

Impact of Drought on Chlorophyll, Soluble protein, Abscisic acid, Yield and Quality

Characters of Contrasting Genotypes of Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*)

The MS requires major revision:

1. Material and methods must be expanded, more details on the methodologies used needed. Authors refer their readers to other's works ... all methodologies must be expanded and cover the details
2. Table and graphs titles must be self-explanatory, footnotes must be added under table/graph to explain the acronyms
3. The presentation of **Results** must be completely revised:
 - a. ANOVA table missing, adding the ANOVA can help seeing possible TXG interactions
 - b. Include statistics for treatments averages, as of now, your tables / graphs doesnot show if the treatments were effective or not
 - c. For each variable, first present the effect of treatments, the overall variation of cultivars, and then the interactions (if there is any).
 - d. once results presented, include relevant discussions. In the discussion, focus on the subjects that are relevant to your objectives
4. A proofreading at the end needed, some sentences are hard to follow .
5. other comments are in the text.

Abstracts

Impact of drought stress on chlorophyll, chlorophyll fluorescence (Fv/Fm), chlorophyll stability index (CSI), soluble protein, abscisic acid (ABA), yield and quality of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) genotypes was investigated for the assessment of drought tolerance under field conditions in rainout shelter. The drought condition was created first day from transplanting based on Irrigation water (IW) \pm Cumulative Pan Evaporation (CPE) of soil. Experiment was laid out with 10 genotypes by adopting FRBD with three replications and two treatments *viz., of*

28 | 1 IW₂CPE and 0.5 IW₂CPE. The result revealed that the reductions in chlorophyll content,
29 | Fv/Fm, chlorophyll stability index (CSI), soluble protein and yield were noticed at drought
30 | condition (0.5 IW/CPE). The genotypes LE 114, LE 57, and LE 118 which showed significantly
31 | less reduction in the above parameters during drought were considered as drought tolerant.
32 | ~~However, the~~ ABA content and quality characters ~~like such as~~ total soluble solids (TSS),
33 | lycopene content were increased under drought condition. Genotypes LE 1 and LE 125 which
34 | recorded the lowest chlorophyll content, Fv/Fm, CSI, soluble protein and higher ABA content
35 | ultimately poor yield were considered as drought susceptible.

36 | Key-words:

37 | Drought; Tomato; Chlorophyll; Chlorophyll Fluorescence; Soluble protein; CSI; ABA; TSS

38 | 1. Introduction

39 | Drought is the major inevitable and recurring feature of semi-arid tropics and despite our
40 | improved ability to predict their onset, duration and impact, crop scientists are still concerned
41 | about it as it remains the single most important factor affecting the yield potentials of crop
42 | species. It is one of the serious environmental factor affecting plant growth, yield, and quality. It
43 | induces various physiological and biochemical adaptations in plants. Drought is one of the most
44 | important factors for yield reduction in the majority of the cultivated areas, affected 40 to 60% of
45 | the world's agriculture lands [1].

46 | Water deficit leads to the perturbation of most of the physiological and biochemical
47 | processes and consequently reduces plant growth and yield [2]. Gladden *et al.* [3] showed that
48 | water deficit earlier in the growth of tomato caused a significant reduction in leaf chlorophyll
49 | content. Abdellah *et al.* [4] recorded the highest reduction in the chlorophyll content in
50 | susceptible wheat cultivar under water stress of 30% FC. Water stress reduced the total

51 chlorophyll content significantly in different genotypes of moth bean and reduction was more
52 pronounced in late flowering genotypes [5]. Sanadhya *et al.* [6] reported that the water stress
53 reduced the chlorophyll content and hill activity with increased levels of stress in mung bean.

54 There was a reduction of only 1.3% and 2.2% in Fv/Fm under moderate and severe stress
55 compared to control in *Withania somnifera* [7]. Chlorophyll fluorescence emission well on the
56 level of water stress and, thus, can be used to identify elevated drought tolerance in tomato for
57 selection of resistant genotypes [8]. Decreased chlorophyll content and chlorophyll stability
58 index under both moisture stress and temperature stress were found by Sairam *et al.* [9] in
59 wheat.

