A dual purpose, high yielding little millet \textit{(Panicum sumatrense)} variety ‘GV-4’ (Ambika) for cultivation in Gujarat

Patil, E. Harshal\textsuperscript{1*}, P. A. Vavdiya\textsuperscript{2}, G. D. Vadodariya\textsuperscript{1} and B. K. Patel\textsuperscript{1}

\textsuperscript{1}Hill Millet Research Station, Navsari Agricultural University, Waghai (Dangs)
\textsuperscript{2}College of Agriculture, NAU, Waghai, The Dangs, Gujarat- 394730.
\textsuperscript{*E-Mail: harshalpatil@nau.in}

Abstract
The little millet variety ‘GV-4’ (Ambika) is a pure line selection from the local germplasm collected from the Dang District. A little millet variety ‘GV-4’ was tested as a genotype name ‘WV-126’. ‘WV 126’ was tested under the various state trials found to be superior for grain yield (2933 kg/ha) by 21.20, 13.78, 44.39 and 31.44 per cent over the existing checks i.e. GV-2 (LC), GNV-3 (LC), CO-2 (NC) and OLM-203 (NC), respectively over thirteen trials and seven years (2014-15 to 2020-21) of study. The genotype matures in 120-125 days includes under medium duration variety. The genotype WV-126 has 9-10 branches per panicle and 35.5 cm average panicle length. It has special attributes of synchronized maturity and non-lodging growth habit. WV-126 is rich in calcium (17.1 mg/100g), protein (12.91 g/100g), fat (3.3 \%), crude fiber (7.5 \%), carbohydrates (70.40 g/100g) and minerals (2.7 g/100g). It is resistant to blast (leaf, neck and panicle) and moderately resistant to grain smut and sheath blight when compared to local check GV-2 and GV-3 and national check CO-2, OLM-203 and JK-8. A little millet variety ‘GV-4’ (Gujarat Var-4) was released as a new variety for cultivation during kharif under rainfed conditions of Gujarat state.

Key words: Little millet, high yielding variety, yield attributing characters, nutritional quality etc.

INTRODUCTION
Little millet \textit{(Panicum sumatrense} Roth. Ex Roemer and Schultes) is grown in India under varied agro-ecological situations. The small millets are grown over an area of around 1.88 million hectares in India of which little millet accounts for nearly 25 per cent of the area and the 1/3rd of the production of total small millets. In Gujarat, little millet is cultivated in an area of 9430 ha with average productivity of 1320 kg/ha. (Anonymous, 2019). Not with standing low contribution of these crops to the national food baskets, little millet offer enormous advantages such as early maturity, wide adaptation and high nutritive value of both grain and fodder (Joshi \textit{et al.}, 2021 and Kumar \textit{et al.}, 2021). These unique qualities have made them as a choice crop to rainfed, tribal and hill agriculture where options of crops are limited. Besides this now a day awareness regarding nutrition is increased which also increased the demand of small millets as a ‘Nutricereal’. However, little millet is raised on lands where no other crop worth mentioning can give a reasonable quantity of nutritionally balanced grain and valuable straw yields (Paschapur \textit{et al.}, 2021). It is a good source of protein, very rich in carbohydrates, fat, mineral and vitamins and should be considered as essential food for nutritional security (Patil \textit{et al.}, 2018).

Small millets are grown on diverse soil types in the area with a wide difference for thermo and photoperiod. The area under these crops in the country has come down substantially in the last 20 years and is probably going down further in coming years; particularly in other small...
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Little millet is a hardy crop which can withstand drought better than most of the other cereal crops and water logging to a certain degree, also. In Gujarat, generally little millet crop is grown in a hilly tract of Dangs and Valsad district and locally known as ‘Vari / Moreyo’. The productivity of other hill millets except for finger millet is low due to poor soil fertility and age-old cultivation methods. (Patil et al., 2019).

