

## EFFECT OF SEED COATING MATERIAL AND STORAGE CONTAINERS ON GERMINATION AND SEEDLING VIGOUR OF SOYBEAN (*Glycine max L.*)

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### ABSTRACT

A laboratory experiment was conducted to evaluate the effect of different seed coating materials and storage containers on germination, seedling vigour and suitability of packaging material for soybean seed. Seed of soybean variety PS1024 was used for coating purpose with 6 coating treatments viz., T<sub>0</sub> (control), T<sub>1</sub> (Polymer coating i.e. Polykote @ 3 ml kg<sup>-1</sup> of seed diluted with 5 ml of water), T<sub>2</sub> (Flowable Thiram i.e. Royal flow 40 SC @ 2.4 ml kg<sup>-1</sup> of seed), T<sub>3</sub>(T<sub>1</sub> + T<sub>2</sub>), T<sub>4</sub> (Vitavax 200 i.e. thiram 37.5 % and carboxyl 37.5% @ 2 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of seed and T<sub>5</sub>(T<sub>1</sub>+ T<sub>4</sub>). The coated seeds were stored in two kinds of containers i.e. jute canvas bag, high density poly ethylene (HDPE) non-laminated bag and bimonthly observation on germination and seedling vigour were recorded. After 8<sup>th</sup> month of storage, germination and vigour index in polythene bag stored seeds were significantly higher than the seed stored in cloth bag. Among seed coating treatments, maximum %germination was recorded in polymer coating @ 3 ml kg<sup>-1</sup> followed by vitavax 200 @ 2 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of seed treatment (T<sub>5</sub>) which was significantly higher than rest of the coated treatment including untreated control seeds (T<sub>0</sub>). Similarly, maximum seed vigour index was observed in T<sub>5</sub> and minimum vigor index was recorded with T<sub>0</sub> (untreated control).

**Key words:** Fungicide treatment, Polymer, Seed coating, Soybean, Storage container

### INTRODUCTION

Quality seed is the basis for profitable production and expansion of soybean crop. Loss of viability and vigour under high temperature and humid conditions is a common phenomenon in many crop seeds but it is well marked in soybean (Burris,

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1980; Tatipata, 2009). Proper seed treatment with fungicide will improve the germination of poor quality seed if the low quality is due to fungal infection. A fungicide treatment also protects the seeds and young seedlings from many seed borne and soil borne pathogens (Taylor et al., 1998).

Polymer coating is used in pharmaceutical and confectionary industries for uniform application of material to seeds. The film formulation consists of mixture of polymer, plasticizer and colorants that are commercially available as ready to use as liquids (Ni, 1997). Polymer coating acts as a temperature switch and protective coating by regulating intake of water by seed coat, until the soil has warmed to a pre-determined temperature. It enables accurate and even dose of chemicals and reduces chemical wastage. It also provides resistance against mechanical damage in the seed drill. Thus improves the appearance and quality of treated seeds. Seed coating materials were reported to improve the germination and increase the seedling emergence at changing soil moisture regime especially in the sub-optimal range (Scott., 1989; Sherin and Susan John., 2003). It is due to increase in the rate of moisture imbibition where the fine particles in the coating act as a 'wick' or moisture attracting material or perhaps to improve seed soil contact. Coating with hydrophilic polymer regulates the rate of water uptake, reduce imbibition damage and improve the emergence of soybean seeds (Vanangamudi et al., 2003). Polymer coating makes sowing operation easier due to the smooth flow of seeds. Addition of colorants helps in visual monitoring of placement accuracy, enhance the appearance, marketability and consumer preference.

