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Combining ability analysis in direct crosses for yield and yield related traits among bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.)

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Abstract

A diallel crosses was practiced among twelve diverse bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) cultivars. The study of only F_1 of the sixty-six direct crosses and the twelve parents were grown in a field experiment at IARI-ICAR, Sub-Station (Wheat), Indore environment in 2017-18 to estimate combining abilities. Data revealed that the mean square of genotypes, parents and crosses were significant for all studied characters. The analysis of variance for combining ability showed that mean square due to general (GCA) and specific (SCA) combining ability, were generally significant for all studied characters reflecting the importance of both additive and non- additive gene effects in the inheritance of these characters. Combining ability were lower than those of specific combining ability, consequently the GCA/SCA ratios were less than unity indicating the prevailing of non-additive gene effect which have considerable roles in the inheritance of these characters. In general, the genotype AKAW-4924 was a good combiner for early flowering and maturity, 1000 grain weight. AKAW-4925 was good combiner for number of grain per earhead and high grain yield/plot and AKW-1071 for number of effective tillers per plant. Besides K-307 was a good combiner for tall plant. These results seem to be useful for wheat breeding program in making the proper decision when initiating a crossing plan.

Keywords: Bread wheat, combining ability (GCA and SCA), diallel, additive, non-additive

Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) occupies a pivotal position among cereal crops. It is a leading grain crop of the temperate climate of the world, just like rice in the tropics. It is the dietary mainstay for millions of the people. It is a chief source of caloric and other valuable nutritive materials notably protein requirements of our people. To increase the yield potential of the wheat varieties information on the genetic mechanisms, like combining ability is of major importance. Sprague and Tatum (1942) ^[17] defined combining ability and divided it in to general and specific combining ability. Combining ability analysis developed by Griffing (1956) ^[9] has been extensively used to derive such information in F₁ generation. Its method I, and model I is the best in that it also gives the information for the effects of reciprocals.

The main objectives of this study were to detect the magnitude of both general and specific combining ability (GCA and SCA) for grain yield and some agronomic characters in 66 wheat crosses made among twelve bread wheat genotypes using one-way diallel crosses.

Materials and Methods

The present study was carried out during the two successive seasons 2016-17 and 2017-18 at the IARI-ICAR, Sub-Station (Wheat), Indore. The aim of this work was to study only direct crosses the general (GCA) and specific (SCA) combining ability through diallel mating among twelve different wheat varieties. These genotypes represent a wide range of variability. In 2016-17 season, the twelve parental genotypes were planted and all possible combinations of crosses without reciprocals between each two of the twelve parents were done to produce 66 F_1 hybrids. In 2017-18 season, seeds of the sixty-six F_1 (direct) crosses and the twelve parents were sown in randomized block design (RBD) with three replications. Each plot consisted of one rows for parents and F_1 . Each row was 2 m long and 20 cm apart, and the seeds within row were spaced 10 cm apart. All recommended cultural practices were considered.

Data were recorded on 5 individual guarded plants chosen at random from each row. The studied characters were number of days to 50% flowering, number of days to maturity, plant height (cm), number of effective tiller/plant, number of grains/earhead, grain weight/earhead (g), 1000-grain weight (g) and grain yield/plot (kg). Data analysis was done according to Singh and Chaudhari (1977)^[18], General and specific combining ability estimates were

obtained by employing Griffing diallel cross analysis, model 1 (fixed model) method 1 (Griffing, 1956)^[9].

Results and Discussion Analysis of variance

The analysis of variance for number of days to 50% flowering, number of days to maturity, plant height (cm), number of effective tiller/plant, number of grains/earhead, grain weight/earhead (g), 1000-grain weight (g) and grain yield/plot (kg) are presented in table 1. The results reflected that the mean sum of squares due to GCA, SCA due to direct crosses were highly significant for all studies traits.

The significant variances due to both general and specific combining abilities reflect the importance of additive and non-additive types of gene actions. However, general combining ability effects which were low magnitude suggested the predominant role of non-additive gene action. This result supported by the less than unity of GCA and SCA values, indicating that non-additively play a considerable role in the inheritance of these characters. Therefore, selection in the early generation could be successfully practiced to improve these characters.

These results were agreed with those reported by Bhutta *et al.* (1997) ^[4], Muhammad Akbar *et al* (2009) ^[13], Cifci and Yagdi (2010) ^[6], Gami *et al.* (2010) ^[8], Burungale *et al.* (2011) ^[5], Jain and Sastry (2012) ^[11].

Genotypic performance

The means performance of the twelve wheat parental genotypes was presented in table 2. It is obvious that K-307 genotype as the shortest cultivar. It was also the earliest maturity and had No. of effective tillers/ plant and 1000 grain weight. However, AKAW-4925 and HPBW-01 had the tallest plant and earliest flowering as well as maturity, respectively. AKAW-4924 ranked first as highest productive cultivar. On the other hand, AKAW-5014 and AKAW-4627 were intermediate for all studied characters.

