GGE-Biplot Analysis of Multi-Environment Yield Trials of Common Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) in the southern Ethiopia

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Abstract

The present study was conducted on thirty-six common beans (Phaseolus vulgaris L.) Genotypes across six contrasting environments defined for its different soil fertility status and located at the southern Ethiopia. The genotypes were arranged in 6 x 6 triple lattice design and executed for two successive main cropping seasons with the objectives to evaluate yield performance of common bean genotypes and identification of mega environments. GGE (i.e., G = genotype and GE = genotype by environment, interaction) bi-plot methodology was used for graphical presentation of yield data after subjecting the genotypic means of each environment to GGE Bi-plot software. The first two principal components (AXIS 1 and AXIS2) were used to display a two-dimensional GGE bi-plot. Thus, genotypic AXIS1 scores >0 classified the high yielding genotypes while AXIS2 scores <0 identified low yielding genotypes. Unlike genotypic AXIS1, genotypic AXIS2, scores near zero showed stable genotypes whereas large AXIS2 scores classified the unstable ones. The environmental AXIS1 were related to crossover nature of GEI while AXIS2 scores were associated with non-cross over GEI. The six test environments in the southern region were divided in to two distinct mega environments (Mega-1 and 2). Mega-1 constituted GOHF13, ARMF12 and ARLF13 while genotype 14 (SCR10) being the best winner, on the other hand, Mega-2 contained GOHF12 and while common bean genotype 20(SCR17) being the best winner. The results of this study indicated that breeding for specific adaptation should be taken as a breeding strategy in southern region to exploit positive GEI to increase production and productivity of common bean.

Keywords: GGE, Mega environment, Phaseolus vulgaris

1. Introduction

Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris L*), also referred to as dry bean, is an annual leguminous plant that belongs to the genus, *Phaseolus*, with pinnately compound trifoliate large leaves. It is largely a self-pollinated plant though cross-pollination is possible if the stigma contacts with pollen coated bee when extended. Seeds are non-endospermic and vary greatly in size and color from the small black wild type to the large white, brown, red, black or mottled seeds of cultivars, which are 7-16 mm long (Sing *et al.*, 1991; Gepts and Debouk 1991). Common bean shows variation in growth habits from determinate bush to indeterminate, extreme climbing types. The bushy type bean is the most predominant type grown in Africa (Gepts and Debouk 1991) and in Ethiopia (Asrat *et al.*, 2013). Cultivation of common bean in Africa is widespread, but production (approximately 80 percent of African bean production) is concentrated in 10 countries. In terms of area, Kenya is the leading producer of common bean in Africa followed by Uganda and then Tanzania Malawi and Ethiopia rank eighth and ninth, respectively according to FAO statistics (FAOSTAT, 2016). Common bean in Ethiopia is produced in almost all the regional states with varying intensity. Production is concentrated in two regions: Oromia and the Southern National Nationality Peoples region (SNNPR), which account for more than 85 percent of the total national production (CSA, 2015). The remaining percent comes from Afar, Amhara, Tigray, Somali, Gambella and Benishangul-Gumuz (CSA, 2015).

The GGE bi-plot procedure (Yan and Tinker, 2006) consists of a set of bi-plot explanation approaches, whereby important questions regarding genotype evaluation and test-environment evaluation can be visually addressed. Increasingly, plant breeders and other agronomists have found GGE bi-plots were useful in mega-environment analysis (Dardanellia *et al.*, 2006), genotype evaluation (Voltas *et al.*, 2005; Kang *et al.*, 2006), test-environment evaluation (Thomason and Phillips, 2006), trait-association and trait-profile analyses (Ober *et al.*, 2005), and

heterotic pattern analysis (Bertoia *et al.*, 2006) genotype evaluation on total starch yield in potato (Gedi *et al.* 2014), genotype environment interaction and grain yield stability in bread wheat genotypes(Mehari et al. 2015). As common bean is one of the most important legume which is produced in the southern region (Yayis *et al.*, 2011; Yayis *et al.*, 2012), there are limited information and knowledge (Gebeyehu *et al.* 2003; Aserat *et al.*, 2008) regarding the nature and magnitude of GEI to breeders working at the southern Agricultural Research Institute, Ethiopia in order to select superior genotype across the environments, but environments vary in climate, topography, biological and edaphic factors. Understanding GEI supports plant breeders to design appropriate breeding strategy. Therefore, this study was conducted to evaluate the yield performance of each common bean genotypes in relation to each contrasting test environments, to examine possible existence of different mega environments and to identify the winning genotypes for each environment

