

Research Article

Heterosis and Combining ability for yield and quality traits in Quality Protein Maize (*Zea mays* L.)

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Abstract

A study of diallel analysis (excluding reciprocal cross) involving 10 maize inbreds (P_1 to P_{10}) was carried out to identify high heterotic crosses and their relationship in terms of general and specific combining ability (GCA and SCA) for yield and quality traits in quality protein maize under four different environments. Analysis of variance exhibited highly significant difference among them for all the traits in all the environments. The ratio of *gca/sca* was less than unity there by indicating the preponderance of non-additive gene action in the expression of all the characters studied. The parents P_1 , P_4 and P_{10} for kernel yield, P_1 , P_3 and P_4 for oil content, P_6 and P_9 for protein content as well as tryptophan content, P_2 , P_6 and P_9 for lysine content were identified as most promising parents due to having good general combining ability in all environments. Among the crosses significant and desirable *sca* effects were found in $P_1 \times P_9$, $P_1 \times P_{10}$, $P_2 \times P_7$, $P_4 \times P_5$, $P_5 \times P_9$, $P_6 \times P_8$ and $P_7 \times P_9$ for kernel yield, $P_2 \times P_7$, $P_3 \times P_5$ and $P_1 \times P_7$ for oil content and $P_1 \times P_8$ and $P_5 \times P_9$ for protein, tryptophan and lysine content, respectively. On the basis of heterosis, the hybrids $P_1 \times P_{10}$, $P_2 \times P_7$, $P_4 \times P_5$ for kernel yield per plant, $P_3 \times P_5$ for oil, $P_5 \times P_9$ for protein as well as tryptophan and $P_1 \times P_{10}$ for lysine content gave consistent performance in all the environments. Therefore, these crosses could be utilised for further selection of high kernel yield and quality progenies to achieve quantum jump in quality protein maize improvement.

Key words

Maize, *gca* and *sca* effects, heterobeltiosis, standard heterosis, yield, and quality traits

Introduction

Maize (*Zea mays* L.) is an important cereal crop next to rice and wheat and it is one of the principle sources of carbohydrate and proteins for nearly half of the people in the world. It is a highly cross pollinated crop and there is a wide scope for exploitation of hybrid vigor. A genetic approach to improve the nutritional quality of maize protein yielded the quality protein maize which contains *opaque-2*, a single gene mutation that alter the protein composition of the endosperm protein and nearly double the essential amino acids (Akande and Lamidi, 2006). Quality protein maize (QPM) contains two high quality amino acids *viz.*, lysine and tryptophan, which are two times higher in QPM than normal maize. With its high nutritional quality QPM can offer an easy and inexpensive source of high quality protein to the millions of poor. Development and adaptation of QPM would increase the nutritional quality of food and feed as well.

Information on heterotic patterns and combining ability among maize germplasm is essential in maximizing the effectiveness of hybrid development. Development of commercial QPM hybrid usually requires a good knowledge of combining ability of the breeding materials to be used. Selection of parents based on combining ability has been used as an important breeding approach in crop improvement. The success in commercial production of hybrid maize depends up on the availability of productive diverse quality protein maize inbred lines and clear knowledge of

gene action for specific traits. Therefore, the present investigation was undertaken to study the combining ability and estimate the extent of heterosis for kernel yield and quality traits under different environments to check the consistency of superior cross combination.

