

## Character association and path coefficient analysis in F<sub>2</sub> generation of groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.)

R.D. RAUT, L.K. DHADUK<sup>1\*</sup>, AND J.H. VACHHANI<sup>1</sup>

Department of Agricultural Botany, Junagadh Agricultural University, JUNAGADH (GUJARAT), INDIA

### ABSTRACT

The correlation coefficients among eleven yield and yield contributing traits with their path effects towards pod yield were investigated in F<sub>2</sub> generation for six crosses of groundnut during *Kharif*-2007. The correlation coefficients of pod yield per plant were found positive and highly significant with kernel yield per plant, number of mature pods per plant and shelling out-turn. Kernel yield per plant had the highest positive direct effect on pod yield per plant followed by mature pods per plant. While, shelling out-turn showed high negative direct effect towards pod yield per plant but it expressed high indirect effect via kernel yield per plant. Thus, on the basis of correlations and direct and indirect effects, kernel yield per plant, number of mature pods per plant and shelling out-turn were proved to be the outstanding characters influencing pod yield in groundnut and need to be given importance in selection to achieve higher pod yield.

**Key words :** Character association, Path coefficient analysis, Groundnut

### INTRODUCTION

Groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) is the important oilseed crop of the India. Though, it leads in area and production in the world, its productivity is low as compared to other countries. Yield is a complex and polygenically controlled highly environmental influenced trait governed by the interaction of many variables and selection if based merely on yield is not effective. Correlation analysis is a biometrical technique to find out the nature and degree of association between various physico-chemical traits including yield, while path analysis splits the correlation coefficient into direct and indirect effect so as to measure the relative contribution of each variable towards yield. Hence, keeping the above aspects in mind, efforts were made to establish interrelationship among various yield contributing traits and also their contribution towards pod yield in the segregating population of groundnut. This will be facilitating the breeder to design appropriate selection strategies to increase pod yield in groundnut.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experimental material for the present study involved F<sub>2</sub> generation of six crosses derived from crossing among nine parents. The F<sub>2</sub> generation was sown with their parents in a Randomized Block Design with three replications at the Main Oilseeds Research Station, Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, during *Kharif*, 2007. Each F<sub>2</sub> generation was planted in 10 rows of 4 m length and parent was planted in a single row of same length at the spacing of 60 cm between rows and 15 cm

between the plants. Observations on 11 characters (Table 1) were recorded on randomly selected five plants from each parent and fifty plants from each F<sub>2</sub> generation per replication. The correlation coefficients were calculated as per Al-Jibouri *et al.* (1958). The path analysis was done as per the method suggested by Dewey and Lu (1959).

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In F<sub>2</sub> segregating generation, the phenotypic association of pod yield per plant was found positive and highly significant with number of mature pods per plant, kernel yield per plant and shelling out-turn (Table 1). These characters can be considered as criteria for selection for higher pod yield as they were mutually and directly associated with pod yield per plant except mature pods per plant and shelling out-turn negatively associated with each other. Sharma and Gupta (2008) observed positive and highly significant correlations of number of pods per plant and kernel yield per plant towards pod yield per plant. Mane *et al.* (2008) and Parameshwarappa *et al.* (2008) reported similar results for shelling out-turn whereas, Savaliya *et al.* (2008) for number of pods per plant and John *et al.* (2007) for kernel yield per plant. Days to flowering had positive and significant association with pod yield per plant in cross-2 and cross-3 only, indicating association of genotypes having longer duration of flowering was essential in increasing the pod yield per plant. Parmeshwarappa *et al.* (2008) and Ladole *et al.* (2009) also observed same correlation of days to flowering

\* Author for correspondence.

