



E-ISSN: 2278-4136

P-ISSN: 2349-8234

www.phytojournal.com

JPP 2020; 9(4): 794-799

Received: 28-05-2020

Accepted: 30-06-2020

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Character association and path analysis in F₃ segregating generations for yield and its component traits in groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.)

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Abstract

Pod yield in groundnut is a complex trait and depends upon the interplay of a number of components attributes. In this study, four F₃ crosses of groundnut genotypes were evaluated to investigate the interrelationship among the yield attributing traits and physiological traits. In all the crosses, dry pod yield per plant reported a highly significant positive association with number of mature pods per plant, kernel yield per plant, haulm yield per plant and shelling per cent indicating the importance of these traits while selection is under consideration for dry pod yield. Path analysis study indicated a high positive direct effect by kernel yield per plant in two crosses *viz.*, Kadri-9 × GPBD-4 and ICGV-00351 × Sunoleic-95R. This association indicates that these yield related parameters can be used as preliminary screening tools for selecting high yielding genotypes for the next generation.

Keywords: Groundnut, correlation coefficient, path analysis, direct effect, indirect effect

Introduction

Groundnut is a self-pollinating allotetraploid crop with basic chromosome number X=10 belonging to the family Leguminosae, subfamily Papilionoidae. It is commonly called as 'King' of oilseeds. The groundnut seeds contain about 48 per cent oil, 25 per cent protein and 18 per cent carbohydrates and are a rich source of B-complex vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, biologically active polyphenols, flavanoids and isoflavones (Desai *et al.*, 1999) [1]. It is an unpredictable crop due to its underground pods development. Kernel yield being a quantitative trait is not only polygenically controlled, but also influenced by many of its component traits. Understanding the relationships between yield and yield components is of paramount importance for making the best use of these relationships in selection. Correlation is a biometrical approach which brings out the intensity of the association between two pairs of characters and provides information on those components that could serve as criteria for selection of candidates in a breeding program while path analysis splits the correlation coefficient into direct and indirect effect so as to measure the relative contribution of each variable towards yield (Saeidi *et al.*, 2011) [2]. Phenotypic correlation is the association between two characters which can be observed directly and is subjected to changes in the environment. It measures the environmental deviations together with non additive gene actions. Traits that are positively correlated with yield are considered effective because selection for such traits would result in the simultaneous improvement in yield. Unfavourable associations between the desired attributes under selection may limit genetic advance. Hence a sound knowledge of associations between the yield components is essential for planning an effective selection programme (John *et al.*, 2015) [7].

Material and Method

The present scientific investigation on groundnut was carried out during *kharif* 2018 at Main Agriculture Research Station, College of agriculture, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur. The experimental material consisted of four released/advanced breeding parents *viz.*, Kadri-9, GPBD-4, ICGV-00351 and Sunoleic-95R. Four F₃ populations derived from the crosses of above mentioned parents' *viz.*, Kadri-9 × GPBD-4, ICGV-00351 × GPBD-4, Kadri-9 × Sunoleic-95R and ICGV-00351 × Sunoleic-95R were utilised for the present study. All the parents and F₃ progenies were evaluated in non-replicated trial. Recommended cultural practices were followed throughout the crop growing period. The spacing put into practice was 30 × 10 cm. Ten characters *viz.*, plant height (cm), number of mature pods per plant, kernel yield per plant, haulm yield per plant, shelling per cent, HKW, SMK, oil content, protein content and dry pod yield per plant were studied

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Statistical analysis

The data were subjected to statistical analysis using Windostat software. Phenotypic correlation coefficient was estimated as per Johnson *et al.* (1955) [8]. Path coefficient analysis was carried out using phenotypic correlation values to ascertain the direct and indirect effect of the yield components on yield as suggested by Dewey and Lu (1959) [9].

Result and Discussion

Correlation Analysis

The results of the Correlation Coefficient among the traits studied in F₃ generation are shown in Table 1, 2, 3 and 4. Among the F₃ population studied dry pod yield per plant recorded a significant positive correlation with number of mature pods per plant, kernel yield per plant, haulm yield per plant, and shelling per cent in all the crosses indicating the importance of these traits while selection is under consideration for dry pod yield. Similar results were reported by Hyndavi (2015) [10] for mature pods per plant, Nazeer *et al.* (2000) [11]

for shelling per cent and kernel yield per plant, Raut *et al.* (2010) [12] for kernel yield per plant, number of mature pods per plant and shelling out turn.

