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8 **Opportunities for exploiting variations in haulm fodder traits of intermittent drought tolerant lines in a**
9 **reference collection of groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.)**

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20

21 **Abstract**

22 Groundnut haulm has a great value as feed stock in the semi-arid tropics. Two-hundred-two and 194 cultivars
23 of groundnut grown under intermittent water stress and fully irrigated treatment for two consecutive years at
24 ICRISAT (2008/2009 and 2009/2010) in Patancheru in India were investigated for haulm fodder quality traits
25 and for potential trade-offs between pod or haulm yield and haulm fodder traits. Highly significant ($P < 0.0001$)
26 cultivars-dependent variations were found for a range of laboratory haulm fodder quality traits. Haulm
27 nitrogen contents ranged from 1.94 to 2.88% and from 1.81 to 2.66% while *in vitro* digestibility ranged from
28 57.3 to 64.3% and from 59.5 to 64.2% under water restriction and fully irrigated conditions, respectively.
29 Under fully irrigated conditions haulm nitrogen content and *in vitro* digestibility were mildly, but significantly
30 inversely, related to pod yields with the two haulms traits accounting for 5 and 4% of the variations in pod
31 yields. However, potential trade-offs between haulm traits and pod yields became more pronounced under
32 water stress where variations in haulm nitrogen content and *in vitro* digestibility accounted for 40 and 28% of

33 the variations in pod yields, respectively. For haulm nitrogen content and *in vitro* digestibility no significant
34 interactions were observed between cultivar and treatment suggesting stability of haulm fodder traits across
35 poorer and better water management practices. These results demonstrate that breeding for fodder traits in
36 groundnut can be parallel to breeding for productivity traits, although careful choice of cultivars with high
37 fodder trait value would be needed under water stress conditions.

38

39 **Key words:** feedstock, crop-livestock system, fodder quality, semi-arid tropics

40

41 **1. Introduction**

42

43 Groundnut is an important food-feed crop in mixed crop-livestock systems of the Semi-Arid Tropics (SAT)
44 with pods providing food for humans and the haulms fodder for livestock (Larbi *et al.*, 1999, Omokanye *et al.*,
45 2001). Farmers do pay attention to haulm fodder traits as it was shown that superior haulm fodder quantity
46 and quality traits positively affected the adoption and dissemination of new groundnut cultivars (ICRISAT
47 2008; BIRTHAL *et al.* 2011.). There is good reason for farmers to pay attention to haulm fodder traits since it
48 was shown that livestock productivity could be influenced substantially by choice of cultivar. For example in
49 male sheep fed exclusively on groundnut haulms harvested from 10 different cultivars (Prasad *et al.*, 2010)
50 observed high daily intake levels, superior to 4% of the live weight, and showed cultivar-dependent variation
51 in daily live weight gain between 65 to 137 g/day. Etela and Dung (2011) feeding haulms from six different
52 cultivars as sole feed to West Africa dwarf sheep observed even greater variation in daily live weight
53 changes, i.e. from -6 to 46 g/ day.

54

55 While choice of cultivar will have implications for livestock productivity where haulms contribute significantly
56 to feed resources, farmers will unlikely sacrifice pod yield for haulm fodder traits. However this does not need
57 to be the case. As observed by Nigam and Blummel (2010), who investigated a wide range of groundnut
58 cultivars and breeding lines, such trade-offs might not be required as no inverse relationships were observed
59 between haulm fodder quality traits and pod and haulm yields. However these observations were based on
60 on-station trials under very good agronomic conditions in breeding materials with a likely limited range of
61 genetic variation, and trade-off effects between pod and haulms traits might exist either with a larger genetic
62 range of variation and where conditions are less perfect such as under water stress. This study was then

63 undertaken to assess the range of variation in fodder quality trait in a reference collection of groundnut, i.e. a
64 set of lines representing most of the genetic variation in the entire groundnut collection (Upadhyaya *et al.*
65 2002), and possible trade-off effects between fodder quality traits and productivity (haulm and pod yield)
66 parameters. Since haulm nitrogen content is both an important quality trait and that groundnut yield depends
67 on remobilization of nitrogen resources to the pods, the relationship between pod yield under water stress
68 and haulm nitrogen content are especially looked at in relation to putative trade-offs.

69

70 **2. Material and Methods**

71

72 *2.1 Field experiments -*

73

74 Two experiments were conducted at ICRISAT headquarters (Patancheru, AP, India, 17° 30' N; 78° 16' E;
75 altitude 549 m) between November 2008 and April 2009 and November 2009-April 2010 and are described in
76 detail in the companion paper (Hamidou *et al.*, under review, FCR). In short, the soil used was a sandy-clay
77 loam Alfisol, with a pH of about 7.0. Two water regimes were imposed, i.e. a fully irrigated control that
78 received irrigation every 7-10 days, and an intermittent stress treatment that was fully irrigated until flowering
79 (approximately 45 days after sowing) and then was exposed to an intermittent drought stress by skipping
80 every other of the irrigation to the fully irrigated control. Seeds were hand-planted in 2-row plots of four meters
81 long with 33 cm between rows and 10 cm between plants. The experimental design was an Alpha-lattice
82 design with water treatment as the main factor and genotypes as sub-factors in three replications. At harvest,
83 after removing the pods from the plants, the haulm of five randomly chosen plants per plot were collected and
84 dried at 70°C for three days in a forced air oven. After drying the weight was taken and the samples were
85 grinded for subsequent Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIRS) analysis (see below).

