tool to determine grain yield in moisture deficit condition. The strength of the relationship changed depending on the location and phenological stage (Reynolds 1997). SPAD-validation studies on materials with wide genetic backgrounds are useful to improve selection efficiency

|       | GY | SPAD1  | SPAD2  | CT1    | CT2    | NDVI1  | NDVI2  | NDVI3  | NDVI4  | NDVI5  | NDVI6  |
|-------|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| GY    | 1  | .268** | .259** | -0.093 | 144*   | 279**  | 306**  | 270**  | 222**  | -0.126 | 0.031  |
| SPAD1 |    | 1      | .871** | 0.028  | 0.027  | 288**  | 279**  | 278**  | 226**  | 153*   | -0.024 |
| SPAD2 |    |        | 1      | 0.024  | 0.024  | 274**  | 259**  | 233**  | 143*   | -0.116 | 0.026  |
| CT1   |    |        |        | 1      | .818** | -0.034 | -0.016 | -0.062 | -0.032 | -0.076 | -0.087 |
| CT2   |    |        |        |        | 1      | -0.026 | -0.001 | -0.008 | 0.012  | -0.039 | -0.029 |
| NDVI1 |    |        |        |        |        | 1      | .807** | .731** | .610** | .490** | .214** |
| NDVI2 |    |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | .911** | .750** | .608** | .332** |
| NDVI3 |    |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | .808** | .638** | .383** |
| NDVI4 |    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | .825** | .550** |
| NDVI5 |    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1      | .781** |
| NDVI6 |    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1      |

 Table 1. Pearson's correlation coeffiants among the different physiological traits and grain yield per plot at DRF is using BLUPs value

in durum wheat breeding. Strong genotype x environment interactions in leaf chlorophyll contents can result in lower selection accuracy in conventional breeding programs. Recently, environmental conditions were shown to affect the relationships between grain yield and chlorophyll retention in populations of spring and winter wheat (Bogard et al. 2011). Therefore, it is necessary to analyze SPAD values of plants in targeted environments to verify the relationship between SPAD values and grain yield. If there is a strong relationship between SPAD chlorophyll at a particular stage and grain yield, then this may serve as an indirect selection tool to differentiate high yielding genotypes. For the SPAD and NDVI traits used in present study, Liebisch et al. (2015) and Yousfi et al. (2016) obtained similar correlation between SPAD and NDVI in durum wheat and in maize found weak and negative correlation respectively.

CT is described as a cheap and effectual indicater to determine high yielding wheat varieties in different moisture regimes (Blum et al. 1989: Olivares-Villegas et al. 2007). Variation in CT among the wheat genotypes is conceivable due to their genetic differences, also supported by Reynolds et al. (1994). A negative correlation was observed between CT2 and GY; genotypes managing low CT had higher grain yield per plot. Moisture stress on association with high temperature stress at heading stage leads to reduction in photosynthetic activity and hindered accumulation of carbohydrates in grain (Sikder and Paul 2010). Significant variation among genotypes for grain yield and negative correlated with CT at different stages was observed by many researchers (Lopes and Reynolds 2010; Harikrishna et al. 2016; Manu et al. 2020) under variable growing conditions. Specifically, CT at reproductive stage is meant to be the crucial stage that affect the GY under drought conditions (Pask et al. 2014). The reduction in CT will affect transpiration (Reynolds et al. 2001) and plant water status (Araus et al. 2003). CT at vegetative stage and reproductive stage was found to be positively associated with each other, and there is negative significant correlation showed by traits SPAD, NDVI and GY as reported by Harikrishna et al. (2016), Ramya et al. (2016) and Manu et al. (2020).

NDVI was significantly negatively correlated with SPAD and GY at different stages as shown in Table 2 (Kyratzis et al. 2017). Aparicio et al. (2002) reported positive interactions between NDVI when analyzed at different growth stages, genotypes and environments. The ideal stages for measuring NDVI vary upon

| able 2. Alvini analysis of variance for grain yield tester<br>at six environments |   |    |    |          |          |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|----|----|----------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Source of   | : | df | MS | % varia- | % varia- |  |  |  |  |  |

| Source of<br>variation | df   | MS         | % varia-<br>biity | % varia-<br>bility<br>accumu-<br>lated |
|------------------------|------|------------|-------------------|--|
| Environment            | 5    | 1016737**  | 21.85             | 21.85                                  |
| Genotype               | 189  | 38346.99** | 31.16             | 53.02                                  |
| Interaction            | 945  | 11561.11** | 46.97             | 100                                    |
| IPC1                   | 193  | 20756.76** | 37.02             | 37.02                                  |
| IPC2                   | 191  | 12063.46** | 21.29             | 58.32                                  |
| IPC3                   | 189  | 9913.406** | 17.31             | 75.64                                  |
| IPC4                   | 187  | 7755.856** | 13.40             | 89.04                                  |
| IPC5                   | 185  | 6403.824*  | 10.95             | 100                                    |
| Residuals              | 1140 | 5092.752   | 0                 | 0                                      |

