



Genetic Variability, Heritability, and Genetic Advance of Garlic (*Allium sativum* L.) Genotypes among Bulb Yield and Related Traits at Kulumsa, Southeastern Ethiopia

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

One of the fundamental goals of plant breeding is to evaluate genetic diversity in crop species, which aids in the development of breeding approaches. Therefore, this field experiment was conducted to assess mean performance, the genetic variability in garlic genotypes on bulb yield and related traits. The field evaluation of thirteen garlic genotypes and one released variety Holetta local (HL) was conducted at Kulumsa Agricultural Research Center using a randomized complete

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block design with three replications during the main growing seasons of 2020 and 2021. The analysis of variance indicated there were highly significant differences among the genotypes for all traits except clove diameter. Some of the genotypes namely, G-043/19, G-005/19, G-045/19, G-009/19, G-134/19, G-010/19, and GOG-049/18 had mean performances higher than the standard check variety Holetta local (HL). Highest phenotypic (PCV) and genotypic (GCV) coefficients of variation recorded for total bulb yield tons per hectare and number of cloves per bulb, while the days to physiological maturity had the lowest heritability (h^2b) in broad sense and genetic advance as a percent of mean (GAM) ranged between 37% (clove weight) to 78% (plant height) and 1.84% (day to maturity) to 49.13% (total bulb yield per hectare) respectively. High phenotypic and genotypic coefficients of variation coupled with high heritability and genetic advance as percent of mean were observed for total bulb yield tons per hectare number of cloves per bulb and clove weight. Therefore, selection for these characters would be effective for selecting genotypes for future garlic breeding programs.

Keywords: Bulb yield; genetic variability; GCV; PCV; mean performance.

1. INTRODUCTION

“Garlic (*Allium sativum* L.) is a bulbous perennial crop cultivated in different temperate and subtropical climates all over the world” (Elsharkawy et al., 2021). “It belongs to the genus *Allium*, which includes almost 1008 species distributed in 15 subgenera and more than 70 sections” (Friesen et al., 2020; Parreno et al., 2023). After onion it is the second most widely used cultivated bulb crops in the World (Benke et al., 2021). “It is widely grown in Ethiopia’s central and highlands, both under irrigation and rain-fed conditions” (Martha & Marie, 2019). But, “the productivity is low primarily due to a lack of suitable plant material, cultivar with low yield potential, and their sensitivity to various environmental stresses” (Dejen et al., 2021; Tesfaye et al., 2021). “Garlic has a wide range of genetic diversity; depending on soil type, humidity, latitude, altitude, and cultural practices of its cultivation, even a single garlic accession would have a lot of phenotypic variabilities” (Tefaye et al., 2021; Sharma et al., 2024). “Natural variations in plant parts, for example, have economic significance and suggest the possibility of garlic improvement” (Hoogerheide et al., 2017). In addition, a great number of cultivars have resulted through natural and human selection for adaptation in growing areas (Viana et al., 2015).

The degree of genetic variability in a population (Dejen et al., 2021), which is a universal feature of all species in nature (Hoogerheide et al., 2017), is a key factor in genetic improvement. “When selecting genotypes/accessions for yield and related traits, the variability of the genotypes is the most essential component of breeding” (Tefaye et al., 2021; Hoogerheide et al., 2017).

“Due to garlic’s mode of cultivation, which is usually by clonal propagation, which is an important breeding method and little work has been done on the association between different traits which are prerequisites for executive a selection programme” (Sharma et al., 2024; Singh et al., 2012). “The basic pre-requisite for yield improvement is the presence of genetic variability in genetic stock and knowledge of inheritance and inter-relationship of the yield components, along with their relative influence on each other” (Hoogerheide et al., 2017; Sharma & Saini, 2010). “The degree of variability is a base for a successful breeding programme. Thus, the information on the native and magnitude of genetic variability present in the genetic stocks, heritability and genetic advance among various traits are of considerable use in selecting the suitable genotypes to include in future breeding programmes” (Khadi et al., 2022).

