



## Estimation of genetic progress after eight cycles of recurrent selection for common bean grain yield

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**ABSTRACT** - *The objective of this study was to estimate the genetic progress of eight cycles of recurrent selection for common bean lines with high yield. The base population was obtained from 10 parents differing in several characters. To date, eight selection cycles have been performed. In each cycle the selection process continues after recombination, until lines are established, which are then evaluated more extensively in the experiment of evaluation of elite lines together with lines of other programs. The genetic progress was estimated based on the data of evaluations of these lines in each cycle over the years. The estimated genetic progress of 3.3 % per cycle allows the conclusion that recurrent selection for grain yield is efficient.*

**Key words:** *plant breeding, quantitative genetics, Phaseolus vulgaris L.*

### INTRODUCTION

Most traits of economic importance breeders work are polygenic. This means that it is virtually impossible to accumulate all favorable alleles in a line all at once. The solution is to accumulate these favorable alleles stepwise or to use recurrent selection. In this case, the best plants and/or families are recombined with each selection cycle. It is hoped thereby to increase the frequency of genotypically superior plants in the population without reducing the genetic variability (Ramalho et al. 2001, Hallauer 1992).

The use of recurrent selection was proposed for allogamous plants some decades ago. In the case of autogamous plants, the use is more recent, but widespread for various species such as wheat (Wang et al. 1996), rice (Rangel et al. 1998), oats (Koeyer et al. 1993), and soybean

(Wilcox 1998). For common bean, there is a number of reports on the use of recurrent selection to improve several traits, e.g., plant architecture (Menezes Junior et al. 2008), pathogen resistance (Amaro et al. 2007), crop cycle (Silva et al. 2007), and grain yield (Ramalho et al. 2005).

In Brazil, the prevailing bean grain type is carioca, i.e., beige with brown stripes. This kind of beans came on the market in 1969 (Almeida et al. 1971) and as the acceptance has increased since then, breeding programs have largely focused on developing lines with this grain type (Ramalho and Abreu 2006).

At the Federal University of Lavras (UFLA), a recurrent selection program with common bean was conducted to increase yields as of 1990. After the identification of the best progenies in each selection cycle, selection continued until lines were established. These

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were assessed over the years, along with lines from other programs in the subsequent growing seasons, before being tested in the experiments of value for cultivation and use (VCU).

The success of recurrent selection is evaluated by the estimated genetic progress. In the case of autogamous plants, there are several possibilities to obtain this estimate (Ramalho et al. 2005). The progress in selection of the population of the recurrent selection program of UFLA was estimated at 4.3% in the first four cycles (Ramalho et al. 2005). The methodology used an experiment in which the top five lines of each cycle were evaluated simultaneously, all seeds recently propagated in one growing season. Another option, still little explored, is to use evaluation data of the lines obtained in each cycle. The advantage of this procedure is that no additional experiment is required.

In this context, the purpose of this study was to estimate the genetic gain for grain yield of carioca type in the recurrent selection program for common bean of UFLA after eight selection cycles, using data from evaluations of lines in each cycle over the years.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Data of a recurrent selection program of UFLA (Federal University of Lavras), initiated in 1990, were used. The base population had been obtained from the lines shown in Table 1. These lines were crossed and F<sub>1</sub> seeds obtained from the following hybrids: BAT 477 x IAPAR 14, FT 84-292 x BAT 477, Jalo x A-252, A-77 x Ojo de Liebre, ESAL 645 x Jalo, Pintado x BAT 477, BAT 477 x Carioca, IAPAR 14 x Pintado and ESAL 645 x A

252. Subsequently, double-cross hybrids were obtained. One hundred and fifty seeds of the F<sub>2</sub> hybrids of different double-cross hybrids with better grain type were mixed to obtain the population of the first cycle (C-I), the S<sub>0</sub> generation.

The S<sub>0:1</sub> progenies were obtained and evaluated in Lavras. Subsequently, the best S<sub>0:2</sub> progenies were evaluated at two or more locations, with more replications. The best S<sub>0:3</sub> progenies were recombined. The process of evaluating recombinant and various other progenies continued until the establishment of inbred lines (S<sub>0:8</sub>). This process was repeated until the eighth cycle (C-VIII).