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Description of the Study Area

Thirty-Six Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) advanced genotypes (Table 3) initially introduced from CIAT together with two standard checks that were developed at SARI bean breeding program were considered for this specific contrasting environments evaluation. The experiment was conducted for two successive years at three locations known for their different soil fertility status, namely, ARLF (Areka with poor/low soil fertility status/, ARMSF (Areka with moderate soil fertility status area) and GOHF (Gofa with high/potential soil fertility status), with the objectives to evaluate the performance of common bean genotypes across different soil fertility environments and selecting best genotypes for different common bean growing areas.

2.2 Experimental Design

The experiment was executed in a lattice design with three replicates (6 x 6 triple lattice design) on a plot consisted of 4 rows of 4m length spaced x 0.4 m. Necessary agronomic management practices were applied as per the recommendation for all specific locations. Two central rows were considered for the yield and other agronomic trait data.

2.3 Data Collection and Data Analysis

The grain yield data obtained was adjusted to 10% moisture content before it was subjected to statistical analysis. Analysis of variance was conducted for experiments in each environment using the model

$$\underline{y}_{ijm} = \mu + \rho_j + \underline{b}_{m(j)} + \tau_i + \underline{e}_{ij} \qquad \text{with } \underline{b}_{m(j)} \quad iid \sim N(0, \sigma_b^2) \quad \underline{e}_{ij} \quad iid \sim N(0, \sigma_e^2)$$

The model for a GGE biplot (Yan, 2002) based on singular value decomposition (SVD) of first two principal components is:

$$\dot{y}_{ij} - \mu_i = \sum_{k=1}^{t} \lambda_k \alpha_{ik} \gamma_{jk} + \varepsilon_{ij}$$

Where y_{ij} is the cell mean of genotype i in environment j; μ_j is the mean value in environment j; $i = 1, \dots, g$; $j = 1, \dots, g$, $j = 1, \dots, g$, and $j = 1, \dots, g$ and $j = 1, \dots, g$

3. Results and Discussion

The analysis of variation revealed the existence of significant variation among genotypes in all environment confirming the presence of genotypic variation to be exploited by selection (Table 1 and Fig 1). The bean genotype and environment main effects were significant (p<0.001) as the genotype by environment was (Table 1 and Table 2). The experimental coefficient of variation (CV) were relatively low (9.9% to 15.22%) (Table 4) in individual environment indicating good experimental precision.

Table 1. Analysis of variance grain yield (kg/ha) of 36 common bean genotypes tested across six contrasting environment, southern Ethiopia

SOURCE	DF	SS	MS	F PR.
Genotypes	35	6789239	193978.3	0.007
Environments	5	48378623	9675725	< 0.001
Sensitivities	35	5482295	156637	0.058
Residual	140	14828734	105919.5	
Total	215	75478892	351064.6	

The additive main effect and multiplicative interaction analysis of variance mean grain yield (kg/ha) of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) genotypes showed significance difference among the genotypes across the test environments (Table 2). The environment posed significant effect on the grain yield of genotypes which explained 64.1% of the total variations (G + E + GE), while the GE and G interactions explained 26.91% and 8.99% respectively.

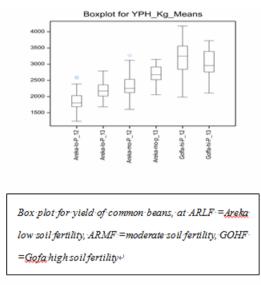
Table 2. The additive main effect and multiplicative interaction (AMMI)

Source	DF	SS	MS.	%SS explained	F pr
Genotypes	35	6789239	193978	8.99	0.0168
Environments	5	48378623	9675725	64.1	< 0.001
Interactions	175	20311029	116063	26.9	
IPCA 1	39	7205681	184761		0.0012
IPCA 2	37	4628750	125101		0.0715
Residuals	99	8476597	85622		