\*\* Significant at 0.01 probability

\* Significant at 0.05 probability

genotypes and the environment (Marti et al. 2007). Lobos et al. (2014) and Gizaw et al. (2016) reported the positive association between the NDVI and GY under different moisture stress and non-significant correlations between grain yield and days to heading. In our study, negative correlation between NDVI at different stages with GY were observed. This may probably occur due to confounding effects of glaucousness and days to heading in the population. The inherent low grain yield of the glaucous wheat was reported in previous studies (Yao et al. 2004; Yang, 2015; Zi et al. 2018). The present results were supported by Kyratzis et al. (2017), who suggested saturation of NDVI at drought is difficult to attain (Montazeaud et al. 2016), and can be used by modifying its calculation viz., degree of NDVI reduction after anthesis (Hazratkulova et al. 2012) NDVI ratio before and after anthesis, and cumulative NDVI after anthesis (Li et al. 2011). Overall NDVI is useful tool to select the genotype based on GY under different moisture stress conditions.

# AMMI, ASV and YSI analysis

Gollobs (1968) test for grain yield, AMMI lattice at six different environments showed high significance (p<0.01) for the mean squares of environment, genotypes and GEI which explained 21.85, 31.16 and 46.97 per cent of variability respectively (Table 1). Similar results have been also reported earlier by several workers (Kaya et al. 2002; Mehari et al. 2015; Harikrishna et al. 2016; Manu et al. 2020). The large variation explained by the genotype and GEI indicates the diverse nature of the genotype in the population and across the different environments. The grand mean of GY in between environments varied from 306.8 gm/ plot to 463.4 gm/plot. At both locations in year 2018, GY for rainfed is lower than irrigated condition (Table 3). whereas grand mean of GY for genotype varied from 227.1 gm/plot (G34) to 567 gm/plot (HD2932). Best ten genotypes in their respective environments are given in Table 3.

The magnitude of sum of square obtained from the GEI was 1.50 times higher than that of genotypes, that shows the significant differences in genotypic reaction across environments (Yan and Hunt 2002; Mohammadi et al. 2009). In AMMI model the IPCA1 and IPCA2 scores were significant for the GEI and considered to be the indicator of stability. ASV values obtained from analysis depict the stable nature of genotype, less value indicates more stable genotypes and vice versa (Purchase et al. 2000). Among the best 20 genotypes, two genotypes had low ASV values G126 (0.42) and G144 (1.09) with grain yield of 468.6 472.2 gm/plot gm/plot and respectively (Supplementary Table S1). The best five genotypes across all the environments with low ASV values are G14 (0.22), G60 (0.26), G65 (0.28), G126 (0.42), G92 (0.43). The result was in accordance with present findings of Bavandpori et al. (2015) Melkamu et al. (2015) and Manu et al. (2020), who assigned the ASV values to each genotype to get grain yield stability of bread wheat varieties. The YSI values assist to combine both yield and stability into a single index, to overcome the use of yield stability as the sole criterion to select genotypes. Thus, genotypes with minimum YSI value is beneficial, based on the YSI (Supplementary Table S1), the best genotypes viz., G126, G144, G57, G127, G141, G14, G82, G105, G95, G45, G120 and G104 were found to have high grain yield performance. Thus, they can be selected to advanced yield trials for development of wide-ranging

adaptable variety. Although genotypes G127, G120 and G105 have high ASV score and high yield but low YSI, these can be recommended for particular environments where they performed well. The approaches were earlier utilized by Farshadfar et al. (2011); Tekdal and Kendal (2018) to distinguish stable genotypes in multi-environment trials of wheat crop.

# GGE biplot analysis

The GGE biplot is used to identify the best performing genotype of each environment and group of environments to assess the stability of the genotypes. The striking feature of GGE biplots is the 'which-wonwhere' analysis, where GEI, specific genotype adaptation and mega-environment differentiation constitutionally represented as graphically based on their coalition with the site score (Yan 2002; Yan and Tinker 2006; Oral et al. 2018; Thungo et al. 2020).

