

## Research Article



## Cluster Analysis, Association and Path Coefficient Analysis for Seed Yield Improvement in Rapeseed

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**Abstract** | The present investigations were carried out to determine the degree of variation among rapeseed hybrids and the best selection criteria for yield enhancement in rapeseed (*Brassica napus*). For this thirty-six rapeseed hybrids were sown in a RCBD with four repeats at NARC, Islamabad during the cropping season 2014 and 2015. Cluster analysis based on WARD's method showed considerable genetic variation among the hybrids. In the first year, thirty-six Brassica hybrids were grouped into thirteen clusters. Cluster-IV comprised of maximum number of hybrids (six). The clusters mean and standard deviation marked that hybrid in Cluster XI (CRH-80) was short durational and high yielding mainly due to more branches and pods per plant. CRH-35 in cluster-VI was high yielding and has more seeds per pod. Similarly in second year, these thirty-six Brassica hybrids were grouped into ten clusters. Cluster-I consist of seven hybrids. Analysis for mean and standard deviation showed that hybrids in Cluster-VII (Hyola-401) was short durational and produced more number of seeds per pod. Genotypes CRH-84 and CRH-235 grouped in cluster IV produced maximum number of branches and pods per plant. It was observed that hybrids in Cluster-X (CHR-286 and CHR-102) having more pod length were high yielding. Genotypic and phenotypic correlations studies revealed that number of pods per plant had highly significant positive correlation with seed yield. The results of path coefficient analysis indicated that in both years, the direct effects of pod length and number of pods per plant on grain yield were positive and of high magnitude. Finally, it was concluded that the trait pods per plant can be exploited for the improvement of seed yield in rapeseed.

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**Keywords** | Rapeseed hybrids, Cluster analysis, Association analysis, Path analysis, Seed yield and yield components

### Introduction

A number of oilseed crops are being grown in Pakistan. Among these rapeseed and mustard crops occupy special importance. It is not only the third most important oil seed crop of the country but also reported as the second most important oilseed crop in the international oilseed market as a source of vegetable oil (Hasan et al., 2006). Pakistan is producing 215.8 thousand tones of rapeseed and mustard from an area of 213.9 thousand hectares

with average yield of 1009 kg $ha^{-1}$  (AS, 2014-15). The edible oil consumption was 3.002 million tons of which 0.573 million tons (19%) came from local resources and 2.429 million tons (81%) were imported (Anonymous, 2013-14). In addition, canola was grown on an area of about 15,700 hectares with a production of 16,800 tons. These figures showed that the production of edible oil in Pakistan is not sufficient to meet the consumption requirement due to increasing population. Consequently, a huge amount of foreign exchange is spent every year on its

import.

Shah et al. (2000) said that it is essential to take important actions to improve the yield potential of *Brassica*. The yield trait is dependent on many other quantitatively inherited traits like seed weight, number of seeds, number of pods etc. According to Tunçturk and Ciftci (2007) it is important to observe the contribution of each of the trait so that more attention can be given only to those traits that show the greatest influence on seed yield. Punitha et al. (2010) stated that cluster analysis is a powerful tool in quantifying the degree of genetic divergence among parents. Importance of genotypic and phenotypic variability, heritability and character association have proved by many scientists (Ali et al., 2002; Lekh et al., 1998) for further genetic improvement. Positive and significant correlations of seed yield with plant height, branches and silique per plant were recorded by Sandhu and Gupta (1996). In Indian mustard positive correlation of seed yield with pods per plant, 1000 seed weight were also reported by Khubli and Pant (1999).

Korkut et al. (1993) described that the simple correlation analysis could not fully give details link among the characters. Therefore, path coefficient analysis is optional to utilize for more and complete determination of impact of independent variable on dependent one. So direct and indirect effects can clearly be understood by path analysis. Many researchers have widely used this analysis to explain the direct and indirect effects of different traits on yield in different crop species.

Marjanovic et al. (2011) reported that according to genetic path-coefficient analysis pods per plant and oil content were the most important components of

seed yield per plant as their direct effects on seed yield per plant were  $p=0.472$  and  $p=0.082$ , respectively. Seyedmohammadi (2013) concluded from path analysis that, number of pods per plant had the highest direct effect on grain yield. The current investigations were intended to estimate heritability, association and selection criteria for yield components in rapeseed (*Brassica napus*).