Plant height had recorded significant positive correlation in three crosses except in cross Kadri-9 × GPBD-4 indicating, it is also an important trait to be considered as selection criteria in some of the crosses. Venkataravana *et al.* (2000) [3] and John *et al.* (2015) [7] reported pod yield had significant positive correlation with plant height.

Apart from the traits above mentioned HKW (g) and oil content in cross Kadri-9 × GPBD-4 and ICGV-00351 × Sunoleic-95R; SMK and protein content in cross ICGV-00351 × GPBD-4; HKW, SMK, oil content and protein content in cross Kadri-9 × Sunoleic-95R also had a significant positive association with pod yield. Narashimulu *et al.* (2012) [13], Mukhesh *et al.* (2014) [14] and Dandu *et al.* (2012) [15] also reported similar results. Hence importance should be given to respective characters in respective crosses in order to improve yield.

Table 1: Correlation coefficient between yield and yield attributing traits in groundnut F₃ generation Cross 1- Kadri-9 × GPBD-4

Traits	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈	X ₉	X ₁₀
X ₁	1	0.093	0.073	0.148*	-0.039	-0.061	0.022	-0.058	-0.042	0.080
X ₂		1	0.686**	0.555**	-0.026	0.032	-0.152**	0.179*	-0.067	0.721**
X ₃			1	0.883**	0.300**	0.459**	0.118	0.277**	-0.180*	0.983**
X ₄				1	0.134	0.374**	0.071	0.274**	-0.117	0.895**
X ₅					1	0.306**	0.154*	0.143*	-0.172**	0.141*
X ₆						1	0.319**	0.114	0.028	0.424**
X ₇							1	0.111*	-0.104	0.096
X ₈								1	-0.287**	0.276**
X ₉									1	-0.085
X ₁₀										1

Significant at 0.05= * and Significant at 0.01= **, Phenotypic level =Upward right side of diagonal

Table 2: Correlation coefficient between yield and yield attributing traits in groundnut F₃ generation Cross 2- ICGV-00351 × GPBD-4

Traits	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈	X ₉	X ₁₀
X ₁	1	0.278**	0.416**	0.141**	0.146**	0.121*	0.142**	-0.188**	0.372**	0.381**
X ₂		1	0.423**	0.021	0.026	0.011	0.176**	-0.209*	0.733**	0.719**
X ₃			1	0.023	0.338**	0.116*	0.154**	-0.261**	0.743**	0.732**
X ₄				1	0.112*	0.137**	0.037	0.006	0.031	0.147*
X ₅					1	0.195**	0.133*	0.100*	0.342**	0.358**
X ₆						1	0.121*	-0.036	0.075	0.092
X ₇							1	-0.283**	0.187**	0.196*
X ₈								1	-0.220**	-0.217*
X ₉									1	0.989**
X ₁₀										1

Significant at 0.05= * and Significant at 0.01= **, Phenotypic level =Upward right side of diagonal

Table 3: Correlation coefficient between yield and yield attributing traits in groundnut F₃ generation Cross 3- Kadri-9 × Sunoleic-95R

Traits	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈	X ₉	X ₁₀
X ₁	1	0.297**	0.277**	0.031	-0.043	-0.005	0.313**	-0.148*	0.321**	0.319**
X ₂		1	0.494**	0.062	-0.005	0.179*	0.286**	0.022	0.671**	0.678**
X ₃			1	0.036	0.315**	0.112*	0.248**	0.173**	0.846**	0.832**
X ₄				1	0.137	0.280**	-0.021	0.029	0.047	0.192*
X ₅					1	0.208*	-0.090	-0.313*	0.232**	0.236**
X ₆						1	-0.105**	-0.380**	0.132	0.135*
X ₇							1	-0.149*	0.355**	0.349**
X ₈								1	0.135	0.126*
X ₉									1	0.983**
X ₁₀										1