The best lines of each cycle were evaluated in the test of elite lines of the UFLA breeding program. The experiments usually have 25 to 36 lines. Part of these lines is derived from the recurrent selection mentioned above and the others from other selection programs. Three common control cultivars Carioca, Carioca MG and Ouro Negro were also included. The plots consisted of two 4-m rows with 15 seeds per meter. The experiments were assessed at several locations, however, only the data obtained in Lavras were used. Seeds were sown for the three growing seasons in which common bean is usually grown in Minas Gerais, that is, in February, July and November. The management and cultural practices were those regionally recommended for the crop. In the growing seasons of February and July, the experiments were irrigated to complement rainfall. The lines of each cycle were evaluated for two years.

The grain yield data (in kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) were evaluated in a randomized block design, involving only lines of the recurrent selection and the three controls, and were subjected to analysis of variance per growing season and

**Table 1.** Some traits of the common bean lines used in the base population of the recurrent selection program of UFLA

Lines	Origin	Race	Growth habit <sup>1</sup>	Grain type
BAT 477	CIAT	Mesoamérica	II	Beige
IAPAR 14	IAPAR	Mesoamérica	III	Beige with brown stripes
FT 84-292	FT Sementes	Mesoamérica	II	Beige with brown stripes
Jalo	EPAMIG	Nova Granada	III	Yellow
A-252	CIAT	Mesoamérica	III	Beige with brown stripes
A-77	CIAT	Mesoamérica	I	Beige with brown stripes
Ojo de Liebre	CIAT	Durango	III	Beige with brown stripes
ESAL 645	UFLA	Mesoamérica	II	Beige with brown stripes
Pintado	UFLA	Nova Granada	III	Striped
Carioca	IAC	Mesoamérica	III	Beige with brown stripes

<sup>1</sup> Type I: Determinate growth habit; Type II, III and IV: Indeterminate growth habit.

cycle. Subsequently, a combined analysis was performed involving all cycles using the following model and considering all effects as fixed, except block and error:

$$Y_{ijkl} = \mu + c_l + s_{(k)l} + b_{j(k)l} + I_i + I_{c_{il}} + I_{s_{ik(l)}} + e_{(ijkl)}$$

where:

$Y_{ijkl}$  = observation of line  $i$  in block  $j$ , in the growing season  $k$ , in cycle  $l$ ;  $\mu$  = general mean;  $c_l$  = effect of cycle  $l$ ;  $s_{(k)l}$  = effect of growing season  $k$  in cycle  $l$ ;  $b_{j(k)l}$  = effect of block  $j$  in growing season  $k$ , in cycle  $l$ ;  $I_i$  = effect of line  $i$  (includes the lines of each cycle and the common controls);  $I_{c_{il}}$  = effect of interaction lines  $\times$  cycles (includes only the common controls);  $I_{s_{ik(l)}}$  = interaction of line  $\times$  growing season in the cycle (includes the lines of each cycle and the common controls); and  $e_{(ijkl)}$  = experimental error associated with  $Y_{ijkl}$ . All tests were performed using SAS (SAS Institute 2000).

To estimate the genetic progress, the adjusted means were used for all lines, except the common control of each cycle. The linear regression equation was adjusted between the independent variable, number of selection cycles ( $x = 1, 2, \dots, 8$ ) and the dependent variable, the mean grain yield of the lines of each cycle ( $y$ ). The percentage gain or genetic progress per cycle (PG%) was estimated by the following expression:  $PG = (b_1/b_0) * 100$ , where  $b_1$  is the estimated of the linear regression coefficient or absolute gain per cycle and  $b_0$  is the estimated intercept or mean grain yield in cycle zero ( $C_0$ ).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It was decided to estimate the genetic progress of the experiments conducted in Lavras only because until the establishment of the lines most progenies were assessed there. In total, data from 42 experiments in two years, in eight selection cycles were used. The number of experiments should be 48, however, six were not included because they were not conducted in the determined growing seasons and years or because the data were lost due to some climate problem.