The variety ‘Gujarat Vari-1’ (GV-1) released during 1995, ‘Gujarat Vari-2’ (GV-2) was identified during 2008 but both genotypes had long duration maturity with low yield. While the variety ‘Gujarat Navsari Vari-3’ (GNV-3) identified during 2016 was higher in yield but lower in fodder production. On account of these advantages, there is a need to enhance genetic yield potential and evolve a new high yielding variety for little millet growing areas in Gujarat. In view of this, Hill Millet Research Station, Waghai had selected this genotype ‘WV-126’ through pure line selection from the collection of local land races. The newly released variety ‘GV-4’ is high grain yielding, better fodder yielding, early to medium maturing, bold grain, multi tillering, moderately resistant to disease and pest, also assures reasonable economic return even under adverse growing conditions of Gujarat. GV-4 (Ambika) is a good source of protein, very rich in carbohydrates, fat, minerals, vitamins and may be useful as essential food for nutritional security. Considering the present need, a high grain as well as fodder yielding with diseases and pest resistance new genotype ‘Gujarat Vari-4’ (AMBIKA) is released for commercial cultivation during 2021.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The little millet genotype ‘WV-126’ was evolved at Hill Millet Research Station, Navsari Agricultural University, Waghai, Dangs, Gujarat and released as Gujarat Vari-4 (GV-4). It is a pure line selection from the germplasm accession. A single plant with desirable traits and high yield with medium maturing and resistant to Blast (Leaf, Neck and Panicle) and moderately resistant to grain smut and sheath blight was selected from the germplasm accession and was forwarded as a single plant to progeny rows. The promising culture was evaluated over seven years at Waghai location with checks including multi-location trials at Waghai, Vanarasi and Dahod starting from 2017-18 to 2020-21 and also tested in All India Co-ordinated trials under AICRP-Small millets in five states across eight locations from 2016-17 to 2018-19. The reaction of the cultures against important pests and disease was also screened and as per the standard procedures, the grain qualities were analyzed. The pedigree flow chart of little millet variety ‘GV-4’ (Ambika) is given in Fig. 1.

![Pedigree chart of Little millet variety GV-4 developed from genotype ‘WV 126’](https://doi.org/10.37992/2021.1204.181)
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The evaluation trial data of ‘WV-126’ along with local and national checks under station trials at Hill Millet Research Station, Navsari Agricultural University, Waghai, Dangs; Agricultural Research Station, NAU, Vanarasi and Agricultural Research Station, AAU, Dahod are presented in Table 1. The WV-126 was tested in station trials at Waghai from 2014-15 to 2015-16 and LSVT at Waghai, Vanarasi and Dahod locations from 2016-17 to 2020-21. In these trials, the WV-126 recorded an average grain yield of 2933 kg/ha whereas, the local check GV-2 and GNV-3 recorded 2420 kg/ha and 2578 kg/ha, respectively. While, national check CO-2 and OLM-203 recorded 2032 kg/ha and 2232 kg/ha grain yield, respectively which is 21.2 and 13.78 per cent increased yield over a local check and 44.39 and 31.44 per cent increased yield over national check CO-2 and OLM-203, respectively (Table 1). In all India, co-ordinated trials under the AICRP-Small millet networking projects during 2016-17 to 2018-19 at five states across eight locations viz; Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha, the culture WV-126 gave 1581 kg/ha grain yield which was 23.6, 32.1 and 79.0 per cent increase over the national checks OLM-203, BL-6 and JK-8, respectively (Table 2a). Also, WV-126 was found to be superior in fodder yield by producing 7397 kg/ha over existing national checks BL-6 by 10.2 per cent and JK-8 by 40.1 per cent in All India Coordinated trials conducted at Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha. (Table 2b). The WV-126 topped the list at the state level as well as national level, provided with significantly higher in grain as well as fodder yield compared to the checks under kharif sow situations at Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha. Sood et al. (2016) in the identification of white finger millet genotypes, Nandini et al. (2021) in the release of proso millet variety PMV 442, Intwala et al. (2017) in the release of finger millet variety GNN-6 and Patil et al. (2017) in the release of little millet variety GNV-3 also reported significant yield improvement in the new varieties as compared to pre-existing ones.

Blast and grain smut are the major diseases of little millet crops. At state as well as National level evaluations, the genotype WV-126 is resistant to blast (Leaf, Neck and Panicle) and moderately resistant to grain smut and sheath blight (Table 3a and 3b) when sown in normal growing kharif season. Similarly, the culture WV-126 is also tolerant to shoot-fly incidence at first 21 DASE and 28 DASE, at state as well as National level screening under AICRP-Small millets (Table 4a and 4b).