86

87 *2.2. Groundnut haulm fodder quality analysis*

88

89 The NIRS instrument used was a FOSS Forage Analyzer 5000 with software package WinISI II. For
90 conventional laboratory analysis nitrogen was determined by auto-analyzer method, neutral detergent fiber
91 (NDF), acid detergent fiber (ADF) and acid detergent lignin (ADL) by Goering and Van Soest 1970 and *in vitro*
92 digestibility and metabolizable energy content were estimated based on sample incubation in rumen microbial

93 inoculum using the *in vitro* gas production technique and the associated equations described by Menke and
94 Steingass (1988). NIRS validations were based on blind-predictions, in other words the predicted samples
95 were not part of the set from which the NIRS equations were developed. Relationships between blind-
96 predicted and measured variables were described by R^2 and standard error of prediction (SEP). There was
97 good agreement between conventionally analyzed and NIRS predicted values (Table 1) over a wide range of
98 groundnut cultivars.

99

100 Table 1 about here

101

102 3. Results

103

104 3.1 Variations in groundnut pod and haulm traits

105

106 Out of 202 and 194 cultivars a total of 172 were common to both years. Means and ranges across two years
107 in haulm nitrogen contents and *in vitro* digestibilities of these are reported in Table 2. Observations were
108 based on a total of 202 groundnut cultivars grown under water restriction and 194 cultivars grown under
109 control conditions in Rabi season (off season) 2008/2009 and 2009/2010. Cultivars-dependent variations
110 within treatments were substantial and significant for all traits. Notably pod yields varied by more than five-fold
111 and haulm yields varied by more than three-fold (Hamidou et al., companion paper). For haulm fodder quality
112 traits, nitrogen contents varied by 0.94 and 0.85 percentage units under water stress and control conditions,
113 respectively, while *in vitro* digestibilities varied by 7.0 and 4.7 percentage units under water stress and control
114 conditions, respectively. Regardless of treatment strong heritabilities ($h^2 \geq 0.7$) were observed for haulm
115 nitrogen content while weaker h^2 were found for haulm *in vitro* digestibilities. (≥ 0.24).

116

117 Table 2 about here

118

119 3.2 Relationships between groundnut pod and haulm traits

120

121 Relationships between haulm nitrogen content and *in vitro* digestibility and pod and haulm yield are presented
122 in Figures 1a to 1d. These haulm fodder quality traits were significantly inversely related to grain yields (Fig.

123 1a&c). Generally, relationships between traits were consistently stronger under water stress than under
124 control conditions. Thus, while the significant inverse relationship between haulm nitrogen content and haulm
125 *in vitro* digestibility and pod yield accounted for 5 and 4% of the variations in pod yields under control
126 conditions, these haulm fodder quality traits accounted for 40% and 28% of the variations in pod yields under
127 water stress conditions (Figures 1a&c). Relationships between haulm nitrogen content and *in vitro* digestibility
128 and haulm yields were consistently and significantly positive and the treatment effect on these relationships
129 was smaller than observed for pod yields (Figures 1b&d).

130

131 Figures 1a to 1d about here

132

133 Highly significant cultivars-dependent variations were observed for all four traits with similar trait ranges and
134 trait heritabilities than observed for the 202 and 194 cultivars when compared within their respective treatment
135 (Table 3).

136

137 Table 3 about here

138

139 When the data were combined across years and treatments, haulm nitrogen content and *in vitro* digestibility
140 were significantly inversely related to pod yield and were significantly positively associated with haulm yield
141 (Table 4). However, the tightness of the relationships with pod yield was less than when water treatments
142 were kept separate, and in particular lower than under water stress (Fig. 1a&c) indicating that the water
143 treatment was responsible for this tight relationship. Pod and haulm yield were weakly ($P = 0.08$) negatively
144 associated.

145

146 Table 4 about here

147

148 3.3 Effects of environment on groundnut haulm traits

149

150 Cultivar, treatment and year had all significant effects on haulm nitrogen and *in vitro* digestibility (Table 5) with
151 year generally having the strongest effect. Significant interactions existed between treatment and year and

152 between cultivar and year for the haulm nitrogen and haulm *in vitro* digestibility. No interactions were
153 observed for cultivar x treatment interactions for haulm nitrogen and *in vitro* digestibility.

154

155 Table 5 about here

156

157 A reasonably good agreement existed between traits measured under water restriction and control condition,
158 see Figures 2a to 2d. Water stress decreased pod and haulm yield but over-all ranking for these two traits
159 largely persisted across treatment (Figures 2a/b). In most cases haulm nitrogen contents were higher under
160 water stress than under control conditions but haulm *in vitro* digestibility was less affected by treatment
161 (Figures 2c/d).

