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DUS characterization of linseed (Linum **R**ESEARCH ARTICLE : usitatissimum L.) germplasm

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SUMMARY: The field experiment was carried out to study the DUS characterization of linseed (Linum usitatissimum L.) germplasm in the research plots of new area belongs to the Department of Seed Science and Technology, College of Agriculture Raichur during Rabi 2016-17. Linseed or flax is a multipurpose crop grown in many environments for food, feed, fibre and industry. The availability of diverse germplasm of characterization data and evaluation data is of greatest importance to realize the potential of flax in agriculture. In linseed, large number of germplasm are available with greater similarity for their plant structure as well as for blue flower so at this real use of (DUS) distinctness, uniformity and stability is very much applicable. Therefore, looking to these facts present study was based on DUS characterization of thirteen diverse line including exotic and indigenous accessions of linseed, The seed materials were collected from AICRP on linseed, PC Unit, Kanpur. The genotypes used for the study were 1) Jeevan, 2) Ruchi, 3) Pratapalsi 4) Parvati, 5) Meera, 6) Rashmi, 7) Shikha, 8) Nagarkot, 9) Gaurav, 10) Jrf-1, 11) Jrf-3, 12) Jrf-4, 13) Pcl-16-2. Observations were recorded as per DUS, UPOV 2011. The morphological traits were evaluated as per Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) guidelines. Yield contributing characters like plant height, time of flowering, capsule size, seed size and 1000 seed weight showed variation and most of the lines come under medium category as 69.23% 76.92%, 53.84%, 100% and 69.23%, respectively. The results showed the range of characters which can be exploited in breeding lines appropriate for smallholder and commercial farmers in, producing a sustainable, secure, high-value crop meeting agricultural, economic and cultural needs.

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