## Materials and Methods

Trial comprising thirty-six rapeseed hybrids was carried out at experimental area of Oilseeds Research Program, NARC, Islamabad in a RCBD with four repeats. Experiment was sown in two cropping season 2014 and 2015. Three weeks after sowing the distance of 10-15 centimeter between the plants was kept by thinning. Each genotype was planted in four rows of 5 meter length by 30cm apart. Fertilizers, N with 90 kg $ha^{-1}$  and  $P_2O_5$  with 60 kg $ha^{-1}$  were applied during seed bed preparation. Irrigation, weed and pest control measures were taken whenever required.

Observations for days to maturity, branches plant $^{-1}$ , pod length (cm), number of seeds per pod, number of pods per plant, thousand seed weight (TSW) and seed yield kg $ha^{-1}$  were recorded for each entry and replication. From the mean of the hybrids, Cluster diagram was made by using WARD's method (Sneath and Sokal, 1973). Genotypic and phenotypic coefficients of variability were worked out according to the formula given by Burton (1952). The genotypic and phenotypic correlation coefficients were estimated as calculated by Kwon and Terrie (1964). The path coefficients were obtained according to the method suggested by Dewey and Lu (1959).

**Table 1:** Analysis of variance of different traits of rapeseed hybrids.

SOV		Days to maturity	Branches per plant	Pod length	Pods per plant	Seeds per pod	Thousand seed weight	seed yield
Mean square	2014	6.643	0.502	0.795	2345.6	5.562	0.122	113636.6
	2015	4.771	0.507	0.599	1337.29	7.807	0.099	390974.2
F-value	2014	1.861**	3.092**	3.004**	4.844**	2.379**	3.553**	4.038**
	2015	1.7*	1.885**	2.168**	3.695**	2.896**	3.144**	17.805**
CD1	2014	2.645	0.564	0.72	30.809	2.141	0.259	234.855
CD1	2015	2.345	0.726	0.736	26.634	2.299	0.249	207.467
CD2	2014	3.496	0.745	0.952	40.721	2.83	0.343	310.412
CD2	2015	3.1	0.96	0.973	35.203	3.038	0.329	274.212

\*\* : Significant at 0.01 probability level; \* : Significant at 0.05 probability level; NS: Non-significant.

## Results and Discussion

The statistical analysis of data showed significant differences among entries for all the traits recorded (Table 1). The data recorded was also statistically significant for the year. So the data recorded in two years for different traits couldn't be pooled. Cluster analysis, correlation and path coefficient analysis for each year were calculated separately. The results obtained is described as follow.

### Cluster analysis

Cluster analysis is a valuable tool in classifying the material into different groups according to variation present among them. Knowledge about the variation of different genotypes is one of the principles in breeding programs. In present studies The WARD's method is used to group the rapeseed hybrids into different clusters in two seasons as described below.