Significant at 0.05= * and Significant at 0.01= **, Phenotypic level =Upward right side of diagonal

Table 4: Correlation coefficient between yield and yield attributing traits in groundnut F₃ generation Cross 4-ICGV-00351 × Sunoleic-95R

Traits	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈	X ₉	X ₁₀
X ₁	1	0.119	0.096	0.187*	-0.074	-0.084	0.311*	-0.029	-0.163*	0.109*
X ₂		1	0.690**	0.558**	0.048	0.033	-0.035	0.176*	-0.035	0.721**
X ₃			1	0.897**	0.296**	0.450**	0.196*	0.259**	-0.139**	0.985**
X ₄				1	0.153*	0.376**	0.187**	0.264**	-0.069	0.904**
X ₅					1	0.280**	0.093	0.118	-0.094	0.148*
X ₆						1	0.281**	0.104	0.333**	0.123*
X ₇							1	0.004	-0.114*	0.088
X ₈								1	-0.268*	0.262**
X ₉									1	-0.040
X ₁₀										1

Significant at 0.05= * and Significant at 0.01= **, Phenotypic level =Upward right side of diagonal

Where,

X₁=Plant height (cm) X₂=No. of mature pods/plant X₃=Kernel yield/plant (g) X₄=Haulm yield/plant (g) X₅=Shelling (%) X₆=HKW (g) X₇=SMK (%) X₈=Oil content (%) X₉=Protein content (%) X₁₀=Dry pod yield/plant (g)

Path coefficient analysis

The results of the path co-efficient analysis among the traits studied in F₃ generation are shown in Table 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Study indicated a high positive direct effect for pod yield per plant was highly manifested by kernel yields per plant in two crosses viz., Kadri-9 × GPBD-4 and ICGV-00351 × Sunoleic-95R. These results are in accordance with the reports of Gomes *et al.* (2005) [5] and Dolma *et al.* (2010) [4] for the kernel yield per plant.

Indirect effects of kernel yield per plant on pod yield through number of mature pods per plant, haulm yield per plant and HKW in cross Kadri-9 × GPBD-4 and ICGV-00351 × Sunoleic-95R; protein content on pod yield through plant height, number of mature pods per plant, kernel yield per plant

and shelling per cent in cross ICGV-00351 × GPBD-4 and Kadri-9 × Sunoleic-95R were important contributing traits. Thus targeting the above said parameters will help accelerate groundnut improvement programme. Meta and Monpara (2010) [6] reported kernel yield per plant contributed major share to pod yield per plant, indirectly through other traits.

Conclusion

It could be inferred from the present study that mature pods per plant, kernel yield per plant, haulm yield per plant, shelling percentage and 100-kernel weight are the major yield contributing characters in groundnut. Therefore, due emphasis should be given to these traits in formulating the criterion for further selection and advancement of progenies.

Table 5: Phenotypic path co-efficient among dry pod yield and its attributing characters in groundnut F₃ generation Cross 1-Kadri-9 × GPBD-4

Traits	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈	X ₉	X ₁₀
X ₁	-0.0047	-0.0004	-0.0003	-0.0007	0.0002	0.0003	-0.0001	0.0003	0.0002	0.0804
X ₂	0.0041	0.0441	0.0303	0.0245	0.0012	0.0014	-0.0023	0.0079	-0.0030	0.7210
X ₃	0.0712	0.6614	0.9634	0.8515	0.2899	0.4427	0.1138	0.2672	-0.0778	0.9838
X ₄	0.0046	0.0172	0.0273	0.0309	0.0042	0.0116	0.0022	0.0085	-0.0036	0.8950
X ₅	0.0064	-0.0043	-0.0485	-0.0217	-0.1613	-0.0494	-0.0249	-0.0231	0.0117	0.1419
X ₆	-0.0010	0.0005	0.0077	0.0063	0.0051	0.0168	0.0054	0.0019	0.0005	0.4248
X ₇	0.0000	-0.0001	0.0002	0.0001	0.0003	0.0005	0.0017	0.0000	-0.0002	0.0969
X ₈	-0.0006	0.0019	0.0030	0.0029	0.0015	0.0012	0.0001	0.0107	-0.0031	0.2762
X ₉	0.0004	0.0007	0.0008	0.0012	0.0007	-0.0003	0.0010	0.0028	-0.0099	-0.0851