61 Daniel and Triboi [10] showed that heat stress decreased the duration of soluble protein
62 accumulation in terms of days after anthesis but not in terms of thermal time. Few studies have
63 investigated the combined influence of drought and heat stress on nitrogen metabolism. Abdellah *et*
64 *al.* [4] reported that the increased ABA content was observed in wheat cultivar by water stress
65 (30% FC) over control. Under intense water stress, the concentrations of ABA in plants
66 increases, which trigger a number of processes starting from decrease in turgor pressure, decline
67 in cellular expansion and stomatal closure to reduce water loss in leaves [11].

68 Meenakumari *et al.* [12] studied the physiological parameter governing drought tolerance
69 in maize and recorded more than 80 per cent reduction in yield in highly susceptible lines while
70 in relatively tolerant genotypes reduction was up to 50 per cent. Manojkumar *et al.* [13] reported
71 that water stressed tomato plants showed significant difference in the TSS level at different
72 irrigation levels. As the irrigation frequency increased TSS level decreased. Maximum per-cent

73 | TSS was observed under IW/CPE ratio of 0.60 (6.10%) and [the](#) minimum was recorded at the
74 | IW/CPE ratio of 1.20 (4.80%). The fruit quality improvement was observed under water deficit
75 | condition in tomato as a result of the synthesis of ascorbic acid, citric acid and malic acid [14].

76 | Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) is one of the most popular and widely grown
77 | vegetables in the world. Considering the potentiality of this crop, there is plenty of scope for
78 | its improvement, especially under the drought situation. Some of the [adaptive](#) mechanisms of
79 | plants to drought stress, which do not decrease plant yield to a greater extent, assume greater
80 | importance. There are several physiological and biochemical traits contributing to the
81 | drought tolerance of horticultural crops. However, [a](#) large number of tomato genotypes have not
82 | been screened for drought tolerance or exploited for their cultivation under drought situation and
83 | field condition.

84 | To breed drought tolerant genotypes, it is necessary to identify physiological traits of plants,
85 | which contributes to drought tolerance. Therefore, the present investigation was carried out to
86 | study the chlorophyll characters, soluble protein and ABA to facilitate the screening and
87 | selection of tomato genotypes for drought tolerance.

88 | **2. Materials and Methods**

89 | The study was undertaken to find out effect of drought on chlorophyll characters,
90 | soluble protein, ABA, yield and quality in tomato in the field experiment at Rainout Shelter
91 | of Crop Physiology Department, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

92 | The experiment was conducted with [ten](#) tomato genotypes *viz.*, LE 1, LE 27, LE 57, LE 114,
93 | LE 118, LE 125, CO 3, PKM 1, TH CO 2 and TNAU TH CO 3 and two treatments *viz.*, 1.0
94 | IW/CPE and 0.5 IW/CPE with three replications. Seeds of selected genotypes were sown in

95 trays filled with vermicompost for nursery. Twenty five days old seedlings were
96 transplanted and drought was imposed at first day after transplanting onwards based on
97 IW/CPE, 0.5 IW/CPE for drought stress and 1.0 IW/CPE for control were maintained by
98 irrigation the field at regular interval based cumulative pan evaporation. Crop was supplied
99 with fertilizers and other cultivation operations including plant protection measures as per
100 recommended package of practices of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. All the
101 observations were recorded on third leaf from top at 60 DAT. The experiment was laid out in
102 factorial randomized block design with three replications.

103 **2.1. Chlorophyll characters** → [more information is needed for all measurements methods,](#)
104 [DO NOT refer to other's work, include as much details on the methods as you can .](#)

105 **Total chlorophyll content** [use regular font, not bold](#) was estimated following the method
106 suggested by Arnon [15] and expressed as mg g^{-1} . [This is not adequate, explain how ...](#)

107 **Chlorophyll fluorescence** measurements were recorded using Plant Efficiency Analyzer
108 (Hansatech, UK) following the method advocated by Lu and Zhang [16].

