

Table 4 Direct (diagonal) and indirect (off-diagonal) effects of various plant traits in cotton

| VARIABLES | NFFB    | MPP     | SPP     | BPP     | PLH(cm) | BW (g)  | CLCuD (%) | Yield (kg/ha) |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|---------------|
| NFFB      | 0.8265  | -0.0916 | -0.0016 | -0.3312 | -0.1142 | 0.0666  | -0.012    | 0.3425        |
| MPP       | -0.1821 | 0.4157  | -0.1416 | 0.092   | -0.0918 | -0.1688 | -0.0143   | -0.0909       |
| SPP       | -0.0009 | -0.0385 | 1.529   | -1.1553 | 0.0604  | 0.4615  | 0.0156    | 0.8718        |
| BPP       | 0.2173  | -0.0304 | 1.4023  | -1.2597 | 0.0472  | 0.4529  | 0.0205    | 0.8501        |
| PLH (cm)  | -0.1991 | -0.0804 | 0.1949  | -0.1253 | 0.4741  | -0.0579 | 0.0239    | 0.2302        |
| BW (g)    | 0.0976  | -0.1244 | 1.2507  | -1.0111 | -0.0486 | 0.5642  | -0.0055   | 0.7228        |
| CLCuV (%) | -0.1116 | -0.0668 | 0.2676  | -0.2905 | 0.1273  | -0.0351 | 0.0891    | -0.02         |