Residual effect at phenotypic level= 0.0696

Table 6: Phenotypic path co-efficient among dry pod yield and its attributing characters in groundnut F₃ generation Cross 2- ICGV-00351 × GPBD-4

Traits	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈	X ₉	X ₁₀
X ₁	-0.0004	-0.0001	-0.0002	-0.0001	-0.0001	-0.0001	-0.0001	0.0001	-0.0002	0.3817
X ₂	-0.0046	-0.0166	-0.0071	-0.0004	-0.0004	-0.0002	-0.0029	0.0035	-0.0122	0.7190
X ₃	-0.0060	-0.0060	-0.0143	-0.0003	-0.0048	-0.0017	-0.0022	0.0037	-0.0106	0.7320
X ₄	0.0165	0.0025	0.0027	0.1162	0.0131	0.0160	0.0044	0.0007	0.0036	0.1479
X ₅	0.0007	0.0001	0.0017	0.0006	0.0050	0.0010	0.0007	0.0005	0.0017	0.3585
X ₆	0.0001	0.0000	0.0001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0012	0.0001	0.0000	0.0001	0.0927
X ₇	0.0011	0.0013	0.0012	0.0003	0.0010	0.0009	0.0074	-0.0021	0.0014	0.1964
X ₈	0.0004	0.0004	0.0005	0.0000	-0.0002	0.0001	0.0006	-0.0020	0.0004	-0.2173
X ₉	0.3740	0.7374	0.7472	0.0314	0.3447	0.0754	0.1884	-0.2216	1.0053	0.9896

Residual effect at phenotypic level=0.0827

Where,

X₁=Plant height (cm) X₂=No. of mature pods/plant X₃=Kernel yield/plant (g) X₄=Haulm yield/plant (g) X₅=Shelling (%) X₆=HKW (g) X₇=SMK (%) X₈=Oil content (%) X₉=Protein content (%) X₁₀=Dry pod yield/plant (g)

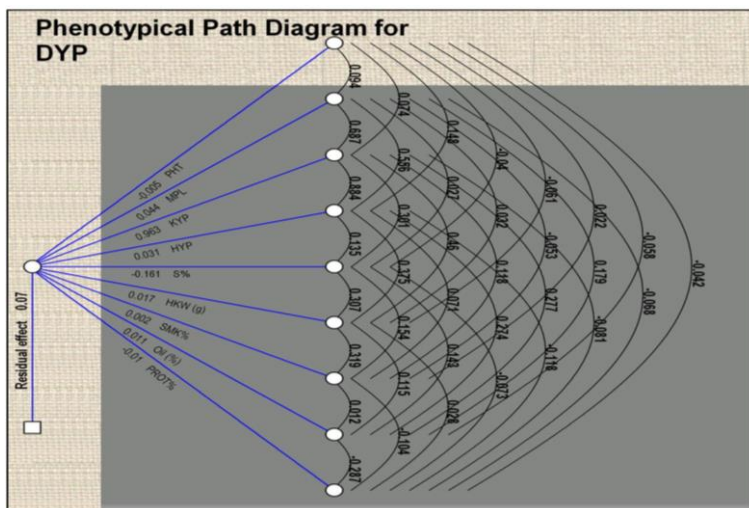


Fig 1: Phenotypic path diagram showing the influence of yield and its component for dry pod yield per plant Cross 1-Kadri-9 × GPBD-4