The means performance of the tested sixty-six direct crosses presented in table 2 indicates that for plant height, the tallest four crosses were AKAW-4924 x HPBW-01, K-0307 x GW-322, WB-2 x GW-322 and AKAW-5014 x WB-2. The four crosses AKAW-4924 x AKAW-4210-6, AKAW-5017 x AKAW-4627 and AKAW-5017 x AKAW-4925 were the earliest in maturity. In addition, the three crosses AKAW-4210-6 x WB-2, AKAW-4210-6 x AKW-1071 and AKAW-5017 x GW-322 possessed the highest number of effective tillers/plant, while the three crosses AKAW-4225 x AKAW-4210-6, MACS-6222 x WB-2 and AKAW-5014 x AKAW-4227 gave the highest number of grain/earhead.

For heavy kernel weight, the best four crosses AKAW-4627 x MACS-6222, AKAW-5014 x WB-2, AKAW-4925 x WB-2 and K-0307 x HPBW-01. On the other side, the four crosses AKAW-4210-6 x WB-2, AKAW-4627 x AKW-1071, AKAW-4924 x AKAW-4627 and AKAW-4627 x K-0307 had in the highest grain yield/plant. These results were obtained by Singh *et al.* (2007) ^[19], Barot *et al.* (2014) ^[2], Baloch *et al.* (2013) ^[3], Kalhoro *et al.* (2015) ^[10].

General combining ability (GCA)

Estimates of general combining ability effects for each parent are presented in table 3. High positive values would be of great interest in all studied characters except plant height, days to 50% flowering and days to maturity which if had negative values become more useful from the breeder's point of view. Results indicated that the cultivar AKAW-4925 proved to be a good combiner for grain yield/plant followed by AKAW-4924 and AKW-1071, but the other three parents exhibited negative SCA for this character. AKAW-4627 showed also positive GCA for flowering, maturity and 1000 grain weight. The results indicated that cultivar K-307 showed significant negative combining ability for all studied characters except number of days of flowering and maturity. Moreover, the cultivar MACS-6222 showed negative general combining ability effects for plant height, number of grains/earhead, grain weight/earhead and 1000 grain weight. The cultivar HPBW-01 showed significant negative general combining ability effects for maturity, 1000 grain weight. The crosses involving these good generals combining ability genotypes should produce promising sergeants with higher mean performance of those character. Consequently, the results of the average performance of the respective characters are in agreement with those reported by Ankita Singh et al (2012)^[1], Raj Preeti and Kandalkar (2013)^[15], Dholariya et al (2014)^[7], Patel (2015)^[14], Raiyani et al (2015)^[16], Uzair et al (2016)^[20].

Specific combining ability effects

Specific combining ability effects for each cross are presented in table 4. Specific combining ability effects can be defined as the magnitude of deviation exhibited by the parental line in the cross from its expected performance on the basis of its general combining ability (GCA) effects. A significant deviation from zero in cross would indicate especially high or low specific combining ability (SCA) according to the sign wither positive or negative. The crosses AKAW-1071 x MACS-6222, AKAW-5014 x MACS-6222 and AKAW-4924 x AKAW-4210-6 showed significant specific combining ability effects for early maturity. Also, AKAW-5017 x AKAW-4924, AKAW-5017 x GW-322, AKAW-5014 x AKW-1071, AKAW-4925 x MACS-6222, AKAW-4925 x HPBW-01 and WB-2 x GW-322 crosses showed significant positive specific combining ability effects for number of effective tillers/plant, number of grains/earhead, grain weight/earhead, and grain yield/plot respectively. The crosses AKAW-5017 x AKAW-5014, AKAW-5014 x AKW-1071, AKAW-5017 x GW-322, AKAW-5014 x AKW-1071, AKAW-4925 x MACS-6222, AKAW-4925 x HPBW-01 and WB-2 x GW-322 are considered promising for grain yield improvement as they showed high specific combining ability effects. These crosses could account for the highest average performance of the respective characters. In such hybrids, desirable transgressive segregates would be expected in the subsequent genotypes. Similar results were obtained by Raj Preeti and Kandalkar (2013) [15], Dholariya et al (2014) [7], Patel (2015) [14], Raiyani et al (2015) [16], Uzair et al (2016) [20]

Table 1: Mean squares from analysis of variance for combining ability analysis of all studied characters in bread wheat crosses

| Sources of variation | df | Days to 50% flowering | Number of days to maturity | Plant height (cm) | No. of effective tillers/plant | Number of grains/earhead | Grain weight/ earhead (g) | 1000 Grain weight (g) | Grain yield (Kg/plot) |
|-------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| GCA | 11 | 13.273** | 8.345** | 58.679** | 1.492** | 92.284** | 0.255** | 54.288** | 0.009** |
| SCA crosses | 66 | 13.424** | 7.922** | 35.183** | 2.453** | 44.907** | 0.152** | 23.614** | 0.005** |
| Error | 286 | 0.394 | 0.479 | 3.755 | 0.155 | 0.869 | 0.007 | 1.120 | 0.000 |
| GCA Vs. SCA | | 0.041 | 0.044 | 0.073 | 0.024 | 0.086 | 0.071 | 0.098 | 0.077 |

