

Yield and Response of Bean Breeding Lines for Drought Tolerance to Field Diseases

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Abstract

Climate change has resulted in an increase in the intensity of droughts and rains, and higher temperatures which are adversely affecting crop production in Africa. It has also influenced the distribution and increased the occurrence of disease and pest epidemics. Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) is especially sensitive to these changes. Most released varieties are not well adapted to environmental extremes and extended periods of drought in particular has become a major constraint. In this study, 462 advanced breeding lines developed for drought tolerance were evaluated for yield, agronomic traits and disease response in two contrasting agro-ecologies, Kawanda in the Lake Victoria crescent and Kachwekano in the southwestern highlands. Analysis of variance indicated significant differences ($P < 0.05$) among lines for most variables and environments ($P < 0.001$). Performance was better at Kachwekano than Kawanda with mean yields ranging from 928 to 2251 kg ha⁻¹, and 698 to 2036 kg ha⁻¹ respectively. Angular leafspot, common bacterial blight and rust diseases varied between locations, and among lines with no visible to severe symptoms. Based on Wricke's ecovalence estimates for stability, SCN20, SCN13, SEN114, SEC40 and SEC35 expressed yield stability and superiority. Of the 462 lines, 6.3 % maintained >1500 kg ha⁻¹, the minimum anticipated commercial yield of new varieties, in all the trials, both seasons and in each year; 5.0 % also maintained above average yields. The most outstanding (1629-3944 kg ha⁻¹) were; DAB299, DAB291, DAB234, DAD34, DAB478, DAB487, DAB543, DAB231, SCN20, SCR66, SCR60, and SER335. These are recommended for development of new varieties.

Keywords: diseases, drought, *Phaseolus vulgaris*, yield stability

1. Introduction

Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) is a staple crop that feeds more than 100 million people in Africa (Buruchara et al., 2011) but biotic and abiotic stresses are causing significant yield reductions across the production area (Broughton et al., 2003). Of the abiotic stresses, drought has progressively become one of the major constraints. Unless mitigation strategies are adopted, further declines in yield are anticipated because drought has become more frequent and prolonged (National Adaptation Programmes of Action [NAPA], 2007; East African Community [EAC], 2011). One strategy is irrigation but it is not an option that most farmers can afford. Breeding drought-tolerant varieties is therefore considered a better and more sustainable alternative. During the two main annual growing seasons, this study examined the performance of 462 lines bred for drought tolerance.

Besides losses to drought and in spite of crop improvement programs, yields of bean in farmers' fields in East and Central Africa, 500 to 900 kg ha⁻¹, are well below the potential obtainable from new varieties, 1.5-2.0 t ha⁻¹ (International Center for Tropical Agriculture [CIAT], 2008). In experimental systems, maximum yields of 4.0 and 6.0 t ha⁻¹ have been demonstrated for bush and climbing types of beans respectively (Beebe, Rao, Blair, & Acosta-Gallegos, 2013). Low farmer yield is attributed to poor agronomic practices, and abiotic as well as biotic plant stress. Drought was affecting 40% of the bean growing areas in Africa by 2003 (Broughton et al., 2003). The affected area has since increased (United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC], 2007; EAC, 2011) and yield reductions > 80% have been reported (Singh, 2007; Amongi, Nkalubo, Ochwo-Ssemakula, Gibson, & Edema, 2014; Asfaw & Blair, 2014). Kiwuka, Bukenya-Ziraba, Namaganda, and

Wasswa (2012) reported that drought was starting to affect the adaptation of common bean to Ugandan environments. Changing climates are also altering the occurrence of certain biotic constraints (Garrett, Dendy, Frank, Rouse, & Travers, 2006; Gautam, Bhardwaj, & Rohitashw, 2013; Paparu et al., 2014), so multiple stress tolerant lines are now sought for lessening the effect of these diverse challenges. The common sources of biotic stress are bean fly (*Ophiomyia phaseoli*), aphids (*Aphis fabae*), weevils (*Acanthoscelides obtectus*), fungal, bacterial and viral diseases including anthracnose (*Colletotrichum lindemuthianum*), angular leaf spot (ALS) (*Phaeoisariopsis griseola*), common bacterial blight (CBB) (*Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *phaseoli*), bean common mosaic virus and its necrotic strain, and root rots (*Fusarium solani*, *Pythium ultimum* and *Rhizoctonia solani*, *Sclerotium species*). ALS, rot rots, and anthracnose may cause 50% to 100% yield loss (Uganda Export Promotion Board [UEPB], 2005; Opio, Ugen, Kyamanywa, David, & Mugisa-Mutetikka, 2001; Nkalubo, Melis, Laing, & Opio, 2007; Mukankusi, 2008; Paparu et al., 2014).

Drought tolerance is a highly specific trait where genotypes tend not to be adapted to a broad range of environmental conditions (Acquaah, 2007). In beans, drought tolerance appears to result from a deeper root system, more sensitive stomatal control and a capacity to remobilize stored carbohydrates under stress (Acquaah, 2007; Beebe et al., 2013). The crop has a wide genetic base (Beebe et al., 2013; Kiwuka et al., 2012) with genetic differences in seed weight, leaf proline content, stay-green, root spread and depth, all of which are associated with drought tolerance (Thomas, 1983; Badr, 2005). However, the effectiveness with which carbohydrates are translocated and partitioned as a preferred selection method has been emphasized by Beebe et al. (2013), Asfaw and Blair (2014), and Amongi et al. (2014). This entails the comparison of the performance of breeding lines under stress and non-stress conditions using seed and biomass yield measurements (White & Singh, 1991; Beebe et al., 2013).

Breeding programs in East and Central Africa have only recently initiated the screening of existing germplasm for crop improvement of common bean (Gathu, Karuri, & Njage, 2012; Amongi et al., 2014; Asfaw & Blair, 2014). By contrast, in South America, breeding for drought tolerance in beans has over a 20-year history and through the program at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Colombia (Beebe, Rao, Cajiao, & Grajales, 2008), breeding and selection have resulted in many drought tolerant lines (Blair et al., 2012; Beebe et al., 2013) belonging to several market classes. To support similar activities in Africa, CIAT-Uganda, under the umbrella of the Pan Africa Bean Research Alliance (PABRA) (Buruchara et al., 2011; www.pabra.ciatafrica.org), has obtained drought-tolerant advanced lines from South America to identify superior genotypes (lines) for distribution in the PABRA network (Buruchara et al., 2011). In this study, genotypes improved for drought tolerance were phenotyped for yield, agronomic traits and tolerance to prevailing field diseases.

2. Material Studied

Advanced bush bean breeding lines of *P. vulgaris* developed for drought tolerance by the CIAT bean breeding program in South America were grouped as; (i) Drought-tolerant Andean beans (DAB) Set2 with 185 lines; (ii) DAB Set4 with 95 lines; (iii) Black beans with 33 lines consisting of black grain with bean common mosaic virus (BCMV) recessive gene (NCB), black drought-tolerant beans with BCMV resistant gene (SCN) and black drought-tolerant beans (SEN); (iv) Colored beans with 15 lines consisting of lines resistant to BCMV (SIN) and different colored drought-tolerant beans (SEC); (v) Assorted with 55 lines consisting of Drought-adapted Andean beans for Africa (DAA), Drought tolerant Andean (DAD), large seed (GRR) and large seed crosses block (GGB); and (vi) Small red beans with 79 lines consisting of drought-tolerant small red bush beans with BCMV recessive gene (SCR), drought-tolerant red small bush beans (SER), and drought and physiology beans (SEF). A popular commercially grown variety, CAL96, was included as a local yield check.

3. Area Descriptions

The study was conducted in two locations (L) representing contrasting agro-ecologies in Uganda. At the CIAT station based at the National Agricultural Research Laboratories (NARL), Kawanda, located at 0°25' N, 32°31' E and at an elevation of 1190 m above sea level (asl), and at Kachwekano Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (KAZARDI), Kabale, located at 1°15' S, 29°57' E at an elevation of 2200 m asl. Weather data was collected on-station. The total amount of rainfall received in the 2015 September–December season was 792.3 mm at Kawanda. In the 2016 April to July season, 602.3 mm and 179.8 mm of rainfall were received at Kawanda and Kachwekano respectively. In the two seasons at Kawanda, mean minimum and maximum temperatures were 19.2 and 27.6 °C, and 18.1 and 28.2 °C, respectively. At Kachwekano, mean temperatures were 13.7 °C and 22.1 °C. Weather data for the trials established in 2012 at Kawanda and in the September–December season in 2015 at Kachwekano are not available.

4. Methods and/or Techniques

4.1 Trial Establishment

Trials were established during the first (A) and second (B) rainy seasons, April to July and September to December, respectively. DAB Set2 was the only group planted at Kawanda in 2012A and B. All the other trials were established in 2015B and 2016A at Kachwekano and Kawanda. The lines were laid out in an alpha lattice design with two replications. Plots representing each line within a replication were of 3 rows by 3 m in length; row and plant spacing were 50 cm and 10 cm respectively. Each trial was weeded thrice and an insecticide, Dimethoate and two fungicides (Mancozeb and Ridomil) were applied weekly until flowering. The recommended manufacturer's rate was used for each pesticide. Granular N:P:K 17:17:17 fertilizer was hand applied just before planting at the rate of 125 kg ha⁻¹.