Table 3. Genotypes and test environments with mean grain yield (kg/ha) of 36 common bean genotypes tested across six different environments in southern Ethiopia

Genot	ypes	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6
Code	Accessions	ARLF12	ARLF13	ARMF12	ARMF13	GOHF12	GOHF13
G1	BSF23	1416.62	2246.00	2194.60	2625.53	1983.99	2577.47
G2	BSF27	1747.25	2192.18	2022.85	2613.52	2794.68	2807.87
G3	BSF29	1483.91	2484.01	2477.45	2527.09	3577.19	3660.01
G4	BSF30	1548.18	2059.65	2161.04	2627.08	2546.50	3391.40
G5	BSF32	2025.93	2212.13	1944.15	2649.50	4093.95	3334.46
G6	BSF33	1804.87	1777.44	2201.66	2275.09	3566.66	2884.60
G7	BSF34	1971.82	2154.49	2227.40	3017.76	3883.25	3407.38
G8	BSF35	2116.48	2600.82	2174.36	2059.10	3476.53	2352.57
G9	BSF39	2388.97	1766.24	2027.14	2820.59	2849.67	3153.25
G10	BSF55	1904.51	2173.42	2740.48	2673.56	3385.27	2762.69
G11	HD	1726.58	2081.48	2732.77	2289.60	3286.24	2890.98
G12	SARI-1	1999.57	2770.33	2805.44	2784.20	3226.34	3407.40
G13	SCR1	1615.22	2329.19	2505.06	2230.26	3482.85	3614.19
G14	SCR10	2110.63	2650.95	3268.60	2505.81	3530.08	3723.42
G15	SCR12	2101.32	2438.09	2159.68	2933.07	2832.70	3237.07
G16	SCR13	2029.67	1685.47	2376.60	2989.90	3549.48	3398.86
G17	SCR14	1891.91	1713.44	2293.44	2676.63	4005.30	2514.24
G18	SCR15	1888.68	1812.07	2757.05	2946.79	3366.80	2757.10
G19	SCR16	1795.80	2228.88	1890.04	2608.09	2924.70	2815.76
G20	SCR17	2594.89	1899.49	2538.73	2977.60	4177.47	3129.69
G21	SCR18	1686.96	2487.00	2191.42	2319.06	2995.94	3156.08
G22	SCR19	1669.32	2205.90	2082.15	2792.10	2676.68	2338.33
G23	SCR20	2577.54	2111.66	2265.63	2727.86	2754.63	3087.40
G24	SCR21	1688.01	2065.62	2354.91	3147.23	3656.01	2810.92
G25	SCR22	1666.27	1864.89	1886.19	2896.88	3280.66	2960.41
G26	SCR26	1759.29	2699.58	2769.31	2801.52	3173.12	2760.92
G27	SCR27	1512.85	2152.73	2797.87	3057.30	3268.70	3066.98
G28	SCR28	1818.01	2142.23	2527.00	2564.51	2920.35	2954.37
G29	SCR29	1239.79	2395.60	1606.13	2451.05	3182.64	2496.95
G30	SCR3	2031.71	2185.06	2245.81	3008.06	2801.75	2665.21
G31	SCR31	1786.47	2171.72	2389.66	2515.31	3213.30	3639.20
G32	SCR37	1803.88	2229.48	2343.21	2758.85	2809.57	3467.70
G33	SCR4	1792.48	2150.05	2085.27	2962.24	3626.92	3514.00
G34	SCR5	2104.32	1849.37	2160.40	2572.28	2565.30	2107.36
G35	SCR7	1736.85	1973.80	2036.32	2696.01	3952.03	2724.68
G36	SCR9	2053.46	2791.04	3121.49	2284.78	3084.56	2791.46

ARLF12=Areka with low soil fertility, ARMF=Areka moderate soil fertility, GOHF=Gofa with high soil fertility, the numbers indicated year 12, 13 as 2012 & 2013



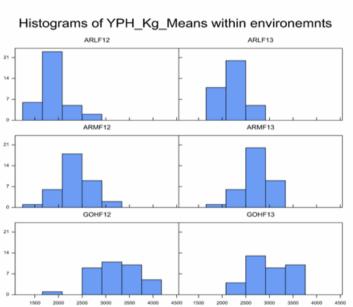


Figure 1. Box plot and Histogram for mean grain yield (kg/ha) of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) across six contrasting environments