Significance Levels^{*} = <.05, ^{**}= <.01

| Table 2: Mean performance of the twelve | re parents and their F ₁ (direct crosses) for the studied characters |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| S. No. | Genotypes | Days to 50% flowering | Number of days to maturity | Plant height (cm) | No. of effective tillers/ plant | Number of grains / earhead | Grain weight / earhead (g) | 1000 Grain | Grain yield (Kg/plot) |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| | | nowering | | (cm) Parents | tillers/ plant | earnead | earnead (g) | weight (g) | (Kg/plot) |
| 1 | AKAW-5017 | 75 | 127 | 62.78 | 4.33 | 34.27 | 1.31 | 41.40 | 0.16 |
| 2 | AKAW-5014 | 75 | 119 | 80.67 | 5.33 | 60.53 | 2.83 | 50.46 | 0.25 |
| 3 | AKAW-4924 | 74 | 125 | 76.67 | 5.57 | 35.33 | 1.13 | 51.51 | 0.32 |
| 4 | AKAW-4925 | 73 | 126 | 89.33 | 6.33 | 47.07 | 2.89 | 53.79 | 0.30 |
| 5 | AKAW-4627 | 75 | 126 | 76.33 | 7.57 | 59.40 | 2.64 | 45.83 | 0.24 |
| 6 | AKAW-4210-6 | 76 | 126 | 74.89 | 4.20 | 29.13 | 1.26 | 46.80 | 0.12 |
| 7 | AKW-1071 | 77 | 120 | 74.33 | 8.67 | 48.40 | 1.68 | 37.27 | 0.10 |
| 8 | K-307 | 73 | 124 | 72.11 | 7.67 | 44.83 | 1.71 | 36.05 | 0.10 |
| 9 | MACS-6222 | 74 | 125 | 72.78 | 6.23 | 44.00 | 1.68 | 28.68 | 0.07 |
| 10 11 | HPBW-01 WB-2 | 78 77 | 122 125 | 80.78 75.11 | 7.33 9.10 | 49.40 61.60 | 1.73 1.95 | 29.12 34.18 | 0.09 |
| 12 | GW-322 | 78 | 120 | 74.56 | 7.57 | 55.13 | 2.11 | 33.74 | 0.13 |
| 12 | 011-522 | 70 | | Crosses | 1.57 | 55.15 | 2.11 | 55.74 | 0.12 |
| 13 | AKAW-5017 x AKAW-5014 | 68 | 127 | 77.94 | 9.23 | 52.27 | 2.41 | 48.12 | 0.23 |
| 14 | AKAW-5017 x AKAW-4924 | 77 | 128 | 75.83 | 8.77 | 39.47 | 1.49 | 38.58 | 0.22 |
| 15 | AKAW-5017 x AKAW-4925 | 80 | 120 | 75.33 | 8.33 | 40.20 | 1.42 | 35.65 | 0.22 |
| 16 | AKAW-5017 x AKAW-4627 | 79 | 119 | 80.45 | 9.00 | 39.53 | 1.74 | 44.22 | 0.19 |
| 17 | AKAW-5017 x AKAW-4210-6 | 78 | 121 | 80.44 | 9.13 | 29.33 | 1.51 | 37.18 | 0.12 |
| 18 | AKAW-5017 x AKW-1071 | 76 | 123 | 79.89 | 6.87 | 42.07 | 1.53 | 38.51 | 0.12 |
| 19 | AKAW-5017 x K-0307 | 77 | 122 | 83.89 | 7.77 | 40.07 | 1.60 | 39.90 | 0.17 |
| 20 | AKAW-5017 x MACS-6222 | 74 | 124 | 81.44 | 9.00 | 35.93 | 1.31 | 36.53 | 0.12 |
| 21 | AKAW-5017 x HPBW-01 | 75 | 123 | 82.44 | 8.20 | 35.80 | 1.38 | 37.09 | 0.11 |
| 22 | AKAW-5017 x WB-2 | 76 | 126 | 81.28 | 8.77 | 40.47 | 1.64 | 41.63 | 0.25 |
| 23 | AKAW-5017 x GW-322 | 78 | 121 | 80.78 | 10.90 | 49.40 | 2.01 | 43.64 | 0.29 |
| 24 | AKAW-5014 x AKAW-4924 | 67 | 121 | 81.78 | 6.87 | 46.40 | 2.17 | 45.50 | 0.27 |
| 25 26 | AKAW-5014 x AKAW-4925 AKAW-5014 x AKAW-4627 | 77 73 | 131 122 | 83.44 81.56 | 8.87 7.77 | 50.47 59.00 | 2.05 2.47 | 37.34 42.53 | 0.16 0.23 |
| 20 | AKAW-5014 x AKAW-4027 AKAW-5014 x AKAW-4210-6 | 68 | 122 | 84.00 | 6.77 | 44.93 | 1.65 | 36.80 | 0.23 |
| 28 | AKAW-5014 x AKW-1071 | 75 | 132 | 83.55 | 8.67 | 42.73 | 1.48 | 39.63 | 0.16 |
| 29 | AKAW-5014 x K-0307 | 74 | 120 | 86.89 | 10.33 | 54.87 | 2.56 | 43.78 | 0.27 |