Materials and Methods

Ten diverse inbred lines of QPM *viz.*, GWQPM 6-3, GWQPM 5-1, GWQPM 55-2, GWQPM 47-4, GWQPM 46-2, GWQPM 40-3, GWQPM 26-3, GWQPM 22-5, GWQPM 17-1 and GWQPM 11 were utilised to produce 45 F_1 hybrids using half diallel crossing system during *kharif* and *Rabi* 2011-12. The 45 hybrids along with their parents and checks (HQPM 1 and DHM 117) were evaluated in randomized block design with three replication in four different environments *viz.*, E1: *Kharif* (1st fortnight of July, 2012), E2: *Semi rabi* (2nd fort night of October, 2012), E3: *Rabi* (1st fort night of December, 2012) and E4: *Summer* (2nd fort night of January, 2013) at Agricultural Research Station, Anand Agricultural University, Sansoli, Ta: Mahemdavad, Dist.: Kheda (Gujarat). Each entry was consisted of a single row of 5.0 m length with distance of 60 cm between rows and 30 cm between plants within row. The data were recorded for kernel yield per plant, oil content (by Soxhlet method AOAC, 1995), protein content (Microkjeldahl method by Hawk 1951), tryptophan content (Colorimetric method by Hernandez and Bates, 1969) and lysine content (Colorimetric method by Tsai *et al.*, 1972). The mean data were subjected to statistical

analysis. The analysis of variance was carried out as per the method given by Panse and Sukhatme (1969), combining ability analysis (model-I and method -II) as suggested by Griffing (1956) as well as estimation of heterobeltiosis and economic heterosis as per the method given by Fonseca and Peterson (1968) and Meredith and Bridge (1972), respectively.

Results and Discussion

The analysis of variance revealed highly significant differences for all the characters studied (Table 1). The mean square due to parents differed significantly indicating the parents involved in the study were diverse for all the characters. The variance due to parents *vs* crosses differed significantly indicating the presence of high heterosis response in the material studied. The variance due to general and specific combining ability was highly significant for all the characters under study, indicating the influence of both additive and non-additive effects in the expression of these characters (Table 2). The influence of both types of gene effect was also observed by Amiruzzaman *et al.* (2011) and Avinash (2011) in maize. Combining ability analysis revealed that estimates of specific combining ability (SCA) variances were higher than general combining ability (GCA) variances for all the traits under study in all the environments, suggesting preponderance of non-additive gene action for these traits.

GCA effects: The estimates of GCA effects (Table 5) showed that the parents GWQPM 6-3, GWQPM 47-4 and GWQPM 11 were found to be good general combiner for kernel yield per plant at least in three environments. The GCA effects for oil content revealed that, the parents GWQPM 6-3, GWQPM 55-2 and GWQPM 47-4 exhibited significant and positive GCA effects in all environments. The parents GWQPM 40-3 and GWQPM 17-1 possess positive significant GCA effects at least in three environments and proved to be a good general combiner for protein and tryptophan content, while the parents GWQPM 5-1, GWQPM 40-3 and GWQPM 17-1 were found to be good general combiner for lysine content in all the environments. Thus the inbred lines which exhibited good general combiner for at least one trait can be used as donor parents for the accumulation of favorable genes.

SCA effects: Specific combining ability effects for kernel yield per plant (Table 6) revealed that the range of SCA effects for these traits ranged from -29.45 to 42.77 in E₁, -17.19 to 34.11 in E₂, -39.51 to 49.67 in E₃ and -26.96 to 39.39 in E₄. Among the 45 crosses, the cross GWQPM 6-3 x GWQPM 17-1, GWQPM 6-3 x GWQPM 11, GWQPM 5-1 x GWQPM 26-3, GWQPM 47-4 x GWQPM 46-2, GWQPM 46-2 x GWQPM 17-1, GWQPM 40-3 x

GWQPM 22-5 and GWQPM 26-3 x GWQPM 17-1 give the consistent performance in all the environments and proved to be good specific combiner for this trait. The number of crosses which depicted significant and positive SCA effects in all the environments were 12, 3, 9 and 11 for oil, protein, tryptophan and lysine content, respectively. Among them GWQPM 6-3 x GWQPM 26-3, GWQPM 5-1 x GWQPM 26-3, GWQPM 55-2 x GWQPM 46-2 for oil content and GWQPM 6-3 x GWQPM 22-5 and GWQPM 46-2 x GWQPM 17-1 for protein, tryptophan and lysine content found good specific combiners. In the present study, the cross which was found to be good for the respective characters had at least one parent with good or average general combiner. Therefore, in diallel analysis one must select hybrids of high specific combining ability in which one of the parents with good general combining ability.