109 Measurements were made on intact leaves, which were dark adapted for 30 min prior to
110 measurement. The minimal fluorescence level (F_0) with all PS II reaction centers open was
111 assessed by measuring the modulated light, which was sufficiently low ($< 0.1 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) not to
112 induce any significant variable fluorescence. The maximal fluorescence level (F_m) with all PS II
113 reaction centers closed were determined by a 0.8 s saturating pulse at $8000 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ in dark-
114 adapted leaves [17]. Using light and dark fluorescence parameters, the maximal efficiency of PS II
115 photochemistry in the dark adapted state, $F_v/F_m = (F_m - F_0) / F_m$ [18] was calculated. [Provide more](#)
116 [details about the fluorescence measurement method](#)

117 | Estimation of **CSI** was carried out based on the protocol of Koleyoras [19] [How?](#) and
118 | expressed in terms of per-cent by using following formula. [use Word Equation for formulas](#)

119 | Total chlorophyll content (Treated)
120 | Chlorophyll stability index (CSI) = ----- x 100
121 | Total chlorophyll content (Control)

122 | 2.2. Estimation of protein and ABA content

123 | **Soluble protein content** [regular font](#) of leaf was estimated as per the method of Lowry *et al.*
124 | [20] [how ?](#) and expressed as mg g⁻¹ fresh weight. Quantification of **abscisic acid** was done by
125 | using the instrument HPLC cyber lab with the column of RP 18 (4.6 mm ID x 250 mm) and
126 | mobile phase of acetonitrile (60) and water (40) by adopting the protocol of Krochko *et al.* [21].
127 | Leaf samples were extracted using 80 per cent chilled methanol following series of steps?
128 | and finally partially purified methanolic extracts were filtered through 0.52 µm Millipore
129 | filters and injected into 20 µL injector loop fitted over the Cyber lab RP protected by guard
130 | column. [Leaf collection/ sampling method, freezing, thawing ... describe the method clearly](#)

131 | A volume of 20 µL of sample was injected into HPLC. The elution was carried out by
132 | a binary gradient of 60 per cent HPLC grade acetonitrile for 20 minute at the flow rate of 1
133 | mL min⁻¹.

134 | The column elutes were passed through an UV detector set at 254 nm and the ABA
135 | were estimated measuring the peak area and comparing with standard curve of hormones.
136 | The peak areas were measured and ABA concentration quantified using the standard curve
137 | obtained from ABA.

138 The total weight of fruits harvested from each plant of all picking was added and average
139 yield per plant was worked out and expressed in gram per plant. Later the **yield per hectare** was
140 calculated and expressed as tonnes per hectare. [Combine in one paragraph](#)

141 **2.3. Quality characters**

142 Drop of juice extracted from cut fruit was used to determine **TSS** with the help of Hand
143 Refractometer (0 to 32°Brix) at room temperature and the value was noted in °Brix.
144 Lycopene content of fruit was extracted by using petroleum ether and OD of the extract was
145 measured at 503 nm in UV-VIS-spectrophotometer using petroleum ether as a blank [22].

146 **Lycopene** content of the sample was calculated by using the following formula and
147 expressed in mg 100 g⁻¹.

$$148 \text{ Lycopene} = \frac{3.1206 \times \text{OD of sample} \times \text{volume made up} \times \text{dilution}}{\text{Weight of sample} \times 1000} \times 100$$

151 The data on various parameters were analyzed statistically as per the procedure suggested
152 by Gomez and Gomez [23]. Wherever the treatment differences are found significant, critical
153 differences were worked out at five per cent probability level and the values were furnished??
154 and discussed.

156 **3. Results and Discussion**

157 **3.1. Impact of drought on chlorophyll characters**

158 The intensity of the greenness in terms of **chlorophyll content** of the plant had
159 influenced the photosynthetic rate and thereby the efficiency of the plant for increased biomass

160 production. Ma *et al.* [24] reported a highly significant correlation of chlorophyll in terms of SPAD
161 values/ readings with photosynthetic rate in soybean and Kapotis *et al.* [25] in weed species
162 (*Amaranthus viltus* L.). Chlorophyll content in terms of SPAD values can be used for evaluation for
163 the response of plant species to the drought and heat stresses in the field [26]. First presnt the
164 results, then disccuss, dont start with discussion. In the present study, the adverse effect of
165 drought on greenness of the leaf could be observed through about 23.48 per cent reduction in
166 mean total chlorophyll content. Rephrase, not clear, simply report the findings (apperantly
167 reduction in SPAD due to drought? , then explain why, and what other people found The
168 reduction of chlorophyll content under drought might be due to the fact that drought stress
169 blemishes the chlorophyll content through causing internal modification in the thylakoid
170 membrane. Similar to this finding, Ghaffari *et al.* [27] stated that the tolerant sunflower line had
171 higher chlorophyll than the susceptible line under drought. Among the genotypes, highest
172 reduction of total chlorophyll content was recorded in the genotype LE 1 (34.76%) followed by
173 LE 125 (33.10%) and CO TH 2 (31.65%) under drought (**Table 1**). The present study also
174 indicated the ability of the genotypes LE 57 (18.79%), LE114 (19.65%) and LE 118 (21.37) in
175 maintaining total chlorophyll content under drought (0.5 IW/CPE) by showing less reduction.
176 Therefore, these genotypes were able to endure drought injury better than the sensitive lines. These
177 findings are in agreement with the earlier findings of Petcu *et al.* [28] in sunflower.