4.2 Data Collection

Data for yield, disease and growth variables were collected at specific intervals based on the bean trait dictionary (Integrated Breeding Platform [IBP], 2013). Days to flowering and physiological maturity were recorded as number of days from planting to the day when 50% of plants had at least one flower and number of days from planting to the day when the first pods began to discolor in 50 % of the plants, respectively (CIAT, 1987; IBP, 2013). Growth vigor was recorded on 1-9 scale where 1 = Excellent, 3 = Good, 5 = Intermediate, 7 = Poor, 9 = Very poor (CIAT 1987). Seed collection for yield began when 90% of the pods had changed color to yellow (Munoz-Perea et al., 2006). The seeds were sun dried to 13% moisture content and sorted before recording clean seed weight per plot (g).

The response of plants to field diseases; angular leaf spot (ALS), common bacterial blight (CBB) and rust, was assessed using a CIAT disease evaluation scale of 1-9 (CIAT, 1987; IBP, 2013). For all diseases, ranking was as follows; 1-3 = Resistant: No visible symptoms or very light symptoms; 4-6 = Intermediate: Visible and conspicuous symptoms resulting only in limited economic damage; 7-9 = Susceptible: Severe to very severe symptoms causing considerable yield losses or plant deaths. For ALS, disease symptoms are characterized by round lesions which usually appear as brown spots confined to tissues around veins giving an angular appearance. For CBB, symptoms initially appear as water soaked spots on the underside of the leaves which enlarge and merge to form large brown irregular lesions surrounded by a narrow yellow zone. For rust, spores are present that easily rub off from leafspots that enlarge to form reddish brown pustules (CIAT, 1987; Buruchara, Mukankusi, & Ampofo, 2010).

4.3 Data Analysis

Data for each trial were analyzed separately using linear mixed models in GenStat (Release 16.2, PC/Windows 7; VSN International Ltd., 2013) to assess within trial variability before performing combined analysis of variance (ANOVA) using unbalanced designs option. Genotype (line) mean data were used to determine G × E interactions in Breeding View Standalone statistical tool available in Breeding Management System (IBP, 2013). Stability or lack of phenotypic plasticity for yield was calculated for each genotype using Cultivar Superiority (CS) and Wricke's Ecovalence (WE) stability coefficients. According to Lin and Binns (1988) CS is the sum of the squares of the difference between the genotypic mean in each environment and the mean of the best genotype, divided by twice the number of environments. Genotypes with the smallest values of CS tend to be more stable, and closer to the best genotype in each environment. Wricke (1962) calculated stability as the contribution of each genotype to the genotype-by-environment sum of squares, in an un-weighted analysis of the genotype-by-environment means. A low WE indicates that the genotype responds in a consistent manner to changes in environment; WE does not account for genotype performance. The interactions for G × E were examined for each individual trait using the Additive Main Effects and Multiplicative Interaction (AMMI), and the Genotype Main Effects and Genotype × Environment Interaction Effects (GGE) Model. In the AMMI model, a two-way ANOVA additive model is performed (additive main effects), followed by a principal component analysis on the residuals (multiplicative interaction). As a result, the interaction is characterized by Interaction Principal Components (IPCA), where genotypes and environments can be simultaneously plotted in biplots. In the GGE model, a 1-way ANOVA, including environment as a main effect, was run followed by a principal component analysis on the residuals (Yan, Hunt, Sheng, & Szlavnic, 2000; Yan & Kang, 2003). Like AMMI, principal component scores can be used to construct biplots. In contrast, the genotypic main effects are also represented in the plot in GGE. The GGE model is superior to the AMMI model at differentiating mega-environments (Yan, Kang, Ma, Woods, & Cornelius, 2007).

5. Results

5.1 Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

The effect of location (L) was not significantly different for most variables in all the six groups of lines except, for some groups, in rust (*RUST*), plant vigor (*PLNTVIG*) and days to flowering (*DF*) ($P \leq 0.05$) (Table 1). In general, seasons within locations (Season/L), and replications within season and location (Rep/Season/L) were significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) for most variables. The lines were significantly different ($P \leq 0.05$) in a very few variables in four groups; in DAB Set2 none were significantly different and in DAB Set4 all showed significant differences. The interaction of line by season within location (Line \times Season/L) was significant for all groups in some variables. Due to the observed variability in the performance of lines across trials (Line \times Season/L), each trial was considered as a different environment for the Genotype \times Environment Interaction analysis.

Table 1. Analysis of variance for assessed variables at two locations (L) during two seasons, April-July and September-December[#]

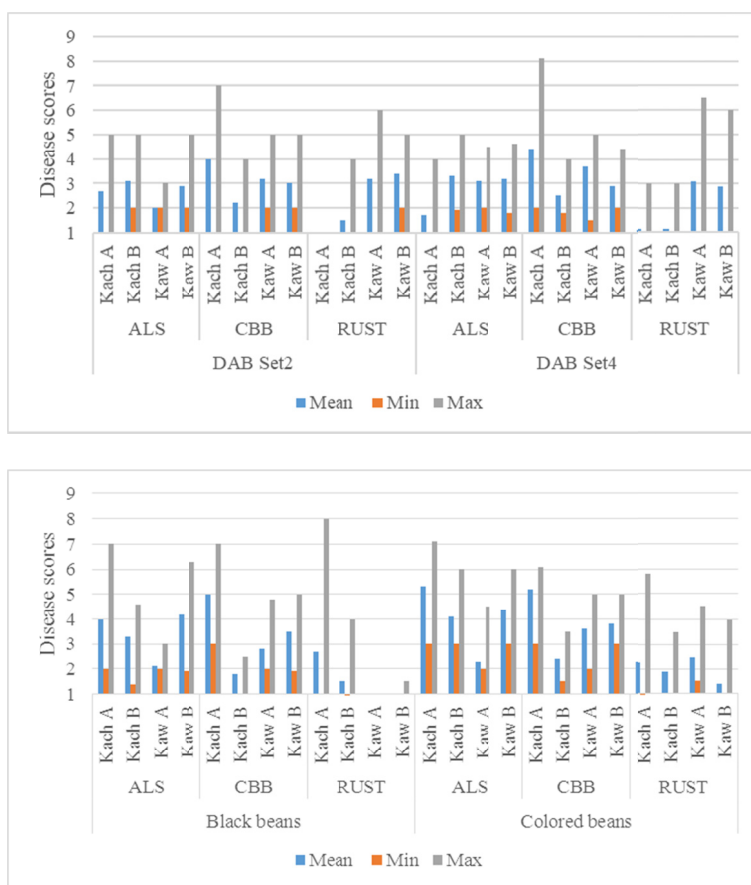
Source of variation	<i>d.f.</i>	<i>ALS</i>	<i>CBB</i>	<i>RUST</i>	<i>PLNTVIG</i>	<i>DF</i>	<i>DPM</i>	<i>YDHA</i>
<i>DAB Set2</i>								
Location (L)	1	81.05	0.06	1367.74*	43.96	0.0	0.0	17519221.0
Season/L	2	85.48	327.64***	28.50	24.20	6383.0***	36965.7***	79875447.0**
Rep/Season/L	4	38.40***	5.10***	5.60***	9.68***	40.2***	10.0**	3914515.3***
Line	185	0.98	1.46	1.29	1.04	13.3	8.9	474920.6
Line \times L	185	0.95	1.22*	1.09***	0.91*	0.0	0.0	380819.3
Line \times Season/L	370	0.83**	0.94	0.69	0.69	5.3	3.4***	367892.3***
Residual	740	0.67	0.95	0.66	0.69	4.7	2.3	244887.7
Total	1487	1.05	1.49	1.77	0.84	14.0	52.8	449614.7
<i>DAB Set4</i>								
Location (L)	1	90.03	4.85	671.63**	2.42	32447.0*	126017.3	8000432.0
Season/L	2	125.62*	195.14*	3.90	26.93	967.3***	15241.2***	14502218.0
Rep/Season/L	4	7.97***	13.95***	3.72***	13.70***	15.4	8.1	9875964.0***
Line	95	1.35***	1.94**	2.66**	1.42***	31.2***	26.1**	382034.0*
Line \times L	95	0.50	1.10	1.42**	0.73	12.6	14.6	269059.7
Line \times Season/L	190	0.75**	1.13***	0.85	0.63**	14.1***	14.9***	240558.4
Residual	380	0.55	0.74	0.72	0.47	8.3	9.8	211654.7
Total	767	1.18	1.61	1.98	0.80	57.9	217.7	344846.8
<i>Black beans</i>								
Location (L)	1	13.344	4.8679	80.4622	37.01*	2878.96	20986.47	1672376
Season/L	2	80.42***	176.05***	24.15**	1.38	829.0***	4526.9***	9232468.0
Rep/Season/L	4	1.20	0.85	0.49	2.59***	9.0	30.5**	1757977.8***
Line	33	2.58	0.96	2.06	1.44*	54.4	26.1	650671.4
Line \times L	33	1.48	0.68	2.32***	0.75	32.3	17.0	394203.4
Line \times Season/L	66	1.60***	1.13**	0.90	0.47	41.5	16.2***	480620.3*
Residual	132	0.59	0.62	0.84	0.43	34.7	8.1	314209.6
Total	271	1.83	2.11	1.65	0.77	54.5	124.4	497589.3
<i>Colored beans</i>								
Location (L)	1	48.4088	0.0137	1.469	0.0041	321.167	11235.17	3087454
Season/L	2	44.36***	60.95**	13.51	5.20	6351.2***	1179.6***	5892513.0**
Rep/Season/L	4	0.23	1.77*	3.44*	1.95*	26.1**	4.0	279007.3
Line	15	1.89*	0.87	4.93	2.43	30.6	27.1**	840892.5**
Line \times L	15	0.57	0.45	2.83	1.33	19.2*	5.6	235257.0*
Line \times Season/L	30	1.07	1.00*	1.86	1.12*	7.3	5.6	102609.2
Residual	60	0.81	0.50	1.14	0.60	5.9	3.6	207187.5
Total	127	2.01	1.64	2.23	1.14	113.7	114.0	375120.3
<i>Assorted</i>								
Location (L)	1	112.73	0.58	2.64	23.29	9562.6*	30238.4	6897162.0
Season/L	2	34.18*	382.32***	7.22	3.26	458.7**	6005.5***	28495720.5*
Rep/Season/L	4	2.5**	3.72**	1.17*	1.59*	16.8*	13.2	3647386.0***
Line	55	1.67	1.71	1.20*	1.36	41.2***	31.2*	1297188.1
Line \times L	55	1.80**	1.28	0.71	1.00	17.5*	18.8	875087.1*
Line \times Season/L	107	0.91	1.22*	0.78***	0.80*	12.0***	13.1*	567365.7
Residual	214	0.83	0.88	0.43	0.56	6.2	9.2	454190.5
Total	438	1.50	2.85	0.69	0.84	36.8	108.6	806007.6

