Descriptors for Sponge Gourd
\textit{[Luffa cylindrica (L.) Roem.]}

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Preface

Standard descriptors for plant genetic resources are necessary to characterize and evaluate them. This descriptor of sponge gourd is developed to standardize the characterization and evaluation of sponge gourd. In addition, this will help to communicate among researchers and development workers. This is an outcome of experiences gained from the Global project, Strengthening the scientific basis of in situ conversation of agricultural biodiversity. Introduction about sponge gourd and descriptor itself are included along with five types of descriptors. Collection form and codes for characterizing and evaluating traits are added for better managing field book during sponge gourd trials. Relevant references are given as supplement resources.

We would like to thank A Mudwari, Agricultural Botany Division, NARC Khumaltar for encouragement and provision of facilities. Supports received from SP Dahal, IP Poudyal, SR Subedi, BH Adhikari, A Subedi, P Shrestha, HN Regmi, K Budhathoki and BB BC during on farm and on station trials of sponge gourd are highly appreciated. K Shrestha typed this manuscript and SK Shrestha helped to set sketch of leaf and fruit shapes in position.
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Sponge Gourd

*Luffa* (*Luffa cylindrica* (L.) Roem syn *L. aegyptiaca* Mill) commonly called sponge gourd, loofah, vegetable sponge, bath sponge or dish cloth gourd, is a member of cucurbitaceous family. Nepalese farmers called it *Ghiraula* (घिरौळ). The number of species in the genus *Luffa* varies from 5 to 7. Only two species *L. cylindrica* and ribbed or ridge gourd (*L. acutangula* (L.) Roxb) (*पट्टे घिरौळ वा तिराई*), are domesticated. Two wild species are *L. graveolens* and *L. echinata*. These two cultivated and one wild species, *L. echinata* exist in Nepal. *Luffa* is diploid species with 26 chromosomes (2n = 26) and a cross-pollinated crop.

*Ghiraula* (NPL) is a sub-tropical plant, which requires warm summer temperatures and long frost-free growing season when grown in temperate regions. It is an annual climbing which produces fruit containing fibrous vascular system. It is summer season vegetable growing from Tarai to high hills in Nepal. Mid hills is most important zone where most of the farmers grow sponge gourd. It is difficult to assign with accuracy the indigenous areas of *Luffa* species. They have a long history of cultivation in the tropical countries of Asia and Africa. Indo-Burma is reported to be the center of diversity for sponge gourd. The main commercial production countries are China, Korea, India, Japan and Central America. Many diversity also exits in Nepal. Different types of landraces eg *Basaune Ghiraula, Hariyo Chhota, Boso Ghiraula* etc exit in different areas and these are generally part of home garden of most of the Nepalese farmers.

The fibrous vascular system inside the fruit after separating from the skin, flesh and seeds, can be used as a bathroom sponge, as a component of shock absorbers, as a sound proof linings, as a utensils cleaning sponge, as packing materials, for making crafts as a filters in factories and as a part of soles of shoes. Immature fruit is used as vegetables, which is good for diabetes. Oil is also extracted from seeds for industrial use.
Sponge gourd prefers pH of around 6 to 6.8. High level of K and P is recommended. It also grows well in green house and will grow on many soil types but well drained sandy loams are preferred. Seeds need to be germinated at 25°C and grown on and transplanted when the soil temperature is about 18°C. Although Ghiraula can be left to grow along the ground, best yields and fruit quality are obtained using a support structure or trellis system. In Nepal it is grown in living trees, dead branches, walls, roofs etc. Whatever the system is used, it must be strong enough to allow the fruit to hang free. Any constriction will result in deformed fruit. Irrigation is essential for good growth during dry periods but excessive water can result in poor growth and root diseases. Generally there have been few pest and disease problems of sponge gourd reported in Nepal. Damping off can be a problem with young seedlings if grown in cool wet conditions, and fruit rots may cause losses if the fruit are allowed to grow on the ground. Problems with aphids and subsequently viruses have been sometimes reported.

One variety, Kantipure was released in 1994 in Nepal. Generally a household grows one to two landraces and commercially it is grown in Tarai areas. Soil data, climatic data and biological data should be integrated during research result analysis from which agronomical practices can be recommended for a particular locality.
Introduction

Characterization and evaluation of plant genetic resources (PGRs) are initial and most important steps for their conservation, utilization and improvement. Standard PGR management system particularly characterization and evaluation, should be followed for effective and efficient information exchange. Development of descriptors for a specific crop species is an important for standardizing the PGR management. There are many descriptors for different crop species developed by International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI). But descriptors for sponge gourd are not available. Therefore, this descriptor is developed for use in sponge gourd resources management.

