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Estimation of fruit quality parameters in different genotypes of bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia* L.)

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Abstract

Study of 40 genotypes of Bitter gourd was carried out during Kharif season 2014 and 2015 in central Uttar Pradesh, India to study the association among fruit quality and their direct and indirect influence on total marketable fruit yield and income. Observations were recorded on Total Soluble Solid (TSS) and vitamin C content and data analyzed statistically. Comparatively higher total soluble solid was recorded in IC-085626 (4.96 & 5.58) and maximum Vitamin 'C' was recorded in IC-085612 (81.05 & 81.57) followed by IC-085616 (80.49 & 81.04) and IC-085622 (76.67 & 79.88) which were statistically at par with each other and significantly higher from the check germplasms. Minimum Vitamin 'C' was recorded in PBIG-5 (70.47 & 71.20) during both the years of investigation. It was possibly due to genotypic and phenotypic characters of the germplasms respectively during both the years of investigation suggesting most efficient as well as highly profitable.

Keywords: Bitter gourd, germplasms, fruit quality TSS and Vitamin C.

Introduction

Bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia* L.) is one of the most important and widely used cucurbitaceous summer vegetables in India. It belongs to the family Cucurbitaceae. Most of the authors agree that India or Indo-Malayan region is the original home of bitter gourd (Bose and Som, 1986) [42]. Bitter gourd is widely distributed in China, Malaysia, India, Tropical Africa and north and South America. In India, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are the major bitter gourd growing states. The crop is cultivated over an area of 83 thousand hectare in India with production of 906 thousand metric tons with productivity of 10.91 metric ton per hectare. Selection of a high yielding germplasms can therefore significantly increase the bitter gourd production. Like any other crops, yield in bitter gourd is a complex component character. Vegetables are known for its nutritional, medicinal and curative properties. India is the second largest producers of vegetable with 2.8% of total cropped area under vegetables. India has been bestowed with wide range of climate and physio-geographical conditions which ensures availability of most kind of vegetables. It ranks second in vegetables production in the world, after China. As per National Horticulture Database, India produced 166.466 million metric tonnes of vegetables. The area under cultivation of vegetables was 9.299 million hectares having productivity 17.89 metric tons per hectare (NHB database 2015-16). India is also a prominent exporter of dried and preserved vegetables to the world. The country has exported 56,158.40 MT of dried and preserved vegetables worth of Rs. 4,866.9 crores during the year 2015-16. (Source: APEDA). Presently the growth rate of vegetable production in our country is 2.60%. However, the daily requirement of vegetable per day per capita is 300 g but availability of vegetable is 210 g. Traditionally Indian dietary system is based on cereals and pulses leaving little space for vegetables. It was potato which first made in road into our dietary habits. However, gradually increasing consciousness towards balanced diet and its lasting effect on health of the masses gave way to vegetables on our dishes. It is not a wonder that in a very short span of time, in some quarters, vegetable has occupied prime place as a stable food in our dietary system. Amongst all the vegetables, bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia* L.) pose a gloving example of how conscious are the masses towards their health. By dint of its bitter taste all most all the children and major chunk of adults refrained from over to

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accommodating bitter gourd in their diet for a very long time. But, its medicinal values gradually went on attracting more and more people, which ultimately helped in developing a special taste for this vegetable not only amongst adults but in children too. If one strains his brain in remembering the share once bitter gourd occupied in shelves of vegetable shops a decade or two back and what it is now, he will wonder about the miraculous change. Now a day, bitter gourd can be seen in vegetable shops round the year and in substantial quantum.

Attention towards planned breeding programme and developing agro-techniques for particular vegetable results from demand and availability phenomenon. Quite naturally, bitter gourd attracted, attention of scientists quite lately and thus, little has been done so far towards evolving high yielding varieties and production oriented agro-techniques in bitter gourd. The characterization of germplasms by agromorphological traits helps the plant breeders to select the accessions to be utilized in hybridization programme (Ghafoor *et al.*, 2002). Thus, effective improvement in yield may be brought about through selection of various yield component characters, which show association among themselves and also with yield (Gupta *et al.*, 2015) [8].

Bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia* L.) having high nutritional value especially ascorbic acid and iron (Behera, 2004). The fruits are used as tonic, stimulant, purgative, stomachic carminative, antihemithic, anti-inflammatory, febrifuge, vulnerary, stimulant, thermogenic, antidiabetic, etc (Longmam, 1995). During the past decades, the antidiabetic properties of the crop have been studied extensively and a hypoglycemic principle called charantin has been isolated. The bitter ingredient in bitter gourd is "mormodicine", an alkaloid which is different from cucurbitacin present in other genera of cucurbits.