<i>Small red beans</i>								
Location (L)	1	284.14	0.08	63.71	24.49	9226.0	79078.1	15934789.0
Season/L	2	378.9***	233.5*	30.4*	4.55	1412.7***	16060.5***	3951428.5
Rep/Season/L	4	3.01	14.6***	3.3**	3.5***	4.8	33.2***	1206240.0*
Line	79	1.60	1.59	1.26	1.26	29.1**	11.2*	605951.0*
Line × L	79	1.94	1.13	1.2**	0.96	14.5	7.6	389972.2
Line × Season/L	158	1.80	1.3**	0.80	0.70	13.5***	6.5	421310.8
Residual	316	1.59	0.87	0.77	0.73	8.8	5.4	393228.1
Total	639	3.32	1.90	1.10	0.88	32.0	180.8	466616.2

Note. *df* = degree of freedom, *Rep* = replication, *ALS* = angular leaf spot, *CBB* = common bacterial blight, *PLNTVIG* = plant vigor, *DF* = days to 50% flowering, *DPM* = days to physiological maturity, *YDHA* = clean yield estimated in kg ha⁻¹. *, **, *** = significant at P ≤ 0.05, P ≤ 0.01 and P ≤ 0.001 respectively.

5.2 Field Disease Occurrence

Angular leaf spot (*ALS*) and common bacterial blight (*CBB*) were the major diseases in all seasons and locations (Figure 1). A wide range of scores was observed but means were generally low (1.0-5.8) implying that most of the lines had low ratings; however some lines had severe symptoms (rating > 7.0). Also for *CBB* and *ALS*, a trend suggests a higher disease pressure at Kachwekano than Kawanda. Kachwekano also had an outbreak of *Ascochyta* blight but its ratings were generally low and are not presented. Among DAB Set2, *ALS*, *CBB* and *RUST* scores ranged from 1 to 5, 1-7 and 1-6, respectively, and for DAB Set4 from 1 to 5, 1-8.1 and 1-6.5; for Black and Colored beans, 1.4-7, 1-7 and 1-8, and 2-7.1, 1.5-6.1 and 1.0-5.8; and for the Assorted and Small-red beans, 1-6, 1.5-9 and 1-6.5, and 2-8, 2-7 and 1-6 (Figure 1).



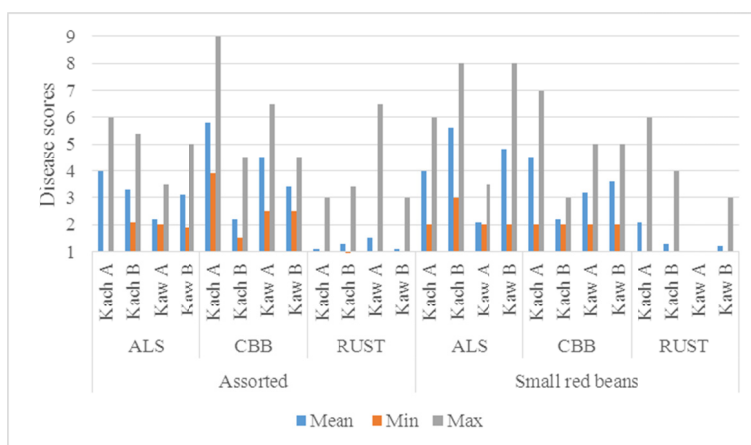


Figure 1. Variation in field diseases at Kawanda and Kachwekano during the first (A) and second (B) season
 Note. *Kach* = Kachwekano, *Kaw* = Kawanda, *ALS* = Angular leaf spot in field, *CBB* = common bacterial blight on leaves in field, *RUST* = Rust on leaves in field.

For *ALS* and for each group, the lines DAB335, DAB603, SEN116, SIN524, SCR64 and DAD8 had the lowest scores whereas DAB444, DAB940, SEN107, SIN526, DAA7 had the highest; 0.6% (DAB Set2), 38.5% (DAB Set4), 57.6% (Black beans), 26.7% (Colored beans), 74.7% (Small red beans) and 3.6% (Assorted) of the lines responded better than CAL96, the susceptible check (Table 2). For *CBB*, the lowest and highest scores were for lines DAB287, DAB603, SCN16, SIN527, SER349, DAD29, and DAB252, DAB932, SCN20, SEC34, SER345, DAA6, respectively; in Black and Small-red beans all lines had lower scores than CAL96, and for DAB Set2, DAB Set4, Colored and Assorted groups, 13.5%, 87.5%, 86.7 and 80.0%, respectively. For *RUST*, the lowest and highest scores were for lines DAB252, DAB589, SCN18, SEC39, SCR39, DAD36, and DAB351, DAB900, SEN111, SEC42, SCR71, GRR12, respectively; 3.9% (DAB Set2), 70.8% (DAB Set4), 24.2% (Black beans), 53.3% (Colored beans), 0% (Small red beans) and 0% (Assorted) of the lines performed better than CAL96 in the three diseases (Table 2).

Table 2. Disease mean scores for test lines in two locations during two seasons, April-July and September-December

	DAB Set2	DAB Set4	Black beans	Colored beans	Small red beans	Assorted	
	DAB335	DAB603	SEN116	SIN524	SCR64	DAD8	2.0
	DAB270	DAB932	SCN15	SIN527	SER377	GGB4	2.1
	DAB287	DAB582	SEN119	SEC40	SER345	DAD9	2.3
	DAB324	DAB573	SEN120	SEC39	SCR39	DAD11	2.6
	DAB358	DAB921	SEN114	SIN525	SCR54	DAA3	2.8
	DAB364	DAB570	SCN14	SEC37	SCR70	DAD21	2.8
	DAB387	DAB574	SEN112	SEC35	SCR47	DAD39	2.8
	DAB414	DAB581	SCN16	SEC43	SEF15	DAD6	2.8
Angular leaf spot	DAB233	DAB583	SCN18	SEC38	SER342	GRR 30	3.7
	DAB316	DAB915	SEN101	SEC42	SCR57	GRR 25	3.8
	DAB355	SEQ1003	SCN20	SEC33	SCR71	GRR 5	3.8
	DAB470	DAB909	SEN109	SEC41	SCR49	DAA9	3.9
	DAB476	DAB942	NCB280	SEC34	SCR69	GGB6	3.9
	DAB351	DAB941	SEN103	SEC36	SER352	GGB8-2	4.0
	DAB444	DAB940	SEN107	SIN526	SER363	DAA7	4.4
	CAL96	CAL96	CAL96	CAL96	CAL96	CAL96	2.2
	< CAL96 [#]	1%	39%	58%	27%	75%	4%
Common bacterial blight	DAB287	DAB603	SCN16	SIN527	SER349	DAD29	2.8
	DAB378	DAB602	SCN15	SEC33	SCR60	GGB1	2.9
	DAB540	DAB914	SEN109	SIN524	SCR44	GRR 25	3.1
	DAB324	DAB584	SEN122	SIN525	SER348	DAD34	3.3
	DAB359	SAB659	NCB280	SEC40	SCR61	GRR 21	3.4