178 A considerable reduction in **chlorophyll fluorescence (Fv/Fm)** was observed ~~under due~~
179 ~~to the~~ drought ~~treatment condition~~. ~~The~~ A possible reason for this effect is that the drought
180 stressed plants have lower capacity for the use of transported electrons and their electron
181 transport chain is more reduced at any light condition [29].

182 For the treatments, ~~lesser-smaller~~ mean fluorescence value (0.63) was registered by 0.5
 183 IW/CPE with the reduction of 25.88 per cent than 1.0 IW/CPE (0.85). Relating to the genotypes,
 184 LE 57 was significantly superior chlorophyll fluorescence value (0.74) followed by LE 118 and
 185 LE 27 while the lowest was recorded by LE 125 (0.47). The genotype, LE 57 proved its
 186 supremacy with less reduction (20.69%) of Fv/Fm followed by LE 118 (20.69%) (**Table 1**). The
 187 high Fv/Fm ratio indicates that genotype has more efficient in protecting their photosynthetic
 188 apparatus under drought. This result is in agreement with Mishraa *et al.* [8] in tomato. Lower
 189 values of Fv/Fm ratio under drought, indicated an injury to electron transfer system in photo
 190 system II, causing an imbalance between generation and utilization of electrons, resulting
 191 changes of quantum yield efficiency [30].

192

193 **Table 1. Effect of ~~.... and ... (water treatments) water-deficit~~ on total chlorophyll content**
 194 **and Fv/Fm of tomato genotypes at 60 days after transplanting**

195

Genotypes	Total chlorophyll content (mg g ⁻¹)		Chlorophyll fluorescence (Fv / Fm)	
	1.0 IW/CPE	0.5 IW/CPE	1.0 IW/CPE	0.5 IW/CPE
LE 1	2.555	1.667	0.83	0.57
LE 27	2.932	2.284	0.87	0.67
LE 57	2.895	2.351	0.93	0.74
LE 114	2.932	2.356	0.81	0.56
LE 118	2.944	2.315	0.87	0.69
LE 125	2.007	1.878	0.75	0.47
CO 3	3.291	2.371	0.84	0.62
PKM 1	3.011	2.402	0.82	0.61
THCO 3	3.005	2.227	0.89	0.69
COTH 2	3.425	2.341	0.90	0.67
Mean	2.900	2.219	0.85	0.63
	G	T	G	T
SEd	0.0241	0.0108	0.007	0.003
CD (0.05)	0.0487	0.0218	0.015	0.007

196 [What's SEd. CD? What's G and T?](#)

197 [Treatments averages were different? Not seen in the table](#)

198 **Chlorophyll Stability Index** (CSI) is an indicator of the stress tolerance capacity of the
199 plants and is a measure of integrity of membrane [31]. A higher CSI helps the plants to withstand
200 stress through better availability of chlorophyll, leading to increased photosynthetic rate, more
201 dry matter production and higher productivity. Kilen and Andrew [32] observed a high
202 correlation between CSI and drought tolerance in corn.

203 Drought condition aggravates chlorophyll degradation in later part of growth due to loss
204 of membrane compartmentation. Membrane stability index decreased significantly under water
205 stress condition over control in wheat varieties [33].

206 In the present study also corroborates the earlier findings with 18.49% reduction of CSI
207 in drought (0.5 IW/CPE) compared to 1.0 IW/CPE. The primary effect of drought at the cellular
208 level is to affect the integrity of membrane which in turn leads to disruption of cellular
209 compartment ultimately destruction chlorophyll contents. The earlier findings of Fariduddin *et*
210 *al.* [34] confirm the present study.