“Information on the variability and correlation between agronomic characters of different accessions with their yield are important for supporting breeding program of the plant” (Hakim, 2008; Sharma et al., 2023). “In addition, knowledge of the nature of association of bulb yield with yield contributing characters is necessary for yield improvement through selection of better varieties” (Haydar et al., 2007). “An effective improvement programme in garlic, often based on clonal selection, depends on the availability of sufficient genetic variability in a collection” (Gurpreet et al., 2013; Kumar et al., 2017).

“In Ethiopia, various diversity studies involving germplasm collection, characterization, and evaluation have resulted in the release of

different improved varieties” (Sharma et al., 2024; EAA, 2021). “However, the shortage of high yielding and stable varieties remains a major constraint for the low productivity and production of garlic in the country” (Belay et al., 2020). “Production and productivity do not depend only on area and cultural practices but also on the genotypes of the crop and environmental conditions” (Lawande et al., 2009). Garlic yield is the integration of many variables that affect plant growth during the growing period. It is, therefore, necessary to study the genetic variability available in the Ethiopian accessions of garlic that new varieties with higher bulb yield and better bulb quality can be developed through selection from this rich source. Therefore, this study was designed to evaluate the heritability, genetic advance and associations among characters of garlic genotypes and to estimate the contribution of each trait to yield improvement in garlic genotypes.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Description of the Study Area

The field experiment was conducted at Kulumsa Agricultural Research Center, Southeastern Ethiopia during the rain growing season in 2019 and 2020. KARC is located between latitude and longitude of 8° to 8° 2' N and 39° 07' to 39° 10' E coordinates. The altitude of KARC is 2200 meters above sea level and the annual minimum and maximum temperature of 10.5 and 22.8 °C respectively with annual rain fall 832 mm. The rainy season over the sites extends from May through October with soil type classified as clay loam soil with a pH of 6.

2.2 Experimental Materials and Design

A total of 14 garlic accessions/genotypes collected from different major garlic producing parts of the Region, Zone and District of Ethiopia, and maintained at Debre Zeit Agricultural Research Centre, including one released variety as standard check were used for the experiment (Table 1). The experiment was laid out as a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) where each genotype was replicated three times. Healthy and normal cloves of each accession were selected and planted on prepared plots of 2 m x 2.4m. Each plot consisted of four rows, with 20 plants per row, and a total of 80 plants per plot with spacing of 20 cm within a plant and 10 cm between plants (Getachew et al., 2009). The

recommended rate of 242 kg NPS ha⁻¹ was applied at planting as source of phosphorous and 75 kg N ha⁻¹ in the form of Urea in two splits, half rate after full emergence and half rate at the initiation of bulb. Field agronomic practices used were as recommended for the garlic crop (Getachew et al., 2009).

2.3 Data Collection

Data collection included determination of days physiological to maturity, plant height, leaf length (cm), leaf width (cm), number of leaf per plant, number of clove per bulb, clove weight (g), clove height (cm), bulb polar diameter (cm), bulb equatorial diameter (cm), total bulb yield (tons per hectare). These were recorded from eight randomly sampled plants in the two central rows of each plot (IPGRI, 2010).

2.4 Data Analysis

Collected quantitative data were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) using SAS software 9.2 (SAS, 2010) and least significant difference (LSD) procedure was used to compare differences between genotypes. The mean performance of genotypes at 5% and 1% level of significant mean squares was subjected to genetic analyses.