<sup>1</sup> Main Oilseeds Research Station, Junagadh Agricultural University, JUNAGADH (GUJARAT) INDIA

**Table 1: Correlation coefficients between different characters for six crosses of F<sub>2</sub> generation of groundnut**

| Correlated Trait/<br>Character                  | Ch2      | Ch3    | Ch4      | Ch5      | Ch6     | Ch7     | Ch8     | Ch9     | Ch10     | Ch11    |
|---|----------|--------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Days to first flowering (Ch1) with              |          |        |          |          |         |         |         |         |          |         |
| Cross 1   | 0.087    | 0.069  | 0.170*   | 0.108    | -0.156  | -0.099  | 0.045   | 0.113   | -0.028   | -0.069  |
| Cross 2   | 0.312**  | -0.031 | 0.022    | -0.062   | 0.121   | 0.211** | 0.058   | -0.026  | 0.048    | 0.201*  |
| Cross 3   | -0.180*  | -0.105 | 0.080    | 0.155    | 0.210** | 0.138   | -0.101  | 0.021   | -0.051   | 0.177*  |
| Cross 4   | -0.143   | -0.054 | 0.066    | -0.078   | -0.131  | -0.055  | -0.027  | -0.089  | -0.246** | -0.043  |
| Cross 5   | 0.003    | 0.206* | -0.027   | -0.014   | 0.017   | -0.026  | -0.110  | 0.072   | 0.204*   | -0.006  |
| Cross 6   | 0.334**  | 0.065  | -0.009   | -0.021   | 0.011   | 0.055   | 0.046   | -0.131  | -0.085   | 0.036   |
| Days to maturity (Ch2) with                     |          |        |          |          |         |         |         |         |          |         |
| Cross 1   | 0.087    | 0.106  | -0.057   | -0.059   | 0.100   | 0.079   | -0.038  | 0.121   | -0.107   | 0.144   |
| Cross 2   | 0.312**  | -0.039 | 0.021    | -0.038   | -0.102  | -0.016  | -0.015  | -0.095  | 0.13     | -0.007  |
| Cross 3   | -0.180** | -0.051 | -0.158   | 0.022    | 0.083   | 0.050   | 0.148   | -0.075  | -0.127   | 0.002   |
| Cross 4   | -0.143   | -0.066 | 0.033    | 0.092    | 0.097   | 0.038   | -0.209* | 0.365** | 0.005    | 0.083   |
| Cross 5   | 0.003    | -0.094 | -0.114   | -0.144   | -0.005  | -0.124  | 0.239** | -0.131  | -0.089   | -0.168* |
| Cross 6   | 0.334**  | 0.135  | 0.034    | -0.033   | 0.151   | 0.055   | 0.034   | -0.120  | -0.060   | 0.051   |
| Number of primary branches per plant (Ch3) with |          |        |          |          |         |         |         |         |          |         |
| Cross 1   | 0.069    | 0.106  | 0.089    | -0.262** | 0.201*  | 0.054   | 0.137   | 0.073   | -0.101   | 0.018   |
| Cross 2   | -0.031   | -0.039 | 0.045    | 0.000    | 0.219** | 0.033   | 0.071   | 0.040   | 0.130    | 0.030   |
| Cross 3   | -0.105   | -0.051 | -0.109   | -0.078   | -0.059  | 0.007   | 0.206*  | -0.030  | -0.012   | -0.046  |
| Cross 4   | -0.054   | -0.066 | 0.183*   | 0.022    | 0.213** | 0.006   | 0.046   | -0.078  | -0.077   | -0.006  |