The most responsive genotypes were at vertex being assigned at the farthest distance from the origin of biplot. Genotypes (best or poor performance) in one or all environments falling within the sectors were considered responsive (Yan and Tinker 2006). The biplot showed the continuance crossover of GE, additionally mega-environment for GY. In biplot hexagon has nine genotypes *viz.*, G35, G97, G169, G34, G179, G175, G58, G107 and HD2932 (G190) at the vertices. The HD2932 (G190) respond well in DRF18 and INDIR18, while G35 and G97 being the best in DRF17 and DIR17. The biplot is splits into seven constructively sectors by the equality lines, out of which three retained all the environments (Fig. 1).

The graph of so-called "ideal" genotype shows the ranking of genotypes based on GY (Fig. 2). The characteristic of ideal genotype is to perform well with high stability across environments (Yan and Tinker 2006), and show longest vector length and no GEI, as represented by an arrow pointing to it (Fig. 2). A genotype closer to ideal genotype is considered as

| Table 3. | Mean yield performance | in different e | nvironments a | and first ten | AMMI | selections per | environment |
|----------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------|----------------|-------------|
|----------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|------|----------------|-------------|

| Environments | Mean  | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5    | 6    | 7      | 8    | 9    | 10   |
|--------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|
| INDRF18      | 306.8 | G12    | G127   | G25    | G137   | G114 | G135 | HD2932 | G144 | G16  | G81  |
| DIR18        | 463.4 | G167   | G28    | G135   | HD2932 | G3   | G31  | G131   | G58  | G1   | G130 |
| INDIR18      | 419   | G97    | HD2932 | G30    | G16    | G67  | G15  | G127   | G144 | G173 | G154 |
| DRF18        | 379.3 | HD2932 | G28    | G167   | G31    | G135 | G131 | G3     | G26  | G125 | G154 |
| DRF17        | 404.6 | G97    | G35    | HD2932 | G154   | G63  | G31  | G67    | G159 | G76  | G128 |
| DIR17        | 397.4 | G35    | HD2932 | G97    | G63    | G31  | G154 | G76    | G26  | G131 | G40  |



Fig. 1. Polygon view of GGE biplot showing "which won where" pattern for genotypes and environments based on grain yield data

more desirable. Thus, plotting the ideal genotype as the main point drawn the concentric circle helped in envisaging the distance between each genotype with the ideal one (Yan and Tinker 2006). Hence, based on the genotypes ranking for both mean yield and stability performance across the six environments HD2932 (G190) followed by G154, G31, G67, G26, G131 and G125 are closest to ideal genotype, thus considered as best genotype out of 190 RILs including parents. On the basis of mean performance (grain yield), AMMI and GGE biplot analysis it is noticeable that G127, G120, G105, G190 and G154 considered to be stable, adapted and high yielding genotype in all suited environments. The researcher can utilize these genotypes to further study stable performance under different moisture regimes. Furthermore, these genotypes can be used for QTLs/genes identification for same physiological traits associated with drought tolerance, in addition to that also used as donors in breeding for drought tolerance as also suggested by Khadka et al. (2020).

# **Authors Contribution**

Conceptualization of research (RK, PKS, GPS, NJ); Designing of the experiments (HK); Contribution of experimental materials (PKS); Execution of field/lab experiments and data collection (RG, HK, DC, SVSP); Analysis of data and interpretation (HK, NJ, RG, RK); Preparation of the manuscript (RG, HK, NJ, RK).



Fig. 2. GGE biplot based on genotype-focused scaling for comparison of the genotype with ideal genotype