Common bacterial blight	DAB364	2.3	DAB380	2.6	SEN104	3.0	SEC42	3.5	SER366	2.7	GGB6	3.4
	DAB413	2.3	DAB909	2.7	SEN110	3.1	SIN526	3.5	SER360	2.7	DAD22	3.5
	DAB496	2.3	DAB574	2.7	SCN21	3.1	SEC41	3.7	SER335	2.7	DAD23	3.5
	DAB348	4.0	DAB931	4.2	SEN107	3.5	SEC38	3.7	SER354	4.0	DAA8	4.6
	DAB349	4.0	DAB925	4.3	SEN108	3.5	SEC37	3.8	SEF14	4.0	GRR 16	4.6
	DAB474	4.0	DAB923	4.3	SEN111	3.6	SEC43	3.9	SER326	4.0	DAD38	4.8
	DAB315	4.3	DAB905	4.4	SEN115	3.6	SEC36	4.0	SEF 29	4.1	DAA10	4.9
	DAB478	4.3	DAB929	4.5	SEN117	3.6	SEC35	4.0	SCR47	4.1	DAD49	4.9
	DAB314	5.0	DAB941	4.5	SEN121	3.6	SEC39	4.2	SER357	4.3	GRR 26	4.9
	DAB252	6.0	DAB932	4.9	SCN20	3.9	SEC34	4.2	SER345	4.5	DAA6	5.5
	CAL96	2.8	CAL96	4.0	CAL96	4.6	CAL96	4.1	CAL96	4.7	CAL96	4.3
	< CAL96	14%		88%		100%		87%		100%		80%
	Rust	DAB252	1.0	DAB589	1.1	SCN18	1.0	SEC39	1.1	SCR39	1.0	DAD36
DAB314		1.0	DAB588	1.2	SEN103	1.0	SEC37	1.3	SCR45	1.0	DAD40	1.0
DAB219		1.5	DAB574	1.3	SEN106	1.0	SEC40	1.3	SCR46	1.0	GRR 30	1.0
DAB251		1.5	SAB659	1.4	SEN118	1.0	SEC34	1.5	SCR51	1.0	GRR 5	1.0
DAB293		1.5	DAB579	1.4	SCN14	1.0	SEC35	1.5	SCR55	1.0	GRR 18	1.0
DAB474		1.5	DAB601	1.4	SEN119	1.0	SIN527	1.5	SCR74	1.0	GRR 23	1.0
DAB218		1.8	DAB572	1.5	SEN101	1.1	SEC38	1.5	SCR60	1.0	DAA1	1.1
DAB221		1.8	DAB569	1.5	SEN114	1.1	SIN526	1.7	SEF 16	1.0	DAA3	1.1
DAB491		3.3	DAB924	3.1	SCN15	2.0	SEC36	2.1	SER357	2.0	DAD32	1.7
DAB483		3.3	DAB915	3.1	SEN102	2.0	SEC33	2.5	SCR65	2.3	DAA6	1.7
DAB515		3.3	DAB926	3.2	SEN113	2.0	SEC41	2.8	SER355	2.3	DAD39	1.8
DAB526		3.3	DAB933	3.4	NCB280	2.1	SIN524	2.8	SER373	2.3	GRR 8	2.1
DAB313		3.7	DAB906	3.5	SCN20	2.2	SEC43	3.1	SCR50	2.5	GRR 25	2.1
DAB347		3.7	DAB903	3.7	NCB226	2.3	SIN525	3.2	SER366	2.5	DAD38	2.3
DAB351		3.7	DAB900	4.5	SEN111	3.5	SEC42	3.3	SCR71	2.8	GRR 12	2.9
CAL96		1.8	CAL96	2.3	CAL96	1.2	CAL96	1.8	CAL96	1.0	CAL96	1.0
< CAL96		4%		71%		24%		53%		0%		0%

Note. # < CAL96 percentage of lines that responded to diseases better than CAL96 across environments.

5.3 Yield Related Traits

5.3.1 Analysis of Variance for AMMI Model

Replication means for each trial were analyzed. Each location (Kachwekano, Kawanda) and season (A, B) was considered as different environments. Significant differences ($P \leq 0.05$) among lines were found in plant vigor, *DF*, *DPM* and *YDHA* for DAB Set4, Assorted, Red and Colored beans (Table 3). Environments were highly different ($P \leq 0.001$) for all the variables measured in six groups. Among DAB Set4, significant ($P \leq 0.05$) IPCA 1 and IPCA 2 were obtained in all variables; for the Black and Red beans, both IPCA 1 and IPCA 2 were significant ($P \leq 0.05$) for *DF* and *DPM*. In addition, IPCA 1 was significant for *YDHA* in the Black beans and plant vigor in the Red beans. In the Assorted beans, both IPCA 1 and IPCA 2 were significant for plant vigor and *DPM*. Among DAB Set2 and Colored beans, IPCA 1 was significant for plant vigor and *YDHA* (Table 3).

Table 3. Variance and genotype by environment ($G \times E$) interaction for AMMI model for days to flowering (DF) and maturity (DPM) and clean yield (YDHA)

Source of variation	<i>d.f.</i>	Plant vigor	<i>DF</i>	<i>DPM</i>	<i>YDHA</i>	<i>d.f.</i>	Plant vigor	<i>DF</i>	<i>DPM</i>	<i>YDHA</i>
DAB Set4						Black beans				
Genotypes	96	0.73***	16.0***	13.0***	206425**	33	0.71***	23.4	10.9	318188
Environments	3	9.72***	6030.0***	28205.0***	7326482***	3	6.16***	769.0***	5130.8***	3396629***
Interactions	288	0.34	7.0	8.0	134927	99	0.29	18.7	8.1	241684
IPCA 1	98	0.44***	14.0***	13.0***	199938***	35	0.35	46.8***	15.3***	406608***
IPCA 2	96	0.35*	5.0***	7.0***	120759*	33	0.29	5.4***	7.2***	182154
Residuals	94	0.22	1.0	3.0	81619	31	0.21	1.2	0.8	118851
Assorted						Small red beans				
Genotypes	55	0.68*	20.7***	16.0***	652455**	79	0.81***	14.5***	6.0**	306778*
Environments	3	4.90***	1765.7***	7320.0***	11760952***	3	4.53***	2039.0***	19450.0***	4223137***
Interactions	165	0.44	6.9	8.0	359300	237	0.46	6.9	4.0	207105
IPCA 1	57	0.53*	15.0***	11.0**	498261**	81	0.58*	15.3***	6.0***	245293
IPCA 2	55	0.49*	4.0***	8.0	345812	79	0.41	3.2*	3.0***	200986
Residuals	53	0.31	1.2	5.0	223849	77	0.38	1.9	1.0	173212
DAB Set2						Colored beans				
Genotypes	155	0.47			273082	15	1.32*			414397*
Environments	3	10.97***			26413385***	3	2.23*			2848092***
Interactions	465	0.47			261935	45	0.60			203655
IPCA 1	157	0.66***			415417***	17	1.01**			394066**
IPCA 2	155	0.42			219020**	15	0.45			104842
Residuals	153	0.34			147917	13	0.24			68671

Note. *d.f.* = degree of freedom, *, **, *** = significant at $P \leq 0.05$, $P \leq 0.01$ and $P \leq 0.001$ respectively.

5.3.2 Growth Vigor

Growth vigor was generally better at Kawanda than at Kachwekano with scores ranging from 1 (excellent) to 5 (intermediate) (Figure 2). Majority of the lines in all the groups showed excellent or good vigor (1-4). Intermediate vigor was shown by 7 % of lines in Colored bean group and 1 % of lines in Small red bean group at Kachwekano.

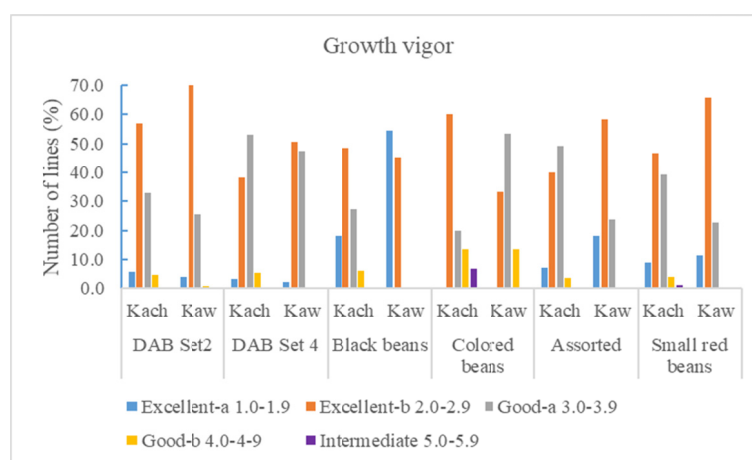


Figure 2. Number of lines (%) grouped according to 1-9 scale for growth vigor

5.3.3 Days to Flowering (*DF*) and Physiological Maturity (*DPM*)

These two variables were generally higher at Kachwekano than at Kawanda. *DF* ranged from 30-46 at Kawanda and 37-58 at Kachwekano whereas *DPM* ranged from 62-78 (Kawanda) and 82-108 (Kachwekano) (Figure 3).

