

Character association and path analysis in African marigold (*Tagetes erecta*)

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ABSTRACT : The present study was undertaken to know the association between the quantitative traits of African marigold. Using ten diverse germplasm planted in three replications at Horticultural Experimental Garden, Banaras Hindu University Varanasi. Among the quantitative traits studied, first and last picking of the flowers, average weight and number of flowers per plant had the close association with final end product i.e., yield of flowers per plant. Therefore, the yield contributing traits may enhance the final end product, which is essential for the improvement of particular cultivars. As revealed by the correlation study, path analysis also showed that the first picking of the flowers, last picking of the flowers, average weight of the flower, leaf area and number of flowers per plant had the appreciable direct effect on yield of flowers per plant. However, the component traits might influence the flower yield per plant, which is the ultimate product to grower's point of view.

Key Words : African marigold (*Tagetes erecta*), character association, path analysis.