2.5 Phenotypic and Genotypic Variability

The variability present in the population was estimated by simple measures viz., range, mean, standard error, phenotypic and genotypic variances and coefficient of variations. The phenotypic and genotypic variances and coefficient of variations were estimated according to the following methods suggested by Burton & De vane, (1953).

$$\delta_p^2 = \delta_g^2 + \delta_e^2 \quad \delta_g^2 = \delta_t^2 - \frac{\delta_e^2}{r}$$

Where δ_p^2 = Phenotypic variance, δ_g^2 = genotypic variance and δ_e^2 = environmental variance (error mean square); δ_t^2 = mean square of treatment and r = number of replications;

$$\text{Genotypic coefficient of variation (GCV \%)} = \frac{\sqrt{\sigma_g^2}}{\bar{x}} * 100$$

$$\text{Phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV \%)} = \frac{\sqrt{\sigma_p^2}}{\bar{x}} * 100$$

Table 1. List of experimental materials included in the study

Accession code	Source	Accession code	Source
G-010/19	DzARC	GOG-015/18	DzARC
G-009/19	DzARC	GOG-025/18	DzARC
G-005/19	DzARC	GOG-049/18	DzARC
G-045/19	DzARC	GOG-056/18	DzARC
G-043/19	DzARC	GOG-060/18	DzARC
G-134/19	DzARC	GOG-070/18	DzARC
G-150/19	DzARC	HL	Released variety

Sources * DzARC- DebreZeit Agricultural Research Center

Where, V_g = Genotypic variance, V_p = Phenotypic variance, \bar{x} = Grand mean of the character. PCV and GCV were categorized as following: 0-10%: low, 10-20%: moderate, 20% and above high (Sivasubramania & Menon, 1973).

2.6 Heritability in the Broad Sense

Heritability on plot basis was calculated for each character based on the formula developed by Allard, (1960) as:

$$H = \frac{\delta_g^2}{\delta_p^2} * 100$$

Estimated heritability values was classified according to Singh et al., (2018) that heritability values greater than 80% were very high, values from 60–79% were moderately high, values from 40–59% were medium and values less than 40% were low.

Genetic advance: The Genetic Advance (broad sense) expected under selection assuming the selection intensity of 5% was calculated using the formula suggested by Johnson et al., (1955) and Allard, (1960):

$G_s = (K) (\delta A) (H)$ Where, G_s = expected genetic advance, and K = the selection differential ($K=2.06$ at 5% selection intensity), δA = phenotypic standard deviation, H = heritability.

Genetic advance as percent of means (GAM): Genetic advance as percent of mean was estimated (IPGRI, 2010) as follows:

$$GAM = \frac{GA}{\bar{x}} * 100$$

Where, GA = Genetic advance, \bar{x} = Grand mean; Genetic advance as percent of mean was categorized as 0-10% = Low, 10-20% = Moderate, >20% = High

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Analysis of Variance

The pooled analysis of variance (ANOVA) showed that there was a highly significant difference in garlic bulb yield in almost all genotypes studied. Thus, the mean squares from the analysis of variance for all traits of fourteen garlic accessions are presented in Table 2. There was a highly significant difference ($P < 0.01$) among tested accessions for all traits: days to physiological maturity, plant height, number of leaves per plant, leaf width, leaf length, number of cloves per bulb, clove weight, clove height, bulb polar diameter, bulb diameter (equatorial), and total bulb yield. "The highly significant differences indicate the existence of large genetic variability for the characters studied, which shows ample scope for the selection of promising genotypes from the present gene pool for increasing tuber yield. There were less coefficients of variation in most of the characters, indicating good precision in the experiment. These findings show that the genotypes used for effective selection or improvement exhibit variation" (Johnson et al., 1955). In line with this study, Sandhu et al., (2015) reported that the analysis of variance showed a significant difference among all the genotypes garlic for all the characters studied. Similarly, others found variability in garlic genotypes for tested characters (Tesfaye et al., 2021; Dixit et al., 2021; Kamal & Pal, 2022), which supports the present result.

