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[editor@iajavs.com](mailto:editor@iajavs.com)  
[iajavs.editor@gmail.com](mailto:iajavs.editor@gmail.com)



# Genotypic Variation in Late-Set Pigeon Pea (*Cajanus cajan* L.) Yield Stability

Md. Rifat Ahmed<sup>1</sup>, Ayesha Akter Anne<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bako Agricultural Research Center, P. O. Box 03, Bako, Oromia Region, Ethiopia; <sup>2</sup>Dept. of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Gono Bishwabidyalay, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

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## ABSTRACT

In order to address the demands of farmers throughout the nation, a new pigeon pea breeding program has just been launched in Ethiopia. The program is actively working to improve the genetic yield potential by introducing new genotypes. The goal of this research was to assess the stability and performance of six late set pigeon pea genotypes, including the standard check, in terms of yield, as genotype performance is dependent on crop genetic potential and growing conditions. During the primary growing seasons of 2021, five sites in western Oromia—Bako, Billo, Gute, Uke, and Chewaka—had their yield performances assessed. There were three replications of the experiment at each site, using a Randomized Complete Block Design. The findings demonstrated that genotype-environment interaction (GEI) had a significant impact on the yield performances of late set pigeon pea genotypes. The effects of GEI on the yield components were substantial. The G + GE sum of squares was partitioned and found to have two significant components, IPCA1 and IPCA2, which contributed 29.72% and 34.86% of the total, respectively. These genotypes were very sensitive to their surroundings, exhibiting adaptation for high performance conditions and providing maximal output when inputs are not constrained. A highly significant mean square was reported for genotypes, genotypes by environment interaction, and environment. The ICEAP 01489 and 01499 genotypes showed good stability and yield performance in all of the tested conditions. Therefore, these two genotypes were chosen as potential candidates to be released the following season in Western Oromia and other regions with comparable agro-ecologies.

**Keywords:** Yield stability analysis, *Cajanus Cajan*, Genotype x environment, Late set, and Pigeon pea.

## INTRODUCTION:

According to Fatokimi and Tanimonure (2021), the pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan* L.) was rated sixth on the world stage, behind peas, broad beans, lentils, chickpeas, and common beans. Around the world, 4.49 million tons of it are grown each year on 5.4 million hectares of land. It is cultivated in around 82 countries throughout the globe. About 72% of the pigeon pea growing area is in India (FAO, 2017). In the southern and eastern parts of Africa,

About 0.56 million hectares are devoted to growing pigeon peas (Esther and Victoria, 2021). Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, and Uganda all rely on pigeon pea as a major crop. It is often grown alongside several crops, including yam, millet, sorghum, and cassava (Egbe and Kalu, 2006). Pulses like this tropical grain legume are essential for human consumption, animal feed, and the enhancement of

soil fertility. Rooted and drought-tolerant, this leguminous crop finds usage in a wide variety of dietary protein source in several nations (Troedson et al., 1990). Its seed is a good source of the protein your body needs since it is loaded with protein. According to Padhyaya and Reddy (2006), the protein content of the seed ranges from 18% to 29% by dry weight, which is much higher than cereals' value and somewhat lower than soybeans' 34%. Additionally, the protein is 258 of good quality and has a lot of lysine. Therefore, the crop is a great addition to meals that consist of grain and roots (Varshney et al., 2009).

As a key cash crop in many countries, including India and Malawi, pigeon pea has enormous economic potential (Silim and Mgonja, 2006). It has several applications in the pharmaceutical business and is a protein source for both people and animals (Egbe, 2005). Pigeon pea enhancement program started with germ-plasm introduction from the ICRISAT and neighboring countries to identify high-yielding, disease, and pest-tolerant cultivars. Pigeon pea research in terms of crop improvement is still at its infant stage in Ethiopia. The production of pigeon peas in the present agro-ecological area is inadequate due to a scarcity of released and widely adapted pigeon pea varieties, which are better in both biotic and abiotic aspects.

Hence, considering the importance of pigeon peas in food security and its potential for the future in the Ethiopian economy, it is important to increase its production and productivity through developing new ones. Hence, the current research was started to evaluate introduced pigeon pea genotypes, for releasing and registering improved varieties for production in the Western part of Oromia and areas with similar agro-ecologies (Ray et al., 2022; Mijena et al., 2023).

