

should be given to fruit width. Negative association of fruits width and number has also been observed by Rattan *et al.* (7), Nandpuri *et al.* (4) and Stefanova and Steva (9).

Path coefficient analysis revealed the highest direct contribution of fruits/plant towards yield (1.07) (Table 2). As a result strong positive correlation (0.70) was observed between fruits/plant and yield. Number of fruits/plant also exhibited considerable indirect effects through plant height, fruits/bunch and number of primary branches. Maximum positive direct effect of number of fruits on yield has also been reported by Bhutani and Kalloo (1), Padda *et al.* (6) and Rattan *et al.* (7).

The magnitude of direct effect of fruit width was next to fruits/plant, hence it may be regarded as another important character influencing yield (Table 3). Though its correlation with yield is in negative direction but its magnitude is negligible and seems to a consequence of negative indirect influence *via* fruits/plant, fruits/bunch, plant height and number of primary branches. This point needs consideration because direct effect of fruit width is in positive direction. The residual effect was low (0.1257) indicating that the traits studied could account for the maximum variation in yield of tomato. On the basis of above result it may be inferred that fruits/plant, fruit width, days to 50% flowering, fruits/bunch and plant height are important yield contributing characters in tomato and hence due emphasis can be laid on these characters during selection.

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