Soybean seeds lose viability within 3-4 months if the storage arrangement and the condition of seed are not proper (Sadjad, 1980). Types of container also regulate temperature, relative humidity and seed moisture contents. High temperature, relative humidity and moisture in the storage environment appear to be main factor involved in deterioration of seed quality. Maintenance of seed quality during storage period is important not only for crop production in the following year but also for the maintenance seeds because of their constant threat and of genetic erosion. In view of the above facts, the present research work was undertaken to evaluate the effect of different coating materials and storage container on germination and seedling vigour of stored soybean seed.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A laboratory study was carried out at G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand (India). Breeder seeds of soybean (*Glycine max* L.) variety PS 1024 were used for coating purpose. It was collected from Breeder Seed Production Centre, Pantnagar. There were 6 coating treatments viz.,  $T_0$  (control),  $T_1$  (Polymer coating i.e. Polykote @ 3 ml kg<sup>-1</sup> of seed diluted with 5 ml of water),  $T_2$  (Flowable Thiram i.e., Royal flow 40 SC @ 2.4 ml kg<sup>-1</sup> of seed),  $T_3$  ( $T_1 + T_2$ ),  $T_4$  (Vitavax 200 i.e. thiram 37.5 % and carboxyl 37.5% @ 2 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of seed and

$T_5 (T_1 + T_4)$ . Prior to coating initial seed moisture content, germination percentage, seedling dry weight, seedling vigour index and field emergence were recorded. After performing seed coating treatments increase in seed weight was recorded .Then seeds were stored at 8.0% moisture content in two types of containers viz., cloth bag (moisture pervious container) and 250-gauge polyethylene bag (moisture impervious container) under ambient storage condition. During storage, seed germination and seedling vigour were recorded at bimonthly to retain Indian Minimum Seed Certification Standard i.e. 70 per cent germination. For determining moisture content, five grams of ground and sieved seed sample was weighed from each treatment in three replications and kept in an oven maintained at 103°C temperature for a period of 18 hours (Government of India, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, 1993) .The moisture content of seeds was determined on wet weight basis. Standard germination test was conducted in four replications as per International Rules for Seed Testing (ISTA, 1993). At the end of the standard germination test, ten normal seedlings were randomly selected and kept in an oven at  $80 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 72 hours until the weight become constant for measuring seedling dry weight. Seedling vigour index was computed by multiplying germination into average seedling dry weight. Field emergence was recorded at the end of 4 months of storage. For recording field emergence 100 seeds in four replications were sown in the field and on eighth day number of seeds emerged were counted and field emergence per cent was calculated as per standard germination test (ISTA, 1993). Thus total 12 treatment combinations were analyzed in 2 factors RBD (first factor storage containers and second factor seed coating treatments) (Gomez and Gomez, 1984). Standard error of means (S. Em. $\pm$ ) was computed and critical differences (C.D.) at 5% level of probability were worked out for comparing treatments in case of significant 'F' test.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data pertaining to germination (%), seedling dry weight (mg/seedling), vigour index , field emergence and moisture content as influenced by seed coating treatments and storage containers are presented in the Table 1 and in figures 1 and 2. The results showed significant difference with respect to germination and vigour due to seed coating treatments and storage containers whereas seed coating treatments.

### Effect of seed coating materials

Up to 6 months of storage, all the seed coating treatments of soybean seed showed germination above Minimum Seed certification Standard (MSCS) i.e. 70.0% germination (Table 1), but at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> month of storage, polymer coating followed by vitavax 200 @ 2 g kg<sup>-1</sup>of seed ( $T_5=T_1+T_4$ ) resulted highest (75.7%) germination which was significantly higher than rest of the coating treatments including control. The reason may be that the fine particles in the polymer coating act