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

Six late set pigeon pea genotypes including check (Table 1) were evaluated at five locations for one year, during 2021 main cropping season. Each plot

consisted of four rows of 4- meter length, with 60 cm and 40 cm inter and intra row spacing, respectively. NPS fertilizer was applied at the rate of 100 kg ha-1 at planting time. All other management practices were applied as per recommendation.

**Data Analysis**

Data Analysis an Additive Main Effects and Multipl-icative Interaction (AMMI) model was used to assess genotype by environment interaction (GEI) pattern.

AMMI model is expressed as:

$$Y_{ger} = \mu + ag + \beta e + \sum \text{en} \text{ägn} + e_{ger} + \text{ñge}$$

Where:  $Y_{ger}$  is the observed yield of genotype (g) in environment (e) for replication (r);  $\mu$  is the grand mean;  $ag$  is the deviation of genotype g from the grand mean,  $\beta e$  is the deviation of environment e;  $\text{en}$  is the singular value for IPCA,  $\text{ägn}$  is the genotype eigen- vector for axis n, and  $\text{den}$  is environment eigenvector;  $e_{ger}$  is error term and  $\text{ñge}$  is PCA residual.

Accordingly, genotypes with low magnitudes, regard- less of the sign of interaction principal component analysis scores have general or wider adaptability; while genotypes with high magnitudes of IPCA scores have specific adaptability (Gauch, 1992; Umma et al., 2014). Genotype plus genotype by environment variation (GGE) was used to assess the performance of genotypes in different environments. The environmental effects were removed from the data and results obtained from the data were used to calculate envi- ronment and variety scores and these scores were used to plot the standard principal component bi-plots (Yan and Kang, 2003).

**Table 1:** Pedigree and source of Late set pigeon pea genotypes used for the study.

S. No.	Pedigree	Source of materials	Remark
1	ICEAP 01489	ICRSAT	Line
2	ICEAP 01517	ICRSAT	Line
3	ICEAP 01204	ICRSAT	Line
4	ICEAP 01499	ICRSAT	Line
5	ICEAP 01485	ICRSAT	Line

6	Dursa	OARI	Line
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**Table 2:** The study Environments and their main agro ecological features.

Location	Longitude	Latitude	Altitude (m)	RF (mm)	Soil texture
Bako	37°09'E	09°06'N	1650	1431	Sandy-clay
Gute	E:036038.196'	N:09001.061'	1915	NI	Clay
Billo	E:037°00.165'	N:09°54.097'	1645	1500	Reddish brown
Chewaka	036.11703'E	09.98285'N	1259	NI	Clay-loam
Uke	E:036032..391'E	N:09025.082'N	1319	NI	Sandy-loam

NI = not identified RF= Rainfall

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Combined analysis of variance there were statistically significant differences ( $P < 0.01$ ) among late set pigeon pea genotypes, environments and their interaction for grain yield (**Table 3**). This indicates the presence of genetic variation among the late set pigeon pea genotypes and possibility to select high yielding and stable genotype (s); the environments were variable and the responses of pigeon pea genotypes across environments were also variable.

**Table 3:** Combined analysis of variance for grain yield of six late set pigeon pea genotypes evaluated at parts western Oromia, Ethiopia.

Source	DF	Type III SS	Mean Square
Environments	4	96664800.37	24166200.09**
Genotypes	5	3055106.62	611021.32**
Block within environment	8	162053.22	20256.65*
Interaction	20	4987682.22	249384.11**
CV (%)		5.84	

DF=Degree of freedom Gen=Genotype Loc=Location Rep=Replication \*\*= significant at  $P = 0.01$ , \*=significant at  $P=0.05$  ns = non-significant

**Performance of Genotypes across Environments** The result presented in **Table 4** indicates the average mean grain yield of six late set pigeon pea genotypes including standard check evaluated across five environments in western Oromia in 2021 main cropping season. The pooled mean grain yield ranged from 1508.4 to 2039.3kg ha<sup>-1</sup>. Among all genotypes, genotype ICEAP 01204, ICEAP 01517 and ICEAP 01485 was lower yielder at Chewaka and Gute respectively. Higher grain yield was obtained from genotype ICEAP 01499 at Billo, Bako and Uke followed by genotype ICEAP 01489 at the same location while genotype ICEAP 01485 was the highest yield at Uke. This difference could be due to their genetic potential of the genotypes. Hence, genotype 260 ICEAP 01489 was found to be the top yielder at all locations followed by genotype ICEAP 01499 at three locations: Billo, Bako and Uke. The differences in yield rank of late set pigeon pea genotypes across the test environments revealed that there was high genotype by environment interaction in terms of yield.