In 1995, IPGRI together with national partners from nine countries covering five regions, Sub Saharan Africa, Central and West Asia and North Africa, Asia the Pacific and Oceania, the Americas and Europe formulated a global project to strengthen the scientific basis of in situ conservation of agricultural biodiversity on farm. This descriptor is an outcome of this project - Nepal component.

For developing descriptors, sponge gourd landraces collected from Kachorwa Bara, Begnas Kaski and PGR Section Agriculture Botany Division, Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Khumaltar were planted in Agricultural Research Station (Horticulture) Malepatan, Pokhara in 2003. Draft descriptors were developed and tested in this field experiment of sponge gourd. Shape of leaf and fruit observed in the field were sketched. Capturing diversity as much as possible was given due emphasis during genotypes selection. Representative samples from different districts of Nepal were taken.

This descriptor is based on IPGRI format. Five types of descriptors (passport, management, environment, and site characterization and evaluation) are listed. Descriptors to be
selected depend on the objective of researchers. Additional information, guidelines are added in Annex for the simplicity to users. This descriptor list is intended to be comprehensive for the descriptors that it contains. Scheme describe here are subject to change as per the need of users. Descriptors should be used when they are useful to the users.

Definitions and guidelines

Definitions
Descriptors are associated information of a particular species. They are generally used to distinguish, identify, locate, describe and evaluate the genotypes in question. Descriptors listed here are passport, management, environment and site, characterization and evaluation. These are interlinked and some descriptors are overlapped.

Passport descriptors
These are the general management, registration and identification information. Parameters observed during accession collection at original stage are included in this type of descriptors.

Management descriptors
These are the basis for the management of accessions in the gene bank and assist for multiplication and regeneration.

Environment and site descriptors
These are the environmental and site-specific parameters that are important for conducting trials to characterize and evaluate the accessions. Site of accession collection are also described here. These descriptors are useful to interpret the results of trials.

Characterization descriptors
These are the highly heritable traits that help to discriminate the phenotypes. Discontinuous variables that can be seen easily and expressed in all environments are included here. These are used to characterize the accessions.
**Evaluation descriptors**

These are yield, yield components, agronomical traits, abiotic and biotic stress related, biochemical, molecular and cytological traits. Biochemical, molecular and cytological traits can also be used under characterization descriptors. These are the important traits for crop improvement and require replicated trial over time and space. Because of environment sensitive descriptors, special designs and techniques are needed to assess them.

**Guidelines**

Internationally accepted norms and system for scoring, coding and recording descriptors should be followed. Some of which are

1. Use SI system for measurement.
2. For color observation use standard color chart eg Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart, Munsell Soil Color Chart and Munsell Color Chart for Plant Tissues.
3. Mark the leaf, fruit or plant for repetitive measurement.
4. Quantitative characters (continuously variable) or intensity can be recorded on a 1-9 scale, which means
   - Very low
   - Very low to low
   - Low
   - Low to intermediate
   - Intermediate
   - Intermediate to high
   - High
   - High to very high
   - Very high

The users can select some of these eg 3, 5 and 7. Score 0 when the character is not expressed. Use standard scale to score for particular descriptor.

5. Score 0 for absent and 1 (or +) for present of characters.
6. Left dash (-) for information not available.
7. Dates should be expressed numerically in the format DDMMYYYY (2 digits day, month and 4 digits year).
8. Assess descriptors using 3 methods ie observation, measurement and sensory taste. Apply these methods in 3-5 plants and record average results.
PASSPORT DESCRIPTORS

A. Accession

1. Accession number
   A unique identifier number assigned to each accession when it is registered in a gene bank. Once assigned this number should never be reassigned to another accession in the collection. Even if an accession is lost, its assigned number is still not available for reuse.

2. Donor name
   Name of institution or individual or farmer responsible for donating the germplasm

3. Donor number
   Number assigned to an accession by the donor

4. Scientific name
   Genus
   Species
   Subspecies
   Common name

5. Pedigree
   Parentage or nomenclature and designations assigned to accession

6. Cultivar
   1 Cultivar name
   2 English meaning
   3 Synonyms
   Either a registered or other formal cultivar designation given to the accession. Name of variety, cultivar, landrace, strain or line. Provide the meaning of cultivar’s name in English along with synonyms.
7. **Local language**  
Language of name given to accession

8. **Breeding method**
1. Mass selection  
2. Selection with progeny testing  
3. Recurrent selection  
4. Farmer’s selection  
Mention the method of breeding applied to accession during collection. This should be asked to donor.