Table 1. Comparative year wise performance of little millet culture ‘WV-126’ for grain yield in comparison with check varieties in Gujarat state.

| Name of the experiment and year | Location | Proposed Entry WV-126 | Check Varieties Grain Yield (kg/ha) | S.Em + CD at 5 % | CV % |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|------|
|                               |          |                      | GV-2 (LC) GNV-3 (LC) CO-2 (NC) OLM-203 (NC) |                 |      |
| SSVT-2014-15                  | WAG      | 2930 *               | 3119                                | 2062           | 207  627 15.4 |
| SSVT-2015-16                  | WAG      | 2907                 | 2486                                | 1033           | 148  450 12.8 |
| LSVT-2016-17                  | WAG      | 3381 *               | 2693                                | 2802           | 131  398 7.5 |
| LSVT-2017-18                  | Vanarasi  | 2038 *               | 1913                                | 1559           | 97   294 10.9 |
| LSVT-2018-19                  | Vanarasi  | 3122 *               | 2473                                | 1864           | 105  313 10.2 |
| LSVT-2019-20                  | Vanarasi  | 3135                 | 2183                                | 2590           | 165  493 11.7 |
| LSVT-2020-21                  | Dahod    | 3055                 | 2450                                | 2250           | 124  369 8.61 |
| Overall Mean                  |          |                      |                                     | 2933           | 2420 2578 2032 2232 |

Note: * significantly superior over GV-2 (LC)
  * significantly superior over GNV-3 (LC)
  * significantly superior over CO-2 (NC)
  * significantly superior over OLM-203 (NC)
# Table 2a. State wise– centre wise data on grain yield (kg/ha)

| Name of the State | Name of the Centre | Year of testing | LMV-512 (WV-126) | National Check Varieties | CD at 5 % | CV % |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----|
|                   |                   |                | OLM- 203          | BL-6                     | JK-8      |     |
| Andhra Pradesh    | Vizianagaram      | 2016-17        | 985               | 1138                     | 1396      | 106 | 272 | 13.22 |
|                   |                   | 2017-18        | 1997<sup>abc</sup> | 840                      | 1369      | 1085 | 335 | 16.81 |
|                   |                   | 2018-19        | 1144<sup>bc</sup> | 1409                     | 992       | 985  | 248 | 13.62 |
|                   |                   | Mean           | 1375              | 1129                     | 1252      | 1045 | --  | --   |
|                   | Guntur            | 2016-17*       | --                | --                       | --        | --   |     |
|                   |                   | 2017-18        | 392               | 375                      | 917       | 649  | 106 | 12.6  |
|                   |                   | 2018-19*       | --                | --                       | --        | --   |     |
|                   | Mean              | 392            | 375               | 917                      | 649       | --   | --   |
|                   | Perumallapalle    | 2016-17        | --                | --                       | --        | --   |     |
|                   |                   | 2017-18        | 1969<sup>abc</sup>| 741                      | 1046      | 292  | 162 | 9.81  |
|                   |                   | 2018-19        | 1352<sup>bc</sup>| 1657                     | 1131      | 884  | 243 | 10.54 |
|                   | Mean              | 1661           | 1199              | 1089                     | 588       | --   | --   |
|                   | State Mean        | 1307           | 1027              | 1142                     | 827       | --   | --   |
| Gujarat           | Waghai            | 2016-17        | 3479<sup>abc</sup>| 2352                     | 1487      | 613  | 359 | 10.47 |
|                   |                   | 2017-18        | 2269<sup>b</sup> | 2685                     | 1396      | 2566 | 424 | 12.25 |
|                   |                   | 2018-19        | 2662<sup>abc</sup>| 1916                     | 1546      | 444  | 317 | 10.59 |
|                   | Mean              | 2803           | 2318              | 1476                     | 1208      | --   | --   |
| Jharkhand          | Ranchi            | 2016-17        | --                | --                       | --        | --   |     |
|                   |                   | 2017-18        | 556<sup>abc</sup>| 216                      | 216       | 71   | 161 | 16.18 |
|                   |                   | 2018-19        | 426<sup>b</sup>  | 358                      | 42        | 457  | 136 | 17.19 |
|                   | Mean              | 491            | 287               | 318                      | 584       | --   | --   |
| Maharashtra        | Kolhapur          | 2016-17        | 975               | 1037                     | 1444      | 1019 | 276 | 12.22 |
|                   |                   | 2017-18        | 1179              | 1185                     | 1142      | 1253 | 164 | 8.53  |
|                   |                   | 2018-19        | --                | --                       | --        | --   |     |
|                   | Mean              | 1077           | 1111              | 1293                     | 1136      | --   | --   |
|                   | State Mean        | 1319           | 1181              | 1178                     | 1209      | --   | --   |
| Odisha            | Berhampur         | 2016-17        | 2035<sup>abc</sup>| 1358                     | 1531      | 523  | 425 | 18.87 |
|                   |                   | 2017-18        | 1916<sup>c</sup>| 1679                     | 1669      | 785  | 408 | 19.74 |
|                   |                   | 2018-19        | 1151<sup>bc</sup>| 914                      | 1022      | 499  | 218 | 15.62 |
|                   | Mean              | 1701           | 1317              | 1407                     | 602       | --   | --   |
|                   | Overall mean      | 1581           | 1279              | 1197                     | 883       |     |     |
|                   | (Five States-18 locations) | | | | | |
|                   | % increase over checks | | | | | |
|                   | 23.6              | 32.1            | 79.0               | | | |