| Cross 5   | 0.206*   | -0.094 | 0.159    | -0.091   | 0.031   | -0.068  | -0.110  | 0.048   | -0.017   | -0.045  |
| Cross 6   | 0.065    | 0.135  | 0.114    | 0.143    | 0.085   | 0.119   | 0.148   | 0.153   | 0.005    | 0.061   |
| Plant height (cm) (Ch4) with                    |          |        |          |          |         |         |         |         |          |         |
| Cross 1   | 0.170*   | -0.057 | 0.089    | 0.226**  | 0.145   | 0.102   | -0.014  | -0.047  | 0.195*   | 0.049   |
| Cross 2   | 0.022    | 0.021  | 0.045    | -0.104   | -0.033  | 0.006   | -0.038  | 0.130   | 0.107    | 0.015   |
| Cross 3   | 0.080    | -0.158 | -0.109   | 0.072    | 0.060   | 0.052   | -0.154  | 0.090   | 0.073    | 0.116   |
| Cross 4   | 0.066    | 0.033  | 0.183*   | 0.225**  | 0.043   | 0.109   | 0.078   | -0.052  | -0.003   | 0.094   |
| Cross 5   | -0.027   | -0.114 | 0.159    | 0.025    | -0.025  | 0.057   | -0.021  | 0.085   | 0.099    | 0.051   |
| Cross 6   | -0.009   | 0.034  | 0.114    | -0.032   | -0.103  | 0.092   | -0.009  | 0.116   | 0.100    | 0.103   |
| Number of mature pods per plant (Ch5) with      |          |        |          |          |         |         |         |         |          |         |
| Cross 1   | 0.108    | -0.059 | -0.262** | 0.226**  | -0.061  | 0.522** | -0.055  | -0.001  | 0.173*   | 0.477** |
| Cross 2   | -0.062   | -0.038 | 0.000    | -0.104   | 0.108   | 0.336** | -0.008  | -0.016  | -0.103   | 0.368** |
| Cross 3   | 0.155    | 0.022  | -0.078   | 0.072    | 0.098   | 0.872** | -0.062  | 0.100   | -0.080   | 0.903** |
| Cross 4   | -0.078   | 0.092  | 0.022    | 0.225**  | 0.075   | 0.913** | -0.087  | 0.068   | 0.018    | 0.940** |
| Cross 5   | -0.014   | -0.144 | -0.091   | 0.025    | 0.053   | 0.494** | -0.084  | -0.052  | 0.029    | 0.554** |
| Cross 6   | -0.021   | -0.033 | 0.143    | -0.032   | -0.022  | 0.499** | -0.019  | 0.083   | -0.193*  | 0.537** |
| Number of immature pods per plant (Ch6) with    |          |        |          |          |         |         |         |         |          |         |
| Cross 1   | -0.156   | 0.100  | 0.201*   | 0.145    | -0.061  | 0.048   | -0.087  | -0.028  | -0.048   | 0.040   |
| Cross 2   | 0.121    | -0.102 | 0.219**  | -0.033   | 0.108   | -0.009  | -0.069  | -0.039  | 0.002    | -0.004  |
| Cross 3   | 0.210**  | 0.083  | -0.059   | 0.060    | 0.098   | 0.098   | -0.112  | -0.034  | 0.014    | 0.135   |
| Cross 4   | -0.131   | 0.097  | 0.213**  | 0.043    | 0.075   | 0.107   | -0.036  | 0.065   | 0.002    | 0.123   |
| Cross 5   | 0.017    | -0.005 | 0.031    | -0.025   | 0.053   | 0.030   | -0.030  | 0.076   | 0.042    | 0.042   |
| Cross 6   | 0.011    | 0.151  | 0.085    | -0.103   | -0.022  | 0.070   | -0.038  | -0.036  | -0.082   | 0.085   |