Heterosis: The range of heterobeltiosis and standard heterosis for different traits is presented in Table 3. Considering the higher heterosis for kernel yield per plant, hybrids GWQPM 6-3 x GWQPM 11 and GWQPM 5-1 x GWQPM 26-3 were superior by giving consistent performance in all the environments. Whereas, cross GWQPM 47-4 x GWQPM 46-2 in E₁ and E₄, GWQPM 6-3 x GWQPM 17-1 in E₂ and GWQPM 6-3 x GWQPM 26-3 in E₃ were having better heterotic effects. Oil, protein, tryptophan and lysine content are important quality traits in quality protein maize. For these traits very less variation was observed between parents and crosses. Several crosses exhibited significant desirable heterosis for these traits. The cross GWQPM 55-2 x GWQPM 46-2 for oil content, GWQPM 46-2 x GWQPM 17-1 for protein as well as tryptophan content and GWQPM 6-3 x GWQPM 11 for lysine content recorded positive heterobeltiosis and standard heterosis in most of the environments. Thus heterosis breeding holds promise for improving quality traits in maize. In general, it is observed from the heterotic result that the cross which found superior for kernel yield and quality traits are different. This indicated that yield and quality have negative relationship i.e. when quality of hybrid increased side by side yield was decreased and vice versa (Amiruzzaman *et al.* 2011). The results are in agreement with Patel *et al.* (2007), Avinash (2011) and Premalatha *et al.* (2011).

Thus it can be concluded that, parents GWQPM 6-3, GWQPM 47-4 and GWQPM 11 for kernel yield per plant whereas, GWQPM 40-3 and GWQPM 17-1 for quality traits (*viz.*, oil, protein, tryptophan and lysine content) found good general combiners. The crosses GWQPM 6-3 x GWQPM 11, GWQPM 5-1 x GWQPM 26-3 and GWQPM 47-4 x GWQPM 46-2 were identified as

outstanding for kernel yield per plant due to possessing high SCA and heterotic effects. Therefore, these hybrids and their parents may further utilize in future breeding programme.

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Table 1. Analysis of variance for kernel yield per plant, oil , protein, tryptophan and lysine contents in maize

| Source of variance | df | Mean sum of squares | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|---------|---------|--------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | Kernel yield/plant | | | | Oil content | | | | Protein content | | | | Tryptophan content | | | | Lysine content | | | |
| | | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 |
| Replications | 2 | 178.04 | 74.39 | 24.64 | 35.47 | 0.001 | 0.007 | 0.013 | 0.002 | 0.04 | 0.01 | 0.10 | 0.02 | 0.0002 | 0.0002 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 0.0008 | 0.0001 | 0.0061 | 0.0001 |
| Genotypes | 56 | 663.53** | 581.70** | 1533.27** | 573.07** | 0.35** | 0.36** | 0.25** | 0.27** | 0.57** | 0.59** | 0.75** | 0.57** | 0.006** | 0.005** | 0.006** | 0.006** | 0.070** | 0.077** | 0.108** | 0.049** |
| Parents (P) | 9 | 380.22** | 461.45** | 112.51** | 356.21** | 0.24** | 0.35** | 0.09** | 0.28** | 0.31** | 0.37** | 0.30** | 0.26** | 0.005** | 0.004** | 0.006** | 0.010** | 0.082** | 0.090** | 0.119** | 0.060** |
| Hybrids (H) | 44 | 701.25** | 564.97** | 1712.44** | 620.63** | 0.33** | 0.35** | 0.26** | 0.27** | 0.55** | 0.58** | 0.82** | 0.64** | 0.006** | 0.004** | 0.006** | 0.005** | 0.066** | 0.076** | 0.107** | 0.048** |
| P x H | 1 | 1553.67** | 2399.85** | 6436.41** | 432.07** | 2.39** | 0.62** | 0.99** | 0.45** | 3.48** | 2.83** | 1.55** | 0.32** | 0.005** | 0.029** | 0.009** | 0.019** | 0.143** | 0.041** | 0.063** | 0.001** |
| C x H. | 1 | 1554.55** | 1094.08** | 1662.82** | 1241.94** | 0.02** | 0.72** | 1.12** | 0.42** | 0.013** | 1.90** | 8.53** | 4.94** | 0.007** | 0.013** | 0.042** | 0.012** | 0.497** | 0.462** | 0.677** | 0.387** |
| Bet. Chk | 1 | 97.07** | 179.31** | 3740.01** | 489.45** | 1.00** | 0.30** | 0.21** | 1.92** | 10.09** | 11.68** | 17.20** | 9.88** | 0.054** | 0.073** | 0.84** | 0.084** | 1.279** | 1.915** | 2.065** | 2.030** |
| Error | 112 | 51.18 | 75.23 | 72.80 | 59.53 | 0.001 | 0.002 | 0.005 | 0.003 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.06 | 0.0003 | 0.0002 | 0.0002 | 0.0003 | 0.0004 | 0.0004 | 0.0062 | 0.0002 |

