

## Estimation of heterosis in yield and yield attributing traits in single cross hybrids of maize

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### ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted at National Maize Research Program, Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal during winter season from 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to estimate different heterosis on single cross maize hybrids. Thirteen maize hybrids were tested randomized complete block design with three replications. Hybrid namely RML-98/RL-105 gave the highest standard heterosis (57.5%) for grain yield over CP-666 followed by RML-4/NML-2 (32.6%), RML-95/RL-105 (29%) and RML-5/RL-105 (20.6%). The hybrid RML-98/RL-105 produced the highest standard heterosis (75.1%) for grain yield over Rajkumar followed by RML-4/NML-2 (50.2%), RML-95/RL-105 (46.6%), RML-5/RL-105 and (35.7%). Mid and better parent heterosis were significantly higher for yield and yield attributes viz. ear length, ear diameter, no of kernel row per ear, no of kernel per row and test weight. The highest positive mid-parent heterosis for grain yield was found in RML-98/RL-105 followed by RML-5/RL-105, RML-95/RL-105, and RML-4/NML-2. For the grain yield the better parent heterosis was the highest in RML-98/RL-105, followed by RML-5/RL-105, RML-95/RL-105, and RML-4/NML-2. These results suggested that maize production can be maximized by cultivating hybrids namely RML-98/RL-105, RML-5/RL-105, RML-95/RL-105, and RML-4/NML-2.

**Key words:** Maize, single cross hybrid, heterosis, and grain yield.

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### INTRODUCTION

Maize (*Zea mays L.*) is the world's widely grown cereal and primary staple food crop in many developing countries. In Nepal, after rice maize is second most important crop in terms of area and production. The area and productivity of this crop in Nepal is 8.823 million hectare and 2.43 t ha<sup>-1</sup>, respectively (MoAD, 2015). It is also an important feed ingredient for poultry and

livestock. Yan et al., (2011) noticed that more than half of the increased demand in the world food in term of cereals as a whole will be produced from maize farmers and consumers. There are many constraints in maize production one of them is lack of high yielding hybrids. The numbers of maize hybrids developed in Nepal are insufficient i.e. five hybrids released in 13 years duration and those released so far are not also competitive. The dependency over imported hybrid maize seed increased every year due to unavailability of competitive hybrid cultivars within the country and underdeveloped seed industries (Gurung et al., 2011). Thirty-two hybrids of 14 seed companies have been registered in National Seed Board (Koirala et al., 2013). In this context, as the hybrid maize area has been growing extensively in Terai and partly in mid-hill districts, the commercial seed companies are the major source of seed. Hybrid maize seed marketing is flourishing every year but limited commercial hybrids are suited to cultivation owing to existing diverse agro-ecological regime of the country. Since 250 years top innovations in modern agriculture has begun with heterosis discovery in plant crosses (Malik et al., 2004). Heterosis (hybrid vigor) is the enhancement in size, growth, fertility and yield in progeny compared to parents. Hallauer and Miranda (1988) manifested that heterosis depends on the genetic divergence of two parental varieties; also genetic divergence of the parents is inferred from the heterotic patterns manifested in a series of cross combination. As compared to existing cultivars the new maize hybrid should be better for grain yield and other economic traits. The determination of heterosis is important for development of superior hybrids. Such type of research was not sufficient therefore this study was conducted to estimate heterosis in single cross hybrids.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The experiment was carried out at the research farm of National Maize Research Program (NMRP), Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal from first week of 6 October, 2015 to 5 March, 2016. The mean maximum temperature  $27.32^{\circ}\text{C}$  and minimum temperature  $14.33^{\circ}\text{C}$  were recorded. Maximum temperature ranged from  $22.16^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $32.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The minimum temperature ranged from  $8.76^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $24.08^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Highest rainfall (42.5 mm) recorded during October 2015, the lowest rainfall (4.66 mm) during January. The total rainfall during crop growing season was 95.66 mm. The experiment was laid out in Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with three replications consisting of 11 single cross hybrids and 2 check hybrids. The individual plot size was  $3.6\text{ m}^2$  (2 rows of 3 m length) and spacing was of  $60\text{ cm} \times 25\text{ cm}$ . The soil texture was sandy loam and slightly acidic. The FYM @ 10 t/ha along with 120:64:40 kg NPK  $\text{ha}^{-1}$  was applied in the experiments. Half nitrogen, full dose of phosphorous and potash (60:60:40 kg  $\text{N}_2$ ,  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  and  $\text{K}_2\text{O}$  per ha) was applied during sowing. Remaining dose of nitrogen is splitted into two parts and top-dressed during 30 DAS and 45 DAS. Grain yield per hectare was calculated by converting yield per plot into grain yield per hectare. Grain yield was obtained by adjusting the grain moisture at 15% and converted to the grain yield per hectare with the help of the formula adopted by Carangal et al. (1971) and Shrestha et al. (2015).