Table 1 contd.....

Contd... Table 1

| Correlated Trait/<br>Character    | Ch2      | Ch3     | Ch4    | Ch5    | Ch6     | Ch7    | Ch8     | Ch9      | Ch10     | Ch11    |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
| Kernel yield per plant (Ch7) with |          |         |        |        |         |        |         |          |          |         |
| Cross 1                           | -0.099   | 0.079   | 0.054  | 0.102  | 0.522** | 0.048  | 0.224** | 0.031    | -0.079   | 0.677** |
| Cross 2                           | 0.211**  | -0.016  | 0.033  | 0.006  | 0.336** | -0.009 | 0.343** | 0.128    | 0.052    | 0.967** |
| Cross 3                           | 0.138    | 0.050   | 0.007  | 0.052  | 0.872** | 0.098  | 0.216** | 0.072    | -0.033   | 0.941** |
| Cross 4                           | -0.055   | 0.038   | 0.006  | 0.109  | 0.913** | 0.107  | 0.105   | 0.007    | 0.007    | 0.968** |
| Cross 5                           | -0.026   | -0.124  | -0.068 | 0.057  | 0.494** | 0.030  | 0.467** | 0.102    | -0.075   | 0.978** |
| Cross 6                           | 0.055    | 0.055   | 0.119  | 0.092  | 0.499** | 0.070  | 0.313** | -0.067   | -0.028   | 0.895** |
| Shelling out-turn (%) (Ch8) with  |          |         |        |        |         |        |         |          |          |         |
| Cross 1                           | 0.045    | -0.038  | 0.137  | -0.014 | -0.055  | -0.087 | 0.224** | -0.011   | 0.011    | 0.177*  |
| Cross 2                           | 0.058    | -0.015  | 0.071  | -0.038 | -0.008  | -0.069 | 0.343** | 0.067    | 0.060    | 0.213** |
| Cross 3                           | -0.101   | 0.148   | 0.206* | -0.154 | -0.062  | -0.112 | 0.216** | 0.077    | 0.075    | 0.165*  |
| Cross 4                           | -0.027   | -0.209* | 0.046  | 0.078  | -0.087  | -0.036 | 0.105   | -0.282** | 0.019    | 0.199*  |
| Cross 5                           | -0.110   | 0.239** | -0.110 | -0.021 | -0.084  | -0.030 | 0.467** | 0.024    | -0.219** | 0.302** |
| Cross 6                           | 0.046    | 0.034   | 0.148  | -0.009 | -0.019  | -0.038 | 0.313** | -0.034   | 0.070    | 0.197*  |
| Oil content (%) (Ch9) with        |          |         |        |        |         |        |         |          |          |         |
| Cross 1                           | 0.113    | 0.121   | 0.073  | -0.047 | -0.001  | -0.028 | 0.031   | -0.011   | 0.045    | 0.009   |
| Cross 2                           | -0.026   | -0.095  | 0.040  | 0.130  | -0.016  | -0.039 | 0.128   | 0.067    | 0.080    | 0.127   |
| Cross 3                           | 0.021    | -0.075  | -0.030 | 0.090  | 0.100   | -0.034 | 0.072   | 0.077    | -0.180*  | 0.056   |
| Cross 4                           | -0.089   | .365**  | -0.078 | -0.052 | 0.068   | 0.065  | 0.007   | -0.282** | 0.094    | 0.074   |
| Cross 5                           | 0.072    | -0.131  | 0.048  | 0.085  | -0.052  | 0.076  | 0.102   | 0.024    | -0.380** | 0.122   |
| Cross 6                           | -0.131   | -0.120  | 0.153  | 0.116  | 0.083   | -0.036 | -0.067  | -0.034   | 0.131    | -0.036  |
| Protein content (%) (Ch10) with   |          |         |        |        |         |        |         |          |          |         |
| Cross 1                           | -0.028   | -0.107  | -0.101 | 0.195* | 0.173*  | -0.048 | -0.079  | 0.011    | 0.045    | -0.106  |
| Cross 2                           | 0.048    | 0.130   | 0.130  | 0.107  | -0.103  | 0.002  | 0.052   | 0.060    | 0.080    | 0.044   |
| Cross 3                           | -0.051   | -0.127  | -0.012 | 0.073  | -0.080  | 0.014  | -0.033  | 0.075    | -0.180*  | -0.059  |
| Cross 4                           | -0.246** | 0.005   | -0.077 | -0.003 | 0.018   | 0.002  | 0.007   | 0.019    | 0.094    | -0.005  |
| Cross 5                           | 0.204*   | -0.089  | -0.017 | 0.099  | 0.029   | 0.042  | -0.075  | -0.219** | -0.380** | -0.036  |
| Cross 6                           | -0.085   | -0.060  | 0.005  | 0.100  | -0.193* | -0.082 | -0.028  | 0.070    | 0.131    | -0.070  |

\* and \*\* indicates significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01 levels, respectively

Cross 1 = AH-8254 (NRCG-6806) x J-11

Cross 3 = US-14 (NRCG-9356) x GG-5

Cross 5 = RCM-520B (NRCG-11698) x JL-24

Ch11 = Pod yield per plant

Cross 2 = Virginia Improved (NRCG-6935) x JL-24

Cross 4 = PI-339974 (NRCG-6408) x J-11

Cross 6 = PELOTAS-B (NRCG-10763) x GG-5

with pod yield per plant. Days to maturity had negative correlation with pod yield per plant in cross-4 and cross-5 only. This is in conformation with the results of Sharma and Gupta (2008). Remaining characters exhibited their positive or negative and negligible association with pod yield per plant. Considering interrelationship between characters, number of primary branches per plant had positive and significant association with immature pods per plant in the cross-1, cross-2 and cross-4 indicating it was undesirable for plant breeder and should be break-down for enhancing pod yield.