3.2 Mean Performance of Genotypes

The pooled mean performance values for all traits showed a wide range of variation among the fourteen garlic genotypes. The analysis of variance revealed that there was a highly significant variation among the genotypes in terms of the number of days it took for physiological maturity; the values varied from

Table 2. Mean squares from analysis of variance for agronomic and yield traits of 14 garlic genotypes tested for two years pooled data at Kulumsa

Traits	Mean square of			SME	CV (%)
	Replication (DF=2)	Genotypes (DF=13)	Error (DF=26)		
Days to maturity	37.88	15.07**	4.37	1.21	4.74
Plant height (cm)	16.15	69.76**	6.12	1.43	5.61
Number of leaf	1.97	0.96**	0.23	0.27	1.08
Leaf width	0.04	0.18**	0.03	0.09	0.35
Leaf length (cm)	24.35	31.13**	5.71	1.38	5.42
Number of clove per bulb	5.21	47.66**	6.48	1.47	5.77
Clove weight (g)	0.51	0.73**	0.26	0.29	1.16
Clove height (cm)	0.08	0.11**	0.03	0.09	0.37
Clove diameter (cm)	0.04	0.08ns	0.12	0.20	0.79
Bulb Polar diameter (cm)	0.12	0.16**	0.04	0.11	0.45
Bulb equatorial diameter(cm)	0.53	0.25**	0.05	0.12	0.48
Total bulb yield (t/ha)	9.06	15.39**	1.37	0.67	2.66

** , significant at $p < 0.01$, ns= non-significant difference, CV (%) = coefficient of variation in percent, SME= Standard mean of error

138 to 145 days (Table 3). Accession G-045/19 took the minimum mean (138) performances of days to maturity. The character's mean value was 137.67 days, but HL (standard check) achieved the highest mean (145) performances of days to maturity. Similar findings regarding variations in garlic maturity have been presented by different authors (Tsega et al., 2011; Yadav et al., 2012; Panse et al., 2013; Bayisa, 2021). The values for plant height varied significantly among the genotypes, ranged from 25.61 to 41.61 cm (Table 3). The genotype G-045/19 had the highest mean performance of plant height (80.80 cm), while GOG-056/18 had the lowest plant height (63.80 cm). For each genotype, the mean plant height was 35.41 cm. The inherent genetic differences between the various genotypes were the cause of the variation in plant height. Comparable outcomes were also attained by Abdikafer-Halmy et al., (2011) and Islam et al., (2017).

The genotype G-045/19 had the highest mean performance in terms of leaves per plant among all the others. The data analysis revealed that the average number of leaves per plant was 10.67, despite the fact that the minimum mean performance of the number of leaves per plant was recorded in GOG-070/18. "Due to the different genetic components of each genotype, there was variation in the number of leaves per

plant. The increased leaf count could be the result of physiological processes that have been triggered by stimulants that have an effect on the plant's growth and metabolism. The outcomes agree with the research conducted by different authors which revealed there a significant variation in the mean performance of the number of leaves per plant was also reported in garlic" (Sharma et al., 2024; Sandhu et al., 2015; Kamal& Pal, 2022; Tsega et al., 2011). The genotypes varied significantly in terms of leaf width and length. It showed that the maximum (51.07 cm) and minimum (40.67 cm) mean performances of leaf length recorded in G-045/19 and GOG-056/18, respectively, varied from one another in terms of leaf length. There was an important difference in leaf width between the genotypes, ranging from 2.08 cm to 1.25 cm (Table 3). Similar results, indicate that there are notable differences in bulb and clove weight, number of cloves per bulb, and flower stack height within and between garlic families (Abdlkader et al., 2011; Ahmed et al., 2022).