**Table 1. List of hybrids used in the experiment.**

SN	Hybrids	Parentage lines
1	RML-4/RML-17	CA00326/CML-287
2	RML-95/RML-96	PUTU-17/AG-27
3	RML-32/RML-17	CA00320/CML-287
4	RML-86/RML-96	PUTU-20/AG-27
5	RML-5/RL-105	CA00314/UPAHAR-B-20-2-4-1-1
6	RML-95/RL-105	PUTU-17/UPAHAR-B-20-2-4-1-1
7	RML-115/RML-96	PUTU-17/AG-27
8	RML-153/RL-105	POOL-21-12-1-2-1-1-1/UPAHAR-B-20-2-4-1-1
9	RML-85/RL-105	PUTU-14/UPAHAR-B-20-2-4-1-1
10	RML-98/RL-105	L-3/UPAHAR-B-20-2-4-1-1
11	Rajkumar	-
12	RML-4/NML-2(Rampur Hybrid-2)	CA00326/CML-430
13	CP-666	-

Percent standard heterosis was calculated for using formula as suggested by Falconer and Mackay (1996). This was computed as percentage increase or decrease of the cross performances over the best standard check as: Standard heterosis refers to the superiority of F<sub>1</sub> over the standard commercial check variety. It is also called as economic heterosis or useful heterosis and calculated by using formula.

$$\text{Standard heterosis (\%)} = \frac{\text{F1} - \text{Check variety}}{\text{Check variety}} \times 100$$

Mid parent and better parent heterosis was estimated using below formula;

$$\text{Mid parent heterosis (\%)} = \frac{\text{F1} - \text{Mid parent}}{\text{Mid parent}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Better parent heterosis (\%)} = \frac{\text{F1} - \text{Better parent}}{\text{Better parent}} \times 100$$

The statistical package MSTAT-C was applied to analyze data (Russel & Eisensmith, 1983). The significant differences between treatments were determined at probability level of 0.01 or 0.05 using least significant difference (LSD) test.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Standard heterosis of tested genotypes ranged from -8.6 to 90.4% (Table 2). The positive standard heterosis was shown by most of hybrids for grain yield. Hybrid namely RML-98/RL-105 had the highest standard heterosis of 57.5% over CP-666 followed by RML-4/NML-2(32.6%) and RML-95/RL-105(29%) and RML-5/RL-105 (20.6%) respectively. The RML-98/RL-105 had the highest standard heterosis (75.1%) over Rajkumar followed by RML-5/RL-105 (35.7%), RML-4/NML-2(50.2%) and RML-95/RL-105(46.6%) respectively. Hybrid namely RML-98/RL-105, RML-5/RL-105, RML-4/NML-2, RML-95/RL-105 were superior hybrids, which manifested >15% standard heterosis over check hybrids (CP-666 and Rajkumar). Rosa et al. (2002) were reported similar findings. In this study there was significant level of heterosis for the yield. Semel et al. (2006) estimated the better-parent heterosis primarily for reproductive traits related to yield.