Table 2. Analysis of variance for combining ability for kernel yield per plant, oil, protein, tryptophan and lysine contents in maize

| Source of variance | df | Mean sum of squares | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | Kernel yield/plant | | | | Oil content | | | | Protein content | | | | Tryptophan content | | | | Lysine content | | | |
| | | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 |
| Parents | 9 | 228.2** | 422.2** | 622.2** | 196.1** | 0.13** | 0.16** | 0.07** | 0.08** | 0.19** | 0.17** | 0.38** | 0.23** | 0.002** | 0.002** | 0.003** | 0.003** | 0.04** | 0.03** | 0.05** | 0.03** |
| Hybrids | 44 | 219.8** | 148.2** | 488.9** | 190.0** | 0.12** | 0.11** | 0.09** | 0.09** | 0.18** | 0.20** | 0.22** | 0.18** | 0.002** | 0.001** | 0.002** | 0.002** | 0.02** | 0.02** | 0.03** | 0.01** |
| Error | 108 | 17.01 | 25.1 | 24.3 | 19.8 | 0.0002 | 0.0008 | 0.0016 | 0.0011 | 0.017 | 0.016 | 0.020 | 0.021 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 |
| Variance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GCA | | 0.77 | 24.9 | 12.1 | 0.55 | 0.0013 | 0.0043 | -0.001 | -0.001 | 0.001 | -0.003 | 0.014 | 0.004 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 0.0001 | 0.0021 | 0.0012 | 0.0025 | 0.0017 |
| SCA | | 202.7 | 123.2 | 464.6 | 170.2 | 0.115 | 0.110 | 0.083 | 0.092 | 0.172 | 0.184 | 0.203 | 0.162 | 0.0017 | 0.0015 | 0.0019 | 0.0017 | 0.0194 | 0.0235 | 0.0293 | 0.0130 |
| GCA/SCA | | 0.004 | 0.202 | 0.026 | 0.003 | 0.011 | 0.039 | -0.012 | -0.011 | 0.006 | -0.016 | 0.068 | 0.024 | 0.058 | 0.066 | 0.052 | 0.058 | 0.11 | 0.051 | 0.085 | 0.13 |

Table 3. Range of heterobeltiosis and standard heterosis for yield and quality traits in maize