Note: * significantly superior over OLM-203,  
   b significantly superior over BL-6 and  
   c significantly superior over JK-8  
   * data not considered for analysis.
Table 2b. State wise– centre wise data on straw yield (q/ha)

| State      | Centre          | Year of testing | LMV-512 (WV-126) | Check Varieties |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|            |                 |                 | OLM 203          | BL 6            | JK 8            |
| Andhra     | Vizianagaram    | 2016-17         | 125.33           | 117.66          | 70.63           | 103.90          |
|            |                 | 2017-18         | 71.16            | 54.63           | 81.88           | 43.12           |
|            |                 | 2018-19         | 75.73            | 75.33           | 71.49           | 40.15           |
|            |                 | Mean            | 90.74            | 82.54           | 74.67           | 62.39           |
|            | Guntur          | 2016-17         | --               | --              | --              | --              |
|            |                 | 2017-18         | 17.01            | 55.59           | 33.47           | 19.93           |
|            |                 | 2018-19         | --               | --              | --              | --              |
|            | Mean            | 17.01           | 55.59            | 33.47           | 19.93           |                  |
| Andhra     | Perumallapalle  | 2016-17         | --               | --              | --              | --              |
|            |                 | 2017-18         | 108.19           | 154.45          | 100.58          | 43.60           |
|            |                 | 2018-19         | 55.17            | 78.30           | 44.18           | 27.16           |
|            | Mean            | 81.68           | 116.38           | 72.38           | 35.38           |                  |
| Gujarat    | Waghai          | 2016-17         | 102.61           | 107.89          | 95.63           | 90.73           |
|            |                 | 2017-18         | 103.24           | 158.47          | 59.26           | 31.28           |
|            |                 | 2018-19         | 92.84            | 95.36           | 50.86           | 12.25           |
|            | Mean            | 99.56           | 120.57           | 68.58           | 44.75           |                  |
| Jharkhand  | Ranchi          | 2016-17         | --               | --              | --              | --              |
|            |                 | 2017-18         | 132.72           | 131.48          | 151.85          | 69.14           |
|            |                 | 2018-19         | 84.88            | 148.15          | 112.65          | 81.79           |
|            | Mean            | 108.80          | 139.82           | 132.25          | 75.47           |                  |
| Maharashtra| Kolhapur        | 2016-17         | 12.28            | 13.21           | 18.40           | 12.96           |
|            |                 | 2017-18         | --               | --              | --              | --              |
|            |                 | 2018-19         | --               | --              | --              | --              |
|            | Mean            | 12.28           | 13.21            | 18.40           | 12.96           |                  |
| Odisha     | Berhampur       | 2016-17         | 86.47            | 66.57           | 73.09           | 32.35           |
|            |                 | 2017-18         | 53.04            | 60.20           | 65.48           | 37.68           |
|            |                 | 2018-19         | 34.67            | 27.95           | 29.58           | 15.60           |
|            | Mean            | 58.06           | 51.57            | 56.05           | 28.54           |                  |
| Overall (Five States) |            | 71.17           | 81.97            | 68.59           | 42.19           |                  |