9. **Acquisition date**
Date on which the accession entered the collection

10. **Accession size**
Number or weight of sample of an accession in the gene bank or collection

11. **Type of material received**
1. Zygotic embryo  
2. Seed  
3. Plant (including seedling)  
4. Fruit  
5. Shoot/bud  
6. Pollen  
7. *In vitro* propagates  
8. Other (specify)

B. **Collection**

1. **Collecting institute**
Name of institute and people collecting or sponsoring the sample collection

2. **Site number**
Number assigned to the physical site by the collector
3. Collecting number
   Original number assigned by the collector of the sample, normally composed of the name or initials of the collector followed by a number.

4. Collection date
   Actual date of collection of sample from original place

5. Country of collecting
   Name of the country in which the sample was collected or bred.

6. Address and location of collecting site
   Details address and location of collecting site where the accession was collected. Such information may include distance in kilometre and direction from the nearest town, or village or map grid reference point.

7. Latitude of collecting site
   Degrees, minutes and seconds followed by N (North) or S (South) (eg 26-22-38.81N)

8. Longitude of collecting site
   Degrees, minutes and seconds followed by E (East) or W (West) (eg 87-15-47.39E)

9. Elevation of collecting site (masl)
   Altitude of the collecting point expressed in meter above sea level.

10. Collecting source
    1 Wild habitat
        1 Forest / woodland
        2 Shrubland
        3 Grassland
II Farm
1 Field
2 Orchard
3 Garden
4 Fallow
5 Pasture
6 Store

III Market
1 Town
2 Village
3 Urban
4 Hat bazzar

IV Institute
V Other (specify)

11. Status of sample
1 Wild
2 Weedy
3 Primitive cultivar or landrace
4 Breeder’s line
5 Advanced cultivar
6 Other (specify)

12. Local/vernacular name
Name given by farmer to crop and cultivar, landrace or weed.

13. Ethnic group
Name of the tribe of the farmer donating the sample or of the people living in the area of collecting site

14. Number of plants sampled (n)

15. Number of seeds collected (n)
Report sample size
16. **Plant population density**
   3 Low
   5 Intermediate
   7 High
   Provide population density from which the sample is collected

17. **Population isolation (km)**
   Distance between two adjacent collecting sites.
   Report air distance.

18. **Cropping system**
   1 Monoculture
   2 Intercropped (specify)

19. **Culture practices**
   1 Sowing date
   2 Transplanting date
   3 First harvest date for vegetable use
   4 Last harvest date for vegetable use
   5 Spacing (cm)
   6 Fertilizer (specify)
   7 Irrigation (specify)

20. **Staking**
   1 No stake
   2 Living trees
   3 Dead branch
   4 Home roof/ wall
   5 Trellis
   6 Other (specify)

21. **Genetic erosion**
   3 Slow
   5 Intermediate
   7 Rapid
   Rate of genetic erosion of the species in the region of collecting site
22. Associated flora
   Major plant species found in and around the collecting site other than sample

23. Population competition with associated flora
   3  Low
   5  Intermediate
   7  High
   Observe sample growth condition in the field

24. Uses of the accession
   Fresh consumption
   Dried consumption
   Industrial
   Medicinal
   Ornamental
   Other (specify)

25. Photograph
   Whether a photograph is taken or not of the accession or habitat at the time of collection
   0  No
   1  Yes

26. Herbarium specimen
   Whether a herbarium specimen of the accession was collected or not
   0  No
   1  Yes

27. Prevailing stresses
   Provide associated biotic and abiotic stresses and the accession’s reaction.

28. Collector’s name and notes
   Additional information recorded by the collector or any specific information.

Note: Descriptors of collecting site environment should also be included in passport descriptors. See page 16 for this descriptors.
MANAGEMENT DESCRIPTORS

A. General information

1. Accession number

2. Storage address
   Location of storage and building, room, shelf number

3. Storage date

4. Germination at storage (%)

5. Date of last germination test

6. Germination at the last test (%)

7. Moisture content at harvest (%)

8. Moisture content at storage (%)

9. Amount of seeds in storage (g or n)

10. Location of duplicates

B. Multiplication and regeneration

1. Accession number

2. Field plot number

3. Location of field plot

4. Collaborator
5. Cultural practices
   1. Sowing date
   2. Transplanting date
   3. Harvest date for seeds
   4. Spacing (cm)
   5. Irrigation (specify)

6. Staking
   1. No stake
   2. Living tree
   3. Dead branch
   4. House roof/ wall
   5. Trellis
   6. Other (specify)

7. Fertilizer application (g/m²)

8. Germination in the field (%)

9. Seedling vigour

10. Plot size (m²)

11. Number of established plants per plot

12. Number of plants used as seed source for each regeneration

13. Number of fruits per plants used as seed source for each regeneration

14. Pollination method
   1. Self-pollinated
   2. Often cross-pollinated
   3. Cross-pollinated
15. Previous multiplication and/or regeneration