162

163 Figures 2a/d about here

164

165 3.4. Opportunities for concomitant improvement of pod yield and haulm fodder quality traits

166

167 The average haulm nitrogen content across the 20 cultivars presented in Figure 3a was 2.51% and 2.73% in
168 the control and water stress treatment with associated average pod yields of 1595 kg/ha (control) and 605
169 kg/ha (water stress). In contrast, the average haulm nitrogen content across the 20 cultivars presented in
170 Figure 3b was 2.2% and 2.27% in the control and water stress treatment with associated average pod yields
171 of 2745 kg/ha (control) and 1558 kg/ha (water stress), indicating that selecting for the highest pod yield
172 genotypes would not select the highest haulm nitrogen content genotypes but would still provide germplasm
173 with relatively high haulm N content. Similarly average haulm *in vitro* digestibility across the 20 cultivars
174 presented in Figure 3c was 63.3 and 63.5% in the control and water stress treatment with associated average
175 pod yields of 1575 kg/ha (control) and 697 kg/ha (water stress). In contrast, the average haulm *in vitro*
176 digestibility across the 20 cultivars presented in Figure 3d was 61.2 and 60.1% in the control and water stress
177 treatment with and again associated average pod yields of 2745 kg/ha (control) and 1558 kg/ha (water
178 stress). While selecting highest ranking pod yielders will not result in highest haulm nitrogen and *in vitro*
179 digestibilities there is still considerable variation in these haulm quality traits to be exploited (Figures 3a-d).

180

181 4. Discussion

182
183 *4.1. Variations in groundnut haulm fodder quality traits*
184
185 Farmers in mixed crop-livestock systems are often resource poor with regards to land and water, which
186 severely limits their options for mitigating feed scarcity. Fodder is sourced mainly from crop production in the
187 form of crop residues. In India, for example, crop residues is providing about 44% of the country's fodder
188 resources at the turn of the century (NIANP, 2003) but their contribution is predicted to increase to almost
189 70% by the 2020 (Ramachandra et al 2007). The bulk of these crop residues are from cereals and only about
190 10% from legumes, to which groundnut haulms contributing more than 30% (NIANP, 2003). So, looking at
191 fodder trait in an important food and cash crop such as groundnut is important. A distinguishing feature of
192 cereal and leguminous crop residues affecting their fodder value is the low nitrogen content of the former.
193 Ruminant livestock, or more correctly their rumen microbial populations, require a minimum threshold level of
194 about 1 to 1.2% of nitrogen in the feed for efficient feed digestion (Van Soest 1994). Cereal crop residues
195 provide on average only about half of this requirement while leguminous crop residues provide usually more
196 than minimum nitrogen requirements (Sundstøl and Owen 1984). In the present work, independent of
197 treatment, haulms of all groundnut cultivars would supply feed nitrogen well above this threshold level as the
198 lowest nitrogen contents were 1.94 and 1.81% in the water restricted and control treatment, respectively (see
199 Table 2). Groundnut haulms are therefore very suitable as nitrogen supplement to cereal crop residues to
200 provide for at least the minimum nitrogen content of the overall feed ration of 1 to 1.2%. The ranges in haulm
201 nitrogen content observed were considerable (water stress: 1.94 – 2.88% and control: 1.81 – 2.66%). When
202 used as a supplement to an average cereal crop residue targeting an overall feed ration nitrogen content of
203 1.2%, groundnut haulms with a nitrogen content of 1.94% would need to contribute about 45% to the feed
204 ration but only about 26% if the haulms contains 2.88% of nitrogen. Since groundnut haulms are generally in
205 short supply relative to cereal crop residues, cultivar with higher nitrogen content in the haulms would make
206 substantial contributions to improved crop residue based feed resources.

207
208 *In vitro* digestibility yields a close estimate of the feed energy available to the livestock and is therefore an
209 important quality trait in feeds (McDonald et al 1988). Digestibility was the key variable in ex-ante impact
210 assessments of the genetic enhancement of sorghum and pearl miller stover as livestock fodder (Kristjanson
211 and Zerbini, 1999). These authors calculated that a one-percentage unit increase in digestibility would result

212 in increases in milk, meat and draught power outputs ranging from 6 to 8%. In sorghum stover and rice straw
213 a cultivar-dependent difference of 3 to 5 percentage units in *in vitro* digestibility resulted in a 20% and higher
214 price (Blümmel and Rao, 2006; Blümmel *et al* 2010). For grasses, a 3 to 4 percent difference in digestibility
215 was associated with 17 to 24 percent differences in animal performance (Vogel and Sleper, 1994). Thus the
216 observed cultivars dependent ranges in haulm *in vitro* digestibility of 4.7 to 7 percentage units in water
217 stressed and control treatments, respectively (Table 2), indicate substantially different potentials in supporting
218 livestock productivity.