| Traits | Range | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | HB | | | | SH over HQPM 1 | | | | SH over DHM 117 | | | |
| | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 | E1 | E2 | E3 | E4 |
| KY | -25.55** to | -21.63** to | -29.25** to | -27.94** to | -29.35** to | -24.92** to | -30.38** to | -29.66** to | -34.01** to | -31.17** to | -50.32** to | -41.51** to |
| | 43.21** | 45.23** | 60.66** | 48.16** | 34.30** | 18.77** | 56.61** | 48.22** | 25.44** | 8.88 | 11.77** | 23.25** |
| OC | -17.87** to | -22.46** to | -13.15** to | -19.55** to | -21.92** to | -17.07** to | -9.37** to | -21.83** to | -5.62** to | -7.45** to | -0.81** to | 2.89* to |
| | 21.43** | 22.26** | 23.31** | 23.47** | 6.91** | 20.17** | 23.75** | 7.02** | 29.22** | 34.11** | 36.29** | 40.86** |
| PC | -14.79** to | -9.67** to | -8.05** to | -9.61** to | -17.88** to | -12.08** to | -13.95** to | -11.31** to | 2.31 to | 11.44** to | 14.08** to | 11.02** to |
| | 4.97** | 5.42** | 7.36** | 8.78** | 0.89 | 2.62 | 4.47** | 6.48** | 23.48** | 30.07** | 38.51** | 33.29** |
| TC | -13.14** to | -17.65** to | -18.32** to | -18.18** to | -18.00** to | -17.00** to | -18.11** to | -19.46** to | 6.22** to | 12.30** to | 13.66** to | 11.29** to |
| | 13.64** | 1.96 | 8.23** | 6.38** | 3.20* | 2.17* | 3.54** | 1.56 | 33.68** | 39.04** | 43.72** | 40.32** |
| LC | -14.69** to | -20.05** to | -25.22** to | -11.82** to | -18.29** to | -23.98** to | -27.96** to | -20.52** to | 26.53** to | 28.08** to | 23.58** to | 35.63** to |
| | 14.10** | 7.92** | 6.17** | 8.82** | 4.73** | 0.60 | 4.98* | 0.71 | 62.18** | 69.49** | 80.08** | 71.86** |

KY: kernel yield per plant, OC: oil content, PC-protein content, TC-tryptophan content, LC-lysine content

Table 4. Manifestation of heterobeltiosis (HB) and standard heterosis (SH) for quality characters in three top ranking crosses for kernel yield per plant in each environment

| Characters | | Heterobeltiosis (HB) | | | Standard heterosis (SH) | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------|---------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| | | | | | HQPM 1 | | | DHM 117 | | |
| | | P1 x P10 | P2 x P7 | P4 x P5 | P1 x P10 | P2 x P7 | P4 x P5 | P1 x P10 | P2 x P7 | P4 x P5 |
| Kernel yield per plant | E ₁ | 43.21** | 23.67** | 25.52** | 34.30** | 17.37** | 13.74** | 25.44** | 9.62* | 6.23 |
| | E ₂ | 15.66** | 45.23** | 13.06* | 14.89* | 18.77** | 11.24 | 5.33 | 8.88 | 1.68 |
| | E ₃ | 60.66** | 52.37** | 37.59** | 56.61** | 49.92** | 29.19** | 11.77** | 7.00 | 7.80 |
| | E ₄ | 48.16** | 32.14** | 27.36** | 48.22** | 30.40** | 20.62** | 23.25** | 8.43 | 0.30 |
| Oil content | E ₁ | 9.57** | 8.97** | 15.25** | 2.47** | 3.59** | -1.48** | 23.85** | 25.21** | 19.08** |
| | E ₂ | 2.46** | 15.70** | 12.39** | 13.27** | 8.07** | 10.47** | 26.41** | 20.61** | 23.29** |
| | E ₃ | 5.98** | 6.17** | 21.16** | 10.60** | 8.79** | 23.75** | 21.81** | 19.82** | 36.29** |
| | E ₄ | 3.21** | 13.39** | 7.77** | 0.28 | -3.40** | -4.61** | 32.00** | 27.15** | 25.56** |
| Protein content | E ₁ | -2.10 | -1.60 | -9.45** | -8.80** | -6.16** | -11.82** | 13.62** | 16.90** | 9.86** |
| | E ₂ | -0.33 | -1.25 | -5.17** | -7.31** | -2.42 | -4.74** | 17.48** | 23.68** | 20.74** |
| | E ₃ | 3.47* | 6.19* | 2.39 | -1.16 | -0.36 | -0.36 | 31.04** | 32.09** | 32.09** |
| | E ₄ | -2.88 | -0.54 | 1.92 | -4.94** | -3.98* | 0.00 | 19.00** | 20.57** | 25.18** |
| Tryptophan content | E ₁ | 13.55** | 5.51** | 1.72 | -2.8 | -0.40 | -5.6** | 25.91** | 29.02** | 22.28** |
| | E ₂ | 0.43 | -1.20 | -5.49** | -6.72** | -1.98 | -4.74** | 26.20** | 32.62** | 28.88** |
| | E ₃ | -0.79 | 3.20* | -2.29 | -1.57 | 1.57 | 0.79 | 36.61** | 40.98** | 39.89** |
| | E ₄ | -1.70 | -5.43** | -2.46 | -10.12** | -5.06** | -7.39** | 24.19** | 31.18** | 27.96** |
| Lysine content | E ₁ | 14.10** | 4.06** | 10.94** | 3.45** | 1.53* | -1.41* | 60.20** | 57.23** | 52.67** |
| | E ₂ | -0.67 | 7.92** | -5.17** | -10.67** | -0.36 | -7.55** | 50.51** | 67.88** | 55.76** |
| | E ₃ | 5.90** | 0.88 | 0.73 | 2.01 | -5.21* | -2.25 | 75.00** | 62.60** | 67.68** |
| | E ₄ | 7.54** | 1.45** | 3.32** | -5.22** | -8.78** | -7.59** | 61.74** | 55.67** | 57.69** |