The fruit of bitter gourd contains 1.6 g protein, 1.8 mg iron, 20 mg of calcium, 88 mg of vitamin C, 70 mg of phosphorus and 126 I.U. of vitamin A in 100g of edible portion. (Fageria *et al.*, 2003). It has also some medicinal value being easily digestible, diuretic and laxative invigorates the heart and brain and is useful in the disorder of the blood circulatory system. (Rice *et al.*, 1992; Yawalkar, 1985). In India, vegetable production is not uniformly distributed round the year due to climate and edaphic factors and most of the vegetables are produced in winter. So, there is a scarcity of vegetables during summer or rainy season and only small amount of vegetables are produced during the months of April to October. Among these, bitter gourd contributes a significant portion of vegetable production during lean period in summer season of India.

Material and Methods

The investigation was carried out in central region of Uttar Pradesh during 2014 and 2015 for screening the different genotypes of bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia* L.) to find the association between fruit quality parameter under farm

condition. The experimental is at elevation of 98 m above sea level at 28.87° N latitude and 81.15° E longitude. The characteristics of the soil are sandy loam in order to Inceptisol soil. The research area has a sub-tropical climate with extremes of summer and winter. During the summer season, the temperature reaches upto 46-48°C, while during winter season, especially in the month of Nov. and Jan. temperature drops down to as low as 1-20°C. During winter, frost and during summer, hot scorching wind are common features. The average rainfall in this area is around 882 mm, during the monsoon i.e. June to Sept, with a few occasional light showers and drizzles are seen in the winter also. The crop was grown under normal season. Total 40 genotypes of bitter gourd collected from different parts of the country and experiment was laid out in a completely randomized block design (CRBD) with three replications. The plant was shown at a spacing of 1.5m X 0.75 meter with net plot size 7.5m X 3m. In the present study, 40 genotypes of bitter gourd collected from different parts of the country and experiment was laid out in a randomized block design with three replications. The experiment comprising 40 genotypes viz., IC-085608(IIVR), IC-085609(IIVR), IC-085610 (IIVR), IC-085611(IIVR), IC-085612(IIVR), IC-085625(IIVR), IC-085613(IIVR), IC-085614 (IIVR), IC-085626(IIVR), IC-085615(IIVR), IC-085616(IIVR), IC-085617(IIVR), IC-085618 (IIVR), IC-085619(IIVR), IC-085620(IIVR), IC-085621(IIVR), IC-085622(IIVR), IC-085623 (IIVR), IC-085624(IIVR), HABG-29(RCER, Ranchi), HABG-30(RCER, Ranchi), IC-085627 (IIVR), IC-085628(IIVR), IC-085629(IIVR), IC-085630(IIVR), IC-085631(IIVR), IC-085632 (IIVR), IC-085633(IIVR), PBIG-1(Pantnagar), PBIG-3 (Pantnagar), PBIG-4 (Pantnagar), PBIG-5 (Pantnagar), PBIG-6 (Pantnagar), PBIG-7 (Pantnagar), IC-085634(IIVR), IC-085635(IIVR), IC-085636(IIVR), IC-085638(IIVR), IC-085639(IIVR) and PBIG-2(Check). Observations were recorded on various fruit quality parameter under farm condition to screen out superior genotypes.

Result and Discussion

Total soluble solid (Brix°)

Total soluble solid of bitter gourd as affected by different germplasms during both the years of investigation and presented in Table 1. Variation in total soluble solid among different genotypes was found significant during both the years of 2014 and 2015. During first year, significantly minimum total soluble solid was recorded in PBIG-2 (3.43) followed by IC-085622 (3.77), IC-085616 (3.85) and IC-085612 (3.98). However, during second year, minimum total soluble solid was recorded by PBIG-2 (3.44) followed by PBIG-1 (3.58), PBIG-5 (3.92) and IC-085616 (4.17) which was statistically at par with each other. Maximum total soluble solid was recorded by IC-085626 (4.96 & 5.58) during both the years of investigation. It was possibly due to genotypic and phenotypic characters of the germplasms.

Table 1: Effect of different genotypes of bitter gourd on Total Soluble Solid (Brix°) during 2014 and 2015.