219
220 This can be further corroborated using data from Prasad *et al.* (2010) who tested haulms from 10 different
221 cultivars as sole feed with sheep and observed cultivars-dependent variation in daily live weight gain (LWG)
222 of 65 to 137. Live weight gain was reasonably well predicted by multiple regressions using laboratory traits
223 such as acid detergent lignin (ADL) and metabolizable energy (ME) which is very closely associated with *in*
224 *vitro* digestibility. While ADL and ME were not specifically reported on in the present paper they were
225 measured, see also Table 1. Based on the Prasad *et al.* (2010) regression equation ($LWG = -0.57 - 25.1$
226 $ADL + 25.7 ME$, $R^2 = 0.92$) and actual ADL and ME values determined in the present work predicted LWG
227 ranged cultivar dependent from 69 to 149 gram per day when fed with haulm from water stress management
228 and from 93 to 160 gram when fed with haulm from fully irrigated plots. In other words choice of cultivar will
229 have substantial effects on livestock productivity in feeding systems where groundnut haulms provide the
230 major part of the feed.

231

232 4.2. Trade-offs between pod and haulm yield and haulm fodder quality traits

233

234 Farmer will rarely sacrifice pod yield for haulm yield and fodder quality even though there is anecdotal
235 evidence that occasionally farmer can make more money from groundnut haulms than from pods (Waliyar,
236 personal communication). In a preliminary investigation Nigam and Blümmel (2010) phenotyped more than
237 800 groundnut cultivars for haulm fodder quality traits and did not find any significant inverse relationship
238 between haulm traits and pod yields, however, their trials were conducted under optimal on-station
239 agronomic conditions. Absence of trade-offs between haulm fodder traits and pod yield was also reported by
240 Larbi *et al.* (1999) and Omokanye *et al.* (2011) using limited number of cultivars from West Africa. In the
241 present work significant inverse relations were observed between haulm nitrogen content and *in vitro*

242 digestibility and pod yields (Figures 1a/c). However, trade-offs between haulm nitrogen content and *in vitro*
243 digestibility and pod yields under fully irrigated conditions were weak and accounted for only 5 and 4% of the
244 variation in pod yield. By contrast, water stress clearly aggravated potential trade-offs and in this case
245 variations in haulm nitrogen content and *in vitro* digestibility accounted for 40 and 28% of the variation in pod
246 yield under those conditions (Figures 1a/c). In other words, a higher haulm nitrogen content and higher haulm
247 *in vitro* digestibility was highly significantly related to lower pod yields. Nevertheless, even under such
248 circumstances, i.e. at high level of pod yield under water stress, variations in haulm nitrogen and *in vitro*
249 digestibility exist that can be exploited without detriment to pod yield (see Figures 3a-d below).

250
251 The fact that strong trade-offs between haulm nitrogen content and pod yield were specifically found under
252 water stress clearly suggests a causal role of water stress in eliciting these trade-offs. Groundnut pod
253 containing about 25% protein, i.e. approximately 4% nitrogen, and groundnut pods are demanding sinks for
254 nitrogen. In the companion paper (Hamidou et al., FCR, under review), it is also reported that the harvest
255 index decreased under water stress in these trials, indicating that water stress had an effect on plant
256 reproduction. We then discussed that part of the groundnut tolerance to water stress may be tolerance of the
257 reproductive stages to water stress. These two facts are likely related. Under water stress, genotypes being
258 the most tolerant (higher pod yield under stress), maintain a larger number of pods, which become active
259 sinks for nitrogen and therefore deplete the haulm of nitrogen relatively more than in sensitive genotypes,
260 leading to lower haulm nitrogen. By contrast, the most sensitive genotypes have a lesser number of pods and
261 consequently a lower sink for nitrogen, which likely lead to leaving a larger proportion of the nitrogen in the
262 stems and leaves. We may even speculate that dual purpose groundnut germplasm (high pod yield and
263 fodder quality under drought stress), might be lines having the capacity to sustain biological nitrogen fixation
264 at high level under water stress.

265
266 In the case of the relationship between haulm yield and fodder quality traits, these were positive in all
267 conditions, meaning that the most haulm productive genotypes were also those having the highest fodder
268 quality values. With regards to haulm nitrogen content, the higher fodder quality genotypes could be
269 explained by a higher symbiotic nitrogen fixation ability, leading to higher N status in the plant canopy. This
270 itself would be able to drive photosynthesis up, which could lead to enhanced sugar levels in the shoot and
271 then higher levels of digestibility.