1  Location
2  Sowing date
3  Plot number
4  Biotic stress
   0  Absent
   1  Present

16. Last regeneration or multiplication date

17. Number of times accession regenerated
   Since the date of acquisition
ENVIRONMENT AND SITE DESCRIPTORS

A. General information

1. Institution of characterization and evaluation

2. Georeferences of characterization and evaluation site
   1. Latitude
   2. Longitude
   3. Elevation (masl)
   4. Location

3. Evaluator’s name and address

4. Sowing date

5. Nursery system
   1. Green house
   2. Poly bag
   3. Heated bed
   4. Field
   5. Other (specify)

6. Transplanting date

7. First harvest date for vegetable use

8. Last harvest date for vegetable use

9. Harvest date for seeds

10. Evaluation environment
    1. Field
    2. Screen house
    3. Glasshouse
    4. Laboratory
    5. Other (specify)

Environment in which characterization and evaluation was carried out
11. Field spacing
   Plant to plant (m)
   Row to row (m)

12. Fertilizer
   Specify types, doses, frequency of each and method of application

13. Plant protection
   Specify pesticides used, doses, frequency of each and method of application

B. Characterization and evaluation site environment

1. General physiographic features
   1   Plain      5   Upland
   2   Basin      6   Hill
   3   Valley     7   Mountain
   4   Plateau

   The landform refers to the shape of the land surface in the area in which the site is located

2. Slope (°)
   Estimate slope of the site

3. Slope aspect
   The direction or faces of collecting site. Describe the direction with symbols N, S, E, W (eg a slope that faces a north-western direction has an aspect of NW)

4. Crop agriculture
   1   Annual field cropping
   2   Perennial field cropping
5. Overall vegetation surrounding and at the site

1. Grassland
2. Forbland
3. Forest
4. Woodland
5. Shrubland
6. Savanna
7. Other (Specify)

(1. Grasses, subordinate forbs, no woody species. 2. Herbaceous plants predominant. 3. Continuous tree layer, crowns overlapping, large number of tree and shrub species in distinct layers. 4. Continuous tree layer, crowns usually not touching, understorey may be present. 5. Continuous layer of shrubs, crowns touching. 6. Grasses with a discontinues layer of trees or shrubs)

6. Soil drainage

3. Poorly drained
5. Moderately drained
7. Well drained

7. Soil salinity

1. <160 ppm dissolved salts
2. 160-240 ppm
3. 241-480 ppm
4. >480 ppm

8. Soil colour

1. White 9. Yellow
2. Red 10. Reddish yellow
3. Reddish 11. Greenish, green
7. Reddish brown 15. Bluish black
8. Yellowish brown 16. Black

The colour of the soil material in the root zone around the accession is recorded in the moist condition
Descriptors for sponge gourd

using the notation for hue, value and chroma as given in the Munsell Soil Colour Charts (Munsell 1997). If there is no dominant soil matrix colour, the horizon is described as mottled and two or more colours are given and should be registered under uniform conditions. Early morning and late evening readings are not accurate. Provide depth of measurement (cm).

9. Soil pH

pH at 10-15 cm
pH at 16-30 cm
pH at 31-60 cm

Actual pH value of the soil within the above root depths

10. Soil erosion

3  Low
4  Intermediate
7  High

11. Soil texture classes

1  Clay          12  Coarse sandy loam
2  Loam         13  Loamy sand
3  Clay loam    14  Loamy very fine sand
4  Silt         15  Loamy fine sand
5  Silty clay   16  Loamy coarse sand
6  Silty clay loam 17  Very fine sand
7  Silt loam   18  Fine sand
8  Sandy clay   19  Medium sand
9  Sandy clay loam 20  Coarse sand
10 Sandy loam 21  Sand, unsorted
11 Fine sandy loam 22  Sand, unspecified

12. Water availability

1  Rainfed
2  Irrigated
3  Flooded
4  River banks
5  Other (specify)
13. *Soil fertility*

3 Low
5 Moderate
7 High

General assessment of the soil fertility based on existing vegetation

14. *Climate of the site*

Should be assessed as close to the site as possible

15. *Temperature (°C)*

Provide either the diurnal (mean, maximum, minimum) or the seasonal (mean, maximum, minimum)

16. *Rainfall (mm)*

Annual average or crop season average

17. *Wind velocity (km/s)*

Annual average or crop season average

18. *Frost*

1 Date of most recent frost
2 Lowest temperature (°C)
3 Duration of frost (d)

19. *Relative humidity*

1 Relative humidity, diurnal range (%)
2 Relative humidity, seasonal range (%)

20. *Light*

3 Shady
7 Sunny
CHARACTERIZATION DESCRIPTORS

A. Vegetative

1. *Days to emergence (d)*
   Number of days between seeding to emergence. Record date of seeding and date of emergence to calculate the days to emergence.