# Declaration

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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| Genotype | IPCA1    | IPCA2    | GM    | GMrank | ASV  | ASVrank | YSI | YSIrank |
|----------|----------|----------|-------|--------|------|---------|-----|---------|
| G126     | 0.26053  | 0.24565  | 468.6 | 19     | 0.42 | 4       | 23  | 1       |
| G144     | -0.52914 | -0.84771 | 472.2 | 17     | 1.09 | 11      | 28  | 2       |
| G57      | 0.6337   | -0.73915 | 449.3 | 33     | 1.11 | 12      | 45  | 3       |
| G127     | 1.3822   | 0.20931  | 476.4 | 12     | 1.82 | 33      | 45  | 3       |
| G141     | 0.03887  | 0.7983   | 441.8 | 39     | 0.80 | 7       | 46  | 4       |
| G14      | 0.00436  | -0.22072 | 432.8 | 46     | 0.22 | 1       | 47  | 5       |
| G82      | -0.14348 | 0.84971  | 438.7 | 41     | 0.87 | 8       | 49  | 6       |
| G105     | -1.27952 | 1.12059  | 474.3 | 13     | 2.01 | 38      | 51  | 7       |
| G95      | -1.14731 | -0.14963 | 435.7 | 44     | 1.51 | 20      | 64  | 8       |
| G45      | -0.5182  | -1.47356 | 438.6 | 42     | 1.62 | 24      | 66  | 9       |
| G120     | -0.14236 | 1.83337  | 450.6 | 31     | 1.84 | 35      | 66  | 9       |
| G104     | -1.03387 | 0.0003   | 428.5 | 50     | 1.35 | 18      | 68  | 10      |
| G65      | 0.04733  | 0.27572  | 414.4 | 73     | 0.28 | 3       | 76  | 11      |
| G67      | -2.33441 | 0.30391  | 508.0 | 3      | 3.07 | 74      | 77  | 12      |
| G55      | -1.93476 | 1.62951  | 483.9 | 10     | 3.01 | 72      | 82  | 13      |
| G186     | -0.42463 | -1.546   | 425.3 | 58     | 1.64 | 25      | 83  | 14      |
| G56      | -1.97764 | 0.91045  | 467.5 | 22     | 2.74 | 62      | 84  | 15      |
| G137     | 1.93221  | 1.14381  | 467.7 | 21     | 2.77 | 65      | 86  | 16      |
| G185     | 0.76532  | 0.72357  | 415.3 | 70     | 1.24 | 17      | 87  | 17      |
| G13      | 0.33448  | -2.12359 | 428.3 | 51     | 2.17 | 44      | 95  | 18      |
| G135     | 1.10566  | 3.25158  | 498.8 | 8      | 3.56 | 88      | 96  | 19      |
| G8       | 0.84686  | -0.39582 | 401.5 | 85     | 1.18 | 14      | 99  | 20      |
| G71      | -2.21702 | -1.09993 | 458.8 | 27     | 3.10 | 75      | 102 | 21      |
| G53      | -1.38503 | 2.93261  | 468.6 | 20     | 3.45 | 83      | 103 | 22      |
| G60      | 0.01142  | -0.26018 | 391.1 | 102    | 0.26 | 2       | 104 | 23      |
| G59      | 1.22759  | 0.16382  | 406.9 | 81     | 1.61 | 23      | 104 | 23      |
| SYN46    | -1.2755  | 0.55152  | 408.0 | 77     | 1.76 | 30      | 107 | 24      |
| G177     | -1.35236 | -0.02681 | 408.4 | 76     | 1.77 | 31      | 107 | 24      |
| G22      | -2.50894 | -1.26435 | 462.4 | 24     | 3.52 | 85      | 109 | 25      |
| G103     | 0.29306  | -1.87865 | 409.7 | 74     | 1.92 | 36      | 110 | 26      |
| G102     | 1.31746  | 0.00634  | 403.3 | 83     | 1.72 | 28      | 111 | 27      |
| G111     | -0.12186 | -2.00543 | 409.6 | 75     | 2.01 | 38      | 113 | 28      |
| G152     | 0.08546  | -0.8718  | 389.6 | 105    | 0.88 | 9       | 114 | 29      |
| G153     | -1.36526 | 2.03826  | 426.3 | 56     | 2.71 | 60      | 116 | 30      |
| G33      | -1.47986 | 3.02291  | 459.3 | 26     | 3.59 | 90      | 116 | 30      |
| G112     | 0.76892  | 1.2527   | 396.3 | 95     | 1.61 | 23      | 118 | 31      |
| G84      | -1.06545 | 1.9736   | 416.3 | 67     | 2.42 | 51      | 118 | 31      |
| G16      | -0.51907 | -3.31739 | 441.5 | 40     | 3.39 | 80      | 120 | 32      |
| G3       | -0.54956 | 4.20164  | 482.2 | 11     | 4.26 | 110     | 121 | 33      |
| G115     | 1.70504  | 1.13573  | 415.8 | 69     | 2.50 | 53      | 122 | 34      |

**Supplementary Table S1.** Grand mean grain yield, AMMI stability value and yield stability index along with their ranking for the 190 bread wheat genotypes tested across six environments