Table 3a. Reaction of WV-126 against diseases at Waghai location for the year 2017-18 to 2019-2020.

| S. No. entry | Reaction to blast disease (%) | Reaction to grain smut |
|--------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
|              | Leaf Blast | Neck blast | Grain smut (GS) | Grain smut severity (%) | Severity index |
| 1. WV-126    | 8.17      | 8.10       | 8.24            | 3.22          | 4.44          | 4.67          | R 0.66 | 0.33 | 0.00 | 0.15 | 0.28 | 0.17 | 0.32 | 0.28 | 0.12 | R   |
| 2. GV-2 LC   | 7.63      | 9.50       | 8.37            | 3.41          | 3.70          | 4.23          | R 0.33 | 1.00 | 1.67 | 0.30 | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.92 | 0.52 | 0.42 | R   |
| 3. GNV-3 LC  | 7.77      | 8.85       | 8.07            | 3.45          | 3.50          | 3.04          | R 1.33 | 2.00 | 3.66 | 1.60 | 1.20 | 1.40 | 2.25 | 2.40 | 0.78 | R   |
| 4. CO-2 NC   | 9.55      | 10.50      | 11.78           | 5.20          | 4.80          | 2.99          | R 2.00 | 1.66 | 0.33 | 0.55 | 0.65 | 0.90 | 0.88 | 0.95 | 0.99 | R   |
| 5. OLM-203 NC| 10.66     | 11.25      | 11.93           | 5.64          | 4.80          | 4.56          | R 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | HR  |
| 6. JK-8 NC   | 10.33     | 8.60       | 12.75           | 4.41          | 3.85          | 3.41          | R 28.33 | 27.83 | 36.33 | 8.50 | 6.50 | 7.80 | 14.50 | 20.25 | 11.12 | S  |

Note: Leaf sheath occurrence at waghai location is very low, hence data was not considered for further analysis.
Table 3 b. Reaction of WV-126 to diseases in AICRP-SM project

| Parameters                  | Year of testing | Number of trials/locations | Proposed variety LMV-512 (WV-126) | National Checks |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cercospora Leaf Spot        | 2017-18         | 1                          | 4.25                              | 5.83            |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 6.11            |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 6.67            |
| Brown spot (G)              | 2016-17         | 3                          | 3.00                              | 3.11            |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 3.67            |
|                             | 2017-18         | 2                          | 3.99                              | 1.45            |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 0.50            |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 1.00            |
|                             | 2018-19         | 1                          | 2.00                              | 1.67            |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 1.00            |
|                             | Mean            | 06 (Total)                 | 3.00                              | 2.08            |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 1.72            |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 2.13            |
|                            | Scale           |                            | 2                                  | 2               |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 2               |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 2               |
|                            | Banded blight (PDI) | 2016-17       | 5                                  | 36.00           |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 26.00           |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 26.00           |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 20.00           |
|                            | 2017-18         | 5                          | 59.78                             | 48.82           |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 43.09           |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 48.83           |
|                            | 2018-19         | 3                          | 29.85                             | 39.46           |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 22.23           |
|                            | Mean            | 13 (Total)                 | 41.88                             | 38.09           |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 30.44           |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 34.55           |
|                            | Scale           |                            | 2                                  | 2               |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 2               |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 2               |
|                            | Grain smut (%)  | 2016-17                  | 2                                  | 0.00            |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 0.00            |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 0.00            |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 13.00           |
|                            | 2017-18         | 1                          | 0.00                              | 0.00            |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 0.00            |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 0.00            |
|                            | Mean            | 03 (Total)                 | 0.00                              | 0.00            |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 0.00            |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 51.97           |
|                            | Scale           |                            | 1                                  | 1               |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 1               |
|                            |                 |                            |                                   | 4               |