211 The lowest reduction of CSI was observed in the genotypes LE 114 (14.68%) followed
212 by LE 118 (15.46%) while the highest reduction was showed by LE 125 (24.73%) and CO TH 2
213 (24.29%) under drought condition (**Table 2.**). The ability of the genotype maintained the higher
214 CSI under drought is a desirable character for tolerance. Maintenance of CSI at drought
215 condition by the genotype might be due to high membrane stability. Beena *et al.* [35] reported
216 that high membrane stability index and chlorophyll stability index were recorded in tolerant
217 inbred lines of rice than in susceptible lines under water stress condition.

218 **3.2. Impact of drought on soluble protein**

219 The **soluble protein** content of the leaf, being a measure of RuBP carboxylase activity
220 was considered as an index for photosynthetic efficiency???. Rubisco enzyme forms nearly 80
221 per cent of the soluble proteins in leaves of many plants [36]. Diethelm and Shibles [37] opined
222 that the rubisco content per unit leaf area was positively correlated with that of soluble protein
223 content of the leaf. The amount of rubisco in leaves is controlled by the rate of synthesis and
224 degradation. Even under drought stress the rubisco holo enzyme is relatively stable with a
225 half-life of several days [38].

226 However, drought stress in tomato[39], [Arabidopsisarabidopsis](#)[40] and rice [41] leads to
227 a rapid decrease in the abundance of rubisco small subunit (*rbcS*) transcripts, which may indicate
228 decreased synthesis. In the present study also confirms the earlier findings with 32.28 per cent
229 reduction of soluble protein content under drought. The reduction of soluble protein content
230 might be due to the degradation of available soluble protein in plant and reduction of synthesis of
231 new protein.

232 Among the genotypes, CO TH 2 (15.63) and TH CO 3 (15.18) registered highest soluble
233 protein content at under 1.0 IW/CPE ratio level. During drought (0.5 IW/CPE), LE 57 recorded
234 significantly superior soluble protein content (11.99), however the genotype LE 118 proved its
235 endurance to water deficit with less reduction (19.48%) and LE 125 showed highest reduction of
236 52.66 per cent.

237 Biochemical limitations of photosynthetic carbon fixation by the inhibition of rubisco
238 activity play an important role mostly under conditions of prolonged or more severe drought [42,
239 43]. Maintenance of soluble protein content by the genotypes could be attributed to higher

240 rubisco activity leads to more carbon fixation and ultimately to higher photosynthetic efficiency
 241 under drought is one of the important traits for drought tolerance.

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248 **Table 2. Effect of water deficit on CSI and soluble protein content of tomato genotypes at**
 249 **60 days after transplanting**

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251

Genotypes	Chlorophyll stability index (%)		Soluble protein content (mg g ⁻¹)	
	1.0 IW/CPE	0.5 IW/CPE	1.0 IW/CPE	0.5 IW/CPE
LE 1	79.0	65.5	10.85	6.51
LE 27	83.3	70.2	13.98	10.72
LE 57	84.6	69.5	15.03	11.99
LE 114	83.8	71.5	13.43	10.19
LE 118	85.4	72.2	14.58	11.74
LE 125	79.9	63.9	11.07	5.24
CO 3	83.0	66.4	11.55	8.69
PKM 1	82.4	66.9	11.33	7.69
THCO 3	79.5	63.0	15.18	8.46
COTH 2	80.7	61.1	15.63	8.58
Mean	82.2	67.0	13.26	8.98
	G	T	G	T

SEd	0.52	0.23	0.137	0.061
CD (0.05)	1.06	0.47	0.278	0.124

252 3.3. Impact of drought on ABA content

253 It was found a significant per cent increment of **ABA content** in leaf under drought
254 condition (39.45%) over control. The increment of ABA content under drought condition was
255 reported by several workers [4, 11, 44]. Accumulation of ABA under drought condition is a
256 favourable mechanism for drought tolerance through reducing transpiration rate by closing of
257 stomata. However, complete closure of stomata leads to increment of leaf temperature which
258 produces reactive oxygen species ultimately death of the plant.