G93

2.35145

-0.58646

| G90    | 0.48307  | -0.01832 | 381.7 | 117 | 0.63 | 6   | 123 | 35 |
|--------|----------|----------|-------|-----|------|-----|-----|----|
| G18    | 0.07037  | 2.21815  | 407.7 | 78  | 2.22 | 46  | 124 | 36 |
| G32    | 0.92814  | -0.00692 | 384.1 | 111 | 1.21 | 15  | 126 | 37 |
| G113   | -1.50117 | 1.91267  | 417.6 | 65  | 2.74 | 62  | 127 | 38 |
| G4     | -2.08782 | 2.1883   | 436.3 | 43  | 3.50 | 84  | 127 | 38 |
| HD2932 | -3.50179 | 1.97942  | 567.0 | 1   | 4.99 | 129 | 130 | 39 |
| G1     | 1.84493  | 3.10424  | 454.0 | 29  | 3.93 | 102 | 131 | 40 |
| G131   | -2.84402 | 3.23716  | 507.0 | 4   | 4.93 | 127 | 131 | 40 |
| G96    | 0.11654  | 3.01149  | 423.7 | 59  | 3.02 | 73  | 132 | 41 |
| G106   | -0.68131 | 3.28058  | 428.2 | 52  | 3.40 | 81  | 133 | 42 |
| G89    | 0.71746  | -0.98063 | 382.9 | 115 | 1.36 | 19  | 134 | 43 |
| G124   | -0.46665 | 2.32253  | 402.8 | 84  | 2.40 | 50  | 134 | 43 |
| G158   | -0.36177 | -0.73221 | 374.2 | 127 | 0.87 | 8   | 135 | 44 |
| G138   | -0.71092 | 0.50406  | 376.3 | 125 | 1.06 | 10  | 135 | 44 |
| G181   | 1.01666  | -0.86582 | 383.3 | 114 | 1.59 | 22  | 136 | 45 |
| G92    | -0.1078  | -0.40907 | 365.0 | 133 | 0.43 | 5   | 138 | 46 |
| G183   | 2.20633  | -0.10207 | 414.9 | 71  | 2.89 | 67  | 138 | 46 |
| G128   | -3.64601 | -0.32229 | 473.1 | 15  | 4.78 | 123 | 138 | 46 |
| G121   | 0.63157  | -1.63272 | 388.7 | 106 | 1.83 | 34  | 140 | 47 |
| G176   | -1.36366 | 1.18881  | 394.3 | 97  | 2.14 | 43  | 140 | 47 |
| G101   | -3.36161 | 0.10747  | 460.6 | 25  | 4.40 | 115 | 140 | 47 |
| G154   | -4.32604 | 1.10285  | 516.4 | 2   | 5.77 | 140 | 142 | 48 |
| G2     | -1.72287 | -0.76183 | 396.6 | 94  | 2.38 | 49  | 143 | 49 |
| G26    | -3.33045 | 2.93951  | 496.3 | 9   | 5.26 | 134 | 143 | 49 |
| G94    | -0.21102 | 1.48752  | 376.8 | 124 | 1.51 | 20  | 144 | 50 |
| G44    | 1.05909  | -0.88973 | 381.6 | 118 | 1.65 | 26  | 144 | 50 |
| G86    | -2.67841 | 1.26458  | 429.6 | 48  | 3.73 | 96  | 144 | 50 |
| G130   | 0.0178   | 4.13934  | 445.6 | 35  | 4.14 | 109 | 144 | 50 |
| G79    | -0.52732 | -3.07984 | 415.9 | 68  | 3.16 | 77  | 145 | 51 |
| G110   | -2.36112 | -2.03291 | 427.7 | 53  | 3.70 | 94  | 147 | 52 |
| G37    | -0.16606 | 1.73876  | 381.4 | 119 | 1.75 | 29  | 148 | 53 |
| G28    | -2.18808 | 5.14843  | 505.0 | 5   | 5.89 | 143 | 148 | 53 |
| G5     | -0.6465  | 2.60901  | 401.1 | 87  | 2.74 | 62  | 149 | 54 |
| G30    | -2.04228 | -3.61756 | 449.9 | 32  | 4.50 | 117 | 149 | 54 |
| G20    | 0.80944  | -2.80886 | 407.0 | 80  | 3.00 | 71  | 151 | 55 |
| G150   | -0.87016 | -1.06711 | 362.3 | 134 | 1.56 | 21  | 155 | 56 |
| G174   | -3.6031  | 1.13941  | 451.3 | 30  | 4.85 | 125 | 155 | 56 |
| G164   | -1.48922 | 0.328    | 379.3 | 120 | 1.98 | 37  | 157 | 57 |
| G64    | -0.00687 | 3.77616  | 423.2 | 60  | 3.78 | 98  | 158 | 58 |
| G48    | 0.12056  | -1.78459 | 372.3 | 128 | 1.79 | 32  | 160 | 59 |
| G87    | -0.77864 | 2.82899  | 400.3 | 88  | 3.01 | 72  | 160 | 59 |
| G145   | -2.13868 | -0.99021 | 398.6 | 91  | 2.97 | 70  | 161 | 60 |