Table 4 a. Reaction to major pests in AICRP-SM level

| Parameters                  | Year of testing | Number of trials / locations | Proposed variety LMV-512 (WV-126) | National Checks |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Shoot fly damage            | 2017-18         | 4                          | 6.03                              | 10.70           |
| (% dead-heart 21 DASE).     |                 |                            |                                   | 6.82            |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 11.69           |
|                             | 2018-19         | 4                          | 10.52                             | 11.37           |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 13.32           |
|                             | Mean            | 8 (Total)                  | 8.28                              | 11.04           |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 10.07           |
|                             | Scale           |                            | 2                                  | 2               |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 2               |
|                             | Mean            | 13 (Total)                 | 15.10                             | 13.41           |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 14.36           |
|                             | Scale           |                            | 2                                  | 2               |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 2               |
|                             | Scale           |                            | 2                                  | 2               |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 2               |
|                             | Shoot fly damage| 2017-18                  | 4                                  | 22.00           |
| (% dead-heart 28 DASE).     |                 |                            |                                   | 11.00           |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 12.00           |
|                             | 2017-18         | 4                          | 9.70                              | 19.47           |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 12.44           |
|                             | 2018-19         | 5                          | 13.6                              | 9.75            |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 18.65           |
|                             | Mean            | 13 (Total)                 | 15.10                             | 13.41           |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 14.36           |
|                             | Scale           |                            | 2                                  | 2               |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 2               |
|                             | Scale           |                            | 2                                  | 2               |
|                             |                 |                            |                                   | 2               |

Table 4 b. Reaction of WV-126 against pests of little millet at waghai, Gujarat

| S. No. | Name of entry | Shoot fly damage (% dead heart) |
|--------|---------------|--------------------------------|
|        |               | 21 DASE | 28 DASE |
| 1.     | WV-126        | 5.25    | 5.75    |
| 2.     | GV-2 (LC)     | 6.22    | 6.84    |
| 3.     | GNV-3 (LC)    | 5.65    | 5.78    |
| 4.     | CO-2 (NC)     | 7.26    | 8.04    |
| 5.     | OLM-203 (NC)  | 9.16    | 11.25   |
| 6.     | JK-8 (NC)     | 7.14    | 8.02    |
Table 5. Nutritional value / data on quality characteristics of WV-126 (GV-4) compared to local and national checks.

| S. No. | Quality parameters       | Proposed variety | Local variety | National Check | National Check |
|--------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
|        |                          | WV-126           | GNV-3         | OLM-203        | JK-8           |
| a) Nutritional Quality |                          |                  |               |                |                |
| 1.     | Protein (g/100g)         | 12.91            | 12.70         | 12.5           | 11.81          |
| 2.     | Carbohydrate(g/100g)     | 70.40            | 71.5          | 71.7           | 72.3           |
| 3.     | Crude fiber (%)          | 7.5              | 7.7           | 7.7            | 6.1            |
| 4.     | Crude fat (%)            | 3.3              | 3.3           | 3.4            | 3.3            |
| 5.     | Mineral matter (g/100g)  | 2.7              | 2.4           | 2.1            | 2.3            |
| 6.     | Calcium (mg/100g)        | 17.1             | 16.8          | 17.0           | 16.5           |
| 7.     | Iron (mg/100g)           | 11.60            | 11.40         | 11.50          | 11.30          |
| 8.     | 1000 grain weight (g)    | 2.28             | 2.10          | 2.24           | 1.33           |
| b) Sensory evaluation score (1-10 score) and Milling value |                          |                  |               |                |                |
| 1.     | Colour & appearance      | 9.5              | 9.0           | 9.0            | 8.0            |
| 2.     | Flavour                  | 9.5              | 9.0           | 9.5            | 8.0            |
| 3.     | Texture                  | 10.0             | 9.5           | 8.0            | 8.5            |
| 4.     | Taste                    | 9.5              | 9.0           | 9.5            | 8.0            |
| 5.     | Grain Shape              | Oval             | Oval          | Oval           |                |
| 6.     | Grain Size               | Bold             | Bold          | Medium Bold    | Medium Bold    |
| 7.     | Milling value (%)        | 72.50            | 71.50         | 70.00          | 64.50          |