| 30 | AKAW-5014 x MACS-6222 | 75 | 131 | 85.22 | 8.67 | 42.20 | 1.54 | 36.26 | 0.17 |
| 31 | AKAW-5014 x HPBW-01 | 76 | 119 | 83.44 | 7.87 | 35.73 | 1.56 | 40.26 | 0.14 |
| 32 | AKAW-5014 x WB-2 | 74 | 122 | 89.55 | 7.87 | 39.80 | 1.96 | 49.40 | 0.23 |
| 33 | AKAW-5014 x GW-322 | 75 | 128 | 71.11 | 8.00 | 49.40 | 2.04 | 41.18 | 0.22 |
| 34 | AKAW-4924 x AKAW-4925 | 75 | 122 | 71.78 | 7.67 | 51.47 | 1.79 | 41.32 | 0.15 |
| 35 | AKAW-4924 x AKAW-4627 | 73 | 121 | 86.00 | 8.13 | 58.27 | 2.52 | 41.41 | 0.29 |
| 36 | AKAW-4924 x AKAW-4210-6 | 74 | 118 | 84.00 | 7.67 | 47.67 | 1.70 | 35.37 | 0.07 |
| 37 | AKAW-4924 x AKW-1071 | 75 | 120 | 71.00 | 7.33 | 49.87 | 1.61 | 38.58 | 0.16 |
| 38 39 | AKAW-4924 x K-0307 AKAW-4924 x MACS-6222 | 76 74 | 121 122 | 75.00 72.00 | 6.77 7.87 | 52.33 53.53 | 2.29 | 37.18 32.50 | 0.23 |
| 40 | AKAW-4924 x MACS-6222 AKAW-4924 x HPBW-01 | 74 | 122 | 92.00 | 7.20 | 47.47 | 1.78 1.92 | 41.62 | 0.10 |
| 40 | AKAW-4924 x WB-2 | 69 | 128 | 86.17 | 5.90 | 38.27 | 1.72 | 40.29 | 0.21 |
| 42 | AKAW-4924 x GW-322 | 66 | 124 | 79.78 | 9.47 | 46.67 | 2.06 | 44.19 | 0.25 |
| 43 | AKAW-4925 x AKAW-4627 | 71 | 120 | 75.78 | 8.67 | 57.87 | 2.29 | 40.20 | 0.23 |
| 44 | AKAW-4925 x AKAW-4210-6 | 72 | 121 | 75.45 | 8.57 | 61.27 | 1.99 | 36.89 | 0.26 |
| 45 | AKAW-4925 x AKW-1071 | 79 | 128 | 70.34 | 7.00 | 50.27 | 2.21 | 45.73 | 0.25 |
| 46 | AKAW-4925 x K-0307 | 69 | 122 | 85.44 | 6.10 | 45.73 | 1.87 | 43.38 | 0.17 |
| 47 | AKAW-4925 x MACS-6222 | 74 | 121 | 82.11 | 7.20 | 51.40 | 1.95 | 39.18 | 0.09 |
| 48 | AKAW-4925 x HPBW-01 | 72 | 125 | 75.78 | 7.33 | 50.20 | 1.87 | 35.96 | 0.09 |
| 49 | AKAW-4925 x WB-2 | 78 | 127 | 73.22 | 6.00 | 50.27 | 2.32 | 48.62 | 0.18 |
| 50 | AKAW-4925 x GW-322 | 78 | 126 | 72.11 | 7.23 | 56.27 | 2.56 | 47.29 | 0.26 |
| 51 52 | AKAW-4627 x AKAW-4210-6 | 83 80 | 127 127 | 74.45 | 8.77 8.13 | 52.53 53.67 | 2.38 | 47.20 | 0.27 |
| 52 | AKAW-4627 x AKW-1071 AKAW-4627 x K-0307 | 80 84 | 127 | 71.11 63.78 | 8.13 9.10 | 53.67 | 2.44 2.39 | 48.49 48.21 | 0.30 |
| 53 54 | AKAW-4627 x MACS-6222 | 84 77 | 122 | 68.89 | 9.10 | 53.33 | 2.39 | 48.21 | 0.28 |
| 55 | AKAW-4627 x HPBW-01 | 73 | 121 | 86.33 | 8.67 | 46.73 | 1.29 | 39.68 | 0.12 |
| 56 | AKAW-4627 x WB-2 | 76 | 123 | 84.89 | 8.43 | 43.47 | 1.43 | 39.78 | 0.07 |
| 57 | AKAW-4627 x GW-322 | 79 | 123 | 83.44 | 7.10 | 34.67 | 1.29 | 37.24 | 0.11 |
| 58 | AKAW-4210-6 x AKW-1071 | 77 | 125 | 76.06 | 11.10 | 35.93 | 1.21 | 35.78 | 0.15 |
| 59 | AKAW-4210-6 x K-0307 | 66 | 122 | 81.11 | 6.00 | 43.27 | 1.61 | 42.42 | 0.05 |
| 60 | AKAW-4210-6 x MACS-6222 | 73 | 127 | 82.55 | 8.33 | 47.67 | 1.70 | 45.91 | 0.09 |
| 61 | AKAW-4210-6 x HPBW-01 | 74 | 121 | 86.22 | 8.00 | 41.67 | 1.65 | 38.04 | 0.08 |
| 62 | AKAW-4210-6 x WB-2 | 67 | 120 | 75.50 | 11.33 | 50.47 | 2.18 | 46.97 | 0.31 |
| 63 | AKAW-4210-6 x GW-322 | 83 | 126 | 72.66 | 7.10 | 42.00 | 1.83 | 45.41 | 0.19 |