**Table 2. Heterosis for grain yield of single cross hybrids evaluated at NMRP Rampur Chitwan in 2015/16 during winter season.**

SN	Hybrids	Standard (%)		Better parent (%)	Mid parent (%)
		CP-666	Rajkumar		
1	RML-4/RML-17	20.9	33.6	185	274
2	RML-95/RML-96	-1.4	9.6	178	175
3	RML-32/RML-17	-4.4	11.5	138	216
4	RML-86/RML-96	12.5	27.2	222	251
5	RML-5/RL-105	20.6	35.7	439	580
6	RML-95/RL-105	29	46.6	371	457
7	RML-115/RML-96	16.2	36.1	210	224
8	RML-153/RL-105	20.6	36.3	170	273
9	RML-85/RL-105	19.6	35.5	222	320
10	RML-98/RL-105	57.5	30.6	476	590
11	RML-4/NML-2	32.6	50.2	271	353
	P value	0.542	0.883	223.6	223.6
	F test	ns	ns	ns	ns
	LSD <sub>0.05</sub>	51.4	32.76	50.1	50.1
	CV,%	148.4	95.7	50.1	33.3

Table 3 revealed that RML-5/RL-105 had the highest better parent heterosis in ear length (89.3%) followed by RML-95/RL-105(85.95%) and RML-98/RL-105(85.8%). Similarly RML-5/RL-105 had maximum heterosis in ear length (105.5%) followed by RML-98/RL-105(101.3%) and RML-95/RL-105(96.8%) over mid parent. Genotype RML-153/RL-105 had the highest heterosis in ear length (17.3%) followed by RML-5/RL-105(16%) and RML-98/RL-105(15.2%) over CP-666. Similarly, genotype RML-153/RL-105 had the maximum heterosis in ear length (24.5%) followed by RML-5/RL-105(22.6%) and RML-98/RL-105(21.8%) over Rajkumar. Genotype RML-153/RL-105, RML-5/RL-105, RML-98/RL-105 and RML-5/RL-105 had standard heterosis >15% over Rajkumar and CP-666 similarly those genotypes had > 85% heterosis over mid and better parent heterosis. Abdel-moneam et al.(2009) reported that positive significant heterosis values over both their mid and better parents for ear length in maize populations.

Table 4 showed that RML-95/RL-105 had the highest heterobeltiosis in ear diameter (112.3%) followed by RML-4/RML-17(108.6%). Likewise, the maximum heterosis in ear diameter was found in RML-5/RL-105(135.8%) followed by RML-95/RL-105(133.7%). The maximum heterosis was recorded in RML-115/RL-96 (112.3%) in ear diameter followed by RML-4/RML-17(47.81%) over CP-666. RML-115/RL-96 had obtained highest heterosis in ear diameter (59.33%) and same result was also found in RML-4/RML-17(58.89%) over Rajkumar. Genotypes RML-115/RL-96, RML-4/RML-1, RML-115/RL-96 and RML-4/RML-17 had standard heterosis > 47% over Rajkumar and CP-666 similarly RML-95/RL-105, RML-4/RML-

17 and RML-5/RL-105 had mid and better parent heterosis > 108%. Similar results were observed by Semel *et al.* (2006).

**Table 3. Heterosis for ear length of single cross hybrids evaluated at NMRP, Rampur, Chitwan in 2015/16 during winter season**

SN	Hybrids	Standard (%)		Better parent (%)	Mid parent (%)
		CP-666	Rajkumar		
1	RML-4/RML-17	12	18	39.9	60.8
2	RML-95/RML-96	-2.1	3.1	28.8	34.8
3	RML-32/RML-17	11	17.8	39.2	64.8
4	RML-86/RML-96	7.7	13.9	41.6	55.4
5	RML-5/RL-105	16	22.6	89.3	105.5
6	RML-95/RL-105	10.9	16.8	85.9	96.8
7	RML-115/RML-96	-10.1	-6	21.5	30.5
8	RML-153/RL-105	17.3	24.5	11.9	48.8
9	RML-85/RL- 105	7.3	13.3	41.6	67.9
10	RML-98/RL-105	15.2	21.8	85.8	101.3
11	RML-4/NML-2	7.7	13.6	59.8	72
	P value	0.126	0.144	0.287	0.006
	F test	ns	ns	ns	**
	LSD <sub>0.05</sub>	17.94	20.08	69.4	38.92
	CV,%	124.5	81.3	82.2	34

**Table 4. Heterosis for ear diameter of single cross hybrids evaluated at NMRP Rampur Chitwan in 2015/16 during winter season**

