Correlation studies in maize (*Zea mays* L.) evaluated for grain yield and other yield attributes

J. JAYAKUMAR*, T. SUNDARAM, D. ARUN PRABU AND A. RAGU RAMA RAJAN
Dept. of Plant Breeding and Genetics, Agricultural College and Research Institute, KILLIKULAM (T.N.), INDIA

ABSTRACT
An experimental study was conducted to evaluate the relationship between yield and its components in maize through correlation studies. Yield is the foremost consideration in the breeding of any crop. Since the yield depends upon many yield contributing characters, it becomes essential to study the contribution of each character to the yield. Correlation is an important in estimating the relative importance of various characters on grain yield. From this studies, Ear girth recorded significant and highest positive correlation on grain yield followed by kernel rows, grains per row, grain weight, ear length, shelling percentage and crude protein. Plant height was significantly and positively correlated with grain yield. Days to maturity, days to silking and days to tasselling were negatively and significantly correlated with grain yield. These characters were significantly and positively inter correlated among the yield components. Hence ear girth, kernel rows, grains per row, grain weight and ear length should be given more importance while formulating selection indices for grain yield improvement in maize.

Key words: Correlation, Grain yield, Maize, *Zea mays* L.

* Author for correspondence. Present Address : Biotechnology Laboratory, Sugarcane Breeding Institute, COIMBATORE (T.N.) INDIA