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| 64 | AKW-1071 x K-0307 | 82 | 127 | 71.33 | 6.77 | 48.53 | 2.34 | 40.36 | 0.20 |
|----|----------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|
| 65 | AKW-1071 x MACS-6222 | 77 | 127 | 70.67 | 10.23 | 38.40 | 1.43 | 40.67 | 0.18 |
| 66 | AKW-1071 x HPBW-01 | 79 | 126 | 71.22 | 6.87 | 50.40 | 1.92 | 41.23 | 0.19 |
| 67 | AKW-1071 x WB-2 | 77 | 126 | 76.44 | 5.67 | 49.07 | 1.87 | 42.05 | 0.12 |
| 68 | AKW-1071 x GW-322 | 73 | 129 | 85.67 | 9.23 | 43.33 | 1.77 | 43.93 | 0.20 |
| 69 | K-0307 x MACS-6222 | 73 | 121 | 79.89 | 8.47 | 47.93 | 1.68 | 36.94 | 0.17 |
| 70 | K-0307 x HPBW-01 | 73 | 120 | 80.33 | 6.13 | 50.20 | 1.77 | 47.06 | 0.14 |
| 71 | K-0307 x WB-2 | 76 | 123 | 87.78 | 9.00 | 48.73 | 1.81 | 37.31 | 0.12 |
| 72 | K-0307 x GW-322 | 73 | 128 | 91.44 | 6.90 | 42.07 | 1.71 | 40.80 | 0.08 |
| 73 | MACS-6222 x HPBW-01 | 81 | 125 | 74.50 | 6.77 | 48.13 | 2.03 | 44.93 | 0.19 |
| 74 | MACS-6222 x WB-2 | 80 | 131 | 67.33 | 7.23 | 59.27 | 2.75 | 42.74 | 0.26 |
| 75 | MACS-6222 x GW-322 | 83 | 127 | 75.72 | 7.33 | 51.60 | 1.75 | 40.53 | 0.20 |
| 76 | HPBW-01 x WB-2 | 76 | 125 | 84.00 | 7.67 | 34.40 | 1.13 | 38.72 | 0.04 |
| 77 | HPBW-01 x GW-322 | 74 | 124 | 82.44 | 7.00 | 49.47 | 1.90 | 36.25 | 0.12 |
| 78 | WB-2 x GW-322 | 77 | 125 | 87.55 | 8.23 | 44.20 | 1.75 | 43.57 | 0.11 |
| | SE(m)± | 0.63 | 0.69 | 1.93 | 0.39 | 0.92 | 0.08 | 1.05 | 0.05 |
| | CD (5%) | 1.75 | 1.92 | 5.37 | 1.09 | 2.58 | 0.24 | 2.93 | 0.03 |

Table 3: Estimates of general combining ability effects for the studied characters