2. *Cotyledon size*
   1. Small
   2. Medium
   3. Large
   4. Other (specify)

   Among the entry cotyledon size can be classified in three classes on visual basis. Observation should be made in 3-5 plants. Cotyledon size can also be measured in unit (cm). It should be length of cotyledons at the first true leaf expanding stage and should be recorded actual size.

3. *Cotyledon color*
   1. Light green
   2. Intermediate
   3. Dark green

   Cotyledon color should be observed in 3-5 plants at the first time leaf expanding stage.

4. *Internode length (cm)*
   Length of internode at the 10th - 15th nodes at the time of the 20th leaf expanding. Measure in 3-5 plants.

5. *Stem shape*
   1. Rounded
   2. Intermediate
   3. Angular

   Record based on observation in 3-5 plants.
6. **Tendrils**
   1. Present
   2. Absent

   Record after observing 3-5 plants. If tendril is present, its length can be measured in cm.

7. **Leaf shape (Figure 1)**
   1. Ovate
   2. Orbicular
   3. Reniform
   4. Rectuse

   Observe in 3-5 plants. Shape of the 6th – 10th leaf at the time of 20th leaf expanding.

8. **Leaf spot color**
   1. Absent
   2. Light green
   3. Silver
   4. Both

   Observed in the 6th – 10th leaf at the time of 20th leaf expanding in 3-5 plants.

9. **Leaf size**
   1. Small
   2. Intermediate
   3. Large

   Observe in 3-5 plants. Among the entries, leaf size is recorded in the 6th – 10th leaf at the time of 20th leaf expanding. Leaf size can also be measured as width in cm.

10. **Leaf margin**
    1. Smooth
    2. Dented

    Based on 3-5 plants leaf margin should be observed in the 6th – 10th leaf at the time of 20th leaf expanding.
Descriptors for sponge gourd

Figure 1. Leaf shape

11. **Leaf lobes**
   1. Absent
   2. Shallow
   3. Intermediate
   4. Deep

   Observed in the 6\textsuperscript{th} - 10\textsuperscript{th} leaf at the time of 20\textsuperscript{th} leaf expanding in 3-5 plants.
12. *Dorsal leaf pubescence*
   1. Absent
   2. Low
   3. Intermediate
   4. High

   Record base on the observation made in 3-5 plants of 6\textsuperscript{th} - 10\textsuperscript{th} leaf at the time of 20\textsuperscript{th} leaf expanding.

13. *Ventral leaf pubescence*
   1. Absent
   2. Low
   3. Intermediate
   4. High

   Degree of pubescence of the 6\textsuperscript{th} - 10\textsuperscript{th} leaf at the time of 20\textsuperscript{th} leaf expanding in 3-5 plants through observation.

14. *Growth habit*
   1. Bushy
   2. Intermediate
   3. Prostrate

   Observe at the peak harvest season for vegetable.

15. *Stem thickness (mm)*

   Diameter of main stem from the 10\textsuperscript{th} - 15\textsuperscript{th} nodes at the time of 20\textsuperscript{th} leaf expanding. It can be calculated from the perimeter. Measure in 3-5 plants. Vernier calliper maybe used for measurement.

16. *Lateral shoot (n)*

   Number of primary lateral shoots from the nodes of the main stem at the first vegetable harvest time. Measure in 3-5 plants.

17. *Stem pubescence*
   1. Absent
   2. Thin
   3. Dense
   4. Very dense
Descriptors for sponge gourd

Degree of pubescence at the $10^{th} - 15^{th}$ nodes of main stem at the time of the $20^{th}$ leaf expanding. Observe in 3-5 plants.

18. Petiole length (cm)
Length of petiole of the $6^{th} - 10^{th}$ leaf at the time of the $20^{th}$ leaf expanding. Measure in 3-5 plants.