For DAB Set4, the earliest maturing lines were 71 (DAB918), 2 (CAL96) and 74 (DAB921) that matured on day 80 and 84 at Kachwekano, and 59 (DAB906), 49 (DAB631) and 83 (DAB930) on day 64 and 65 at Kawanda. DAB918 matured on day 66 at Kawanda thus it showed consistency in early maturity in the data set. Among the black beans, line 1 (CAL96) was the earliest to mature on day 86 followed by 34 (SEN122), 32 (SEN120) and 27 (SEN115) on day 88 at Kachwekano. All these lines matured on day 74 at Kawanda but the earliest lines which matured on day 73 at this location were 3 (NCB280), 4 (SCN13), 30 (SEN118), 5 (SCN14), 12 (SCN21), 14 (SEN102) and 8 (SCN17). In case of Assorted beans, the lines 13 (DAD21), 15 (DAD23), 56 (GRR8) and 1 (CAL96) matured earliest on day 84 or 85 at Kachwekano. Of these CAL96 was among the earliest to mature at Kawanda on day 70 and DAD23 matured on day 72. Among the Small-red beans, 1 (CAL96) and 62 (SER345) matured earliest on day 88 at Kachwekano. At Kawanda, they reached maturity at 73 and 74 days while the earliest to mature was 41 (SEF14) on day 70 (Figure 3).

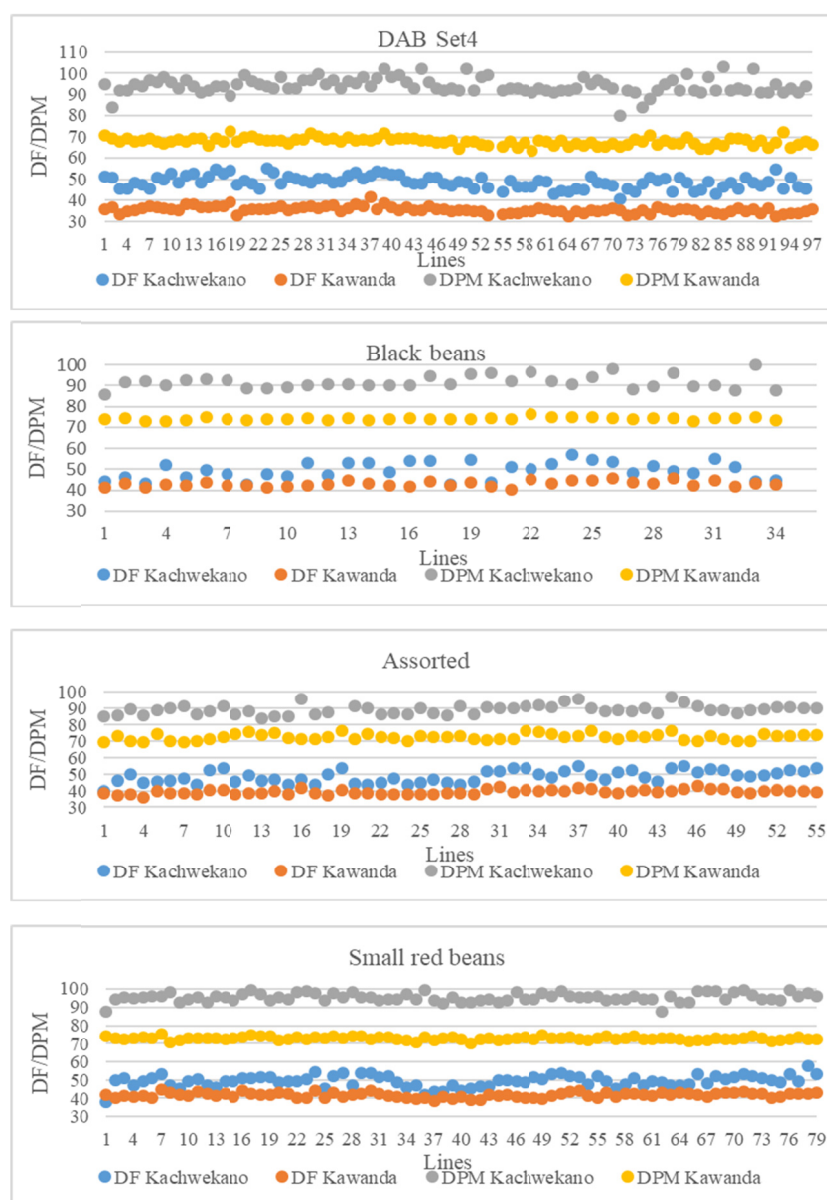


Figure 3. Days to 50% flowering (DF) and physiological maturity (DPM) at Kawanda and Kachwekano

5.3.4 Yield Performance

Yield not only highly varied among groups but also between the two locations and the two seasons they were evaluated in (Figure 4). Generally, DAB Set4 was the poorest yielding group while DAB Set2 and Black beans

were the best. Kachwekano B recorded the highest mean yields for DAB Set2, Black and Colored beans with ranges of 336-3786 kg ha⁻¹, 1064-3738 kg ha⁻¹ and 602-3299 kg ha⁻¹ respectively. The lowest mean yields for these three groups were obtained at Kachwekano A. DAB Set4, Small red beans and Assorted group obtained the highest mean yields at Kachwekano A, Kawanda B and Kawanda A, with a range of 436-2981 kg ha⁻¹, 740-2966 kg ha⁻¹ and 904-3414 kg ha⁻¹ respectively (Figure 4).

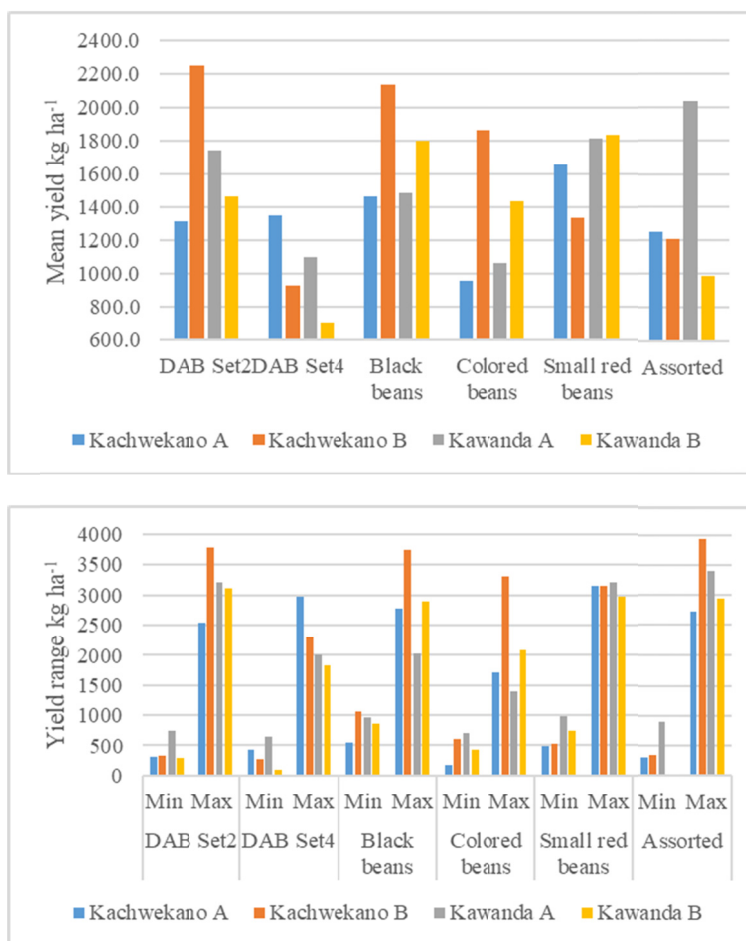


Figure 3. Mean clean yield and range of lines in four environments; A = first season, B = second season