In the present investigation, path coefficient analysis revealed that kernel yield per plant had the highest positive direct effect on pod yield followed by mature pods per

plant (Table 2). These results are in accordance with John *et al.* (2007), Sharma and Gupta (2008) and Sharma and Dashora (2009). Shelling out-turn was found to be an important yield component as it had shown positive and significant correlation but high negative direct effect towards pod yield per plant in all the crosses. Sharma and Gupta (2008) and Sharma and Dashora (2009) also reported similar results. While, Mane *et al.* (2008) and Kadam *et al.* (2009) reported high positive direct effect of shelling out-turn. This character showed high indirect effect on pod yield per plant via kernel yield per plant. Number of mature pods per plant had shown positive and significant correlation with pod yield per plant mainly due to direct effect as well as via kernel yield per plant for all

**Table 2 : Direct and indirect effects of different characters towards pod yield per plant for six crosses of F<sub>2</sub> generation of groundnut**

| Correlated Trait/<br>Character                  | Ch1    | Ch2    | Ch3    | Ch4    | Ch5    | Ch6    | Ch7    | Ch8    | Ch9    | Ch10   | 'r'     |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Days to first flowering (Ch1) with              |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Cross 1   | -0.014 | 0.007  | 0.005  | -0.007 | 0.017  | 0.005  | -0.065 | -0.015 | -0.003 | 0.001  | -0.069  |
| Cross 2   | -0.001 | 0.003  | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.002 | -0.001 | 0.211  | -0.008 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.201*  |
| Cross 3   | 0.005  | -0.001 | -0.002 | 0.001  | 0.002  | 0.000  | 0.138  | 0.032  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.177*  |
| Cross 4   | 0.012  | 0.001  | 0.000  | -0.001 | -0.012 | -0.002 | -0.047 | 0.005  | 0.000  | 0.002  | -0.043  |
| Cross 5   | -0.003 | 0.000  | 0.002  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.028 | 0.022  | 0.002  | -0.001 | -0.006  |
| Cross 6   | -0.002 | 0.004  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.056  | -0.020 | -0.003 | 0.001  | 0.036   |
| Days to maturity (Ch2) with                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Cross 1   | -0.001 | 0.081  | 0.007  | 0.002  | -0.009 | -0.003 | 0.052  | 0.012  | -0.003 | 0.006  | 0.144   |
| Cross 2   | 0.000  | 0.009  | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.001  | -0.016 | 0.002  | -0.001 | 0.000  | -0.007  |
| Cross 3   | -0.001 | 0.004  | -0.001 | -0.002 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.050  | -0.048 | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.002   |
| Cross 4   | -0.002 | -0.004 | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.014  | 0.002  | 0.032  | 0.040  | 0.002  | 0.000  | 0.083   |
| Cross 5   | 0.000  | 0.015  | -0.001 | 0.002  | -0.002 | 0.000  | -0.131 | -0.048 | -0.003 | 0.001  | -0.168* |
| Cross 6   | -0.001 | 0.013  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.057  | -0.015 | -0.002 | 0.001  | 0.051   |
| Number of primary branches per plant (Ch3) with |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Cross 1   | -0.001 | 0.009  | 0.067  | -0.004 | -0.041 | -0.006 | 0.035  | -0.045 | -0.002 | 0.005  | 0.018   |
| Cross 2   | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.008  | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.002 | 0.033  | -0.009 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.030   |