259 Among the genotypes, the elevation in ABA was less in LE 114 (24%) under drought,
260 whereas nearly double fold increment of ABA content was observed in LE 125 and LE 1 (**Fig.**
261 **1**). ABA synthesized in response to drought stress, is known to induce stomatal closure which
262 leads to reduced transpirational water loss [45]. In the present study, LE 1 and LE 125 showed
263 higher ABA content which ultimately recorded less transpiration rate by closing of stomata.
264 However, the genotype LE 114 showed a moderate increment of leaf ABA content leads to
265 partial closure of stomata with maintains the photosynthetic rate and leaf temperature. Hence,
266 both the physiological characters are important for drought tolerance. The present study in
267 agreement with earlier findings of Wang and Huang [46], who reported that highly significant
268 negative correlation between ABA content and leaf water potential, stomatal conductance,
269 transpiration rate and net photosynthetic rate.

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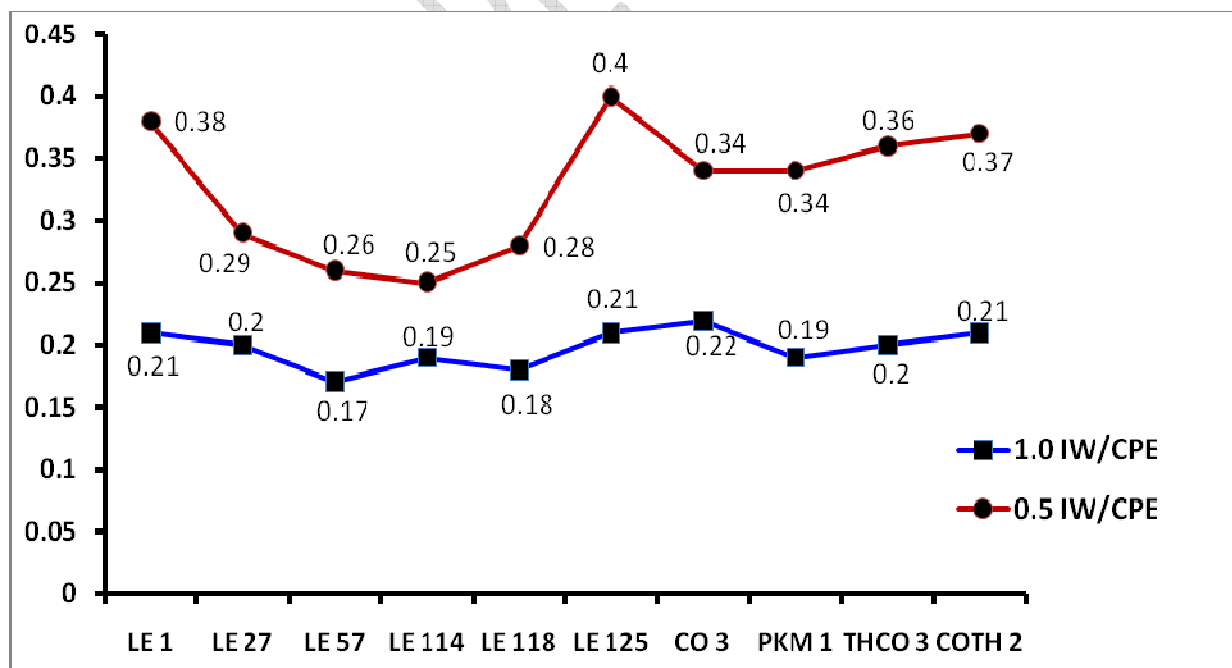
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279 **Fig 1. Effect of water deficit on ABA content (nmol g⁻¹) of tomato genotypes at 60 days after**
280 **transplanting**

281 1-graph titles are under the graph

282 2- change the line graph to bar chart and add the statistics that shows significant
283 differences

284
285



286

287 **3.4. Impact of drought on yield characters**

288 Comparing two treatments, plants received 1.0 IW/CPE ratio recorded higher average fruit
289 yield of 62.32 than drought imposed plants (29.92) (**Table 3**). At 0.5 IW/CPE ratio level, LE 57
290 showed its supremacy of higher fruit yield of 54.94 which was on par with LE 118 (50.06), LE
291 114 (42.17) and LE 27 (40.17) while the lowest was recorded by LE 125 (10.95) and LE 1
292 (12.71). Drought stress resulted in the overall yield loss of tomato fruits up to 52 per cent under
293 field condition. The highest yield loss of 83.18 and 81.51 per cent were shown by LE 125 and
294 LE 1 respectively.