There were highly significant variations between the genotypes in terms of the number of cloves each bulb had. Per bulb, the range was 4.89 to 14.11 cloves (Table 3). It was found that the number of cloves per bulb had a maximum mean of 26.00 in G-150/19 and a minimum mean of 11.73 in GOG-049/18. The mean number of

Table 3. Pooled mean performances of 14 garlic genotypes for bulb yield and other traits evaluated at Kulumsa

Genotypes	DM	PH	NL	LW	LL	NCPB	CWT	CH	CD	BPD	BED	TY
G-010/19	141.67	67.40	10.67	2.08	48.00	18.40	2.60	2.82	1.03	4.05	4.51	9.89
G-009/19	140.33	72.40	11.27	2.06	48.53	17.93	2.40	2.64	1.09	4.25	4.63	10.09
G-005/19	141.33	70.07	11.27	1.92	47.73	23.47	2.13	2.52	1.00	3.86	4.58	10.75
G-045/19	138.00	80.80	11.33	1.91	51.07	13.93	3.13	2.71	1.08	4.03	4.35	10.45
G-043/19	139.00	78.60	10.67	1.78	49.73	17.27	2.20	2.63	1.13	4.18	4.53	11.36
G-134/19	142.00	76.00	10.53	1.49	46.60	17.40	1.73	2.53	0.98	3.99	4.48	8.03
G-150/19	142.67	66.87	10.93	1.58	45.07	26.00	1.73	2.38	1.02	3.78	4.14	6.96
GOG-015/18	144.00	69.80	9.87	1.55	42.00	17.93	1.80	2.36	1.07	3.77	4.19	7.71
GOG-025/18	142.67	69.07	10.80	1.48	45.67	13.87	2.73	2.38	0.92	3.51	3.84	5.99
GOG-049/18	142.67	70.60	10.47	1.67	44.47	11.73	3.07	2.63	1.19	3.90	4.45	8.23
GOG-056/18	145.00	63.80	10.47	1.25	40.67	16.33	1.67	2.42	1.4	3.71	3.75	4.87
GOG-060/18	140.67	67.67	10.20	1.50	43.00	17.47	2.13	2.32	0.86	3.68	4.11	5.16
GOG-070/18	138.33	66.20	9.47	1.49	41.63	13.67	1.93	2.32	0.85	3.45	3.87	3.79
HL	145.00	71.33	11.40	1.71	48.40	22.27	1.87	2.11	1.36	3.92	4.17	7.31
LSD(0.05)	3.758	4.146	0.995	0.257	4.067	4.307	0.839	0.287	0.577	0.351	0.447	2.341

DM is Days to maturity, PH is plant height (cm), NL is number of leaf plants, LW is leaf width(cm), LL is leaf length (cm), NCB is Number of clove per bulb, CWT is clove weight (g), CH is clove height (cm), CD clove diameter (cm), BPD is bulb polar diameter (cm), BED is bulb diameter (equatorial) (cm), TY is total bulb yield (tons per hectare).

cloves per bulb was 17.69, alike many results show that the number of cloves per bulb varies significantly (Kumar et al., 2017; Tsega et al., 2011; Pervinet al., 2014). The results of the analysis of variance showed that there was a significant variation in clove weight and height among genotypes. The maximum clove height was found in G-010/19 (2.82 cm), while the minimum was found in HL (2.11 cm). The mean clove height varied from 3.13 (G-045/19) to 1.67 (GOG-056/18). Clove height had a mean value of 2.48 cm. These findings are closely in line with findings of some authors, reported the mean clove length of 3.61, 2.80, and 2.45cm (Kumar et al., 2017; Khar et al., 2015; Kassahun, 2006). The genotypes were not substantially different in clove diameter; the mean clove diameter was 1.13 cm (Table 3).

The polar and equatorial bulb diameters showed highly significant differences between the genotypes. Out of all the genotypes, genotype GOG-070/18 had the lowest mean bulb equatorial diameter (3.45 cm), while genotype G-009/19 had the highest mean (4.25 cm). The clove polar diameter varied from a minimum of 3.75 (GOG-056/18) to a maximum of 4.63 (G-009/19). The equatorial and polar bulb diameters had mean values of 3.86 cm and 4.26 cm, respectively. These results are consistent with the reported significant variation among the genotypes for this character in garlic (Kamal & Pal, 2022; Tsega et al., 2011; Panse et al., 2013; Ahmed et al., 2022; Khar et al., 2015). There was a high significant difference in bulb yield per hectare between the genotypes; G-043/19 had the highest bulb yield (11.36 t ha⁻¹), while GOG-070 had the lowest (3.79 t ha⁻¹) with mean bulb yield of 7.97 t ha⁻¹. The character findings published by Panse et al., (2013), Pervin et al., (2014), Khar et al., (2015) and Bayisa, (2021) are closely aligned with the results obtained.