Genotypes	Total Soluble Solid (Brix°)		Pooled
	2014	2015	
IC-085608	4.54	5.28	4.91
IC-085609	4.28	4.37	4.33
IC-085610	4.47	5.17	4.83
IC-085611	4.57	5.40	4.99

IC-085612	3.98	4.35	4.17
IC-085625	4.65	5.37	5.01
IC-085613	4.59	4.95	4.77
IC-085614	4.84	5.16	5.00
IC-085626	4.96	5.58	5.27
IC-085615	4.51	4.37	4.44
IC-085616	3.85	4.17	4.01
IC-085617	4.72	4.92	4.83
IC-085618	4.24	5.20	4.73
IC-085619	4.71	5.38	5.05
IC-085620	4.34	5.11	4.73
IC-085621	4.68	4.84	4.77
IC-085622	3.77	4.38	4.08
IC-085623	4.03	4.83	4.43
IC-085624	4.56	5.25	4.91
HABG-29	4.10	4.29	4.20
HABG-30	4.14	4.73	4.44
IC-085627	4.19	4.36	4.28
IC-085628	4.48	4.67	4.58
IC-085629	4.63	4.86	4.75
IC-085630	4.55	4.93	4.75
IC-085631	4.57	4.85	4.72
IC-085632	4.40	4.38	4.39
IC-085633	4.35	4.52	4.44
PBIG-1	4.29	3.58	3.94
PBIG-3	4.89	4.30	4.60
PBIG-4	4.57	4.28	4.43
PBIG-5	4.42	3.92	4.18
PBIG-6	4.61	4.60	4.61
PBIG-7	4.38	4.48	4.44
IC-085634	4.80	4.83	4.82
IC-085635	4.83	4.17	4.50
IC-085636	4.72	4.72	4.72
IC-085638	4.44	4.45	4.45
IC-085639	4.82	4.63	4.73
PBIG-2(Check)	3.43	3.44	3.44
Mean	4.45	4.68	4.56
C.V.	8.6009	3.9760	4.9986
S.E.	0.2210	0.1075	0.1863
C.D. 5%	0.6223	0.3026	0.3710

Table 2: Effect of different genotypes of bitter gourd on vitamin 'C' (mg / 100gm) during 2014 and 2015.

Genotypes	Vitamin 'C' (mg / 100 gm)		Pooled
	2014	2015	
IC-085608	72.49	73.46	73.98
IC-085609	72.67	73.65	73.83
IC-085610	74.66	75.17	75.75
IC-085611	72.74	73.71	74.06
IC-085612	81.05	81.57	81.65
IC-085625	72.60	73.57	73.93
IC-085613	73.54	74.51	74.53
IC-085614	71.90	72.86	73.39
IC-085626	74.15	75.13	75.14
IC-085615	72.64	73.60	73.29
IC-085616	80.49	81.04	81.10
IC-085617	74.91	75.90	75.91
IC-085618	71.29	72.78	72.70
IC-085619	70.83	73.19	72.35
IC-085620	71.30	73.51	73.08
IC-085621	72.68	74.84	74.10
IC-085622	76.67	79.88	78.78
IC-085623	71.93	74.49	73.88
IC-085624	72.50	73.86	73.68
HABG-29	72.10	72.71	72.91
HABG-30	74.35	75.27	75.48
IC-085627	74.88	74.93	75.91

IC-085628	72.79	73.06	73.43
IC-085629	75.69	75.11	76.57
IC-085630	76.25	76.76	77.18
IC-085631	73.34	74.30	74.49
IC-085632	75.06	75.82	75.94
IC-085633	71.42	72.38	72.57
PBIG-1	71.44	72.10	71.78
PBIG-3	72.27	72.96	72.62
PBIG-4	73.54	73.79	73.67
PBIG-5	70.47	71.20	70.84
PBIG-6	71.73	72.00	71.87
PBIG-7	72.41	71.93	72.18
IC-085634	71.05	71.26	71.16
IC-085635	72.44	72.78	72.62
IC-085636	75.72	75.87	75.80
IC-085638	74.62	74.84	74.73
IC-085639	74.09	74.32	74.21
PBIG-2(Check)	75.22	75.03	75.13
Mean	73.55	74.38	74.40
C.V.	2.1362	4.1557	1.4580
S.E.	0.9071	1.7847	0.8857
C.D. 5%	2.5540	5.0247	1.7634

Vitamin 'C' (mg/100 gm)

Vitamin 'C' of bitter gourds in different germplasms during both the years of investigation have been presented in Table 2. The data revealed that the amount of Vitamin 'C' present in different germplasms were significantly different during both the years. Maximum Vitamin 'C' was recorded in IC-085612 (81.05 & 81.57) followed by IC-085616 (80.49 & 81.04) and IC-085622 (76.67 & 79.88) which were statistically at par with each other and significantly higher from the check germplasms. Minimum Vitamin 'C' was recorded in PBIG-5 (70.47 & 71.20) during both the years of investigation. It was possibly due to genotypic and phenotypic characters of the germplasms.

Conclusion

On the basis of the result of present study, it can be concluded that genotypes like accession IC- 085612(IIVR) have the highest vitamin C content followed by IC-085616 (IIVR) and IC-085622 (IIVR) under climatic condition of central Uttar Pradesh. The results also found variations in yield attributes which created great potentiality for developing high yielding and quality bitter gourd through breeding.

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