| Cross 3   | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.017  | -0.002 | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.007  | -0.066 | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.046  |
| Cross 4   | -0.001 | 0.000  | -0.006 | -0.003 | 0.003  | 0.004  | 0.005  | -0.009 | 0.000  | 0.001  | -0.006  |
| Cross 5   | -0.001 | -0.001 | 0.010  | -0.003 | -0.002 | 0.000  | -0.072 | 0.022  | 0.001  | 0.000  | -0.045  |
| Cross 6   | 0.000  | 0.002  | -0.003 | 0.000  | 0.002  | 0.000  | 0.122  | -0.065 | 0.003  | 0.000  | 0.061   |
| Plant height (cm) (Ch4) with                    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Cross 1   | -0.002 | -0.005 | 0.006  | -0.043 | 0.035  | -0.005 | 0.067  | 0.005  | 0.001  | -0.010 | 0.049   |
| Cross 2   | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.006  | -0.004 | 0.000  | 0.006  | 0.005  | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.015   |
| Cross 3   | 0.000  | -0.001 | -0.002 | 0.015  | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.052  | 0.049  | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.116   |
| Cross 4   | 0.001  | 0.000  | -0.001 | -0.018 | 0.034  | 0.001  | 0.093  | -0.015 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.094   |
| Cross 5   | 0.000  | -0.002 | 0.002  | -0.016 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.061  | 0.004  | 0.002  | -0.001 | 0.051   |
| Cross 6   | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.004  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.094  | 0.004  | 0.002  | -0.001 | 0.103   |
| Number of mature pods per plant (Ch5) with      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Cross 1   | -0.001 | -0.005 | -0.018 | -0.010 | 0.156  | 0.002  | 0.344  | 0.018  | 0.000  | -0.009 | 0.477** |
| Cross 2   | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.034  | -0.001 | 0.336  | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.368** |
| Cross 3   | 0.001  | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.001  | 0.011  | 0.000  | 0.871  | 0.020  | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.903** |
| Cross 4   | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.004 | 0.150  | 0.001  | 0.778  | 0.017  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.940** |
| Cross 5   | 0.000  | -0.002 | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.017  | 0.000  | 0.525  | 0.017  | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.554** |
| Cross 6   | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.014  | 0.000  | 0.512  | 0.008  | 0.002  | 0.002  | 0.537** |
| Number of immature pods per plant (Ch6) with    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Cross 1   | 0.002  | 0.008  | 0.014  | -0.006 | -0.009 | -0.032 | 0.032  | 0.028  | 0.001  | 0.003  | 0.040   |
| Cross 2   | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.002  | 0.000  | 0.004  | -0.009 | -0.009 | 0.009  | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.004  |
| Cross 3   | 0.001  | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.001  | 0.001  | -0.001 | 0.098  | 0.036  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.135   |
| Cross 4   | -0.002 | 0.000  | -0.001 | -0.001 | 0.011  | 0.017  | 0.092  | 0.007  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.123   |
| Cross 5   | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.001  | 0.001  | 0.032  | 0.006  | 0.002  | 0.000  | 0.042   |
| Cross 6   | 0.000  | 0.002  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.005 | 0.072  | 0.017  | -0.001 | 0.001  | 0.085   |

Table 2 Contd.....