To get a good estimate of the genetic progress in lines obtained at the end of each cycle, the efficiency of selection until the establishment of the lines must be similar in the different cycles. Since the basic process of conducting the progenies was very similar, differing only in the number of progenies evaluated in each generation, it was concluded that the estimate obtained is reliable.

In the analysis of variance of the lines from each

selection cycle and also of the three controls, the differences between lines were significant ( $P \leq 0.05$ ), except in the lines derived from cycle VI, indicating that there was still variability between the lines at the end of the process. The difference between yields in all cycles was also significant ( $P \leq 0.001$ ) as well as for the interaction line  $\times$  growing season, except in the cycles I, V and VII (Table 2). The occurrence of line  $\times$  growing season interaction in common bean is often reported. It was observed that this interaction is even more pronounced than that of line  $\times$  location (Carneiro et al. 2002, Matos et al. 2007).

The summary of combined variance of the lines of all cycles showed significant differences between cycles, growing seasons, lines, and the interactions of line  $\times$  cycle and line  $\times$  growing season/cycle (Table 3). The line  $\times$  cycle interaction showed that the mean performance of the controls was not coincident in the different cycles. Thus, more than one control is needed in such studies for a better adjustment of the performance of the lines obtained in different cycles. In this study, the controls were two cultivars with carioca grain ('Carioca' and 'Carioca MG') and one with black grain ('Ouro Negro'), all recommended for the region during most of the evaluation period.

A slight tendency to increase the mean of lines in each cycle was observed throughout the cycles (Table 4). The regression coefficient ( $b_1$ ) between the independent variable number of cycles and the dependent variable mean of cycles was  $b_1 = 68.58$  (Figure 1). As reference to estimate the genetic progress (in %) the value of the intercept of the regression was used instead of the mean of the lines from the first cycle, because the lines of cycle I had already been derived from a selection cycle. The value of the intercept of the regression would correspond to the mean of the lines in cycle 0. This would be as if the mean of the 10 parent lines were used (Table 1), with which the selection program had been initiated. This indicates that the increase in the mean of the lines with recurrent selection was  $68.58 \text{ kg ha}^{-1}$  per cycle, i.e., a gain of 3.3 % per cycle.

It could be argued that, as the number of lines obtained at the end of each cycle was different (Table 4), the estimated progress could be influenced by this difference. To prove this fact, the progress was estimated based on a random sample of six lines per cycle. It was observed that the estimate of  $b_1$  (Figure 2) was very similar to that obtained when considering a different number of lines to obtain the mean of each cycle (Figure 1).

The magnitude of the estimated progress with recurrent

**Table 2.** Summary of the analysis of variance of grain yield (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) per cycle, including all lines derived from the program of recurrent selection for common bean yield

Cycles	Mean Square			Mean	R <sup>2</sup> (%) <sup>1</sup>
	Growing season (S)	Line (L)	S x L		
I	7627207.4*	447834.6*	272924.2	1873	73.10
II	35599100.6*	1141439.2*	352734.4*	2152	85.31
III	15152533.3*	710535.9*	261653.9*	2414	84.54
IV	10827329.7*	438791.2*	2148976**	3086	83.66
V	11270397.9*	223299.9*	154266.6	2415	78.99
VI	2600414.7*	271014.5**	410323.1**	2563	51.88
VII	1442805.4*	347292.5*	207331.6	2475	52.31
VIII	5473329.3*	813884.0*	383930.0*	2052	71.87

<sup>1</sup> Coefficient of determination of the statistical model.

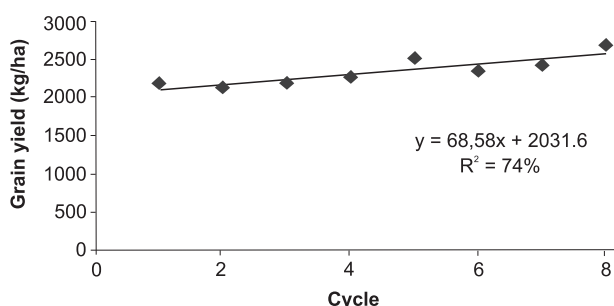
\*, \*\*: significant at 5% and 1% probability, respectively, by the F test.