as a 'wick' or moisture attracting material. Coating with hydrophilic polymer regulates the rate of water uptake, reduce imbibition damage and improve the emergence of soybean seeds. Omar and Rahhal (1993) recorded that seed coating with thiram increased the percentage of seedling survival in soybean compared to untreated control. The lowest germination (66.2%) was found in untreated control ( $T_0$ ) which was below MSCS level. Polymer coating alone ( $T_1$ ) also improved germination percentage of soybean seed. The value of germination per cent (71.2%) was significantly higher than untreated control and lower to rest of the seed coating treatments. The polymer film may act as physical barrier, which has been reported to reduce the leaching of organic substances from the seed coverings and may restrict oxygen diffusion to the embryo (Vanangamudi et al., 2003). These results are in agreement with Chachalis and Smith, (2001) wherein they reported that soybean seed coating with polymer regulated the rate of water uptake, reduced imbibitional damage and improved the germination and seedling emergence in flooded soil condition. Wilson and Geneve (2004) also reported that corn seed coated with polymer and fungicide resulted higher germination (98.5%), less number of abnormal seedlings compared to control (89.0%). During initial months of storage seedling vigour index of all the seed coating treatments was superior to that of control. Among different treatment combinations the seeds coated with polymer @ 3ml kg<sup>-1</sup> followed by vitavax 200 @ 2 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of seed ( $T_5$ ) treatment recorded significantly higher vigour index (9077) which was at par with Polymer + Flowable Thiram (Royal flow 40 SC) @ 2.4 ml kg<sup>-1</sup> of seed treatment ( $T_3$ ) at the end of storage. The lowest vigour index (7854) was noticed in untreated control seeds (Table1). It may be due to age induced decline in germination, decrease in dry matter accumulation in seedling and decrease in seedling dry weight. Similar findings were reported by Savitri et al. (1994) in sorghum and Savitri et al. (1998) in groundnut. Dadlani et al. (1992) recorded higher root length (34.80 mm), shoot length (170.20 mm) and dry weight of seedling (52.80 mg seedling<sup>-1</sup>) as compared to control (33.63 mm, 147.60 mm and 48.30 mg seedling<sup>-1</sup>, respectively) when seeds of IR 20 coated with polymer. The field emergence differed significantly among different treatments. Significantly highest field emergence of 79.7 % was recorded in polymer coating @ 3 ml kg<sup>-1</sup> followed by vitavax 200 @ 2 g kg<sup>-1</sup> of seed ( $T_5$ ) which is 10.9 % highest over control followed by 79.0 in Polymer + Flowable Thiram (Royal flow 40 SC) @ 2.4 ml kg<sup>-1</sup> of seed ( $T_3$ ) as compared to control ( 71.0%) after 4 months of storage (Figure 2B). This decrease in the field emergence may be due to age induced deteriorative changes in cell and cell organells and germinative capacity of seed under natural soil conditions. These results are in conformity with the findings of Raj et al. (2002) in soybean.

### **Effect of Storage Containers**

Higher moisture in seeds enhances seed deterioration, which ultimately reduces the planting value of seeds in the field (Justice and Bass, 1978; Vertucci and Roos, 1993). Preset study revealed that the moisture content of the seed increases with

advancement of storage period. The fluctuation in seed moisture was more in seeds stored in cloth bag than polythene bag (Figure 1A). As seed is highly hygroscopic in nature; it absorbs moisture from air if it is stored in an environment where relative humidity is higher than seed moisture content (Harrington 1973). The relative humidity was above 75 % throughout the storage period. For this reason, seeds absorbed moisture from the ambient air and tended to equilibrium with relative humidity. The rate of absorbance was higher in cloth bag because of cloth bags are moisture pervious container but polythene bags are moisture impervious. Similarly values of standard germination gradually declined with increase in storage period under both cloth bag and polythene bag with latter showing significantly higher values (Table 1). It was observed that upto sixth months of storage germination per cent was above MSCS Level in both the containers but with the increase in storage period it was decreased. At the end of 8<sup>th</sup> month of storage, germination per cent in polythene bag was 74.3%, which was significantly higher than the seed stored in cloth bag (68.7%). The reduction in germination was higher in cloth bag in comparison to polythene bag. The seeds of cloth bag absorbed moisture from the surrounding atmosphere. Due to increase in moisture content of seeds, respiratory activity and other physiological activities of the stored seeds increased and the rate of deterioration in terms of formation of abnormal seedling and dead seeds increased. These results are in agreement with Monira et al. (2012) wherein they reported that the moisture content increased with advanced of storage period but the increasing rate was higher in the seeds of cloth bag. The shoot length, root length of seedling and seedling vigour was lowest at the end of storage in cloth bag. Rahman and Rahman (1997) also reported that the highest germination and lowest prevalence of fungi in the seeds stored in tin followed by polythene bag and cloth bag with polythene. Field emergence of soybean seeds was significantly higher in the seeds stored in polythene bag (79.6%) than cloth bag (76.8%) after four months of storage (Figure 1B). This may be due to ageing, which resulted in deterioration of seed resulting the decrease in the field emergence.