B. Inflorescences, fruits and seeds

1. Flower color
   1 White
   2 Light yellow
   3 Yellow
   4 Orange
   5 Other
   Observe in 3-5 flowers of different plants

2. Sex type
   1 Androecious
   2 Monoecious
   3 Andromonoecious
   4 Gynomonoecious
   5 Gynoecious
   6 Hermaphroditic
   Observe several flowers. (Androecious, only male flower. Monoecious, male and female flower in different flowers at the same plant. Hermaphroditic, flower having anthers and ovaries. Andromonoecious, individuals which have male and hermaphroditic flowers on the same plant. Gynomonoecious, individuals which have female and bisexual flowers. Gynoecious, only female flowers).
3. Male female flower ratio
   1  High
   2  Medium
   3  Low
Observe in 3-5 plants

4. Peduncle shape
   1  Round
   2  Smoothly angled
   3  Sharply angled
   This is a stalk of fruit and should be observed at the harvest time for vegetable use. Observe in 3-5 fruits of different plants.

5. Peduncle length (cm)
   Measure in 3-5 fruit’s stems of different plants at the time of harvest for vegetable use.

6. Peduncle separation from fruit
   1  Easy
   2  Intermediate
   3  Difficult
   After fruit harvest for vegetable use, evaluate the break strength and peduncle with fruit.

7. Blossom end fruit shape (Figure 2)
   1  Depressed
   2  Flattened
   3  Rounded
   4  Pointed
   Observe at the peak harvest season for vegetable use in 3-5 fruits in different plants.

8. Stem-end fruit shape (Figure 3)
   1  Depressed
   2  Flattened
   3  Rounded
   4  Pointed
Observe at the peak harvest season for vegetable use in 3-5 fruits in different plants.

9. *Fruit shape* (Figure 4)
   1. Oblong blocky
   2. Elongate slim
   3. Elongate blocky
   4. Elliptical
   5. Elongate tapered
   6. Pyriform
   7. Elongate elliptical

Observe at the peak harvest season for vegetable use in 3-5 fruits in different plants.
Figure 3. Stem-end fruit shape
Descriptors for sponge gourd

- Elongate slim
- Oblong blocky
- Elliptical
- Pyriform
Elongate tapered

Elongate elliptical

Figure 4. Fruit shape
10. *Fruit ribs*

1. Absent
2. Superficial
3. Intermediate
4. Deep

Intensity of rib in fruit at harvest time for vegetable use. Observe in 3-5 fruits in different plants.

11. *Fruit color*

1. Light green
2. Green
3. Dark green
4. White mottled
5. Blackish
6. Others

Observe at the peak harvest season for vegetable use in 3-5 fruits in different plants.

12. *Fruit skin texture*

1. Smooth
2. Grainy
3. Finely wrinkled
4. Shallowly wavy
5. Nettled
6. With warts
7. Scabrous

Observe in 3-5 fruits of different plants at vegetable purpose harvest time. Hand feeling (sensory taste) with skin of fruit is the way of describing genotypes.

13. *Flesh color*

1. White
2. Cream
3. Yellow

Observe in 3-5 fruits of different plants at a time of harvest for vegetable use.
14. **Flesh flavor**
   - 1. Insipid
   - 2. Intermediate
   - 3. Sweet
   - 4. Bitter

   Observe in 3-5 fruits of different plants at a time of harvest for vegetable use through sensory taste.

15. **Flesh taste**
   - 1. No taste
   - 2. Sweet
   - 3. Intermediate
   - 4. Bitter

   Taste organoleptically at the time of harvest for vegetable use.

16. **Flesh moisture**
   - 1. Low
   - 2. Intermediate
   - 3. High

   Observe in 3-5 fruits ready to harvest for vegetable use.

17. **Flesh texture**
   - 1. Smooth
   - 2. Grainy
   - 3. Spongy
   - 4. Gelatinous
   - 5. Fibrous

   Sensory taste in 3-5 fruits ready to harvest for vegetable use.

18. **Skin hardness**
   - 1. Soft
   - 2. Intermediate
   - 3. Hard

   Sensory taste in 3-5 fruits ready to harvest for vegetable use. Feel when it is cut.
19. *Fruit size variability*
   1. Low
   2. Medium
   3. High
   Observe in 3-5 fruits ready to harvest for vegetable use.

20. *Seed color*
   1. Black
   2. Gray
   3. Brown
   4. White
   Observe in seeds of 3-5 matured fruits

21. *Seed surface*
   1. Smooth
   2. Wrinkled
   3. Slightly pitted
   4. Scaly
   5. Creased
   Observe in 3-5 matured seeds

22. *Sponge quality*
   1. Soft
   2. Intermediate
   3. Hard
   Observed in 3-5 sponges of different plants at matured and dried stage

23. *Descriptors used by farmers*
    Report the descriptors of commonly used by farmers to distinguish genotypes.
EVALUATION DESCRIPTORS

A. Plant

1. Days to first harvest for vegetable use (d)
   Number of days between seeding and first harvest for vegetable use. For this descriptor, date of seeding and date of first harvest for kitchen purpose should be recorded.