**Table 3.** Analysis of variance of grain yield (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) involving all lines derived from the eight recurrent selection cycles of common bean

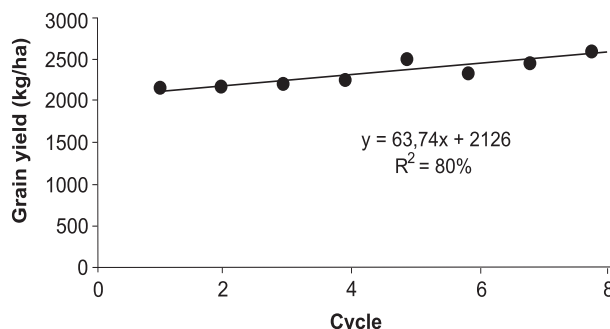
Source of variation	df	MS	Pr > F
Cycles	7	8505125.5	< 0.0001
Growing seasons/cycle	34	11741859.2	< 0.0001
Blocks/growing seasons/cycle	82	211177.3	0.1761
Lines	80	595641.9	< 0.0001
Lines x cycles	14	326795.1	0.0367
Lines x growing seasons/cycle	395	293019.8	< 0.0001
Error	910	183171.006	
Mean		2346.40	
R <sup>2</sup> (%)		82.10	
CV (%)		18.24	

**Table 4.** Mean grain yield (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) of common bean lines in eight cycles of recurrent selection, adjusted for the controls

Cycles	Mean of lines	Mean of controls	No. lines/cycle
I	2186	2030	8
II	2125	2329	18
III	2180	2584	9
IV	2263	3183	6
V	2517	2328	10
VI	2341	2612	10
VII	2416	2466	10
VIII	2696	1840	7



**Figure 1.** Response of grain yield (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) of common bean lines in each selection cycle.



**Figure 2.** Response of grain yield (kg ha<sup>-1</sup>) of six random common bean lines in each selection cycle.

selection for common bean grain yield was similar as in other situations, in which however a lower number of cycles was evaluated (Singh et al. 1999) and lower than that reported by Ranalli (1996) and Barron et al. (1999). It is noteworthy that these authors used the progeny means of S<sub>0.1</sub> and S<sub>0.2</sub> as reference, besides evaluating a smaller number of

cycles. The genetic progress by recurrent selection for grain yield was obtained in other species of autogamous plants, such as soybean (Sumarno and Fehr, 1982, Werner and Wilcox 1990).

The genetic progress of this program was estimated

by Ramalho et al. (2005). Selection progress was 4.3% in the first four cycles. The methodology used an experiment in which the top five lines of each cycle were evaluated simultaneously, all seeds recently propagated in a growing season. The procedure used here, besides not requiring any additional experiments, estimated the progress based on the adjusted means as related to the controls. The estimate of genetic progress can be considered similar in both conditions.

Recurrent selection was shown to be efficient and in the future lines with increasing grain yield may be obtained if the program continues. The estimate of genetic progress

of 3.3% per cycle allows the conclusion that recurrent selection for grain yield is efficient. The genetic progress in the eighth cycle was estimated at 26.4%.

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# Estimativa do progresso genético após oito ciclos de seleção recorrente para produtividade de grãos do feijoeiro

**RESUMO** - O objetivo deste trabalho foi estimar o progresso genético após oito ciclos de seleção recorrente visando à obtenção de linhagens de feijão com alta produtividade. A população base foi obtida de dez genitores diferindo em vários caracteres. Até o momento foram realizados oito ciclos seletivos. Em cada ciclo o processo de seleção continua após a recombinação, até a obtenção de linhagens, que são então avaliadas mais intensivamente, juntamente com linhagens de outros programas no experimento de avaliação de linhagens elites. Para estimar o progresso genético foram utilizados os dados das avaliações dessas linhagens em cada ciclo ao longo desses anos. No total foram envolvidos dados de 42 experimentos nas semeaduras realizadas nos meses de Fevereiro, Julho e Novembro, por dois anos, nos oito ciclos seletivos. A estimativa do progresso genético de 3,3% por ciclo possibilita inferir que a seleção recorrente para a produtividade de grãos é eficiente.

**Palavras-chave:** Melhoramento de plantas, genética quantitativa, *Phaseolus vulgaris* L.

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