Table 5. General combining ability effects for kernel yield per plant, oil, protein, tryptophan and lysine contents in maize

| Sl. No. | Parents | Envi. | Kernel yield/plant | Oil | Protein | Tryptophan | Lysine |
|----------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|----------|----------|------------|----------|
| 1 | GWQPM - 6-3 | E ₁ | 7.30 ** | 0.20 ** | 0.04 | -0.01 ** | -0.03 ** |
| | | E ₂ | 12.95 ** | 0.13 ** | -0.03 | -0.01 ** | 0.02 ** |
| | | E ₃ | 12.99 ** | 0.15 ** | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.04 ** |
| | | E ₄ | 7.38 ** | 0.11 ** | 0.15 ** | -0.01 ** | 0.02 ** |
| 2 | GWQPM - 5-1 | E ₁ | 2.60 * | -0.11 ** | 0.17 ** | 0.01 * | 0.06 ** |
| | | E ₂ | 0.21 | -0.04 ** | 0.01 | 0.01 ** | 0.06 ** |
| | | E ₃ | 1.17 | -0.03 ** | -0.06 | 0.00 | 0.03 ** |
| | | E ₄ | 1.13 | -0.04 ** | 0.00 | 0.01 ** | 0.02 ** |
| 3 | GWQPM - 55-2 | E ₁ | -6.87 ** | 0.12 ** | -0.29 ** | -0.02 ** | -0.10 ** |
| | | E ₂ | -5.70 ** | 0.12 ** | -0.14 ** | -0.01 ** | -0.07 ** |
| | | E ₃ | -10.05 ** | 0.03 ** | -0.30 ** | -0.02 ** | -0.11 ** |
| | | E ₄ | -7.28 ** | 0.04 ** | -0.13 ** | -0.01 ** | -0.07 ** |
| 4 | GWQPM -47-4 | E ₁ | 5.11 ** | 0.03 ** | -0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | E ₂ | 7.16 ** | 0.14 ** | 0.13 ** | 0.00 | -0.04 ** |
| | | E ₃ | -3.71 ** | 0.03 ** | -0.03 | 0.00 | -0.03 * |
| | | E ₄ | 3.32 ** | 0.06 ** | 0.00 | -0.01 ** | -0.02 ** |
| 5 | GWQPM -46-2 | E ₁ | -2.65 * | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.01 ** | -0.02 ** |
| | | E ₂ | -3.36 * | 0.01 | 0.13 ** | 0.01 ** | 0.00 |
| | | E ₃ | -4.79 ** | 0.07 ** | 0.10 * | 0.01 ** | 0.01 |
| | | E ₄ | -2.79 * | 0.00 | -0.06 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6 | GWQPM -40-3 | E ₁ | -3.47 ** | -0.02 ** | 0.13 ** | 0.02 ** | 0.07 ** |