## CONCLUSION

Polymer coating prior to fungicide seed treatment improve the efficacy of fungicide maintaining higher germination of soybean seed after storage. Among two types of containers, polythene bags were found superior for maintaining viability of soybean seed. Cloth bag is not safe for soybean seed storage for longer time because the rate of moisture migration was higher in cloth bag than polythene bag.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors are thankful to Directorate of Seed Research, Mau for providing the financial assistance to conduct the experiment. The author acknowledged to Director Experiment Station and Head Department of Agronomy for providing necessary facilities during course of studies.

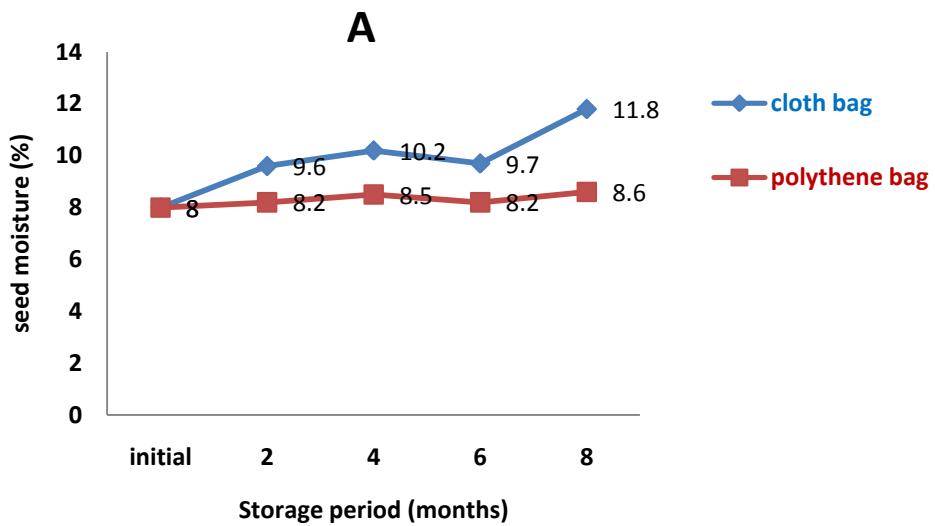
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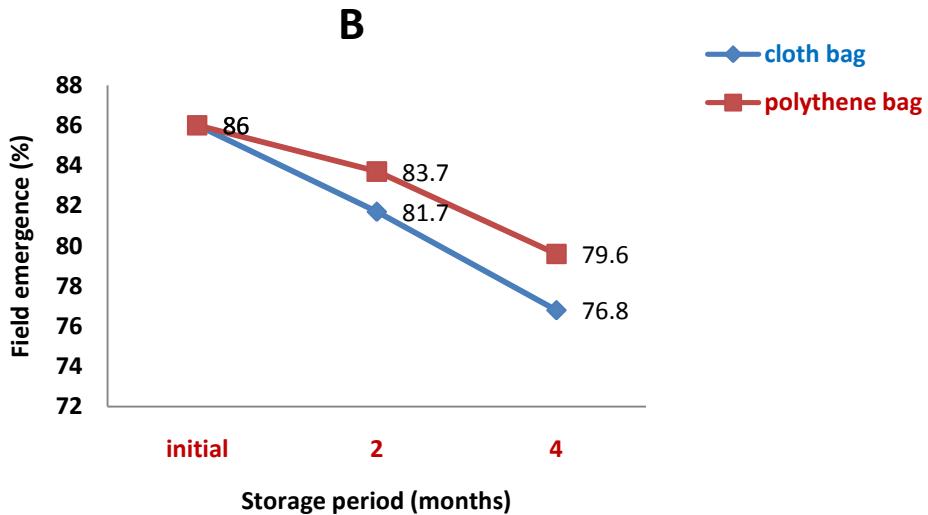
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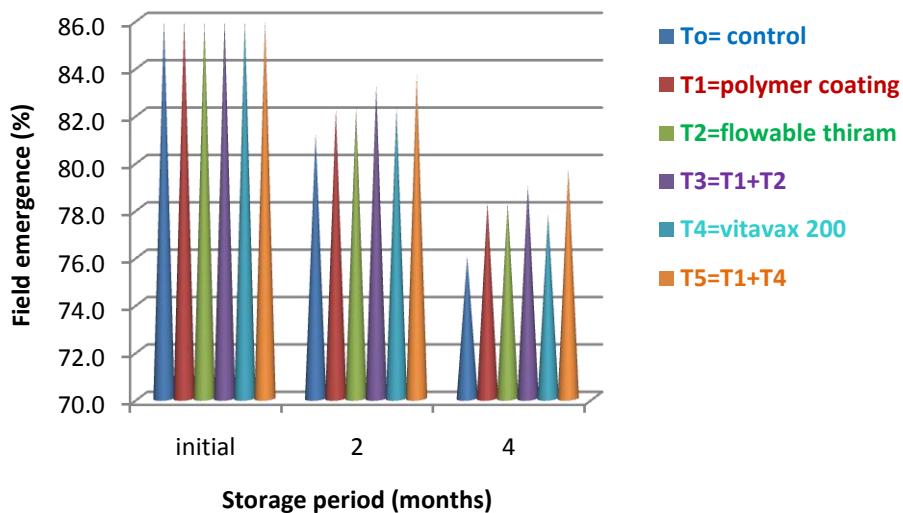
**Table 1: Effect of storage containers and seed coating on germination, seedling dry weight and seedling vigour index of soybean seed in storage**