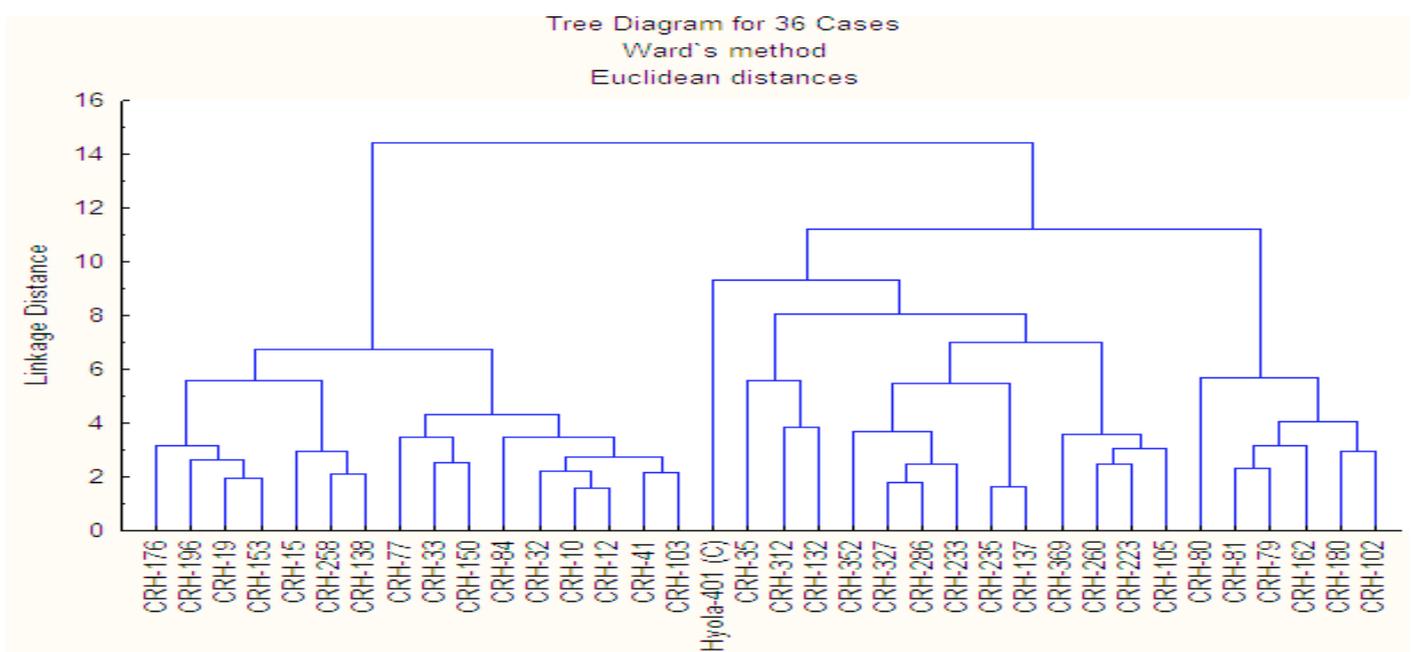
**During 2014:** On the basis of WARD's method, thirty- six brassica hybrids were grouped into thirteen clusters (Table 2). Cluster-IV comprised of maximum number of hybrids (six) followed by Cluster I, VIII and X compromised of four hybrids in each. There were three hybrids in Cluster II, III and XII while Cluster VII, IX and XIII consisted of two hybrids. Cluster V, VI and XI comprised of one hybrid in each cluster (Figure 1). All the clusters were analyzed for mean and standard deviation (Table 3) and it was evident from the result that hybrid in Cluster XI (CRH-80) was short durational with more branches and pods per plant and was high yielding. Hybrid CRH-35 in

cluster-VI was high yielding and had more seeds per pod. Khan et al. (2013) reported similar findings in 32 genotypes of *B. rapa* into 6 clusters.

**Table 2:** Distribution of 36 rapeseed hybrids in 13 clusters during 2014.

Cluster	Number of hybrids	Names of hybrids
I	4	CRH-176, CRH-196, CRH-19, CRH-153
II	3	CRH-15, CRH-258, CRH-138
III	3	CRH-77, CRH-33, CRH-150
IV	6	CRH-84, CRH-32, CRH-10, CRH-10, CRH-12, CRH-41, CRH-103
V	1	HYOLA-401
VI	1	CRH-35
VII	2	CRH-312, CRH132
VIII	4	CRH-352, CRH-327, CRH-286, CRH-233
IX	2	CRH-235, CRH-137
X	4	CRH-369, CRH-260, CRH-223, CRH-105
XI	1	CRH-80
XII	3	CRH-81, CRH-79, CRH-162
XIII	2	CRH-180, CRH-102