5.3.5 Genotype, Environment Interaction for Yield

The AMMI biplots reveal patterns of $G \times E$ and inform on adaptation of genotypes (lines) to environments basing on $G \times E$ and not performance. In this study, all environments except Kawanda A shared fairly equal responsibility for $G \times E$ in DAB Set2. Kachwekano (A/B) was the most responsible for $G \times E$ in DAB Set4 whereas Kawanda B/Kachwekano B was most responsible in Black and Colored beans (Figure 5). For Assorted beans, Kawanda was generally responsible for most $G \times E$ but only Kawanda B was most responsible in Small-red beans. GGE biplot was used to group environments in homogenous sets (mega-environments). For DAB Set2, the GGE analysis did not group any of the four environments into main mega environments for yield (Figure 5). The total variation that could be explained was 66.9 % and majority of the lines are close to the axes signifying stability. Kawanda A/B were the best environments for most of the lines. The lines 84 (DAB389), 6 (DAB222), 39 (DAB299), 33 (DAB287) were some of the high yielding but less stable lines while 5 (DAB221), 32 (DAB282), 83 (DAB288), 22 (DAB254) and 70 (DAB361) were among the relatively high yielding and more stable lines. Yields for DAB Set4 were grouped into three major mega environments where Kawanda A/B were grouped together while Kachwekano A/B were separate. There was no line recommended for Kachwekano A but several lines were suitable for the other environments. In this group, the total explainable variation was 74.8%. The line 18 (DAB582) was relatively high yielding and stable whereas 96 (SAB659), 92 (DAB939), 30 (DAB601) and 94 (DAB941) were high yielding but less stable. For the Black beans, Kawanda B and

Kachwekano A were grouped as one and Kawanda A and Kachwekano B were separate. The total explainable variation was 78.8% and the majority of the lines were away from the axes indicating instability. The line 19 (SEN107) was stable and high yielding. For Colored, Assorted and Small red beans, environments were grouped into two main ones. Among the Colored beans, Kawanda A and Kachwekano B were grouped together and no line was best suited there. The lines 9 (SEC40), 10 (SEC41) were high yielding and suitable for Kawanda B and Kachwekano A. For Assorted beans, Kawanda A/B were together and had more suitable lines (53 (GRR29), 42 (GGB9), 54 (GRR30), 51 (GRR25) than Kachwekano A/B (48 (GRR18), 6 (DAA7)). Among Small-red beans, Kawanda A/B, and Kachwekano B were grouped as one main environment while Kachwekano A was alone with no suitable lines. The lines 56 (SER339), 32 (SCR60), 52 (SER335) and 18 (SCR66) were best suited for the former group (Figure 5).

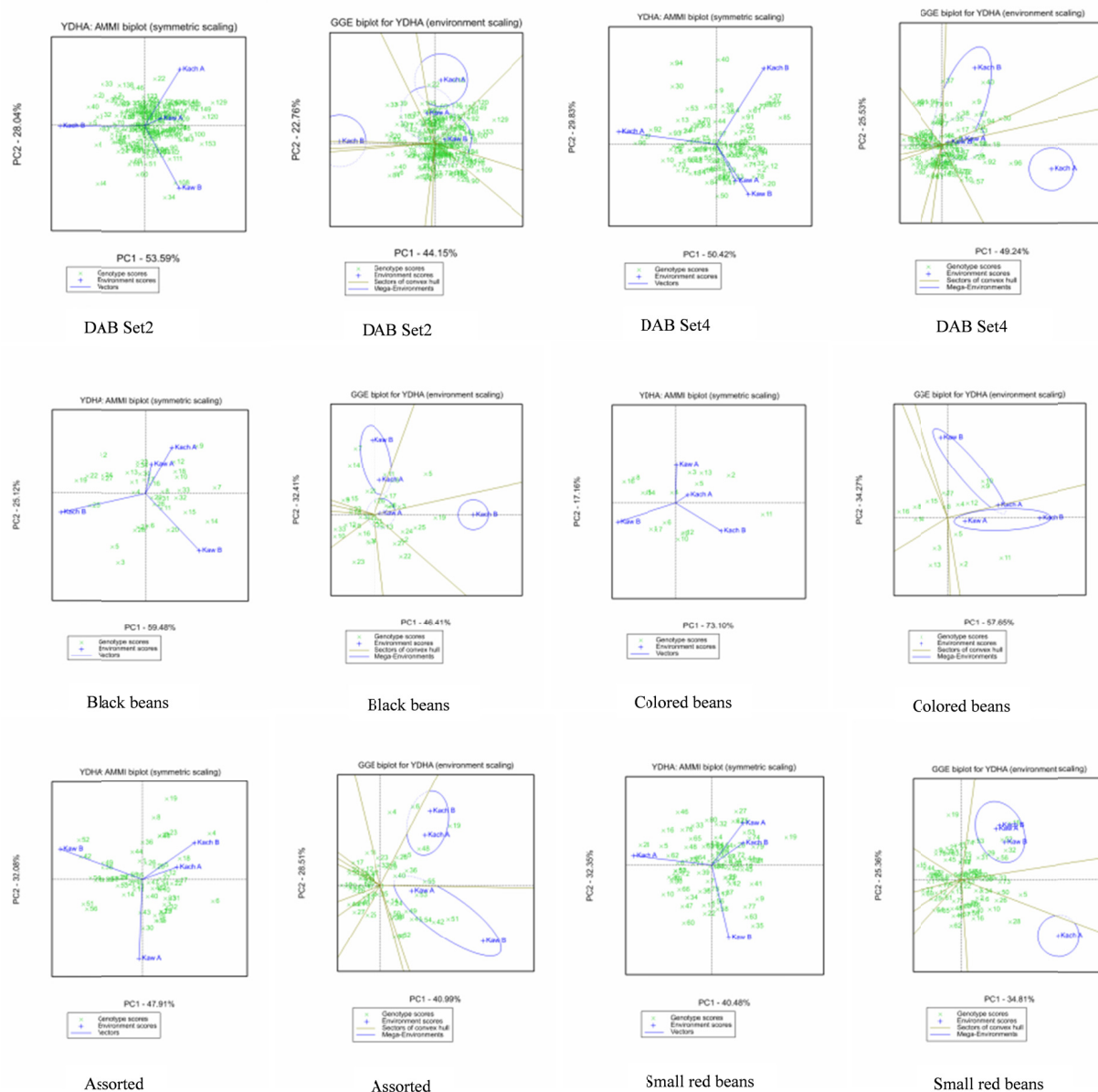


Figure 5. AMMI and GGE biplots for yield of lines from six groups in four environments

5.3.6 Yield Stability

Lines were also categorized according to general performance and stability for yield (Table 4). Among DAB Set2, lines DAB299 (2533 kg ha⁻¹), DAB291 (2202 kg ha⁻¹), DAB249 and DAB449 combined high performance and consistency considering their low values for cultivar superiority. Based on the Wricke's ecovalence,

DAB328 (1724 kg ha⁻¹), DAB398 (1591 kg ha⁻¹), DAB315, DAB357, DAB523 and DAB391 were the most stable with respect to changing environments (dynamic stability). In this group, none of the best performers expressed dynamic stability. This observation was also true for DAB Set4. However, among the lines that combined high performance and consistency namely; DAB582 (1700 kg ha⁻¹), DAB601 (1571 kg ha⁻¹), SAB659, DAB611, DAB571, DAB917, DAB914 and DAB568, three lines including DAB601, SAB659 and DAB611 were among the least stable. The lines DAB901 (1019 kg ha⁻¹), SEQ1003 (858 kg ha⁻¹), DAB613 (569 kg ha⁻¹), DAB580 and DAB930 showed high stability although their yield performance were generally low. Among the Black beans, three of the high performing and consistent lines namely SCN20 (2167 kg ha⁻¹), SCN13 (1873 kg ha⁻¹) and SEN114 (1875 kg ha⁻¹) also expressed stability. In the same category of high performers, SCN14 (2358 kg ha⁻¹), SEN107 (2203 kg ha⁻¹), SEN113 (1868 kg ha⁻¹) and SEN112 (1844 kg ha⁻¹) were among the least stable. The lines SEN104 (SEN104) and SEN117 (SEN117) had the lowest Wricke's ecovalence and thus are the most stable in the group. In the case of Colored beans, four of the lines that combined high performance and consistency; SEC40 (1860 kg ha⁻¹), SEC35 (1559 kg ha⁻¹), SEC36 (1338 kg ha⁻¹) and SEC37 (1301 kg ha⁻¹) also expressed stability. For the Assorted beans, DAD34 (2411 kg ha⁻¹), DAA7 (2308 kg ha⁻¹), GRR18 (1988 kg ha⁻¹), DAA6, GGB2 and DAD44 combined high performance and consistency. None of these lines appeared among the most stable. Among the small red beans, SCR66 (2422 kg ha⁻¹), SCR60 (2275 kg ha⁻¹), SER335 (2270 kg ha⁻¹) and SCR46 (2249 kg ha⁻¹) combined high performance with consistency. Of these SCR46 and SCR66 were among the least stable (Table 4).