Contd....Table 2

| Correlated Trait/<br>Character        | Ch1    | Ch2    | Ch3    | Ch4    | Ch5    | Ch6    | Ch7    | Ch8    | Ch9    | Ch10   | 'r'     |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Kernel yield per plant (g) (Ch7) with |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Cross 1                               | 0.001  | 0.006  | 0.004  | -0.004 | 0.081  | -0.002 | 0.660  | -0.073 | -0.001 | 0.004  | 0.677** |
| Cross 2                               | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.011  | 0.000  | 0.999  | -0.045 | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.967** |
| Cross 3                               | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.001  | 0.009  | 0.000  | 0.999  | -0.069 | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.941** |
| Cross 4                               | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.002 | 0.137  | 0.002  | 0.852  | -0.020 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.968** |
| Cross 5                               | 0.000  | -0.002 | -0.001 | -0.001 | 0.008  | 0.000  | 1.063  | -0.093 | 0.003  | 0.000  | 0.978** |
| Cross 6                               | 0.000  | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.007  | 0.000  | 1.025  | -0.136 | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.895** |
| Shelling out-turn (%) (Ch8) with      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Cross 1                               | -0.001 | -0.003 | 0.009  | 0.001  | -0.009 | 0.003  | 0.148  | -0.325 | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.177*  |
| Cross 2                               | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.001  | 0.343  | -0.131 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.213** |
| Cross 3                               | -0.001 | 0.001  | 0.003  | -0.002 | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.215  | -0.322 | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.165*  |
| Cross 4                               | 0.000  | 0.001  | 0.000  | -0.001 | -0.013 | -0.001 | 0.089  | -0.191 | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.199*  |
| Cross 5                               | 0.000  | 0.004  | -0.001 | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.497  | -0.199 | 0.001  | 0.001  | 0.302** |
| Cross 6                               | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.320  | -0.435 | -0.001 | -0.001 | 0.197*  |
| Oil content (%) (Ch9) with            |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Cross 1                               | -0.002 | 0.010  | 0.005  | 0.002  | 0.000  | 0.001  | 0.020  | 0.003  | -0.028 | -0.002 | 0.009   |
| Cross 2                               | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.001  | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.128  | -0.009 | 0.007  | 0.000  | 0.127   |
| Cross 3                               | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.001  | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.072  | -0.025 | 0.007  | 0.000  | 0.056   |
| Cross 4                               | -0.001 | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.001  | 0.010  | 0.001  | 0.006  | 0.054  | 0.005  | -0.001 | 0.074   |
| Cross 5                               | 0.000  | -0.002 | 0.001  | -0.001 | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.108  | -0.005 | 0.025  | -0.002 | 0.122   |
| Cross 6                               | 0.000  | -0.002 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.001  | 0.000  | -0.069 | 0.015  | 0.019  | -0.002 | -0.036  |
| Protein content (%) (Ch10) with       |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |
| Cross 1                               | 0.000  | -0.009 | -0.007 | -0.008 | 0.027  | 0.002  | -0.052 | -0.003 | -0.001 | -0.054 | -0.106  |
| Cross 2                               | 0.000  | 0.001  | 0.001  | 0.001  | -0.003 | 0.000  | 0.052  | -0.008 | 0.001  | 0.000  | 0.044   |
| Cross 3                               | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.001  | -0.001 | 0.000  | -0.033 | -0.024 | -0.001 | 0.001  | -0.059  |
| Cross 4                               | -0.003 | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.000  | 0.003  | 0.000  | 0.006  | -0.004 | 0.000  | -0.008 | -0.005  |
| Cross 5                               | -0.001 | -0.001 | 0.000  | -0.002 | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.080 | 0.044  | 0.010  | -0.006 | -0.036  |
| Cross 6                               | 0.000  | -0.001 | 0.000  | 0.000  | -0.003 | 0.000  | -0.028 | -0.030 | 0.003  | -0.012 | -0.070  |

\* and \*\* indicates significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01 levels, respectively 'r' = Correlation coefficient with pod yield per plant  
 Cross 1 = AH-8254 (NRCG-6806) x J-11  
 Cross 2 = Virginia Improved (NRCG-6935) x JL-24  
 Cross 3 = US-14 (NRCG-9356) x GG-5  
 Cross 4 = PI-339974 (NRCG-6408) x J-11  
 Cross 5 = RCM-520B (NRCG-11698) x JL-24  
 Cross 6 = PELOTAS-B (NRCG-10763) x GG-5

the crosses. Path analysis had also revealed that among the pod yield attributes, the mutual relationship of number of mature pods per plant and kernel yield per plant had resulted in high and positive effect with pod yield per plant. The residual effects ranged from 0.10 to 0.64 among the crosses studied, which indicated that there may be some important characters that could not be utilized in present study. Hence, other remaining characters may also be incorporated before making any final selection.

When correlation and direct as well as indirect

positive contribution were considered, kernel yield per plant, number of mature pods per plant and shelling out-turn were proved to be the outstanding characters and need to be given importance in selection to achieve higher pod yield in groundnut.

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