| | | E ₂ | -5.07 ** | -0.02 * | 0.02 | 0.01 ** | 0.06 ** |
| | | E ₃ | -9.60 ** | 0.04 ** | 0.25 ** | 0.02 ** | 0.09 ** |
| | | E ₄ | -3.03 * | -0.08 ** | 0.20 ** | 0.03 ** | 0.07 ** |
| 7 | GWQPM -26-3 | E ₁ | -1.20 | 0.03 ** | -0.05 | 0.00 | -0.04 ** |
| | | E ₂ | -1.59 | -0.18 ** | -0.01 | -0.01 ** | -0.03 ** |
| | | E ₃ | 6.28 ** | -0.04 ** | -0.17 ** | -0.01 ** | -0.10 ** |
| | | E ₄ | -1.18 | -0.15 ** | -0.18 ** | -0.01 ** | -0.06 ** |
| 8 | GWQPM -22-5 | E ₁ | -0.79 | -0.13 ** | 0.03 | 0.01 * | 0.00 |
| | | E ₂ | 0.01 | -0.19 ** | -0.01 | 0.01 ** | 0.00 |
| | | E ₃ | 2.37 | -0.07 ** | 0.10 * | 0.00 | 0.05 ** |
| | | E ₄ | 0.86 | 0.00 | -0.04 | 0.00 | -0.02 ** |
| 9 | GWQPM -17-1 | E ₁ | -2.91 * | 0.00 | 0.04 | 0.01 ** | 0.09 ** |
| | | E ₂ | -5.04 ** | 0.03 ** | 0.15 ** | 0.02 ** | 0.08 ** |
| | | E ₃ | 0.79 | -0.09 ** | 0.23 ** | 0.02 ** | 0.08 ** |
| | | E ₄ | -1.07 | 0.10 ** | 0.20 ** | 0.02 ** | 0.09 ** |
| 10 | GWQPM -11 | E ₁ | 2.87 * | -0.12 ** | -0.07 | -0.01 ** | -0.03 ** |
| | | E ₂ | 0.43 | -0.01 | -0.23 ** | -0.02 ** | -0.08 ** |
| | | E ₃ | 4.55 ** | -0.09 ** | -0.15 ** | -0.02 ** | -0.05 ** |
| | | E ₄ | 2.65 * | -0.02 * | -0.12 ** | -0.02 ** | -0.04 ** |
| SE | | E ₁ | 1.17 | 0.004 | 0.037 | 0.003 | 0.003 |
| | | E ₂ | 1.42 | 0.008 | 0.036 | 0.002 | 0.003 |
| | | E ₃ | 1.40 | 0.011 | 0.040 | 0.002 | 0.013 |
| | | E ₄ | 1.27 | 0.009 | 0.042 | 0.003 | 0.002 |
| SE gi-gj | | E ₁ | 1.76 | 0.006 | 0.056 | 0.004 | 0.005 |
| | | E ₂ | 2.14 | 0.012 | 0.055 | 0.003 | 0.005 |
| | | E ₃ | 2.10 | 0.017 | 0.060 | 0.004 | 0.019 |
| | | E ₄ | 1.90 | 0.014 | 0.062 | 0.004 | 0.003 |
| CD | | E ₁ | 3.49 | 0.012 | 0.111 | 0.008 | 0.010 |
| | | E ₂ | 4.23 | 0.023 | 0.108 | 0.007 | 0.009 |
| | | E ₃ | 4.16 | 0.034 | 0.120 | 0.007 | 0.038 |
| | | E ₄ | 3.77 | 0.028 | 0.124 | 0.008 | 0.007 |