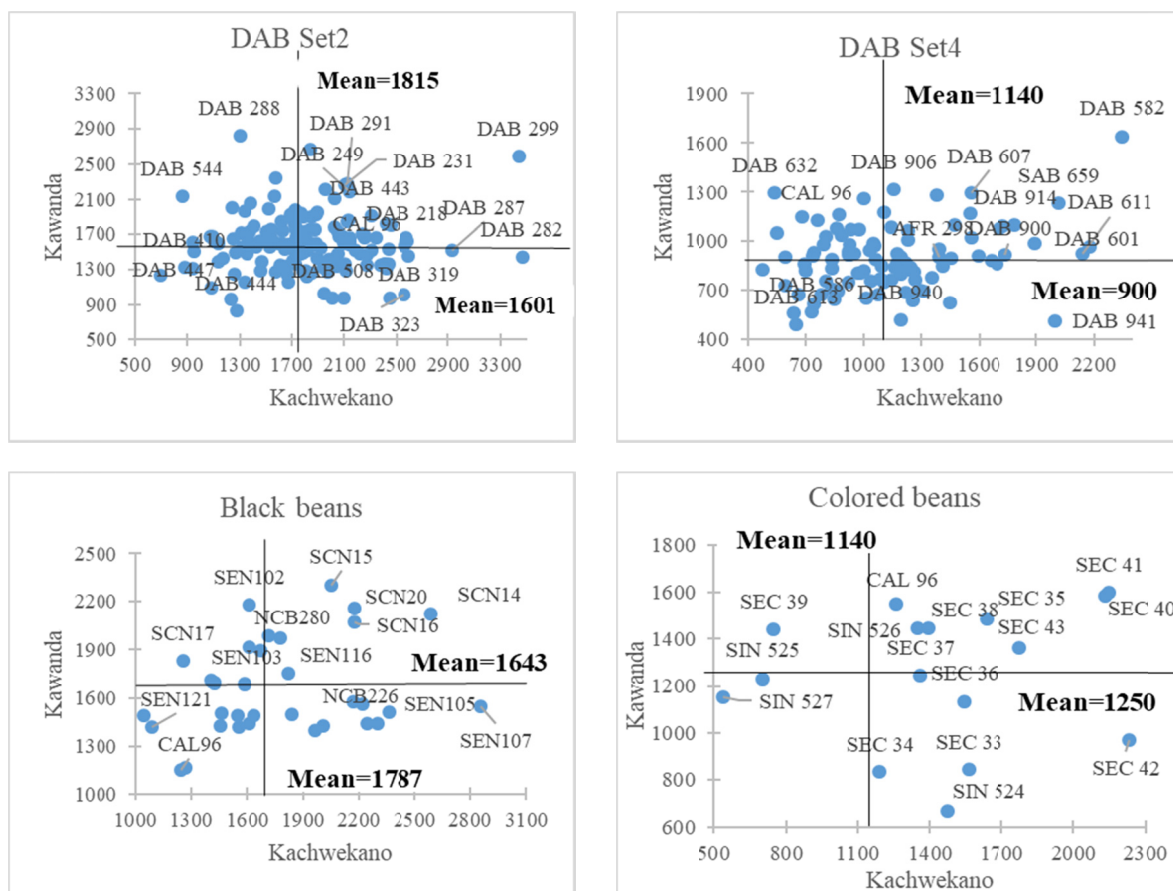
Table 5. Stability coefficients for selected lines (genotype) by across environment data[#]

Line	Means	CS	WE	Line	Means	CS	WE	Line	Means	CS	WE
DABSet2				DABSet4				Black beans			
DAB299	2533	308194	880076	DAB582	1700	245430	253324	SCN14	2358	197981	901002
DAB291	2202	510836	211816	DAB601	1571	281828	604698	SCN20	2167	329981	149086
DAB249	2161	515949	227111	SAB 659	1623	318499	871848	SEN107	2203	350274	1091170
DAB449	2255	517919	321344	DAB611	1531	376008	542123	SCN15	2175	375854	321597
DAB293	2134	593773	451016	DAB571	1440	388808	272880	SEN105	1939	463304	328980
DAB443	2108	661143	340523	DAB917	1392	397838	206871	SCN13	1873	501389	246215
DAB439	2122	680882	783053	DAB914	1444	404442	352902	SEN113	1868	575104	863134
DAB369	2071	721013	724830	DAB568	1361	470482	382246	SEN112	1844	600405	497248
DAB234	1982	738091	147898	DAB610	1141	775463	23178	SEN114	1875	624358	129647
DAB523	1904	821281	139580	DAB930	1047	794195	139695	SEN116	1789	647340	428821
DAB328	1724	1042236	232193	DAB901	1019	827791	75472	NCB226	1889	677841	534497
DAB543	1775	1046820	12733	DAB580	971	883510	117869	SEN101	1720	711284	195600
DAB398	1591	1236488	188759	DAB603	970	1004976	20292	SEN118	1668	795423	84262
DAB270	1653	1248800	23178	DAB910	887	1034158	9010	SEN117	1637	871420	97876
DAB359	1610	1275223	27417	DAB587	919	1036454	4798	SEN119	1523	981427	91875
DAB235	1629	1280775	16060	DAB935	834	1126554	5111	SEN106	1562	1009231	51688
DAB357	1556	1299987	235536	DAB905	780	1160660	69301	SEN120	1558	1032159	84295
DAB391	1544	1313584	161747	DAB589	772	1206045	9157	SEN122	1524	1056794	108079
DAB315	1422	1537878	194620	DAB915	726	1274010	15970	SEN104	1444	1125591	51393
DAB343	1395	1638055	20289	DAB633	680	1368424	30176	SCN17	1543	1171775	183932
DAB232	1378	1678911	29703	DAB937	600	1465638	37469	SCN21	1483	1182308	13762
DAB413	1248	1900610	21393	DAB613	569	1512307	43014	SEN121	1252	1514119	64322
DAB335	1097	2207036	29967	AFR 298	1149	650917	238590	SEN111	1214	1552921	127398
DAB442	1091	2258157	20264	SEQ1003	858	1031507	83714	SCN19	1270	1561726	68796
CAL96	1884	837461	373917	CAL96	977	1030650	43549	CAL96	1382	1139594	167830
Colored beans				Assorted				Small red beans			
SEC40	1860	68797	266634	DAD34	2411	521304	4870541	SCR66	2422	377671	1631016
SEC41	1874	75424	361279	DAA7	2308	902197	3077224	SCR60	2275	404037	496719
SEC43	1569	177883	170434	GRR18	1988	1018362	1342885	SER335	2270	450153	1131247
SEC35	1559	276718	62279	DAA6	1835	1107246	304931	SCR46	2249	588247	1220604
SEC42	1603	337845	2701915	GRR29	1905	1150769	363362	SER356	2077	622032	255599
SEC38	1419	351652	264334	GRR25	2344	1202773	2730081	SCR61	2050	648672	615296
SEC36	1338	410593	225423	GRR5	2067	1230909	1360404	SCR63	1732	987481	25293

SEC37	1301	417814	107090	DAD14	998	2705531	145411	SCR71	1588	1233190	49805
SEC33	1204	580201	1086918	GRR14	948	2854180	75555	SCR50	1467	1415581	81853
SIN526	1246	616948	415383	DAD41	869	2888266	190487	SER329	1401	1502168	72207
SEC34	1013	770644	318664	GRR12	915	2923003	106202	SCR55	1328	1628340	85264
SEC39	1093	861950	787719	DAD37	890	2945471	101404	SCR73	1243	1777709	42066
SIN525	966	901756	473202	DAD43	842	3101263	171831	SER347	1219	1830676	142508
SIN524	848	948366	376136	DAD11	802	3270783	352718	SER352	1171	1913818	411495
SIN527	845	1194477	1053061	GRR11	680	3361166	494934	SEF28	1230	2095058	1640638
CAL96	1405	403767	494010	CAL96	1263	2081465	160283	CAL96	1289	1739035	234438

Note. #CS = Cultivar superiority, WE = Wricke’s ecovalence.

Considering location means, there was generally higher yields at Kachwekano than at Kawanda (Figure 6). Though many lines did not maintain stable yields in the two locations, some not only outperformed the local yield check (CAL96) but also maintained high yields at both locations. The most outstanding in this category include; DAB299, DAB291, DAB249, DAB231 (DAB Set2), DAB582 (DAB Set 2), SCN 14, SCN15, SCN16, SCN20 (Black beans), SEC40, SEC41 (Colored beans), DAD34, DAA7, GRR25 (Assorted), SCR66, SCR60, SCR46, SCR335, SER356 and SCR61 (Small-red beans) (Figure 6). Figure 7 shows the yield of 23 lines that maintained yields higher than the mean in all the four environments in comparison with the performance of CAL96. Some of the lines mentioned above appear in this category.