272

273 4.3. Opportunities for concomitant improvement of pod yield and haulm fodder quality traits

274

275 Increasing pod yields will not invariably result in reduced haulm fodder quality traits, rather a concomitant
276 improvement of pod yields and haulm fodder traits seems feasible since considerable independence exists
277 between those traits. It is indeed possible to identify genotypes having high pod yields and relatively high
278 haulm nitrogen content and in-vitro digestibility under both water regimes. As outlined in Figures 3a-d suitable
279 lines/cultivars could be chosen based on high haulms quality traits or high pod yields. The latter approach
280 appeared to be more suitable even though cultivars/lines with highest haulm nitrogen and *in vitro* digestibility
281 will unlikely be selected. Indeed, the selection of the highest pod yields genotypes gave an average haulm
282 nitrogen content of 2.2% and 2.27% in the control and water stress treatment, which was within 10 and 20%
283 of the average values of the 20 genotypes with the highest haulm nitrogen content. Similarly, the selection of
284 the highest pod yields genotypes had an average *in vitro* digestibility of 61.2 and 60.1% in the control and
285 water stress treatment, which was within 2-3 units of the average values of the 20 genotypes with the highest
286 *in vitro* digestibility values. Therefore, while selecting highest ranking pod yielders will not result in highest
287 haulm nitrogen and *in vitro* digestibilities, there is still considerable variation in these haulm quality traits to be
288 exploited (Figures 3a-d).

289

290 Figures 3a-d about here

291

292 The selection should probably be done under water stress where the trade-offs between quality traits and pod
293 yield were the largest. Maintaining high haulm nitrogen content might also imply selecting genotypes in
294 which symbiotic nitrogen fixation is tolerant to water stress. There has been recent report of genotypic
295 variation for that trait (Devi et al., 2010). Crosses are currently being made between lines contrasting for pod
296 yield under water stress and some crosses will also combine a contrast for productivity traits and for quality
297 traits.

298

299 **Conclusion**

300

301 Livestock nutritionally significant variations in haulm nitrogen content and in *in vitro* digestibility were found in
302 this representative set of groundnut germplasm. Under fully irrigated conditions there was virtually no trade-off
303 between these quality traits and the pod and haulm yield productivity. By contrast, under water stress
304 conditions, high quality traits tended to be negatively related to pod yield, suggesting an indirect effect of
305 drought on groundnut reproduction with consequences on the source-sink relationship for nitrogen. However,
306 even at high levels of pod yield under stress, it was possible to identify genotypes with haulm nitrogen
307 contents and *in vitro* digestibility value that were close to the maximum values. Therefore, these results open
308 great opportunities for breeding in parallel for high productivity and high fodder quality under drought stress in
309 groundnut.

310

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312

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317

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367
 368 **Table 1:** Comparisons of NIRS blind-predicted nitrogen, neutral (NDF) and acid detergent fiber (ADF), acid
 369 detergent lignin (ADL), *in vitro* digestibility (IVOMD) and metabolisable energy content (ME) with
 370 conventionally measured traits based on coefficient of variation (R^2) and standard error of prediction

Haulm Trait	N	R^2	SEP
Haulm nitrogen	220	0.99	0.09
Haulm NDF	77	0.99	1.8
Haulm ADF	79	0.98	2.0
Haulm ADL	80	0.85	0.9
Haulm IVOMD	218	0.97	1.18
Haulm ME	221	0.96	0.20

371
 372 **Table 2:** Means, ranges and statistical variations in pod yields (kg/ha), haulm yields (kg/ha) and haulm
 373 nitrogen contents (%) and *in vitro* digestibilities (%) in groundnut cultivars grown under stress (n =
 374 202) and control (n = 194) condition at Patancheru, India in 2009 and 2010

Variable	Means	Ranges	P<F	h^2
Pod yield				
Stress	988	316 - 1951	0.0001	0.77
Control	1753	589 – 3283	0.0001	0.70
Haulm yield				
Stress	2916	1232 – 4622	0.0001	0.73
Control	3840	1777 – 6045	0.0001	0.70
Haulm nitrogen				
Stress	2.41	1.94 – 2.88	0.0001	0.77
Control)	2.23	1.81 – 2.66	0.0001	0.70
Haulm digestibility				
Stress	60.9	57.3 – 64.3	0.0001	0.26
Control	61.6	59.5 – 64.2	0.0001	0.44

375 Pod and haulm yield data were obtained from the accompanying work of Hamidou et al 2011

377 Table 3: Across treatment (control and water-stressed) and years (2009 and 2010) means, ranges and
 378 statistical variations in pod yields (kg/ha), haulm yields (kg/ha) and haulm nitrogen contents (%) and
 379 *in vitro* digestibilities (%) in 172 groundnut cultivars grown at Patancheru, India

Variable	Means	Ranges	P < F	h ²
Pod yield	1353	466 – 2488	0.0001	0.72
Haulm yield	3461	1539 – 5178	0.0001	0.75
Haulm nitrogen	2.34	1.96 – 2.70	0.0001	0.81
Haulm digestibility	61.4	59.0 - 63.9	0.0001	0.49

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382 Table 4: Intercorrelations between pod yields (kg/ha), haulm yields (kg/ha), haulm nitrogen contents (%) and
 383 *in vitro* digestibilities (%) across treatment (control and water stressed) and year (2009 and 2010) in
 384 172 groundnut cultivars grown at Patancheru, India