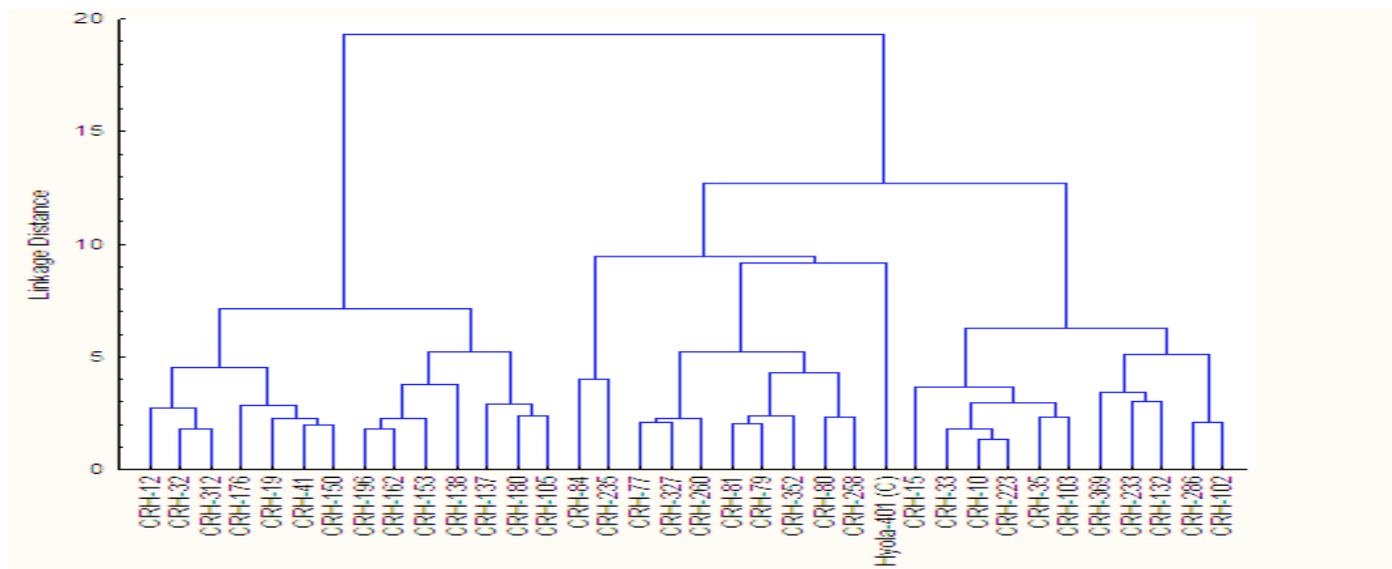
**During 2015:** Similarly, during year 2015 these thirty-six brassica hybrids were grouped into ten clusters on the basis of WARD's method (Table 4). Cluster-I consisted of seven hybrids followed by Cluster-VIII which comprised of six clusters and Cluster-VI consisted of five hybrids (Figure 2). There were four hybrids in Cluster-II and three hybrids in Cluster



**Figure 1:** Cluster diagram of 7 traits in 36 rapeseed hybrids in 2014.

**Table 3:** Cluster mean and standard deviation of rapeseed hybrids for seven traits during 2014.

	CLI	CLII	CLIII	CLIV	CLV	CLVI	CLVII	CLVIII	CLIX	CLX	CLXI	CLXII	CLXIII
DM	184.625 ±0.43	185.25 ±.43	185.08 ±0.76	184.38 ±0.9	184.38 ±0	184.75 ±0	183.0 ±1.06	184.31 ±0.97	184.5 ±0.35	181.94 ±0.90	181 ±0	184.92 ±1.04	184.63 ±0.88
PL	7.14 ±0.10	6.9 ±0.25	7.72 ±0.19	7.3 ±0.13	7.60±0	9.0±0	7.3 ±0.42	7.28 ±0.18	7.24 ±0.40	6.82 ±0.35	7.40 ±0	6.78 ±0.09	7.49 ±0.03
BP <sup>-1</sup>	6.30 ±0.20	6.42 ±0.08	6.30 ±0.37	6.37 ±0.28	6.25±0	6.45±0	6.02 ±0.24	6.21 ±0.29	6.55 ±0.07	6.46 ±0.14	7.65 ±0	6.82 ±0.16	6.9 ±0.21
PP <sup>-1</sup>	255.31 ±21.05	239.17 ±11.6	257.0 ±16.40	237.58 ±6.3	227.25 ±0	253.75 ±0	261.25 ±41.72	264.69 ±16.88	244.13 ±16.88	279.56 ±22.24	307.00 ±0	294.92 ±9.93	274.12 ±1.62
SP <sup>-1</sup>	22.48± 0.85	20.80 ±0.88	21.40 ±0.78	21.62 ±0.74	22.65±0	24.5±0	24.98 ±0.6	22.20 ±0.25	20.90 ±0.07	22.22 ±1.03	21.85 ±0	21.88 ±0.27	23.1 ±0.92
TSW	3.58±.07	3.35 ± 0.12	3.33 ±0.12	3.39 ±0.06	3.17±0	3.53±0	3.40±0	3.58 ±0.12	3.84 ±0.88	3.64 ±0.12	3.33 ±0	3.47 ±0.06	3.7 ±0.16
SY	2119.25 ±125	2277.33 ±58	2605.42 ±42.3	2428.04 ±107.3	2562.75 ±0	2661.5 ±0	2374.13 ±192.1	2415.38 ±53.85	2509.13 ±27.	2595.06 ±131.4	2618.25 ±0	2560 ±193	2500. ±33.94