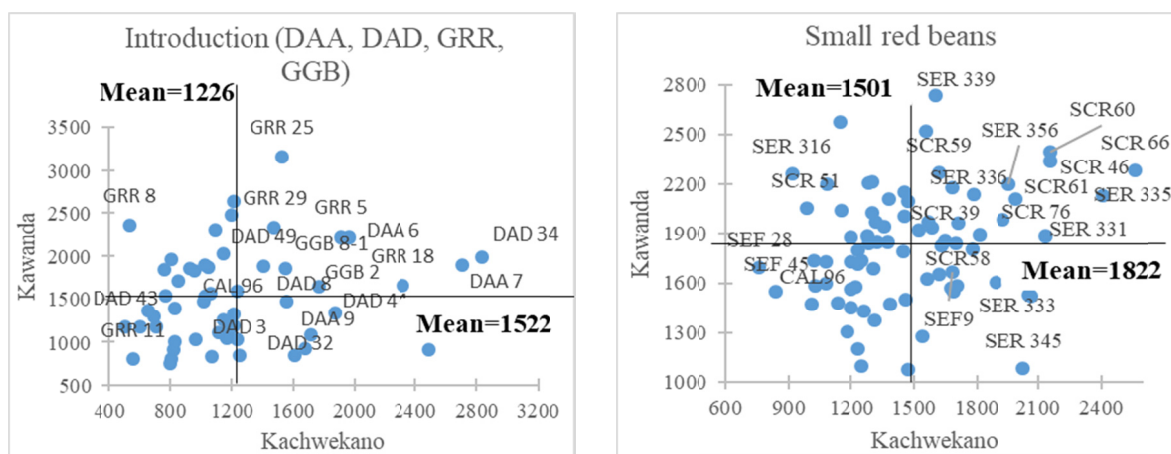


Figure 6. Comparison of yield performance of lines at Kawanda and Kachwekano

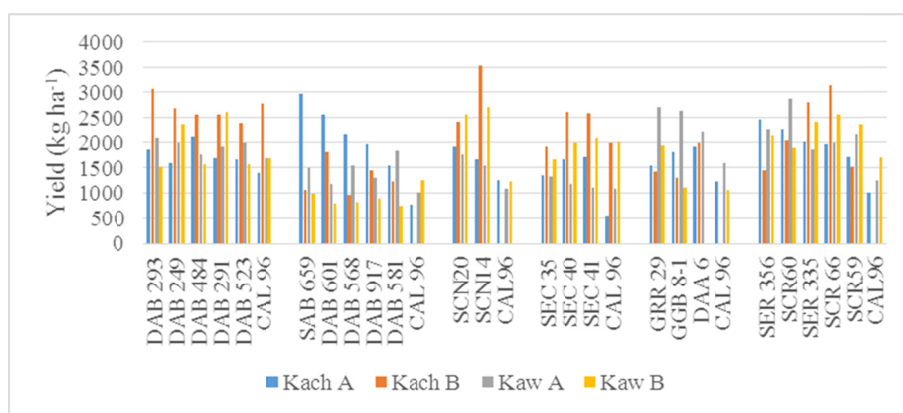


Figure 7. Yield performance of lines that maintained above average performance in all four the environments in comparison to the local yield check (CAL 96); A = first season, B = second season

6. Discussion

In consideration of the global and regional trends in climate change in the last few years, the development of drought-tolerant crop varieties is becoming more relevant in mitigating the effects of low water availability. Water stress is especially profound among small scale producers living in drought-prone areas, who cannot afford to apply irrigation. Releasing high-yielding and drought-tolerant bean cultivars would, thus, significantly contribute towards increased and stable yields in these areas. This study was aimed at identifying potential lines for use in breeding programs that are addressing drought challenges in the Pan African Bean Research Alliance (PABRA), especially in East and Central Africa. Trials were established in two locations during two rainy seasons. These environments were highly diverse because the same location generally grouped differently in different seasons. No precise grouping of environments suggests that more seasons and locations may need to consider to effectively select germplasm with wide adaptation. Seasons were expected to group as similar environments but this trend did not show in most traits possibly because of the effect of weather alterations. In DF and DPM, there was a clear difference in genotype (line) performance in the two locations. Kachwekano, located at 2200 masl registered higher values for these traits than Kawanda (1190 masl). It is evident that differences in altitude affected flowering and maturity time. George et al. (1990) confirmed that increasing elevation delays all phenological responses in soybean. Although other environmental factors like water stress and nutrient availability affect flowering and post flowering processes, temperature has been reported has the main influencer (Hodges & French, 1985). In this study, delayed flowering and maturity of all the lines at 2200 m asl suggests that low temperature was the main contributing factor. In 2009, Alliprandini et al. found significant effect of altitude and latitude in maturity of soybean and noted that it is important to test lines in areas varying in these attributes for proper maturity grouping. Although few, some of the lines like DAB918

maintained early maturity at both locations. Compared to the check and other released varieties, there were no exceptionally early or extremely late lines identified in the study.

Genotype by environment ($G \times E$) interaction was very large in all the traits leading to high differences in genotype (line) performance in the trial environments. This explains the huge variations in performance ranks in the four environments. We used dynamic stability concept to describe $G \times E$ in the yield data. According to Norden, Gorbert, Knauff, and Martin, (1986) dynamic stability is expressed when a genotype's performance has no deviation from the general performance of all lines in the trial thus it is useful for quantitative traits such as yield. Lines that have the lowest Wricke's ecovalence were considered relatively stable because they have smaller deviations from the grand environment mean. Six of the 462 test lines; SCN20, SCN13, SEN114, SEC40 and SEC35 not only expressed yield stability but also superiority. However, only DAB901 which had an average across environment yield would be considered stable in this study if basing on Becker & Leon, (1988). They only considered lines with zero Wricke's ecovalence as stable.

Many outstanding lines with a high variability for yield were identified but only those that were stable across seasons and or locations are more useful. The wide range observed between the local yield check (CAL96), and the highest yielding lines per group suggest that there are potential candidates for release or developing new breeding materials. Yield, a commercial trait to farmers, is a very important trait for pre-breeding planning because a high yielding variety is more likely to result in considerable yield gain if used for variety improvement. Several lines in each of the groups outperformed CAL96 and 23 (5.0%) of lines maintained above average yield in both locations and seasons. These lines are very promising considering that the average on-farm yields in East and Central Africa remains below 1000 kg ha⁻¹ (CIAT, 2008). Evaluation of un-adapted lines do not always result in high yield due to $G \times E$ interaction and other constraints that many be present in new environment. In this study, growth vigor for most lines was either good or excellent indicating high adaptability.

In the case of field diseases, majority of lines showed mild symptoms but those with severe infections were also observed. Since only natural disease infection was considered, the observed variations could be partly attributed to uneven disease pressure, but it is likely that several of these lines possess genetic resistance to the common prevailing diseases. Specifically, for common bacterial blight (CBB), majority of the lines in all the six groups except DAB Set4 had lower scores than CAL96, the susceptible check. Although varying levels for this disease was observed, most lines showed high to moderate resistance. It is important to confirm resistance of the superior lines to CBB in hot spots or to specific virulent isolates. Very few lines resistant/tolerant to CBB are in circulation in East and Central Africa (Wagara & Kimani, 2007; Belarmino, 2015) and yet this is a major production constraint. Continuous screening for new sources of resistances for adoption and improvement of susceptible commercial varieties is required as a sustainable coping mechanism. Belarmino, (2015) and Alladassi, Nkalubo, Mukankusi, Kelly, and Urrea, (2016) identified resistant exotic lines that can be utilized for varietal improvement but majority of them are small seeded. The test lines used in this study are of several colors and sizes, and would meet several market preferences in addition to having drought tolerance in the background.

On the other hand, most lines seem susceptible to angular leaf spot (ALS) because they scored higher than CAL96, the susceptible check. ALS is one of the most devastating diseases of common bean with continuously emergency of new races, which break down disease resistance (Ddamulira et al., 2014a, 2014b). The low resistance levels we observed is not surprising since the lines were not specifically improved for ALS resistance. In fact, pyramiding of ALS resistance genes has been considered as a more effective way for providing durable resistance (Ddamulira et al., 2015) because of the diversity of the virulent races. Although confirmatory studies in hot spots are required, our study show the existence of multiple resistance in these breeding lines and this may result in wide adoption. In spite of symptoms being below economic damage levels, ascochyta blight, was observed as an emerging disease at Kachwekano, the highland location. With the alterations in weather, it may become one of the major constraints in a nearby future. Several studies have reported that the weather alterations being experienced have influenced the occurrence of certain biotic constraints (Garrett et al., 2006; Gautam et al., 2013; Paparu et al., 2014).

7. Conclusion

Yield consistency is an important attribute in varietal improvement but usually a low percentage of the best genotypes (lines) are stable. Promotion of these lines together with high performers in specific environments could significantly increase adoption. We identified several superior yielding lines in both categories with potential for release and varietal improvement. These germplasm will be distributed in the PABRA network for further testing and selection under drought conditions. Although this study is representing mid and high altitude areas, good vigor observed among lines suggests that they could easily adapt to a wider range of environments.

Findings on field diseases indicate possible sources for angular leaf spot, common bacterial blight and rust resistance but there is need for confirmation under high disease pressure.

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