2. Days to last harvest for vegetable use (d)
   Number of days between seeding and last harvest for vegetable use. Record date of seeding and last harvest for vegetable use.

3. Days to maturity period of fruit (d)
   Number of days between gynoecious flowering date and fruit maturity for seeds. Record date of gynoecious flowering initiation in which fruit is set and date of matured fruit harvest for seeds.

4. Days to flowering (d)
   Number of days between seeding and initiation of first flower of any type. Record date of seeding and first flowering to calculate days to flowering.

5. Lateral shoot (n)
   Number of primary lateral shorts from the nodes of the main stem at the end of harvesting time. Measure in 3-5 plants.

6. Fruit length (cm)
   Measure length in 3-5 fruits of different plants. It is length between blossom and stem end during fruit harvest for vegetable use.
7. **Fruit width (cm)**  
Diameter in central part of fruit at harvest time for vegetable use. Measure in 3-5 fruits of different plants. Or measure perimeter of fruit in 3 parts ie petiole end, centre and blossom end and average perimeter is used to calculate diameter \( \text{diameter} = \frac{\text{perimeter}}{\pi} \). Vernier calliper can be used.

8. **Fruit weight (g)**  
Weight of single fruit. Weigh 3-5 fruits of different plants during harvest for vegetable use. Take average weight.

9. **Fruit per plant (n)**  
Count the number of fruit suitable for vegetable use during crop season. Count in 3-5 plants.

10. **Fruit skin thickness (mm)**  
Measure in 3-5 fruits of different plants during harvest for vegetable use.

11. **Flesh thickness (mm)**  
Measure in 3-5 fruits of different plants during harvest for vegetable use.

12. **Fruit yield per plant (kg)**  
Multiply fruit weight by fruit number per plant and convert unit. This is the weight of fruits for vegetable use per plant. Measure in 3-5 plants

13. **Seed per fruit (n)**  
Count matured functional seeds in 3-5 fruits of different plants.

14. **100-seed weight (g)**  
Weight of 100 mature functional and dry seeds collected randomly from 3-5 fruits of different plants.
15. *Seed length (mm)*
   Length measured in 3-5 matured functional and dry seeds collected randomly from different fruits.

16. *Seed width (mm)*
   Width measured in 3-5 matured functional and dry seeds collected randomly from different fruits. Measure in the middle part of seed.

17. *Matured fruit length (cm)*
   Length of matured fruit harvested for seeds from blossom end to stem end.

18. *Matured fruit width (cm)*
   Width at central region of matured fruit harvested for seeds. Calculate fruit width from its perimeter \(\text{diameter} = \frac{\text{perimeter}}{\pi}\). Vernier calliper can be used.

19. *Matured fruit weight (g)*
   Weight of matured and dry fruit harvested for seeds.

For evaluation, environmental parameters and soil nutrient contents of experimental site should be reported.

B. **Nutrient analysis in fruit for vegetable use**
   Analyse the nutrients content of fruit and report.

C. **Abiotic stress**

1. *Low temperature*
2. *High temperature*
3. *Drought*
4. *Salinity*
5. *Acidity*
Score under artificial or natural condition. Code on a susceptibility scale from 1 to 9. If possible report measurement of stress.

D. Biotic stress

1. Insects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Causal organism</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Nepali name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aphis gossypii, A. malvae, Myzus persicae</td>
<td>Aphids</td>
<td>लाइडि</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lastoptera falcata</td>
<td>Gall fly</td>
<td>गाल्टे भींगा</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sphenarches caffer</td>
<td>Plume moth</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Dacus spp</td>
<td>Fruit fly</td>
<td>फल कुढाउने ऑसा</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Apomecynna saltator, A albogutata, A histrio, A pertigera, A betotitti</td>
<td>Stem boring longicorn beetles</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Score infestation intensity on 1 to 9 scales.

2. Diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Common name</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spaerotheca spp</td>
<td>Powdery mildew</td>
<td>खुले छुसि</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pseudopernospora spp</td>
<td>Downey mildew</td>
<td>सिते छुसि</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Virus</td>
<td>Mosaic disease</td>
<td>गुजमूज रोग</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Score infestation intensity on 1 to 9 scales.
E. Cell biology

1. Biochemical markers
   Report zymotype, locus, enzymes and tissue used

2. Molecular markers
   Describe primer, probe, product size and fingerprints

3. Cytological characters
   Describe chromosome number, ploidy level and chromosome arrangement.
Bibliography

Munsell Color. 1977. Munsell color charts for plant tissues. 2nd ed. Munsell color, Baltimore, USA.