Variable	Pod yield	Haulm yield	Haulm nitrogen	Haulm digestibility
Pod yield				
Haulm yield	-0.13 [0.08]			
Haulm nitrogen	-0.45 [0.0001]	0.65 [0.0001]		
Haulm digestibility	-0.44 [0.0001]	0.59 [0.0001]	0.77 [0.0001]	

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394 Table 5: Effect of cultivar, year of planting and treatment (control and water-stressed) on haulm nitrogen
 395 content and *in vitro* digestibility of 172 cultivars of groundnut grown at Patancheru, India in 2009 and
 396 2010

Source	F-value	P > F
Variable haulm nitrogen content		
Cultivar	8.1	0.0001
Treatment	372.5	0.0001
Year	2835.9	0.0001
Treatment x year	356.7	0.0001
Cultivar x treatment	1.0	0.620
Cultivar x year	1.7	0.0001
Cultivar x treatment x year	1.0	0.627
Variable haulm <i>in vitro</i> digestibility		
Cultivar	2.7	0.0001
Treatment	38.4	0.0001
Year	1368.3	0.0001
Treatment x year	213.1	0.0001
Cultivar x treatment	0.9	0.84
Cultivar x year	1.3	0.008
Cultivar x treatment x year	1	0.49

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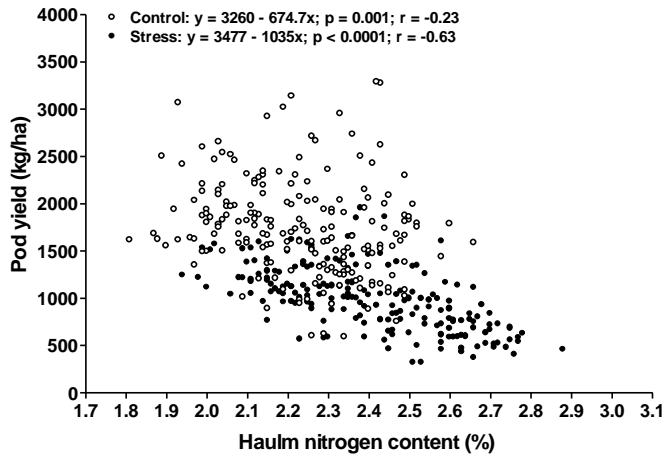


Figure 1a: Relationships between haulm nitrogen contents and pod yields in a wide range of groundnut cultivars grown at two cropping seasons and water managements

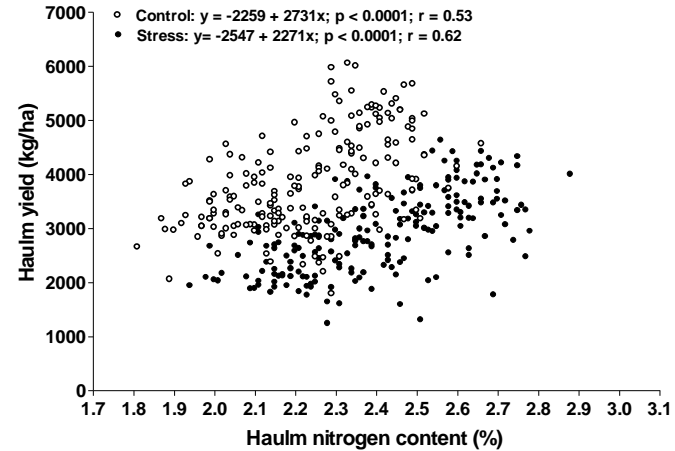


Figure 1b: Relationships between haulm nitrogen contents and haulm yields in a wide range of groundnut cultivars grown at two cropping seasons and water managements

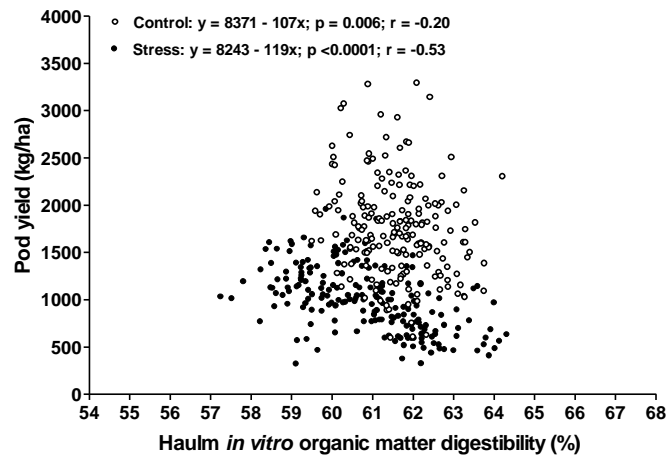


Figure 1c: Relationships between haulm *in vitro* digestibility and pod yields in a wide range of groundnut cultivars grown at two cropping seasons and water managements

