

PHYSICO-CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFERENT GRAM CULTIVARS
GROWN UNDER RAINFED CONDITION OF DISTRICT KARAK.

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ABSTRACT

Physico-chemical characteristics of seven gram cultivars collected from Gram Research Station, Ahmed Wala, Karak were studied. Laboratory analysis showed a significant difference in seed composition and mineral constituents of different gram varieties. However, the results indicated that in general, variety CM-72 remained better than the rest of the cultivars and its seed contained the highest percentage of crude fiber, ash and iron contents.

INTRODUCTION

Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.), a major legume crop grown successfully in the sandy loam type of soils is used both for food and feed. Nutritionally, the chickpea is $1-1\frac{1}{2}$ times rich in protein than the cereal grains and provides more calories of energy and proteins than the animals. In Pakistan, it is grown on 979.4 thousand hectares with an annual production of 456 thousand tons (Agri. statistics of Pakistan, 1989).

Due to its high economic and nutritive value, chickpea is called poor man's meat. It contains 17 to 20 % protein, 8.50 %