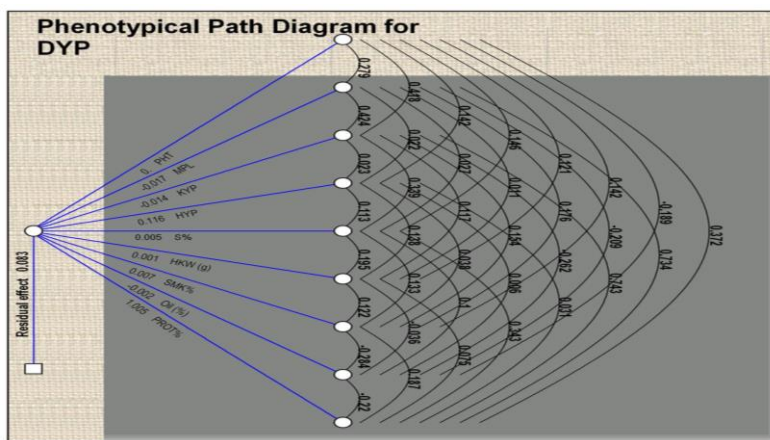


Fig 2: Phenotypic path diagram showing the influence of yield and its component for dry pod yield per plant Cross 2- ICGV-00351 × GPBD-4

Table 7: Phenotypic path co-efficient among dry pod yield and its attributing characters in groundnut F₃ generation Cross 3- Kadri-9 × Sunoleic-95R

Traits	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈	X ₉	X ₁₀
X ₁	-0.0042	-0.0013	-0.0012	-0.0001	0.0002	0.0000	-0.0013	0.0002	-0.0014	0.3197
X ₂	0.0066	0.0221	0.0109	0.0014	-0.0001	0.0018	0.0063	0.0005	0.0149	0.6784
X ₃	0.0037	0.0066	0.0134	0.0005	0.0042	0.0015	0.0033	0.0023	0.0114	0.8320
X ₄	0.0047	0.0092	0.0053	0.1466	0.0201	0.0118	-0.0031	0.0043	0.0070	0.1920
X ₅	0.0004	0.0000	-0.0030	-0.0013	-0.0095	-0.0020	0.0009	0.0001	-0.0022	0.2360
X ₆	0.0000	-0.0004	-0.0006	-0.0004	-0.0011	-0.0052	0.0005	0.0004	-0.0007	0.1352
X ₇	0.0006	0.0006	0.0005	0.0000	-0.0002	-0.0002	0.0020	-0.0003	0.0007	0.3498
X ₈	0.0005	-0.0003	-0.0019	-0.0003	0.0001	0.0009	0.0017	-0.0112	-0.0015	0.1260
X ₉	0.3073	0.6417	0.8085	0.0457	0.2223	0.1266	0.3394	0.1296	0.9551	0.9833

Residual effect at phenotypic level= 0.1072

Table 8: Phenotypic path co-efficient among dry pod yield and its attributing characters in groundnut F₃ generation Cross 4-ICGV-00351 × Sunoleic-95R

Traits	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈	X ₉	X ₁₀
X ₁	-0.0061	-0.0007	-0.0006	-0.0011	0.0005	0.0005	-0.0001	0.0002	0.0004	0.1095
X ₂	0.0057	0.0475	0.0328	0.0265	0.0023	0.0016	-0.0017	0.0084	-0.0017	0.7215
X ₃	0.0937	0.6606	0.9563	0.8583	0.2832	0.4309	0.0923	0.2477	-0.0382	0.9856
X ₄	0.0062	0.0186	0.0299	0.0333	0.0051	0.0125	0.0029	0.0088	-0.0023	0.9046
X ₅	0.0111	-0.0073	-0.0445	-0.0231	-0.1503	-0.0422	-0.0141	-0.0178	0.0142	0.1485
X ₆	-0.0016	0.0006	0.0084	0.0070	0.0052	0.0186	0.0052	0.0019	0.0006	0.4233
X ₇	0.0000	-0.0001	0.0002	0.0002	0.0002	0.0006	0.0021	0.0000	-0.0002	0.0880
X ₈	-0.0003	0.0018	0.0027	0.0028	0.0012	0.0011	0.0000	0.0105	-0.0028	0.2626
X ₉	0.0007	0.0004	0.0004	0.0008	0.0010	-0.0004	0.0012	0.0029	-0.0109	-0.0409

Residual effect at phenotypic level= 0.0691

Where,

X₁=Plant height (cm) X₂=No. of mature pods/plant X₃=Kernel yield/plant (g) X₄=Haulm yield/plant (g) X₅=Shelling (%) X₆=HKW (g) X₇=SMK (%) X₈=Oil content (%) X₉=Protein content (%) X₁₀=Dry pod yield/plant (g)