| S. | Parents | Days to 50% | Number of days | Plant height | No. of effective | Number of | Grain weight/ | 1000 Grain | Grain yield |
|-----|-------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| No. | Parents | flowering | to maturity | (cm) | tillers/plant | grains/earhead | earhead (g) | weight (g) | (Kg/plot) |
| 1 | AKAW-5017 | 0.856** | -0.690** | 0.971 | 0.054 | -2.877** | -0.094** | 0.240 | 0.010** |
| 2 | AKAW-5014 | 0.495** | 0.213 | 2.510** | -0.006 | 0.598* | 0.085** | 0.970** | 0.010** |
| 3 | AKAW-4924 | -1.102** | -0.759** | 0.891 | -0.320** | 0.437 | -0.011 | 2.329** | 0.021** |
| 4 | AKAW-4925 | 1.370** | 0.366* | -0.193 | 0.267** | 3.915** | 0.282** | 2.246** | 0.036** |
| 5 | AKAW-4627 | 0.440** | 0.921** | 0.437 | -0.080 | -0.943** | 0.024 | 1.046** | -0.003 |
| 6 | AKAW-4210-6 | -0.963** | 0.644** | 1.520** | -0.445** | -3.143** | -0.118** | -0.341 | -0.030** |
| 7 | AKW-1071 | -0.241 | -0.870** | 1.222* | 0.510** | 0.229 | -0.028 | -0.228 | 0.016** |
| 8 | K-307 | 0.343* | 0.477** | -2.508** | -0.130 | -0.549* | -0.029 | -0.111 | -0.009** |
| 9 | MACS-6222 | 0.079 | -0.148 | -1.485** | 0.092 | -0.796** | -0.052* | -1.759** | -0.007** |
| 10 | HPBW-01 | -0.685** | -0.301 | 0.025 | 0.040 | 0.473* | -0.034 | -1.096** | -0.019** |
| 11 | WB-2 | -0.116 | 0.407* | -1.153* | 0.117 | 2.476** | -0.029 | -2.747** | -0.010** |
| 12 | GW-322 | -0.477** | -0.259 | -2.236** | -0.098 | 0.179 | 0.003 | -0.550* | -0.016** |
| | SE (gi)+ | 0.122 | 0.135 | 0.378 | 0.076 | 0.182 | 0.016 | 0.207 | 0.002 |
| | C.D.5% | 0.398 | 0.439 | 1.231 | 0.249 | 0.592 | 0.054 | 0.672 | 0.006 |
| | C.D.1% | 0.562 | 0.620 | 1.734 | 0.352 | 0.835 | 0.077 | 0.949 | 0.009 |

Significance Levels* = <.05, **= <.01

Table 4: Estimates of specific combining ability effects for 66 direct crosses (F1)

| S. No. | Genotypes | Days to 50% flowering | Number of days to maturity | Plant height (cm) | No. of effective tillers/ plant | Number of grains/ earhead | Grain weight/ earhead (g) | 1000 Grain weight (g) | Grain yield (Kg/plot) |
|--------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | AKAW-5017 x AKAW-5014 | -7.815** | 0.954 | -2.657 | 0.213 | 4.216** | 0.437** | 5.460** | 0.069** |
| 2 | AKAW-5017 x AKAW-4924 | 1.282* | 1.926** | 0.017 | 0.919** | 3.910** | 0.246** | -2.709** | 0.058** |
| 3 | AKAW-5017 x AKAW-4925 | -1.690** | -2.532** | 0.575 | -0.899** | -5.468** | -0.409** | -3.108** | -0.014 |
| 4 | AKAW-5017 x AKAW-4627 | 3.574** | -1.255* | 1.502 | 0.279 | -6.476** | -0.284** | -0.693 | -0.019* |
| 5 | AKAW-5017 x AKAW-4210-6 | 1.644** | 1.023 | 1.529 | 1.778** | -5.043** | -0.011 | 0.519 | 0.018* |
| 6 | AKAW-5017 x AKW-1071 | -0.412 | -0.463 | 6.050** | -1.254** | 0.752 | 0.086 | 1.749 | -0.029** |
| 7 | AKAW-5017 x K-0307 | 0.171 | -1.977** | 2.891 | 0.663 | 6.296** | 0.091 | -1.772 | 0.001 |
| 8 | AKAW-5017 x MACS-6222 | -2.065** | -1.519* | 5.422** | 0.607 | 3.777** | -0.040 | 1.085 | -0.051** |
| 9 | AKAW-5017 x HPBW-01 | 0.866 | -0.199 | 1.912 | -0.119 | 1.274 | 0.012 | -2.370* | -0.040** |
| 10 | AKAW-5017 x WB-2 | 2.463** | -0.574 | 1.396 | -0.418 | -2.796** | -0.044 | 0.468 | -0.005 |
| 11 | AKAW-5017 x GW-322 | 2.324** | -0.241 | -0.437 | 1.800** | 6.935** | 0.282** | 0.590 | 0.035** |
| 12 | AKAW-5014 x AKAW-4924 | 2.144** | 1.356* | 1.285 | 0.800* | 0.635 | -0.061 | -7.082** | -0.079** |
| 13 | AKAW-5014 x AKAW-4925 | -2.162** | -2.769** | 0.481 | -0.568 | 3.291** | -0.025 | -2.501** | -0.046** |
| 14 | AKAW-5014 x AKAW-4627 | -2.398** | 0.509 | -1.954 | 1.226** | -6.618** | -0.541** | -5.865** | -0.023** |
| 15 | AKAW-5014 x AKAW-4210-6 | 0.338 | 1.787** | -1.343 | 1.225** | 0.482 | -0.252** | -2.483** | 0.020* |
| 16 | AKAW-5014 x AKW-1071 | 1.616** | -1.532* | 1.621 | 0.976** | 2.510** | 0.477** | 6.899** | 0.048** |
| 17 | AKAW-5014 x K-0307 | 3.032** | 2.120** | -0.094 | 0.226 | -9.046** | -0.446** | -2.331* | -0.020* |
| 18 | AKAW-5014 x MACS-6222 | 3.963** | -2.921** | 2.605 | -0.396 | -2.832** | -0.192* | -2.143* | 0.005 |
| 19 | AKAW-5014 x HPBW-01 | 0.227 | 1.398* | 4.705** | -0.839* | -2.768** | 0.052 | 4.500** | 0.007 |
| 20 | AKAW-5014 x WB-2 | 0.657 | 3.523** | -2.894 | -0.571 | -2.704** | -0.051 | -2.077* | -0.009 |
| 21 | AKAW-5014 x GW-322 | 0.019 | 0.856 | 1.634 | 0.147 | 0.893 | -0.195** | -0.762 | -0.037** |
| 22 | AKAW-4924 x AKAW-4925 | -0.731 | -0.796 | -6.345** | -0.411 | -1.715* | -0.399** | -7.441** | -0.094** |
| 23 | AKAW-4924 x AKAW-4627 | -2.301** | -2.352** | -2.308 | -1.017** | 0.910 | 0.073 | -3.714** | -0.041** |
| 24 | AKAW-4924 x AKAW-4210-6 | 1.435** | -2.907** | -5.279** | -0.035 | 7.177** | 0.040 | -2.349* | -0.003 |
| 25 | AKAW-4924 x AKW-1071 | 0.046 | 1.773** | 7.131** | -0.883** | -0.629 | -0.023 | 1.296 | -0.044** |
| 26 | AKAW-4924 x K-0307 | -2.037** | -1.407* | 7.110** | 0.267 | -2.684** | -0.035 | 1.381 | -0.062** |