Table 6. Descriptive morphological characters of WV-126 (GV-4) with local checks as per DUS test

| S. No. | Morphological traits     | WV-126            | GNV-3 (LC)     | OLM-203 (NC)   |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1.     | Plant Growth Habit       | Erect             | Erect          | Erect          |
| 2.     | Basal tillers: Number    | Medium (10-20)    | Medium (10-20) | Medium (10-20) |
| 3.     | Days to 50 % Flowering   | Late (more than 60) | Late (more than 60) | Late (more than 60) |
| 4.     | Plant pigmentation at leaf sheath | Absent | Absent | Present |
| 5.     | Leaf sheath pubescence   | Absent            | Absent         | Present        |
| 6.     | Ligule blade pubescence  | Absent            | Absent         | Absent         |
| 7.     | Leaf blade pubescence    | Absent            | Absent         | Present        |
| 8.     | Inflorescence shape      | Arched            | Arched         | Globose-Elliptic |
| 9.     | Peduncle length          | Long (more than 20) | Long (more than 20) | Medium (10-20) |
| 10.    | Flag leaf blade: length  | Medium (20-30)    | Medium (20-30) | Short (less than 20) |
| 11.    | Flag leaf blade: Width   | Medium (1-2)      | Medium (1-2)   | Narrow (less than 1) |
| 12.    | Clum: branching          | Absent            | Absent         | Present        |
| 13.    | Panicle length           | Long (40-50)      | Long (40-50)   | Medium (30-40) |
| 14.    | Panicle compactness      | Compact           | Compact        | Intermediate   |
| 15.    | Lodging                  | Absent            | Absent         | Absent         |
| 16.    | Plant : Height           | Tall (120-160)    | Tall (120-160) | Semi Dwarf (80-120) |
| 17.    | Seed Shattering          | Absent            | Absent         | Absent         |
| 18.    | Grain Colour             | Golden Yellow     | Golden Yellow  | Straw White/ cream |
| 19.    | Grain Shape              | Oval              | Oval           | Oval           |
| 20.    | 1000 Grain Weight        | Medium (2-3)      | Medium (2-3)   | Medium (2-3)   |
Fig. 2. Single plant and field view of GV 4

Panicle View of GV-4

Grain of GV-4

Field View of GV-4

GV-4 at Maturity

Fig. 2. Single plant and field view of GV 4
The WV-126 / GV-4 is rich in calcium (17.1 mg/100g), protein (12.91 g/100g), iron (11.60 mg/100g), fat (3.3 %), minerals (2.7 g/100g), crude fiber (7.5 %) and carbohydrates (70.40 g/100g) as compared to all the checks (Table 5) (Chetan and Malleshi, 2007). It showed better superiority as compared to local checks. Similarly, Patil et al. (2017) also reported superior nutritional quality in little millet variety GNV-3.

The WV-126 matures in 125-130 days. It has an erect plant habit with 120-160 cm plant height. The panicle is compact with a panicle length 40-50 cm. The grain is medium bold and 1000 seed weight is 2.28 g. The colour of the grain is golden yellow. Descriptive morphological/botanical characters of WV-126 (GV-4) with local checks as per DUS guidelines given in Table 6 and Fig.2

The WV-126 recorded 33.19 per cent higher grain yield (kg/ha) as compared to locally grown genotype in demonstration plots (OFT) conducted during kharif, 2019 & 2020 on farmers fields at Dangs districts of Gujarat. Farmers’ response to this variety is better and demanded this variety which led to high farmer exchange of seed. Kant et al. (2020) reported similar results in the release of wheat variety VL Gehun 953. The year wise grain yield data of little millet production under on farm demonstrations was given and results are presented in Table 7 (Anonymous, 2019).

Considering the superior performance of the little millet culture ‘WV-126’ over the local check varieties namely GV-2 and GNV-3 as well as national check variety CO-2 and OLM-203, the WV-126 was released as a new variety GV-4 (Gujarat Vari-4/Ambika) for large scale cultivation in Gujarat during 2021.

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| Year          | Area (ha) | Demonstration grain yield (q/ha) | Farmers field yield (q/ha) | % increase over farmers field yield |
|---------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2019-20       | 10        | 34.8                             | 25.4                        | 37.01                             |
| 2020-21       | 10        | 30.2                             | 23.4                        | 29.05                             |
| Average of 2019 & 2020 | 10  | 32.5                             | 24.4                        | 33.19                             |

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