**Table 4:** Mean grain yield for late set Pigeon pea for individual and across location.

Genotypes	Grain yield kg ha <sup>-1</sup>					Comb. GY (kg ha <sup>-1</sup> )	Yield Adv. (%) check
	Bako	Uke	Chewaka	Gute	Billo		
ICEAP 01489	1321.3	2649.1	1136.1	997.2	2902.5	1801.2	19.4 %
ICEAP 01517	1126.8	2813	470.4	437.97	2893.1	1548.3	
ICEAP 01204	1325.9	2987.1	393.5	471.3	2830.5	1601.7	
ICEAP 01499	1845.4	3045.4	736.1	709.3	3860.2	2039.3	35.2 %
ICEAP 01485	1377.8	3243.5	387.9	492.6	2479.5	1596.3	
Dursa	1588 <sup>b</sup>	2297.2	569.4	350.9	2736.5	1508.4	
Mean	1430.9	2839.2	615.6	576.6	2950.4	1682.5	

LSD (0.05)	233.8	271.5	66.9	76.8	144.3	72	
CV (%)	9.1	5.3	6.1	7.3	2.7	5.8	
P-value	**	**	**	**	**	**	

### AMMI analysis

An output of the ANOVA table of AMMI model analysis of variance for grain yield is presented in **Table 5**. This analysis also revealed the presence of highly significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) differences among late set pigeon pea varieties for grain yield. From the total treatment sum of squares, the largest portion (92.3%) was due to the environment's main effect; followed by genotype's main effect (63.35 %) and the effect of genotype by environment interaction was 25.9 %.

**Table 5:** Partitioning of the explained sum of square (SS) and mean square (MS) from AMMI analysis for grain yield of six late set pigeon pea genotypes used as testing materials.

Source of variation	Degree of freedom	SS	Explained SS (%)	MS
Total	89	105360555		1183826
Treatments	29	104707648		3610609**
Genotypes	5	3055200	2.9	611040**
Environments	4	96664674	92.3	24166169**
Interactions	20	4987773	4.8	249389**
Block	10	170655		17065ns
IPCA1	8	2293213	45.98	286652**
IPCA2	6	2017093	40.44	336182**
Residuals	6	677468		112911
Error	50	482252		9645

ns= non- significant, \*\*= significant at 1% and \*= significant at 5% probability level. SS= sum of square, MS= mean square

A large yield variation explained by the environments indicated the existence of both spatial and temporal diversity in test-environments, with large differences among environmental means that caused most of the variation in grain yield. In line with this result Tolessa and Gela, (2014) reported large yield variation of common bean genotypes due to environments. This also indicates the existence of a considerable amount of differential response among the 261 evaluated pigeon pea genotypes to changes in growing environments and the differential discriminating ability of the test environments. Substantial percentage of  $G \times E$  interaction was explained by the IPCA-1 (45.98%); followed by IPCA-2 (40.44 %) and, therefore, used to the plot a two-dimensional GGE biplot. Amare and Tamado, (2014) and Temesgen *et al.* (2014) suggested the most accurate model for AMMI could be predicted by using the first two IPCA.

### AMMI biplot analysis

AMMI biplot graphs with X-axis plotting IPCA1 (52.96 %) and Y-axis plotting IPCA2 (26.13 %) scores illustrate stability and adaptability of late set

