Genetic variation and selection parameters in ragi genotypes
(Eleusine coracana Gaertin.)

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ABSTRACT
A study was undertaken to estimate the genetic variability and selection parameters heritability and genetic advance for yield and yield contributing characters in finger millet. The study based on 65 genotypes received from ICRISAT Hyderabad including 5 checks revealed that highly significant genotypic and phenotypic variability exist in the crop with respect to characters days to 50% flowering, plant height, basal number of tillers, flag leaf length, flag leaf sheath length, peduncle length, exertion length, inflorescence length, longest finger length, peduncle branch number, 1000 grain weight and yield. The highest heritability and genetic advance observed in case of yield and plant height indicated that the character might be under control of additive genes. The higher heritability was also observed in respect of number of basal tillers, plant height and flag leaf sheath length, and longest finger. Therefore, weight age should be given on these traits selection programme of genotypes for substantial yield improvement of finger millet.

Key words : Eleusine coracana Gaertin, Selection parameter, Variability, Correlation coefficient, Path analysis.