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## RESEARCH PAPER

# Effect of agronomic manipulations on growth, yield attributes and seed cotton yield of American cotton under semi-arid conditions

KULVIR SINGH

Regional Research Station (P.A.U.), FARIDKOT (PUNJAB) INDIA (Email : [kulvir@pau.edu](mailto:kulvir@pau.edu))

**Abstract :** Field studies were conducted at Punjab Agricultural University, Regional Station, Faridkot during *Kharif* 2012 to evaluate the performance of three *hirsutum* genotypes (Bihani251, CSH3129 and LH2076) in main, two plant geometries (67.5×60 cm and 67.5×75 cm) in sub and three nitrogen levels (56, 75 and 94 kg N/ha) in sub plots of Split Plot Design replicated thrice. None of the tested new genotypes *i.e.* Bihani 251 (2074.5 kg/ha) and CSH3129 (1969.6 kg/ha) could out yield check variety LH2076 (2281.1 kg/ha). Among plant geometries, 67.5×60 cm recorded significantly better SCY (2258.7 kg/ha) as compared to 67.5×75 cm spacing (1958.1 kg/ha) primarily owing to higher plant population though bolls per plant were significantly superior under wider (44.6) over the narrow (40.9) plant geometry. Seed cotton yield also differed non-significantly for nitrogen levels. Though cost of cultivation increased statistically with each increase of nutrient levels, but gross as well as net returns and B:C ratio could not improve significantly indicating 56 kg N to be optimum level under semi-arid conditions.

**Key Words :** Agronomic manipulations, Genotypes, Plant geometry, Seed cotton yield

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