295 A significantly lesser reduction of 32.49 per cent was exhibited by LE 118 followed by
296 LE 57 (33.13%) and LE 114 (38.55) showing their tolerance nature to drought stress. Therefore,
297 it could be clearly revealed that water deficit as the result of drying soil caused a major adverse
298 effect on yield and yield components even in tolerant genotypes. The reduction in fruit yield and
299 related parameters under drought probably due to reduction of water content in plant which
300 disrupting leaf gas exchange properties which limited the source size and activity
301 (photosynthesis) and partitioning of photo assimilates to fruits. The present study confirms the
302 early findings of Farooq *et al.* [47] and Manjunatha *et al.* [48]. Izzeldin *et al.* [49] also explained
303 that the impact of drought before the time of flowering affects the reproductive system with the
304 increasing sterility of flowers, so that flowering and fruiting will fail if the water shortage is
305 prolonged.

306 **3.5. Impact of drought on quality characters**

307 Plants imposed with 0.5 IW/CPE ratio recorded higher Total Soluble Solids (TSS: °Brix)

308 brix value (3.01) than 1.0 IW/CPE ratio (2.89). Among the genotypes, TH CO 3 recorded higher
309 average brix value of 4.00 than the rest of the genotypes. At 0.5 IW/CPE ratio condition, the
310 highest TSS value was recorded by TH CO 3 (4.1) followed by CO TH 2 (3.9), PKM 1 (3.6) and
311 CO 3 (3.4) while the lowest was registered by LE 125 (2.2). Regarding treatments, plants
312 imposed with 0.5 IW/CPE ratio recorded higher lycopene content (3.23) than 1.0 IW/CPE ratio
313 (3.02). With respect to the genotypes, CO 3 recorded significantly higher average lycopene
314 content (4.69). Hence, the present study indicated that the quality parameters like TSS and
315 lycopene increased slightly under drought compared to control.

316 Present study corroborates with early findings of Ali *et al.* [50] in tomato. Nahar *et al.*
317 [51] also explained that the fruit quality improvement under water deficit condition in tomato
318 might be due to the synthesis of ascorbic acid, citric acid and malic acid. In the present study, LE
319 118, LE 57 and LE 27 showed their primacy with highest increment of TSS and lycopene
320 content. This finding was strongly supported by Tambussi *et al.* [52] and it was also explained
321 that the increase in lycopene and TSS might be an effective strategy to protect membranes from
322 oxidative damage in water stressed condition.

323 **4. Conclusion**

324 Water stress causes detrimental effects on plant activities, which are likely to alter the
325 yielding potential of the crops. Hence, to identify the physiological parameters, which get altered
326 under drought conditions is pre-requisite to evaluate drought tolerant varieties. It is concluded
327 that the tomato genotypes LE 118, LE 57 and LE 114 were identified as the most tolerant lines to
328 drought stress imposed provided with Rainout shelter. As the genotypes LE 125 and LE 1

329 recorded significantly lesser yield under the same condition, these two genotypes were
 330 considered as susceptible to water deficit.

331 **Table 3. Effect of water deficit on yield and quality of tomato genotypes under two**
 332 **treatments of**
 333

Genotypes	Estimated fruit yield (tonnes ha ⁻¹)		TSS (° Brix)		Lycopene (mg 100 g ⁻¹)	
	1.0 IW/CPE	0.5 IW/CPE	1.0 IW/CPE	0.5 IW/CPE	1.0 IW/CPE	0.5 IW/CPE
LE 1	68.74	12.71	2.5	2.7	2.21	2.39
LE 27	71.20	40.17	2.5	2.6	2.52	2.73
LE 57	82.16	54.94	2.4	2.6	2.46	2.68
LE 114	68.62	42.17	2.4	2.5	2.82	2.88
LE 118	74.15	50.06	2.4	2.5	2.85	2.95
LE 125	65.10	10.95	2.2	2.2	2.13	2.67
CO 3	41.04	22.74	3.3	3.4	4.54	4.84
PKM 1	38.98	20.94	3.5	3.6	3.78	4.05
THCO 3	54.33	22.38	3.9	4.1	3.35	3.53
CO TH 2	58.85	22.13	3.8	3.9	3.54	3.55
Mean	62.32	29.92	2.89	3.01	3.02	3.23
	G	T	G	T	G	T
SEd	0.960	0.429	0.03	0.01	0.048	0.022
CD (0.05)	1.943	0.869	0.05	0.02	0.097	0.044

334
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