401.3

86

3.13

76

162

61

| G15  | -0.68596 | -3.99584 | 426.4 | 55  | 4.10  | 107 | 162 | 61 |
|------|----------|----------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-----|----|
| G125 | -3.45281 | 4.4283   | 473.5 | 14  | 6.33  | 150 | 164 | 62 |
| G42  | -0.90034 | -1.30589 | 360.8 | 135 | 1.76  | 30  | 165 | 63 |
| G43  | -1.10903 | -1.53557 | 377.3 | 123 | 2.11  | 42  | 165 | 63 |
| G161 | -1.84311 | 0.54715  | 383.6 | 113 | 2.47  | 52  | 165 | 64 |
| G129 | -2.63881 | -2.24371 | 425.9 | 57  | 4.12  | 108 | 165 | 64 |
| G75  | 1.7128   | 1.59265  | 390.3 | 103 | 2.75  | 63  | 166 | 65 |
| G38  | -0.64382 | -2.49788 | 384.4 | 110 | 2.64  | 58  | 168 | 66 |
| G165 | -1.44651 | -2.172   | 391.1 | 102 | 2.88  | 66  | 168 | 67 |
| G63  | -5.37457 | 2.1624   | 504.5 | 6   | 7.36  | 162 | 168 | 67 |
| G133 | -1.66118 | -3.07537 | 414.7 | 72  | 3.77  | 97  | 169 | 68 |
| G66  | -3.93899 | 1.36143  | 448.4 | 34  | 5.33  | 135 | 169 | 68 |
| G173 | -3.14588 | -3.22365 | 444.2 | 37  | 5.23  | 133 | 170 | 69 |
| G151 | -1.263   | -2.88251 | 398.1 | 92  | 3.32  | 79  | 171 | 70 |
| G61  | 0.30949  | 1.64239  | 348.9 | 145 | 1.69  | 27  | 172 | 71 |
| G77  | 0.73738  | -0.76126 | 335.6 | 159 | 1.23  | 16  | 175 | 72 |
| G155 | 1.81134  | 1.28686  | 382.1 | 116 | 2.70  | 59  | 175 | 72 |
| G31  | -5.09307 | 5.12031  | 499.2 | 7   | 8.40  | 168 | 175 | 72 |
| G159 | -4.63086 | -1.35564 | 456.3 | 28  | 6.21  | 149 | 177 | 73 |
| G78  | -0.45859 | 2.82828  | 384.0 | 112 | 2.89  | 67  | 179 | 74 |
| G88  | -2.44949 | 0.63129  | 391.4 | 101 | 3.27  | 78  | 179 | 74 |
| G39  | -3.49908 | -0.87306 | 421.8 | 62  | 4.66  | 119 | 181 | 75 |
| G162 | -4.42863 | 1.69977  | 444.9 | 36  | 6.04  | 145 | 181 | 75 |
| G19  | 1.64365  | -2.66317 | 392.7 | 100 | 3.42  | 82  | 182 | 76 |
| G122 | 0.51672  | 1.97423  | 349.2 | 144 | 2.09  | 41  | 185 | 77 |
| G157 | -2.73092 | 1.20651  | 399.7 | 89  | 3.77  | 97  | 186 | 78 |
| G168 | -1.97234 | -3.907   | 417.1 | 66  | 4.68  | 120 | 186 | 78 |
| G167 | -1.04692 | 7.27354  | 464.1 | 23  | 7.40  | 163 | 186 | 78 |
| G142 | 1.38979  | 0.9788   | 346.7 | 149 | 2.06  | 39  | 188 | 79 |
| G171 | -1.26577 | -1.49601 | 352.4 | 141 | 2.23  | 47  | 188 | 79 |
| G166 | 2.41149  | 1.01836  | 385.1 | 109 | 3.32  | 79  | 188 | 79 |
| G97  | -7.12918 | -8.69017 | 473.0 | 16  | 12.75 | 172 | 188 | 79 |
| G35  | -9.50906 | 1.28155  | 470.7 | 18  | 12.51 | 171 | 189 | 80 |
| G98  | 1.39987  | -1.29634 | 351.6 | 142 | 2.24  | 48  | 190 | 81 |
| G72  | -4.949   | 0.39484  | 443.2 | 38  | 6.49  | 152 | 190 | 81 |
| G69  | 0.08729  | -2.97068 | 378.7 | 121 | 2.97  | 70  | 191 | 82 |
| G117 | -3.52911 | -3.09151 | 427.4 | 54  | 5.56  | 137 | 191 | 82 |
| G70  | -0.04505 | 2.57583  | 354.6 | 139 | 2.58  | 55  | 194 | 83 |
| G54  | -0.15161 | -1.09778 | 289.3 | 182 | 1.12  | 13  | 195 | 84 |
| G10  | -4.0385  | 3.11798  | 431.7 | 47  | 6.14  | 148 | 195 | 84 |
| G148 | 0.91581  | -2.31186 | 354.3 | 140 | 2.60  | 56  | 196 | 85 |
| G132 | 1.45405  | -0.84126 | 335.7 | 158 | 2.08  | 40  | 198 | 86 |
| G49  | -3.96315 | 0.86941  | 419.8 | 64  | 5.26  | 134 | 198 | 87 |