Table 4. Environmental effect for the mean grain yield (kg/ha) of common bean genotypes across six contrasting environments

Code	Environment	Effect	s.e.	Mean Yield kg/ha	% CV	Rank
E1	ARLF12	-662.2	46.96	1891	13.00	6
E2	ARLF13	-377.1	46.96	2176	13.73	5
E3	ARMF12	-224.3	46.96	2329	9.90	4
E4	ARMF13	106.1	46.96	2659	15.20	3
E5	GOHF12	707.8	46.96	3261	1345	1
E6	GOHF13	449.8	46.96	3003	15.58	2

ARLF12=Areka Low soil fertility 2012, ARLF13=Areka Low soil fertility 2013, ARMF12=Areka with moderate soil fertility area 2012, ARMF13=Areka with moderate soil fertility area 2013, GOHF12=Goffa with high soil fertility area 2012, GOHF13=Goffa with high soil fertility 2013

Categorizing environments based on the values of environmental effects (Table 4) hence, based on the result

indicated in Table 4 GHF12 with higher values of environmental effects it was classified as best test environment where as ARLF12 with low values of environmental effect classified as the least test environment for tested common bean genotypes.

Which Won Where/What

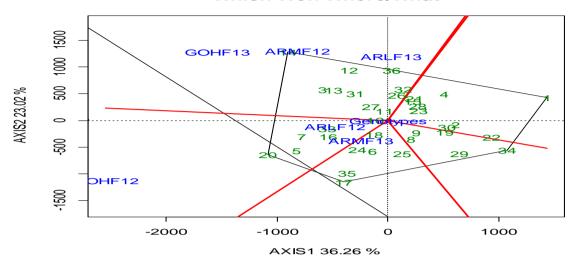


Figure 2. The "which-won-where" view of the GGE biplot based on the $G \times E$ data in Table 1. The data were not transformed ("Transform = 0"), not scaled ("Scaling = 0"), and were environment centered ("Centering = 2"). The biplot was based on environment-focused singular value partitioning ("SVP = 2") and therefore is appropriate for visualizing the relationships among environments

3.1 Which Won Where

One of the smartest features of a GGE biplot is its ability to show the which-won-where pattern of a genotype by environment dataset (Fig 2). Many researchers find the use of a biplot exciting, as it graphically addresses important concepts such as crossover GE, mega-environment differentiation, specific adaptation, etc (Kassaye et al., 2017). The "which-won-where" function of a GGE biplot is an extended use of the "pair-wise comparison" function described above. The polygon classified all environments in to two mega environments (Fig 2) the polygon drawn on genotypes (1, 34, 17 and 20) that were furthest from the biplot origin so that all other genotypes are retained in within the polygon. The perpendicular lines to each side of the polygon were drawn, starting from the biplot origin. Hence, genotype 14 (SCR10) were uniquely adapted in environments ARMF13, GOHF13 and ARLF13, whereas genotype 20 (SCR17) won on GOHF12 environment. On the other hand, genotypes 20 & 17 (SCR17 and SCR14) gives similar yield in ARMF12 environments. Ashango et al., (2016) and Kassaye et al., (2017) in their reports also indicated identification of four mega environments and specifically adapted common bean verities.

Discrimitiveness vs. representativenss 30HF13 ARMF12

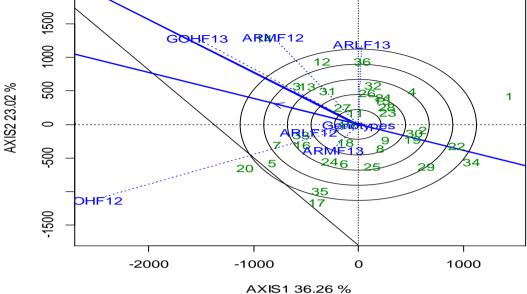


Figure 3. The discriminability and representativeness view of the GGE-biplot to show the discriminating ability and representativeness of the test environments

3.2 Discriminability and Representativeness

Average Environment Axis (AEA) is the line that passes through the average environment (represented by small circle) and biplot origin (Fig 3). The average environment has the average coordinates of all test environments. A test environment that has a smaller angle with the AEA is more representative of other test environments according to Yan and Tinker (2006). Thus, GOHF13 were the most representative environment, whereas ARLF13 and ARMF13 with the large deviation from AEA were the least representative. Test environments that are both discriminating and representative is good test environment for selecting generally adapted genotypes (Yan and Tinker, 2006; Mehari et al., 2015; Yayis et al., 2015; Ashango et al., 2016).