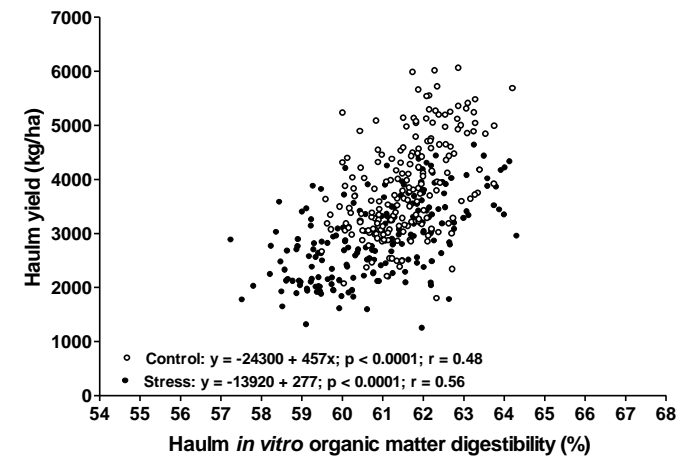


Figure 1d: Relationships between haulm *in vitro* digestibility and pod yields in a wide range of groundnut cultivars grown at two cropping seasons and water managements

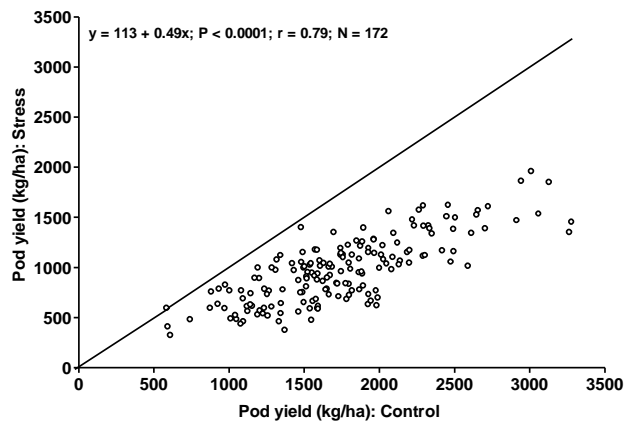


Figure 2a: Relationships between pod yields of groundnut cultivars grown at stress and control water management across two season

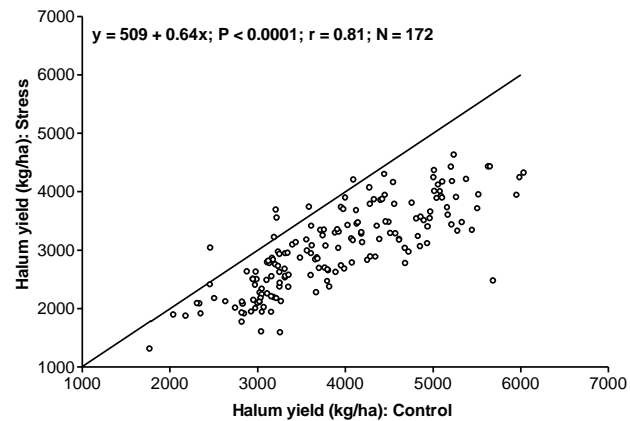


Figure 2b: Relationships between haulm yields of groundnut cultivars grown at stress and control water management across two season

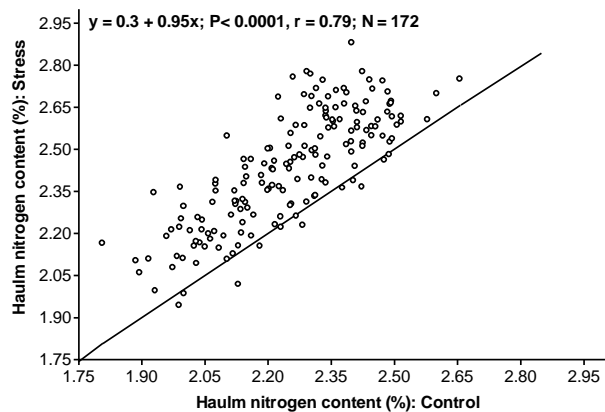


Figure 2c: Relationships between nitrogen contents of haulms of groundnut cultivars grown at stress and control water managements across two season