| 202 | 88    |
|-----|-------|
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| G116 | 1.38578  | -1.21387 | 336.7 | 157 | 2.18 | 45  | 202 | 88  |
|------|----------|----------|-------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| G172 | -4.40449 | 1.15829  | 421.3 | 63  | 5.88 | 142 | 205 | 89  |
| G52  | 2.94464  | 2.14565  | 398.7 | 90  | 4.41 | 116 | 206 | 90  |
| G40  | -5.55586 | -0.17499 | 434.1 | 45  | 7.27 | 161 | 206 | 90  |
| G188 | 2.02568  | -1.27541 | 356.5 | 138 | 2.94 | 69  | 207 | 91  |
| G107 | -4.6534  | -0.691   | 423.0 | 61  | 6.13 | 147 | 208 | 92  |
| G119 | 1.39761  | -0.025   | 296.7 | 181 | 1.83 | 34  | 215 | 93  |
| G73  | 1.27651  | 1.9523   | 325.5 | 162 | 2.57 | 54  | 216 | 94  |
| G17  | 1.24679  | -4.0345  | 388.6 | 107 | 4.35 | 112 | 219 | 95  |
| G76  | -6.78532 | 0.55026  | 429.4 | 49  | 8.89 | 170 | 219 | 95  |
| G180 | -0.98301 | -2.39765 | 335.0 | 160 | 2.72 | 61  | 221 | 96  |
| G68  | 2.19169  | 0.51307  | 342.9 | 154 | 2.91 | 68  | 222 | 97  |
| G91  | 4.11133  | 2.69668  | 407.4 | 79  | 6.02 | 144 | 223 | 98  |
| G47  | 2.28251  | 2.11188  | 365.5 | 132 | 3.66 | 92  | 224 | 99  |
| G136 | 2.38877  | 1.95514  | 365.6 | 131 | 3.69 | 93  | 224 | 99  |
| G46  | 2.03606  | -0.42206 | 322.1 | 166 | 2.70 | 59  | 225 | 100 |
| G62  | 2.4759   | 2.25156  | 377.8 | 122 | 3.94 | 103 | 225 | 100 |
| G51  | 2.19795  | 3.70109  | 390.2 | 104 | 4.69 | 121 | 225 | 100 |
| G156 | 0.58688  | 4.64293  | 385.6 | 108 | 4.71 | 122 | 230 | 101 |
| G118 | 1.56843  | -2.93092 | 350.2 | 143 | 3.58 | 89  | 232 | 102 |
| G134 | 1.99762  | -0.77131 | 312.6 | 172 | 2.72 | 61  | 233 | 103 |
| G27  | 1.63805  | -1.48735 | 304.4 | 178 | 2.61 | 57  | 235 | 104 |
| G109 | -4.67434 | -2.61784 | 404.9 | 82  | 6.65 | 154 | 236 | 105 |
| G114 | 4.65406  | 0.64298  | 397.0 | 93  | 6.12 | 146 | 239 | 106 |
| G41  | 2.06288  | 1.33922  | 317.0 | 170 | 3.01 | 72  | 242 | 107 |
| G143 | 2.08457  | 2.5204   | 347.4 | 147 | 3.71 | 95  | 242 | 107 |
| G23  | 2.84063  | 1.69736  | 359.7 | 137 | 4.09 | 106 | 243 | 108 |
| G147 | -2.37646 | -3.06572 | 371.7 | 129 | 4.37 | 114 | 243 | 108 |
| G146 | 1.46001  | -1.9923  | 286.2 | 183 | 2.76 | 64  | 247 | 109 |
| G149 | 3.67554  | 0.1429   | 376.8 | 124 | 4.81 | 124 | 248 | 110 |
| G187 | 2.67544  | -0.50014 | 324.7 | 164 | 3.54 | 86  | 250 | 111 |
| G36  | 2.96351  | 0.2593   | 344.5 | 151 | 3.89 | 101 | 252 | 112 |
| G74  | 2.92987  | 0.96604  | 347.0 | 148 | 3.95 | 104 | 252 | 112 |
| G29  | 5.06767  | 2.7337   | 394.6 | 96  | 7.17 | 160 | 256 | 113 |
| G139 | 3.31668  | 0.10098  | 347.5 | 146 | 4.34 | 111 | 257 | 114 |
| G58  | 4.22227  | 4.94334  | 393.6 | 98  | 7.41 | 164 | 262 | 115 |
| G100 | 2.80085  | -1.22858 | 325.2 | 163 | 3.86 | 100 | 263 | 116 |
| G170 | 3.28526  | 0.70206  | 345.6 | 150 | 4.36 | 113 | 263 | 116 |
| G108 | 2.67864  | 0.59031  | 307.5 | 177 | 3.55 | 87  | 264 | 117 |
| G12  | 5.91092  | 0.17262  | 392.9 | 99  | 7.74 | 165 | 264 | 117 |
| G83  | 1.71853  | -2.85802 | 312.0 | 174 | 3.64 | 91  | 265 | 118 |
| G163 | 1.44108  | -4.67739 | 360.1 | 136 | 5.04 | 130 | 266 | 119 |
| G182 | 3.94954  | 3.7208   | 379.3 | 120 | 6.37 | 151 | 271 | 120 |