| 27 28 29 30 31 32 | AKAW-4924 x MACS-6222 AKAW-4924 x HPBW-01 AKAW-4924 x WB-2 AKAW-4924 x GW-322 AKAW-4925 x AKAW-4627 | -1.273* -0.676 -0.245 | 3.551** -2.130** | -0.553 | 2.494** | -4.737** 2.360** | -0.070 0.175* | 1.097 3.428** | 0.055** |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|
| 29 30 31 | AKAW-4924 x WB-2 AKAW-4924 x GW-322 | | | | | | U U U / 🤉 🕆 | 14/8*** | -0.012 |
| 30 31 | AKAW-4924 x GW-322 | 0.215 | -2.671** | 8.395** | -0.431 | 5.524** | 0.381** | 4.365** | 0.035** |
| 31 | | 0.116 | 1.329* | -3.355* | 0.121 | 2.188** | 0.386** | 5.016** | 0.075** |
| | | -0.273 | 1.856** | -1.390 | -0.818* | -1.401 | -0.165* | 3.837** | -0.061** |
| - | AKAW-4925 x AKAW-4210-6 | 2.630** | -0.366 | -0.418 | 0.497 | 4.332** | 0.157* | 0.258 | 0.021* |
| 33 | AKAW-4925 x AKW-1071 | 2.741** | 2.648** | -1.285 | 0.865* | 2.393** | 0.115 | 0.584 | 0.023** |
| 34 | AKAW-4925 x K-0307 | 1.491** | 0.801 | -0.336 | 0.632 | 6.838** | 0.238** | 1.146 | 0.069** |
| 35 | AKAW-4925 x MACS-6222 | 3.088** | 0.759 | -3.802* | 1.226** | 1.718* | 0.190* | 2.293* | 0.046** |
| 36 | AKAW-4925 x HPBW-01 | -0.315 | -0.421 | -4.090* | 0.900** | 5.482** | 0.487** | -0.509 | 0.081** |
| 37 | AKAW-4925 x WB-2 | -1.884** | 0.370 | 3.368* | 0.318 | -5.387** | -0.396** | -0.144 | -0.030** |
| 38 | AKAW-4925 x GW-322 | 0.810 | -1.296* | 2.559 | 0.253 | -1.923* | -0.251** | -3.579** | -0.059** |
| | AKAW-4627 x AKAW-4210-6 | -0.273 | -0.921 | 7.840** | 0.175 | -1.443 | -0.091 | -1.420 | -0.047** |
| 40 | AKAW-4627 x AKW-1071 | -2.829** | 0.593 | -4.555** | 2.010** | -2.515** | -0.057 | 1.193 | 0.068** |
| 41 | AKAW-4627 x K-0307 | 3.921** | 1.745** | 4.701** | -0.540 | 2.429** | 0.176* | 2.732** | 0.027** |
| 42 | AKAW-4627 x MACS-6222 | 3.852** | -0.630 | 4.013* | -1.362** | 3.177** | 0.320** | 2.418** | 0.025** |
| 43 | AKAW-4627 x HPBW-01 | 1.449** | 2.190** | -2.885 | 1.194** | -5.593** | -0.182* | -1.063 | 0.010 |
| 44 | AKAW-4627 x WB-2 | -2.120** | -0.185 | -3.236 | -0.238 | 5.938** | 0.171* | 0.207 | 0.018* |
| 45 | AKAW-4627 x GW-322 | -3.093** | -1.852** | 1.846 | -0.836* | -2.298** | -0.143 | -1.231 | -0.040** |
| 46 | AKAW-4210-6 x AKW-1071 | -0.593 | -0.130 | -3.887* | -1.475** | 2.185** | 0.146 | -0.518 | -0.026** |
| 47 | AKAW-4210-6 x K-0307 | -1.509** | 3.356** | -3.659* | 0.558 | 6.829** | 0.490** | 0.777 | 0.045** |
| 48 | AKAW-4210-6 x MACS-6222 | 1.088* | 0.148 | -0.821 | 0.386 | -1.357 | -0.147 | -0.375 | 0.014 |