**Figure 2:** Cluster diagram of 7 traits in 36 rapeseed hybrids in 2015.

**Table 4:** Distribution of 36 genotypes of rapeseed hybrids in 10 clusters during 2015.

Cluster	Number of genotypes	Names of genotypes
I	7	CRH-12, CRH-32, CRH-312, CRH-176, CRH-19, CRH-41, CRH-150
II	4	CRH-196, CRH-162, CRH-153, CRH-138
III	3	CRH-137, CRH-180, CRH-105
IV	2	CRH-84, CRH-235
V	3	CRH-77, CRH-327, CRH-260
VI	5	CRH-81, CRH-79, CRH-352, CRH-80, CRH-258
VII	1	HYOLA 401
VIII	6	CRH-15, CRH-33, CRH-10, CRH-223, CRH-35, CRH-103
IX	3	CRH-369, CRH-233, CRH-132
X	2	CRH-286, CRH-102

III, V and IX each. Cluster IV and X contained two hybrids in each cluster. Cluster-VII comprised of single hybrid. Analysis for mean and standard deviation showed that hybrid in Cluster-VII (Hyola-401) was short duration and produced more number of seed per pod. Similarly the plants of hybrids CRH-84 and CRH-235 grouped in cluster IV produced maximum number of branches and pods per plant. It was observed that hybrids in Cluster- X (CHR-286 and CHR-102) had more pod length and were high yielding (Table 5). Therefore, it was suggested that these hybrids should be exploit under wide environment for better outcome. Mohan and Seetharam (2005) also reported similar clustering pattern, as some clusters were unique having only single genotype. In research conducted by Arshad et al. (2007) there were three clusters among which genotypes in Cluster II with high seed yield, 100 seed weight and oil content percentage

**Table 5:** Cluster mean and standard deviation of rapeseed hybrids for seven traits during 2015.

	CLI	CLII	CLIII	CLIV	CLV	CLVI	CLVII	CLVIII	CLIX	CLX
DM	182.76±1.1	183.98 ±0.9	182.33 ±0.29	183.05 ±0.35	180.77 ±0.25	182.28 ±0.29	180 ±0	182.83 ±0.41	183.13 ±1.26	183.4±0.14
PL	5.88±0.17	5.83 ±0.08	5.92 ±0.03	6.49± 0.15	5.99 ±0.14	6.2 ±0.14	5.88 ±0	6.7 ±0.15	6.45 ±0.08	6.93± 0.46
B/P	5.84±0.19	5.68 ±0.19	5.77 ±0.12	6.9 ±0.28	5.63 ±0.23	5.94 ±0.11	6.0±0	5.82 ±0.38	5.57 ±0.21	6.1±0
P/P	232.14±8.5	213.25 ±7.04	211.67 ±4.73	267. ±29.7	253.67 ±10.69	248.8 ±9.01	249±0	230.00 ±8.56	232.00 ±15.87	255±5.66
S/P	18.29±0.56	19.05 ±1.15	18.6 ±1.37	20.65 ±0.07	19.47 ±0.58	20.2 ±0.72	21.6±0	21.38 ±0.18	21.5 ±0.7	21.1±0.57
TSW	3.7±0.09	3.46 ±0.07	5.51 ±0.13	3.3 ±0.28	368 ±0.13	3.56 ±0.1	3.65±0	3.53 ±0.12	3.82 ±0.02	3.63±0.04
SY	1888.86±210	1942.75 ±81	1682.68 ±132.2	1736 ±326	2416 ±25.1	2109 ±342	2373±0	1939.17 ±120.2	2256 ±217.3	2683.5±50.2

\*DM: Days to maturity; Bp<sup>-1</sup>: Branches per plant; PL: Pod length (cm); PP<sup>-1</sup>: Pods per plant; SP<sup>-1</sup>: Seeds per pod; TSW: Thousand Seed Weight (g); SY: Seed Yield Kg ha<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table 6:** Genotypic and phenotypic correlation among different traits of rapeseed hybrids.