| G140 | -1.50516 | -3.25877 | 312.5 | 173 | 3.81 | 99  | 272 | 121 |  |
|------|----------|----------|-------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|--|
| G7   | 3.04527  | 0.00127  | 321.3 | 167 | 3.98 | 105 | 272 | 121 |  |
| G6   | 3.71644  | -0.78997 | 338.3 | 155 | 4.93 | 126 | 281 | 122 |  |
| G25  | 5.17849  | -1.26121 | 375.6 | 126 | 6.89 | 155 | 281 | 122 |  |
| G99  | -4.53257 | -3.70041 | 369.2 | 130 | 6.99 | 157 | 287 | 123 |  |
| G123 | 3.17641  | 1.90332  | 315.1 | 171 | 4.57 | 118 | 289 | 124 |  |
| G160 | -2.85414 | -3.95396 | 338.2 | 156 | 5.44 | 136 | 292 | 125 |  |
| G21  | -1.08569 | -5.63883 | 344.1 | 152 | 5.81 | 141 | 293 | 126 |  |
| G50  | 3.86099  | 1.01973  | 323.0 | 165 | 5.15 | 131 | 296 | 127 |  |
| G11  | 4.23607  | 0.70371  | 325.9 | 161 | 5.59 | 138 | 299 | 128 |  |
| G80  | 3.88858  | -0.90782 | 317.9 | 169 | 5.17 | 132 | 301 | 129 |  |
| G81  | 3.90527  | -4.09271 | 343.9 | 153 | 6.55 | 153 | 306 | 130 |  |
| G184 | 3.00762  | -3.02404 | 296.8 | 180 | 4.96 | 128 | 308 | 131 |  |
| G169 | 2.37436  | -4.69304 | 279.5 | 184 | 5.63 | 139 | 323 | 132 |  |
| G178 | 5.25064  | -1.77767 | 323.0 | 165 | 7.10 | 159 | 324 | 133 |  |
| G85  | 3.97626  | -4.7017  | 318.3 | 168 | 7.01 | 158 | 326 | 134 |  |
| G24  | 1.54162  | -6.33577 | 302.6 | 179 | 6.65 | 154 | 333 | 135 |  |
| G179 | 5.32512  | -0.17269 | 230.5 | 185 | 6.97 | 156 | 341 | 136 |  |
| G175 | 5.83066  | 2.14303  | 308.6 | 175 | 7.92 | 166 | 341 | 137 |  |
| G9   | 5.85275  | -3.05649 | 308.2 | 176 | 8.24 | 167 | 343 | 138 |  |
| G34  | 6.25115  | -3.17901 | 227.1 | 186 | 8.77 | 169 | 355 | 139 |  |

Rahul Gajghate et al.

(v)

[Vol. 81, No. 3