SN	Hybrids	Standard (%)		Better parent (%)	Mid parent (%)
		CP-666	Rajkumar		
1	RML-4/RML-17	47.81	58.89	108.6	117.2
2	RML-95/RML-96	39.39	49.85	86.1	85.2
3	RML-32/RML-17	37.31	47.93	93.9	132.9
4	RML-86/RML-96	41.26	52.22	88	104.8
5	RML-5/RL-105	38.79	49.48	101.2	135.8
6	RML-95/RL-105	47.14	58.59	112.3	133.7
7	RML-115/RML-96	47.98	59.53	96.6	103.1
8	RML-153/RL-105	40.17	51.16	60.6	94.8
9	RML-85/RL- 105	42.53	53.42	92.9	115.8
10	RML-98/RL-105	44.17	54.96	95.8	121.5

11	RML-4/NML-2	43.17	54.07	93.9	101.1
	P value	0.105	0.103	0.355	0.039
	F test	ns	ns	ns	*
	LSD <sub>0.05</sub>	7.984	8.549	36.54	31.54
	CV,%	11	9.4	22.9	16.4

Table 5 revealed that RML-5/RL-105 had the highest heterobeltiosis in number of kernel row per ear (44.8%) followed by RML-4/RML-17(42.2%). Correspondingly, RML-32/RML-17 had the highest heterosis in no of kernel row per ear (81.4%) and RML-5/RL-105 had (52.2%). Genotype RML-85/RL-105 had observed highest heterosis in no of kernel row per ear (18.5%) followed by RML-95/RL-105(18.5%) over CP-666. Genotype RML-95/RL-105 had the maximum heterosis in no of kernel row per ear (23.8%) same result found in RML-85/RL-105(23.8%) over Rajkumar. Genotype RML-85/RL-105, RML-95/RL-105, RML-86/RML-96 and RML-4/NML-2 had standard heterosis >19% over Rajkumar and CP-666. Equally, RML-5/RL-105, RML-4/RML-17, RML-32/RML-17 and RML-98/RL-105 had > 42% mid and better parent heterosis in number of kernel row per ear. The heterosis was from 18.2% to 34.5% in temperate sub-tropical and tropical maize germplasm obtained by (Mallik et al., 2004).

**Table 5. Heterosis for No of kernel row per ear of single cross hybrids at NMRP Rampur Chitwan in 2015/16 during winter season.**

SN	Hybrids	Standard (%)		Better parent (%)	Mid parent (%)
		CP-666	Rajkumar		
1	RML-4/RML-17	9.5	14.3	42.2	34
2	RML-95/RML-96	9.5	14.3	14.3	17.2
3	RML-32/RML-17	4.8	9.5	36.7	81.4
4	RML-86/RML-96	14.3	19	19	28.7
5	RML-5/RL-105	9.5	14.3	44.8	55.2
6	RML-95/RL-105	18.5	23.8	31	44.4
7	RML-115/RML-96	14.3	19	19	35.5
8	RML-153/RL-105	9.5	14.3	15.9	30.5
9	RML-85/RL- 105	18.5	23.8	39	49.5
10	RML-98/RL-105	9.5	14.3	27	38
11	RML-4/NML-2	9.5	19	14.3	25.3
	P value	0.451	0.203	0.122	0.009
	F test	ns	ns	ns	**
	LSD <sub>0.05</sub>	12.33	10.63	25.61	27.74
	CV,%	62.5	37	54.6	40.8



Table 6 showed that RML-85/RL-105 had the highest better parent heterosis in no of kernel per row (175%) followed by RML-98/RL-105(170%) similarly the genotype RML-5/RL-105 had the highest heterosis in no of kernel per row (223.3%) followed by RML-98/RL-105(203.8%). Similarly, RML-98/RL-105 had the highest heterosis in no of kernel per row (38.39%) followed by RML-5/RL-105(38.7%) over CP-666. The maximum heterosis in no of kernel per row had found in RML-98/RL-105 (35.2%) followed by RML-85/RL-105(34.4%) over Rajkumar. In Spanish maize populations Ordas (1991) and Ali et al. (2014) reported similar results. Flint Garcia et al. (2009) evaluated heterosis of hybrid maize and found similar results.

