**Nutritional profiling of elite breeding lines and varieties of chickpea in India**

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Chickpea, being the most widely cultivated legume grown in Asian sub-continent, can play a crucial role in ameliorating nutrient deficiency among largely vegetarian population. Presence of sufficient genetic variability among the cultivable gene pool is a pre requisite for genetic bio-fortification for developing nutrient rich chickpea cultivars. The present study attempts to establish a baseline for seed nutrients *viz*., iron, zinc, calcium, magnesium and protein content in 148 diverse chickpea genotypes consisting of varieties and pipeline material tested under Indian national yield evaluation trial. The nutrient content ranged from 2.72-12.23 mg/100g for iron (mean 6.49 mg/100g), 1.35-6.66 mg/100g for zinc (mean 2.82 mg/100g), 77.02-192.46 mg/100g for calcium (mean 124.06 mg/100g), 52.46-217.33 mg/100g for magnesium (mean 111.51 mg/100g) and 21.01-25.78 g/100g for protein (mean 22.79 g/100g) content. The newly developed pipeline material had higher protein, iron, zinc and magnesium content and slightly lower calcium content than chickpea varieties under commercial cultivation in India. The study identified promising lines with high protein (>25 g/100g), iron (>10 mg/100g), zinc (>4 mg/100g), calcium (> 170 mg/100g) and magnesium (>180 mg/100g) content. These nutrient rich breeding lines could be promoted for release as variety and also used as donors in improving nutrient composition of chickpea varieties.

***References:***

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