## Accepted Manuscript

Title: Molecular Cloning and Expression Analysis of *Aquaporin* Genes in Pearl Millet [*Pennisetum glaucum* (L) R. Br.] Genotypes Contrasting In their Transpiration Response to High Vapour Pressure Deficits

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Molecular Cloning and Expression Analysis of *Aquaporin* Genes in Pearl Millet [*Pennisetum glaucum* (L) R. Br.] Genotypes Contrasting In their Transpiration Response to High Vapour Pressure Deficits

Running title: Role of aquaporin genes in pearl millet

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#### **Highlights**

- Identified pearl millet genotypes showing contrasting transpiration response to high vapor pressure deficit (VPD).
- Cloned seven *PgAQP* genes using homology based gene identification.
- PgAQP proteins were found to be evolutionarily closer to maize than rice.
- PgAQPs were induced in VPD-insensitive genotypes under low and high VPD conditions.
- PgPIP2;1, PgPIP1;2, PgTIP2;2 and PgPIP2;6 genes followed a diurnal rhythm of expression.

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