Hence, GOHF13 were good test environment for selecting widely adapted genotypes. Testing environments that are discriminating but non-representatives are useful for selecting specifically adapted genotypes if the target environment is divided in to mega environments (Yan and Tinker, 2006). Hence, ARLF13 (Areka low soil fertility) was useful for selecting specifically adapted genotypes. Non-discriminating testing environments are those with very short vectors and are less useful (Yan and Tinker, 2006). The ideal test environment (the center of concentric circles) should be both highly discriminating and most representatives of the target environments (Kaya et al., 2006; Yan and Tinker, 2006; Mehari et al., 2915; Yayis et al., 2015, Kassaye et al., 2017). Under natural condition such environment does not exist but could be used relatively as a reference. Thus, the ideal test environment was GOHF13 (Fig 3) and it is an environment in which best genotypes could be most easily identified. Yan et al. (2001), In his report, indicated that favorable test environments must have large PC1 scores (more discriminating genotypes) and near zero PC2 scores (more representative of an average environment).

Relationship among environments

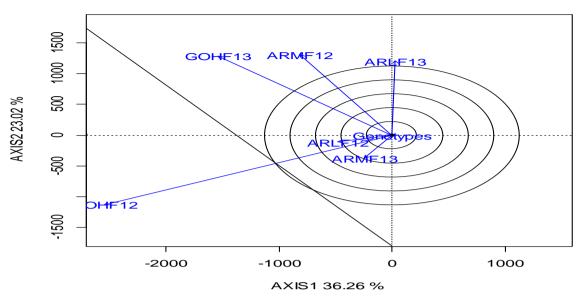


Figure 4. The environment vector of GGE-biplot is based on environment centered (centering=2) without any scaling scaling=0) and its environments metrics preserving (SVP=2). The bi plot explained 59.28% of the total variation environment based G by E table

3.3 Relationship among Environment

The lines that connect the test environments to the biplot origin are called environment vectors. According to Yan, 2001, the cosine of the angle between the vectors of two environments approximates the correlation between them. For example, environments GOHF13 and ARMF12 were positively correlated (an acute angle), ARLF13 and GHF12 with an obtuse angle were highly negatively correlated, whereas, ARMF13 and GOHF13 with a right angle were not correlated. The presence of wide obtuse angles (i.e., strong negative correlations) among test environments which is an indication of strong crossover GE. Here the largest angle is larger than 90 ° (between ARMF13 and ARLF13), suggesting that the GE is large. The presence of close associations among test environments suggests that the same information about the genotypes could be obtained from fewer test environments, and hence the potential to reduce testing cost. If two test environments are closely correlated consistently across years, one of them can be dropped without loss of much information about the genotypes.

The concentric circles on the bi-plot help to visualize the length of the environment vectors, which is proportional to the standard deviation within the respective environments (Yan and Tinker 2006) and is a measure of the discriminating ability of the environments. Therefore, among the six environment GOHF12 was most discriminating (informative) and ARLF12 least discriminating (Fig. 4). Test environments that are consistently non-discriminating (non-informative) provide little information on the genotypes and, therefore, should not be used as test environments.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The GGE Biplot analysis has evolved into an important technique in crop improvement and agricultural research. GGE biplot analysis provided genotype by environment data analysis for different contrasting environment in the southern regions of Ethiopia, which has been a challenge to plant breeders, geneticists, and agronomists. In this specific research GGE-biplot proved to be very useful in assessing the performance of genotypes in different test contrasting environment. Hence, showed the selection of winning genotypes in each specific mega environment. The genotypes and environments main effects and GEI effects were significant for common bean genotypes studied in the southern regions of Ethiopia with contrasting test environments. Thus, the bean breeding program of the southern Ethiopia should consider those two-mega environments separately when developing common bean varieties for specific and wider adaptation.

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