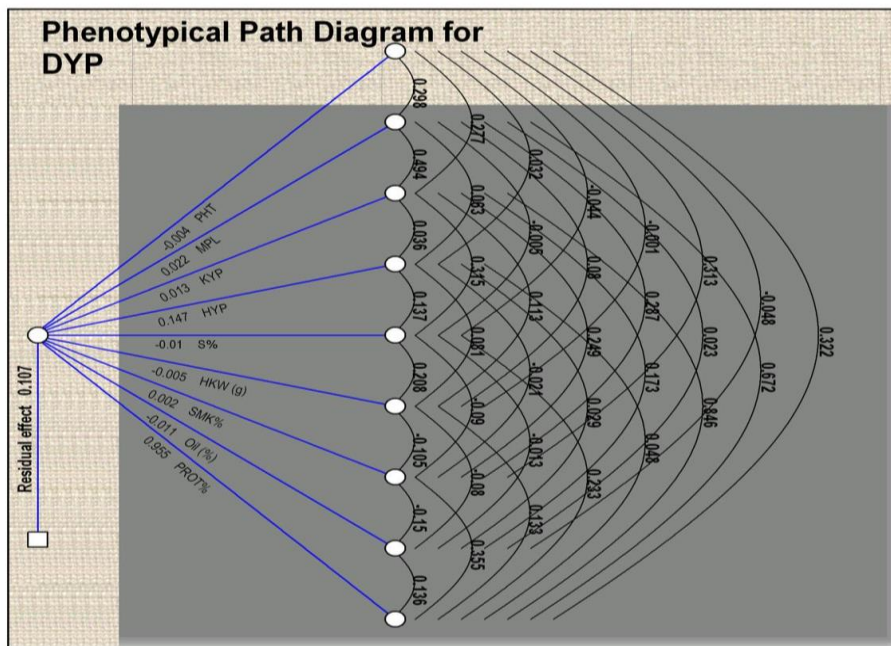


Fig 3: Phenotypic path diagram showing the influence of yield and its component for dry pod yield per plant Cross 3- Kadri-9 × Sunoleic-95R

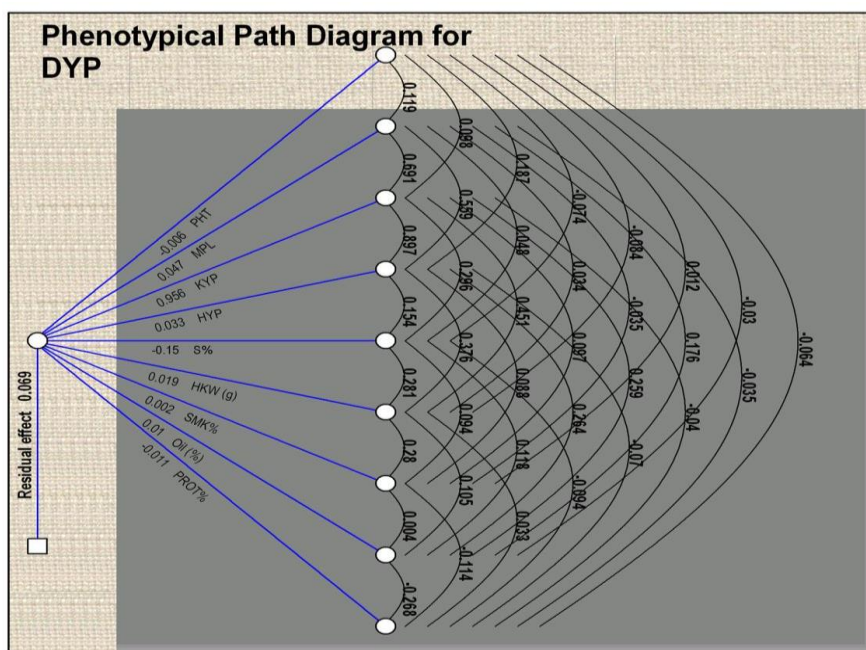


Fig 4: Phenotypic path diagram showing the influence of yield and its component for dry pod yield per plant Cross 4-ICGV-00351 × Sunoleic-95R

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