**Table 6. Heterosis for no of kernel per row of single cross hybrids at NMRP Rampur Chitwan during in 2015/16 during winter season.**

SN	Hybrids	Standard (%)		Better parent (%)	Mid parent (%)
		CP-666	Rajkumar		
1	RML-4/RML-17	28.2	24.8	117	116.7
2	RML-95/RML-96	9.3	6.3	41	42
3	RML-32/RML-17	28.8	25.9	115	201.9
4	RML-86/RML-96	21.8	18.5	57	80.3
5	RML-5/RL-105	38.7	34.8	156	223.3
6	RML-95/RL-105	33	29.8	91	144
7	RML-115/RML-96	19.4	16.6	54	95.2
8	RML-153/RL-105	32.9	28.9	25	82.9
9	RML-85/RL- 105	34.4	30.4	175	197.9
10	RML-98/RL-105	38.9	35.2	170	203.8
11	RML-4/NML-2	24.2	20.9	71	91.5
	P value	0.050	0.050	0.072	<.001
	F-test	*	*	ns	**
	LSD <sub>0.05</sub>	17.57	16.83	107.1	65.18
	CV,%	36.6	40	64.4	28.5

Table 7 showed that RML-95/RL-105 had the highest heterobeltiosis in thousand kernel weight (118.8%) followed by RML-85/RL-105 (117.9%) similarly RML-115/RML-96 showed highest heterosis in thousand kernel weight (123.9%) followed by RML-86/RML-96 (111.6%). In thousand kernel weight the highest heterosis was recorded in RML-98/RL-105 (18.6%) followed by RML-153/RL-105(13.7%) over CP-666. Similarly RML-98/RL-105 had the highest heterosis in thousand kernel weight (13.8%) followed by RML-153/RML-105(9.8%) over Rajkumar. Genotypes RML-98/RL-105, RML-153/RL-105, RML-4/RML-17 and RML-86/RML-96 had > 8% standard heterosis over Rajkumar and CP-666 similarly RML-95/RL-105, RML-115/RML-96, RML-86/RML-96 and RML-85/RL-105 had > 111% mid and better parent heterosis. Hybrid RML-98/RL-105 manifested highest better parent heterosis in grain yield (476%) followed by RML-5/RL-105(439%) and RML-95/RL-105(371%) respectively. Gadad

(2003) found that significant and positive standard heterosis for test weight in inter-varietal crosses of maize. Gurung (2006) reported -22 to 63.1% heterosis for grain yield in maize populations. Shrestha et al. (2011) also reported that there was more than 40% standard heterosis in single cross hybrids of maize.

**Table 7. Heterosis for test weight of single cross hybrids at NMRP Rampur Chitwan in 2015/16 during winter season**

SN	Hybrids	Standard (%)		Better parent (%)	Mid parent (%)
		CP-666	Rajkumar		
1	RML-4/RML-17	12.2	8.3	92.9	83
2	RML-95/RML-96	5.7	2.1	93	100
3	RML-32/RML-17	3.2	0.4	77.8	76.1
4	RML-86/RML-96	10.4	7.3	103.1	111.6
5	RML-5/RL-105	12.2	7.8	84.5	109.3
6	RML-95/RL-105	10.9	6.8	118.8	108.7
7	RML-115/RML-96	14	10	108.1	123.9
8	RML-153/RL-105	13.7	9.8	87	95.2
9	RML-85/RL-105	8.7	4.9	117.9	105.2
10	RML-98/RL-105	18.6	13.8	96.1	102.7
11	RML-4/NML-2	5.2	1.1	81.5	75.8
	P value	0.721	0.719	0.365	0.205
	F test	ns	ns	ns	ns
	LSD <sub>0.05</sub>	15.95	14.62	38.28	36.83
	CV,%	89.7	130.4	23.3	21.8

## CONCLUSION

Hybrid namely RML-98/RL-105, RML-5/RL-105, RML-4/NML-2 & RML-95/RL-105 were superior hybrids, exhibited >20% standard heterosis over check hybrids (CP-666 & Rajkumar) for grain yield. Mid parent and better parent heterosis were higher in these hybrids for yield and yield attributing traits such as ear length, ear diameter, no of kernel row per ear, no of kernel per row and test weight. Therefore the findings of this study suggested that farmers to cultivate these hybrids for achieving higher maize production.

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