Table 6. Range of specific combining ability effects for kernel yield per plant, oil, protein, tryptophan and lysine contents in maize

| Sl. No. | Parents | Envi. | Kernel yield/plant | Oil | Protein | Tryptophan | Lysine |
|---------|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Range | E ₁ | -29.45 to 42.77 | -0.65 to 0.66 | -1.14 to 0.89 | -0.09 to 0.07 | -0.22 to 0.33 |
| | | E ₂ | -17.19 to 34.11 | -0.53 to 0.64 | -0.78 to 1.01 | -0.09 to 0.06 | -0.31 to 0.27 |
| | | E ₃ | -39.51 to 49.67 | -0.47 to 0.65 | -0.95 to 0.87 | -0.10 to 0.08 | -0.49 to 0.31 |
| | | E ₄ | -26.96 to 39.39 | -0.53 to 0.69 | -0.86 to 1.15 | -0.08 to 0.07 | -0.19 to 0.25 |
| 2 | S.E. | E ₁ | 3.78 | 0.01 | 0.12 | 0.009 | 0.011 |
| | | E ₂ | 4.58 | 0.03 | 0.12 | 0.007 | 0.010 |
| | | E ₃ | 4.51 | 0.04 | 0.13 | 0.008 | 0.041 |
| | | E ₄ | 4.07 | 0.03 | 0.13 | 0.009 | 0.007 |
| 3 | SE sij-sik | E ₁ | 5.57 | 0.02 | 0.18 | 0.013 | 0.016 |
| | | E ₂ | 6.75 | 0.04 | 0.17 | 0.010 | 0.015 |
| | | E ₃ | 6.64 | 0.05 | 0.19 | 0.012 | 0.061 |
| | | E ₄ | 6.01 | 0.04 | 0.20 | 0.013 | 0.011 |
| 4 | CD | E ₁ | 11.04 | 0.04 | 0.35 | 0.026 | 0.031 |
| | | E ₂ | 13.38 | 0.07 | 0.34 | 0.021 | 0.029 |
| | | E ₃ | 13.17 | 0.11 | 0.38 | 0.023 | 0.121 |
| | | E ₄ | 11.91 | 0.09 | 0.39 | 0.026 | 0.021 |
| 5 | SE sij-skl | E ₁ | 5.28 | 0.02 | 0.17 | 0.013 | 0.015 |
| | | E ₂ | 6.41 | 0.04 | 0.16 | 0.010 | 0.014 |
| | | E ₃ | 6.30 | 0.05 | 0.18 | 0.011 | 0.058 |
| | | E ₄ | 5.70 | 0.04 | 0.19 | 0.013 | 0.010 |
| 6 | CD | E ₁ | 10.47 | 0.04 | 0.33 | 0.025 | 0.030 |
| | | E ₂ | 12.70 | 0.07 | 0.33 | 0.020 | 0.027 |
| | | E ₃ | 12.49 | 0.10 | 0.36 | 0.022 | 0.115 |
| | | E ₄ | 11.30 | 0.08 | 0.37 | 0.025 | 0.020 |
| 7 | Positive | E ₁ | 24 | 26 | 18 | 23 | 25 |
| | | E ₂ | 23 | 22 | 22 | 20 | 21 |
| | | E ₃ | 20 | 25 | 26 | 22 | 22 |
| | | E ₄ | 22 | 23 | 21 | 21 | 24 |
| 8 | Positive significant | E ₁ | 11 | 23 | 8 | 14 | 20 |
| | | E ₂ | 11 | 22 | 7 | 15 | 19 |
| | | E ₃ | 18 | 21 | 17 | 19 | 14 |
| | | E ₄ | 10 | 19 | 9 | 13 | 21 |
| 9 | Negative | E ₁ | 21 | 19 | 27 | 22 | 20 |
| | | E ₂ | 22 | 23 | 23 | 25 | 24 |
| | | E ₃ | 25 | 20 | 19 | 23 | 23 |
| | | E ₄ | 23 | 22 | 24 | 24 | 21 |
| 10 | Negative significant | E ₁ | 13 | 18 | 14 | 14 | 18 |
| | | E ₂ | 7 | 17 | 16 | 19 | 21 |
| | | E ₃ | 13 | 15 | 14 | 20 | 18 |
| | | E ₄ | 13 | 18 | 12 | 18 | 20 |