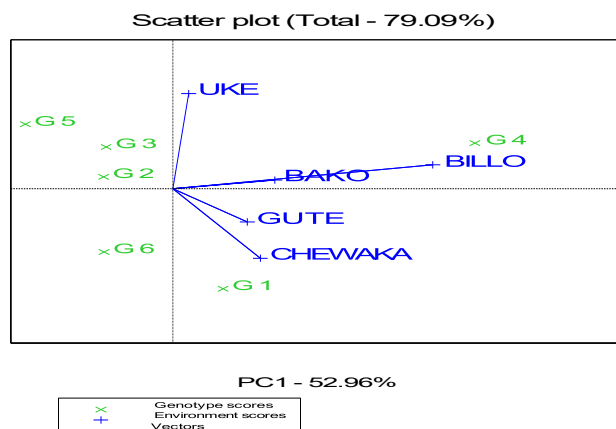
pigeon pea genotypes to tested environments (**Fig. 1**). The more the IPCA scores approximate to zero, the more stable or adapted the genotypes are over all the environments sampled. The variation of seed yield for each genotype was significant in the different environments. G4 was specifically adapted to high yielding environments (**Fig. 1**). G5, G6, G3 and G2 were the most unstable genotypes and also adapted to low yielding environments and not stable. Billo, Uke and Bako locations were the potentially environmentally friendly than other testing locations (**Fig. 1**). G4 had the highest seed yield followed by G1. G4 had higher GEI in the environments of Bako and Billo. It has been reported that the genotypes that have the lowest IPCA score in AMMI biplot are an indication of the stability or adaptation over environments (Dolinassou *et al.*, 2016). It is further stated that the greater the IPCA scores, negative or positive, the more specific adapted genotypes to certain environments.

### GGE biplot analysis

In GGE biplot (**Fig. 2**), IPCA1 and IPCA2

explained 52.98 and 26.13 %, respectively, of the pigeon pea

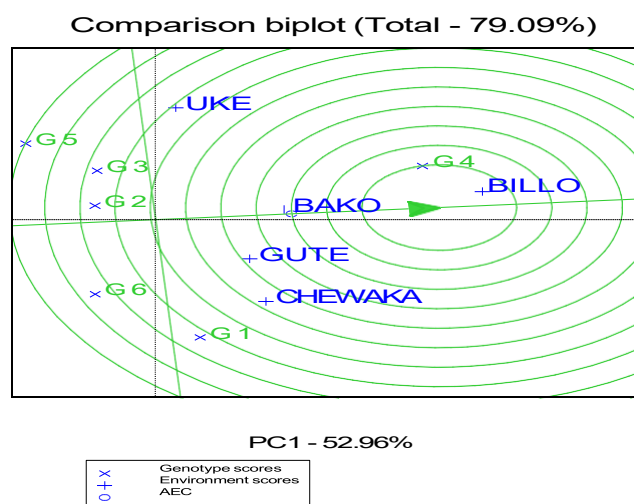
genotypes by environment interaction and made a total of 79.1%.



**Fig. 1:** Biplot of interaction principal component axis (IPCA1) against interaction principal component axis (IPCA2) of late set pigeon pea genotypes evaluated across environments.

Other studies conducted on groundnut by Amare and Tamado, (2014) and white lupines by Atnaf *et al.* (2017) explained an interaction of 81.8 and 63.4%, respectively, extracted from IPCA1 and IPCA2. An ideal genotype is defined as genotype which has the greatest IPCA1 score (mean performance) and with zero GEI, as represented by an arrow pointing to it (**Fig. 2**). A genotype is more desirable if it is located closer to the ideal genotype. Thus, using the ideal genotype as the center,

concentric circles were drawn to help visualize the distance between each genotype and the ideal genotype. Therefore, the ranking based on the genotype-focused scaling assumes that stability and mean yield are equally important. In this study, genotype 4 which fell closest to the ideal genotype was identified as the most desirable genotypes as compared to the rest of the tested late set pigeon pea genotypes (**Fig. 2**). Similar results were reported by Dabessa *et al.* (2016) for groundnut.



**Fig 2:** GGE-biplot based on genotype-focused scaling.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Environment, variety, and GEI had a significant impact on the grain yield performances of the late set pigeon peas that were examined, according to

the combined analysis of variance. This suggested that various genotypes may react differently to a given environment or that certain genotypes might not perform consistently under all environments.

There was a very significant interaction impact between genotype and environment, as well as a main effect between variety and environment, in the case of late set pigeon pea genotypes. Grain yield fluctuation was largely caused by environmental factors. To evaluate the remaining late-set pigeon pea genotypes in western Oromia, genotype 4 may be used as a benchmark since it was closer to the optimal genotype. Genotype 4 was suggested for further investigation under variety verification experiment as the best late set pigeon pea genotype when mean yield and stability were considered together.

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