3.3 Genotypic Coefficient of Variation

The phenotypic and genotypic variances in the current study were high for bulb yield per hectare (30.85) and (27.13), and lowest for clove height (0.05) and (0.03) respectively (Table 4). The results revealed a wide range of variability among 14 garlic genotypes for quantitative traits. The phenotypic variance (δ^2_p) of all traits was higher than the genotypic variance (δ^2_g). The total bulb yields (t ha⁻¹) and the number of cloves per bulb had the highest genotypic and phenotypic coefficients of variation, respectively, whereas the days to physiological maturity had

the lowest genotypic and phenotypic coefficients of variation (Table 4).

For each trait, the phenotypic coefficient of variation was higher than the genotypic coefficient. The current study's findings showed that higher genotypic and phenotypic coefficients of variation were found for total bulb yield tons per hectare (27.13 % and 30.85 %), the number of cloves per bulb (20.94 % and 25.41 %) respectively, and clove weight (29.06 %) for PCV. High GCV and PCV estimates for garlic bulb weight and bulb yield were reported by Kassahun (2006). The phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV) was greater than the genotypic coefficient of variation (GCV), which is consistent with other findings (Khadi et al., 2022; Kumar et al., 2017; Awale et al., 2011). High estimates of genotypic and phenotypic coefficients of variation indicate that certain traits are highly likely to improve through selection, whereas other traits are difficult or nearly impossible to improve through selection.

Leaf width had a moderate genotypic coefficient of variation (13.58 %) and phenotypic coefficient of variation (16.39 %), while the genotypic coefficient of variation for clove weight was 17.81 (%). This revealed the significant variability present, and genotype selection based on these traits would be useful for future advancements. On the other hand, days to physiological maturity (1.34 % & 1.98 %), plant height (6.51 % & 7.39 %), number of leaf (4.65 % & 6.46 %), leaf length (6.34% & 8.20 %), clove height (6.64 % & 9.32 %), bulb polar diameter (5.13 % & 5.19 %), and bulb equatorial diameter (5.04 % & 7.98 %) had the lowest GCV and PCV values respectively, (Table 4). Consequently, the larger proportion of phenotypic variance observed on these traits was contributed by the genotypic variance than the environmental variance, indicating that it can be used for breeding programs (Yebirzaf & Belete; 2017). The results of the phenotypic variance were, in general, higher than the genotypic variance for all characters studied, it implies that environmental factors, in addition to genetic variation, have a significant impact on how these traits appear.

3.4 Estimates of Heritability and Genetic Advance

Among the characters studied, high heritability estimates were found for bulb equatorial diameter (61 %), number of cloves per bulb (68 %), leaf length (60 %), number width (69 %), and

Table 4. Estimate of variability components for 14 Garlic genotypes evaluated at Kulumsa