Traits	1 <sup>st</sup> year	DM	PL	BP <sup>-1</sup>	PP <sup>-1</sup>	SP <sup>-1</sup>	TSW	SY
	2 <sup>nd</sup> year							
DM	r <sub>g</sub> 2014	1						
	2015	1						
	r <sub>p</sub> 2014	1						
	2015	1						
PL	r <sub>g</sub> 2014	.224	1					
	2015	.477**	1					
	r <sub>p</sub> 2014	.231	1					
	2015	-.002	1					
BP <sup>-1</sup>	r <sub>g</sub> 2014	-.348*	-.149	1				
	2015	.055	.276	1				
	r <sub>p</sub> 2014	-.107	-.073	1				
	2015	.022	.194	1				
PP <sup>-1</sup>	r <sub>g</sub> 2014	-.533**	-.352*	.435 **	1			
	2015	-.588**	.437**	.926 **	1			
	r <sub>p</sub> 2014	-.199	-.221	.352*	1			
	2015	-.003	.157	.324	1			
SP <sup>-1</sup>	r <sub>g</sub> 2014	-.430**	.375*	-.052	.278	1		
	2015	-.039	.849**	.252	.359*	1		
	r <sub>p</sub> 2014	.023	.345*	.012	.066	1		
	2015	-.036	.625**	-.036	.223	1		
TSW	r <sub>g</sub> 2014	-.325	-.239	.104	.058	-.109	1	
	2015	-.060	-.115	-.533**	.232	-.163	1	
	r <sub>p</sub> 2014	-.028	.051	.028	.042	.113	1	
	2015	-.081	-.005	-.109	.047	.009	1	
SY Kg ha <sup>-1</sup>	r <sub>g</sub> 2014	-.498**	.152	.433**	.313	.145	.024	1
	2015	-.385*	.359*	-.090	.389*	.367*	.372*	1
	r <sub>p</sub> 2014	-.143	.009	.179	.357*	-.031	.111	1
	2015	-.152	.166	-.065	.243	.200	.201	1

were recommended for further test under diverse environment and selected as desirable genotypes.

**Correlation analysis**

The degree and direction of association between two or more variables can be calculated from correlation coefficient. In this investigation both genotypic and phenotypic correlations were determined. Genotypic correlation coefficients were mostly higher than their particular phenotypic ones (Table 6). This indicated that these traits were associated genetically and the phenotypic expression of these traits was less influenced by the environment. In some cases the different signs of phenotypic and genotypic correlation coefficients indicated that the association was in the different direction. The results of both genotypic and phenotypic correlation are discussed as below.

**During 2014:** Days to maturity had negative and significant correlation with branches per plant (r<sub>p</sub> = -0.1071 r<sub>g</sub> = -0.3483\*), number of pods per plant (r<sub>p</sub> = -0.1994 r<sub>g</sub> = -0.5326\*\*) but its association with pod length was positive (r<sub>p</sub> = 0.2312 r<sub>g</sub> = 0.2236). Pod length had negative and significant correlations with pods per plant (r<sub>p</sub> = -0.2155 r<sub>g</sub> = -0.14514\*\*) but positively correlated with seeds per pod (r<sub>p</sub> = 0.399\* r<sub>g</sub> = 0.3748\*) and seed yield (r<sub>p</sub> = 0.0094 r<sub>g</sub> = 0.1524). The correlation of branches per plant with pods per plant (r<sub>p</sub> = 0.3519\*\*, r<sub>g</sub> = 0.4353\*\*) and seed yield kg/ha (r<sub>p</sub> = 0.1788 r<sub>g</sub> = 0.4329) was positive. Pods per plant exhibited positive correlation with seeds per

pod ( $r_p = 0.0656$   $r_g = 0.2776$ ), 1000 seed weight ( $r_p = 0.0415$   $r_g = 0.0582$ ) and seed yield ( $r_p = 0.3574$  \*  $r_g = 0.3125$ ). The genotypic correlation between number of seeds per pod was positive (0.1446) but its phenotypic correlation was negative (-0.0305). The association between seed weight and seed yield was also positive ( $r_p = 0.111$   $r_g = 0.024$ ).