| 49 | AKAW-4210-6 x HPBW-01 | -2.815** | -0.532 | 3.336 | 0.210 | -5.093** | -0.329** | -0.606 | -0.048** |
| 50 | AKAW-4210-6 x WB-2 | -3.884** | -1.574** | 2.541 | -0.472 | 2.204** | 0.229** | 1.606 | -0.003 |
| 51 | AKAW-4210-6 x GW-322 | -1.690** | -1.074 | 7.347** | -0.138 | 1.702* | 0.135 | -2.753** | -0.006 |
| 52 | AKW-1071 x K-0307 | -4.065** | -2.296** | 0.056 | -0.957** | -1.943* | 0.093 | -0.081 | -0.064** |
| 53 | AKW-1071 x MACS-6222 | -7.634** | -3.005** | -2.217 | 1.488** | -1.829* | -0.308** | -2.403** | 0.038** |
| 54 | AKW-1071 x HPBW-01 | 0.630 | 1.648** | 8.330** | -0.806* | 0.635 | -0.185* | -0.714 | 0.085** |
| 55 | AKW-1071 x WB-2 | 4.394** | -1.394* | -2.827 | -0.054 | -2.134** | -0.264** | -3.434** | -0.029** |
| 56 | AKW-1071 x GW-322 | 2.588** | 4.273** | -1.272 | 0.231 | 0.029 | 0.046 | -2.159* | 0.022* |
| 57 | K-0307 x MACS-6222 | -0.718 | 0.315 | -0.237 | 0.088 | 5.116** | 0.289** | 2.115* | 0.059** |
| 58 | K-0307 x HPBW-01 | -0.287 | -2.199** | -2.107 | 1.011** | -1.687* | -0.127 | 0.034 | 0.021* |
| 59 | K-0307 x WB-2 | 1.144* | -1.741** | -0.596 | 0.229 | -3.223** | -0.389** | -3.552** | -0.015 |
| 60 | K-0307 x GW-322 | 0.171 | 2.093** | -5.819** | -2.303** | -7.459** | -0.288** | 3.418** | -0.017 |
| 61 | MACS-6222 x HPBW-01 | 0.310 | 2.093** | -1.408 | 0.072 | 1.727* | 0.042 | 5.139** | -0.023** |
| 62 | MACS-6222 x WB-2 | 0.241 | 2.218** | 0.490 | -1.610** | -0.643 | 0.169* | -1.188 | -0.031** |
| 63 | MACS-6222 x GW-322 | -1.065 | -2.449** | -0.204 | -1.242** | -2.312** | -0.169* | -0.101 | -0.057** |
| 64 | HPBW-01 x WB-2 | -1.495** | -0.296 | -5.130** | -0.336 | 0.854 | 0.106 | -0.835 | -0.031** |
| 65 | HPBW-01 x GW-322 | -2.968** | -0.296 | -2.407 | -0.518 | 1.752* | 0.018 | 1.818 | -0.018* |
| 66 | WB-2 x GW-322 | -2.204** | 1.995** | 0.112 | 2.517** | -6.884** | -0.055 | 5.047** | 0.112** |
| | SE (Sij) | 0.409 | 0.450 | 1.261 | 0.256 | 0.607 | 0.056 | 0.689 | 0.007 |
| | SE (Sij-Skl) | 0.573 | 0.632 | 1.769 | 0.359 | 0.851 | 0.079 | 0.966 | 0.009 |

Significance Levels* = <.05, **= <.01

Conclusion

In conclusion, genotype AKAW-4924 was a good combiner for early flowering and maturity, 1000 grain weight. AKAW-4925 was good combiner for number of grain per earhead and high grain yield/plot. AKW-1071 for number of effective tillers per plant. Besides K-307 was a good combiner for plant height. This result may useful to wheat breeders in making the proper decision for future crossing plants.

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