Traits	Range		Mean	δ^2g	δ^2p	δ^2e	PCV%	GCV%	h^2	GA	GAM
	Max	Min									
DM	145.0	134.00	141.67	3.57	7.94	4.37	1.98	1.34	0.45	2.61	1.84
PH	83.20	62.60	70.76	21.21	7.39	6.12	7.39	6.51	0.78	8.36	11.81
NL	12.40	8.60	10.67	0.25	0.47	0.23	6.46	4.65	0.52	0.74	6.89
LW	2.20	1.20	1.68	0.05	0.08	0.02	16.39	13.58	0.69	0.39	23.18
LL	53.00	37.40	45.90	8.47	14.18	5.71	8.20	6.34	0.60	4.63	10.10
NCB	27.8	11.20	17.69	13.73	20.21	6.48	25.41	20.94	0.68	6.29	35.55
CW	4.2	1.40	2.23	0.16	0.42	0.26	29.06	17.81	0.37	0.50	22.49
CH	2.94	2.04	2.48	0.03	0.05	0.03	9.32	6.64	0.51	0.24	9.75
BPD	4.44	3.32	3.86	0.04	0.08	0.04	7.29	5.19	0.51	0.29	7.61
BD	5.02	3.64	4.26	0.07	0.12	0.05	7.98	6.19	0.61	0.42	9.88
TBY	12.76	3.79	7.97	27.13	30.85	1.37	30.85	27.13	0.77	3.92	49.13

Where: δ^2g = Genotypic variance, δ^2p = Phenotypic variance, PCV = phenotypic coefficient of variance, GCV = Genotypic coefficient of variation, h^2 % = Heritability in broad sense, GA (5%) = genetic advance at 5% selection intensity, GAM (%) = genetic advance as percent mean, DM is Days to maturity, PH is plant height (cm), NL is number of leaf plants, LW is Leaf width, LL is leaf length (cm), NCB is Number of clove per bulb, CW is clove weight (g), CH is Clove height (cm), BPD is Bulb Polar diameter (cm), BD is bulb diameter (equatorial) (cm), TBY is total bulb yield (tons per hectare).

plant height (78%). High heritability for the above characters clarified that they were least affected by environmental fluctuations, and selection based on phenotypic performance would be reliable for these traits. The results align with the observations of some researchers (Sharma et al., 2024; Singh et al., 2012; Tesfaye et al., 2021; Abdlkader et al., 2011). The number of leaves (52 %), the height (51 %), the weight (37 %), the number of days to physiological maturity (45 %), and the bulb polar diameter (51 %), showed moderate heritability. In general, heritability in the broadest sense suggests that, depending on the phenotypic expression, selection might be successful.

The genetic advance varied from 1.84 to 49.13 as a percentage of the mean. The total bulb yield (49.13%), average clove weight (22.49%), number of cloves per bulb (35.55%), and leaf weight (23.18%) showed the highest genetic advance as a percentage of the mean, while plant height (11.81%) and leaf length (10.10%) showed the moderate. In comparison, traits like days to physiological maturity (1.84%), number of leaves per plant (6.89%), clove height (9.75%), bulb polar diameter (7.61%), and bulb equatorial diameter (9.88%) showed low genetic advance as percentages of the mean. For selecting the best individual, heritability estimates combined with genetic advancement are more helpful than the heritability value alone. For both the total bulb yield per hectare and the number of cloves per bulb, high heritability and high genetic advance were observed. The results of this study align with different authors, as they reported high heritability and high genetic gain for number of leaves per plant, bulb yield per hectare and clove weight per bulb (Tefsaye et al., 2021; Bayisa, 2021; Bhatt et al., 2017; Dhal & Brar, 2013).

4. CONCLUSION

The findings revealed that the genotypes of each attribute varied in highly significant ways. There was a substantially significant variation in total bulb yield between the genotypes. Compared to the standard check variety (HL), the genotypes G-043/19, G-005/19, G-045/19, G-009/19, G-134/19, G-010/19, and GOG-049/18 performed better on average yield. Phenotypic coefficients of variation were generally greater than genotypic coefficients of variation for all characters under study, indicating that environmental factors, in addition to genetic factors, influence character expression. This study suggests that selection would be beneficial

in bringing out the greatest attributes in garlic due to its high PCV, GCV, heritability, and genetic gain. The traits showed sufficient genetic variability, emphasis should be given to them when choosing genotypes during the yield improvement program as good selection criteria to improve bulb yield in garlic through breeding or selection.

DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc.) and text-to-image generators have been used during the writing or editing of this manuscript.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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