**Table 7: Path coefficient of seed yield.**

Path way of association	1 <sup>st</sup> year	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	Average
<b>Yield vs. days to maturity</b>			
Direct effect	-1.084	-0.784	-0.934
Indirect effect via pod length	0.107	0.829	0.468
Indirect effect via branches per plant	-0.032	-0.013	-0.023
Indirect effect via pods per plant	-0.168	-0.542	-0.355
Indirect effect via seeds per pod	0.323	0.016	0.170
Indirect effect via seed weight	0.121	-0.010	0.056
Total correlation	-0.808	-0.036	-0.422
<b>Yield vs. pod length</b>			
Direct effect	0.478	1.739	1.109
Indirect effect via branches per plant	-0.014	-0.067	-0.041
Indirect effect via pods per plant	-0.111	0.403	0.146
Indirect effect via seeds per pod	-0.281	-0.353	-0.317
Indirect effect via seed weight	0.089	-0.019	0.035
Total correlation	0.229	0.953	0.591
<b>Yield vs. branches per plant</b>			
Direct effect	0.092	-0.243	-0.076
Indirect effect via pods per plant	0.138	0.854	0.496
Indirect effect via seeds per pod	0.039	-0.105	-0.033
Indirect effect via seed weight	-0.039	-0.089	-0.064
Total correlation	0.055	-0.591	-0.268
<b>Yield vs. pods per plant</b>			
Direct effect	0.316	0.922	0.619
Indirect effect via seeds per pod	-0.208	0.149	-0.208
Indirect effect via seed weight	-0.022	0.039	0.009
Total correlation	0.025	-0.615	-0.295
<b>Yield vs. seeds per pod</b>			
Direct effect	-0.751	-0.416	-0.584
Indirect effect via seed weight	0.040	-0.027	0.007
Total correlation	-0.647	-1.470	-1.058
<b>Yield vs. seed weight</b>			
Direct effect	-0.373	0.168	-0.103
Total correlation	-0.209	0.054	-0.078

**During 2015:** A strong and significant association was observed between pod length and seed per pod ( $r_p = 0.6247^{**}$ ,  $r_g = 0.849^{**}$ ). Pods per plant had positive and significant correlation with seeds per pod ( $r_p = 0.2233$ ,  $r_g = 0.3587^*$ ). Similarly pods per plant

exhibited positive and highly significant genotypic correlation with branches per plant and pod length (0.4373 and 0.926 respectively). Seed yield showed positive correlation with pod length ( $r_p = 0.166^{**}$ ,  $r_g = 0.3592^*$ ), pods per plant ( $r_p = 0.2434$ ,  $r_g = 0.3889^*$ ), number of seeds per pod ( $r_p = 0.200$ ,  $r_g = 0.3666^*$ ), and seed weight ( $r_p = 0.2005$ ,  $r_g = 0.3718^*$ ). Almost similar findings were reported by [Ejaz-ul-Hasan et al., 2014](#) and [Khan et al. \(2005\)](#).

Days to maturity had negative and significant relationship with pods per plant ( $r_p = -0.0027$   $r_g = -0.588^*$ ) and seed yield ( $r_p = -0.1518$   $r_g = -0.385^*$ ). The association between branches per plant and seed weight was negative ( $r_p = -0.1092$   $r_g = -0.5332^{**}$ ). This showed that the seed weight decreases when the branches per plant increases.

### Path coefficient

The path analysis give the cause and effect of different yield components and provide better index for selection rather than mere correlation coefficients. The two years result of path analysis indicated that the direct effects of pod length and number of pods per plant were not only positive but also of high magnitude on seed yield. While the total correlation coefficients of seed yield with pod length was positive and of intermediate value ([Table 7](#)). So, direct selection for higher number of pods per plant and pod length would be effective to increase seed yield. [Tusar-Patra et al. \(2006\)](#) also observed that pods per plant had the strongest effect on seed yield. Days to maturity, branches per plant and seeds per pod had negative direct effect on seed yield. However, days to maturity had positive indirect effects via pod length (0.468), seeds per pod (0.170), and seed weight (0.056) with seed yield. Except pods per plant all the other traits via branches per plant exerted negative indirect effects on seed yield. Seeds per pod exerted positive indirect effect via seed weight (0.007).

### Conclusions

Cluster analysis showed presence of considerable genetic variation among rapeseed hybrids studied. Correlation and path analysis revealed that the trait pods per plant had the maximum potential of selection for seed yield improvement because it exhibited highly significant positive correlation and maximum positive direct effects with seed yield.

### Author's Contribution

Tahira conceived the idea, collected data, wrote the

manuscript and overall managed the research work. Muhammad Arshad and Mubashar Ahmad Khan did SPSS analysis. Muhammad Arshad helped in manuscript writing. Mubashar Ahmad Khan and Muhammad Ayub Khan provided technical input.

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