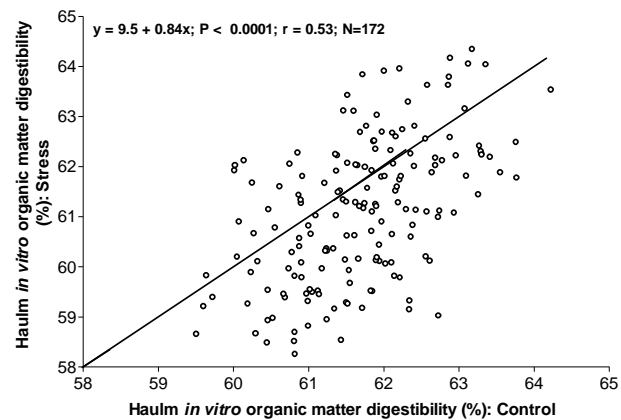
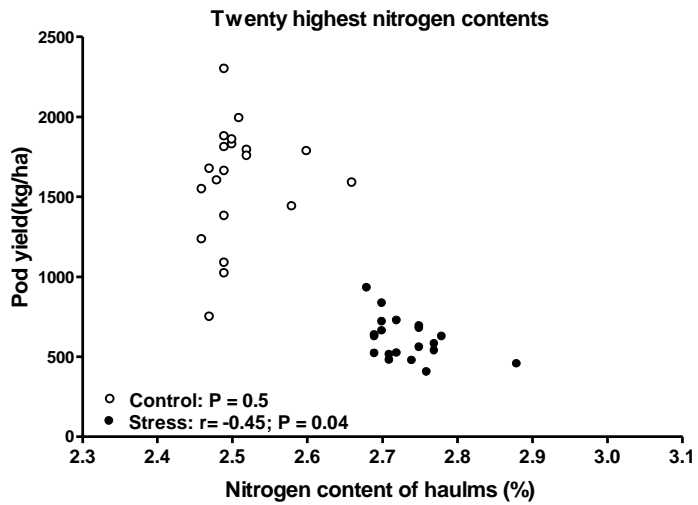
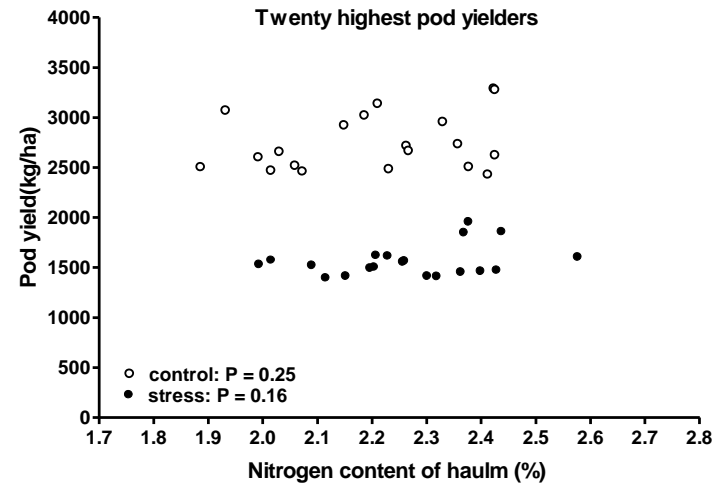


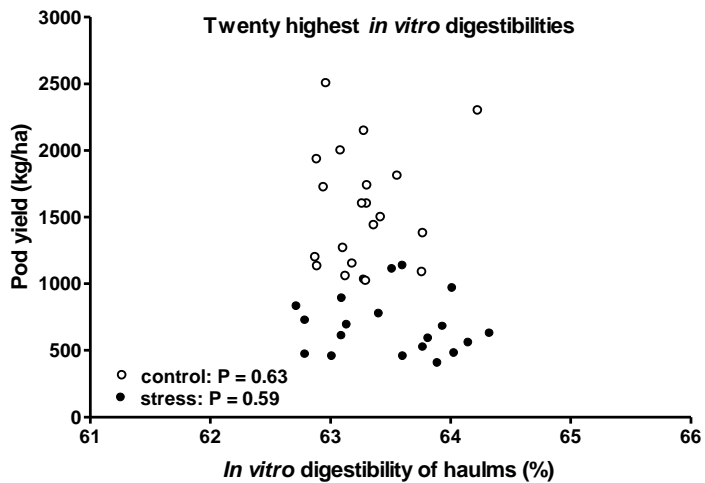
Figure 2d: Relationships between in vitro digestibility of haulms of groundnut cultivars grown at stress and control water managements across two season



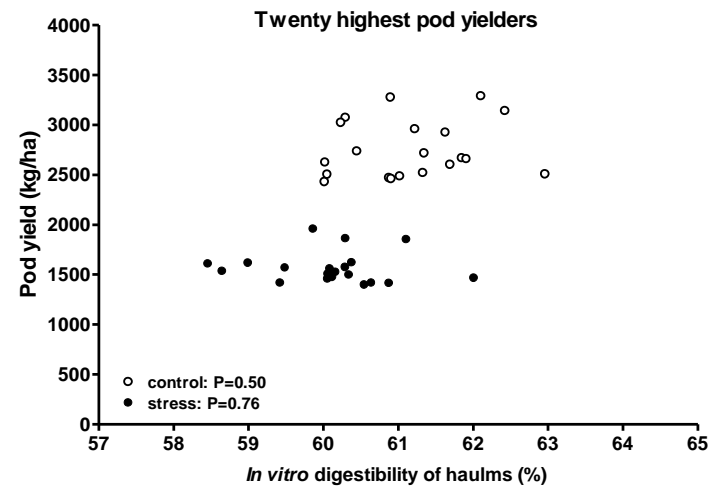
3a: Relationships between haulm nitrogen contents and pod yield in cultivars ranked for haulm nitrogen



3b: Relationships between haulm nitrogen contents and pod yield in cultivars ranked for pod yield



3c: Relationships between haulm *in vitro* digestibility and pod yield in cultivars ranked for *in vitro* digestibility



3d: Relationships between haulm *in vitro* digestibility and pod yield in cultivars ranked for pod yield