Important URL
http://www.ipgri.cgiar.org
http://www.agroecology.org
http://www.avrdc.org
http://www.hort.purdue.edu
http://www.crop.ori.nz
http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu
http://www.ces.ncsu.edu
Annex A. Plant genetic resources collection form

**A. Sample identification**
- Genus
- Species
- Subspecies
- Collector’s number
- Collecting institute
- Date of collection
- Local name

**B. Collecting site**
- I. General
- District
- Village DC
- WNo.
- Village
- Farmer’s name
- Latitude
- Longitude
- Altitude (m)

**II. Collection source (circle one)**
- 1. Wild
- 2. Farmland
- 3. Farm store
- 4. Backyard
- 5. Village market
- 6. Commercial market
- 7. Institute
- 8. Other (specify)

**III. Topography (circle one)**
- 1. Swamp
- 2. Flood plain
- 3. Plain level
- 4. Undulating
- 5. Hilly
- 6. Mountainous

**IV. Associated wild and weedy species and crops (specify)**

**V. Site (circle one)**
- 1. Level
- 2. Slope
- 3. Summit
- 4. Depression

**VI. Stoniness (circle one)**
- 1. None
- 2. Low
- 3. Medium
- 4. Rocky

**VII. Soil texture (circle one)**
- 1. Sand
- 2. Loam
- 3. Clay
- 4. Silt
- 5. Highly organic

**VIII. Drainage (circle one)**
- 1. Poor
- 2. Moderate
- 3. Good
- 4. Excessive

**IX. Other observations**

**C. Characterization and management**
- Sowing month
- Harvest month
- Usage (specify)
- Descriptors used by farmers
- Disease and insect pest (specify)
**D. Sample**

I. Status of sample (circle one)
   1. Wild
   2. Weedy
   3. Breeder's line
   4. Landrace
   5. Cultivar
   6. Other (specify)

II. Number of plants sampled

III. Quantity of material (number of seed of plant/sample)

IV. Type of sample (circle one)
   1. Vegetative
   2. Seed
   3. Both

V. Herbarium sample (circle one)
   1. Yes
   2. No

VI. Cultural practices

   1. Shifting cultivation (circle one)
      1. Yes       2. No
   2. Irrigated (circle one)
      1. Yes       2. No
   3. Transplanted (circle one)
      1. Yes       2. No
   4. Terraced (circle one)
      1. Yes       2. No

Collector’s name
Annex B. Coding for preparing field book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trait</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of seeding</td>
<td>DOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of first emergence</td>
<td>DFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotyledon size</td>
<td>CotSz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotyledon color</td>
<td>CotCol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of first harvest for vegetable use</td>
<td>DFH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of last harvest for vegetable use</td>
<td>DLH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of first flowering</td>
<td>DFF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of gynoecious flowering</td>
<td>DGF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of fruit matured for seed</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internode length</td>
<td>IntL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stem shape</td>
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<td>Tendrils</td>
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<td>LfSh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leaf spot color</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf size</td>
<td>LfSz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leaf margin</td>
<td>LfMar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf lobes</td>
<td>LfLb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorsal Leaf pubescence</td>
<td>DLFPub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventral Leaf pubescence</td>
<td>VLFPub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth habit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stem thickness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lateral shoot</td>
<td>LtSht</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stem pubescence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petiole length</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flower color</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex type</td>
<td>SxTyp</td>
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<td>Male and female flower ratio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peduncle shape</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peduncle length</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peduncle separation from fruit</td>
<td>PedSep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blossom-end fruit shape</td>
<td>BEFrSh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stem-end fruit shape</td>
<td>StEFrSh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruit shape</td>
<td>FrSh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruit ribs</td>
<td>FrRib</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Descriptors for sponge gourd

Fruit color  FrCol
Fruit skin texture  FrSkTx
Fruit length  FrL
Fruit width  FrW
Fruit weight  FrWt
Flesh color  FlsCol
Fruit per plant  Fr/Pl
Flesh moisture  FlsMst
Flesh texture  FlsTxt
Fibrous
Fruit skin thickness  FrSkThk
Flesh thickness  FlsThk
Flesh flavor  FlsFlv
Fruit yield per plant  FrY/Pl
Seed per fruit  Sd/Fr
Seed color  SdCol
100-seed weight  100SdWt
Seed length  SdL
Seed width  SdW
Matured fruit length  MtFrL
Matured fruit width  MtFrW
Matured fruit weight  MtFrWt
Sponge quality  SpgQu
Skin hardiness  SkHrd
Fruit size variability  FrSzVr
Seed surface  SdSrf
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Radha K Tiwari
Madhusudan P Upadhyay, PhD

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