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Research Paper

Study on growth and flowering of okra [*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench] hybrids

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ABSTRACT

Ten okra hybrids were studied for growth and flowering parameters under Parbhani conditions at Department of Horticulture, Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani during *Kharif* 2009. Hybrid Syngenta 016 recorded early and highest yield (171.60 q/ha) showing relation with growth and flowering, while at par with Mahabeej 913 (161.31 q/ha). Syngenta 016 recorded highest plant height (183.60 cm), maximum number of functional leaves (23.43), more number of branches (3.46) and maximum leaf area (506.56 cm^2), while minimum days to flower initiation (41.43), days to 50 per cent flowering (44.33) and days to first harvest (47.00) showing earliness.

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Key words : Flowering, Growth, Okra hybrids

Okra [*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) Moench] has increased substantially due to rapid development of hybrids. However, very less attempt has been made to standardize them for various locations. Since several hybrids are available for cultivation, it is necessary to study on growth and flowering characteristics of okra hybrids with potentiality for prevailing agroclimatic conditions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was laid out in a Randomized Block Design with three replications at the field of Department of Horticulture, Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani during *Kharif* season of 2009. The treatments under study were : T_1 (Mahabeej-913), T_2 (Mahyco-10), T_3 (Syngenta 016), T_4 (Rasi 20), T_5 (Sleek), T_6 (Soh 136), T_7 (Prerna), T_8 (Rashmi), T_9 (BSS 828) and T_{10} (Parbhani Kranti). Recommended package of practices were adopted to raise the crop successfully. Observations on height of plant, number of functional leaves, leaf area, number of branches per plant, first fruiting nodal position, days to first harvesting were recorded from randomly selected five plants. The mean data were subjected to statistical analysis following standard procedure (Panse and Sukhatme, 1967).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of variance carried out for all the characters revealed significant differences among genotypes and reflected genetic variability among the test material (Table 1).

Hybrid Syngenta 016 recorded highest plant height (183.60 cm) while Rashmi (134.40) lowest. The number of functional leaves recorded highest in treatment Syngenta 016 (23.40) which was at par with Mahabeej 913 (21.53) and BSS 828 (21.03). Highest number of branches per plant (3.46), leaf area (506.56 cm^2) were recorded in Syngenta 016 which was at par with Mahabeej 913 and BSS 828. The lowest nodal position for first fruiting was in Syngenta 016 (4.70 cm). Wide variation for growth characters in okra was also reported by Singh *et al*. (2003) and Phad (2007).

Flowering and days to first harvest is envisaged as an index of earliness. Data in Table 1 revealed that Syngenta 016 was recorded minimum average number of days for flower initiation (41.43), days to 50 per cent flowering (44.33) and days to first harvest (47.00), which was at par with Mahabeej 913 for above characters. The results were confirmed by Tewari and Singh (2003), Anand *et al*. (2005), Suseela and Bharathalaxmi (2005) for above characters. Earliness in yield was due to variation in growth and flowering characters. Similar results were reported by Neeraja *et al*. (2002), Tewari and Singh (2003), Singh *et al*. (2003) and Debnath and Nath (2003).