Treatment	Germination (%)				Seedling dry weight (mg seedling <sup>-1</sup> )				Seedling vigour Index			
	Storage period (in months)				Storage period (in months)				Storage period (in months)			
	2	4	6	8	2	4	6	8	2	4	6	8
<b>Storage containers</b>												
Clothe bag	85.7	81.4	74.9	68.7	122.1	121.5	120.3	119.2	10464	9893	8992	8245
Polythene bag	86.9	83.4	78.9	74.3	122.3	121.7	120.8	119.9	10622	10181	9539	8967
SEm±	0.29	0.32	0.39	0.33	0.09	0.05	0.11	0.09	35	38	50	60
C.D.(5%)	0.8	0.9	1.1	1.0	NS	0.1	0.3	0.3	102	112	146	177
<b>Seeds coating Treatments</b>												
T0(untreated control)	84.8	79.8	73.3	66.2	121.8	121.2	120.0	118.7	10326	9677	8797	7854
T1( Polymer coating @3 ml kg <sup>-1</sup> of seed)	86.2	82.2	76.5	71.2	122.1	121.5	120.5	119.5	10518	9984	9218	8510
T2(Flowable Thiram@2.4 ml kg <sup>-1</sup> of seed)	85.8	81.8	76.0	71.5	122.1	121.5	120.5	199.7	10479	9939	9160	8557
T3(T1+T2)	86.8	84.0	78.2	72.7	122.3	121.9	120.7	199.7	10623	10240	9438	8868
T4(Vitavax 200 @2 g kg <sup>-1</sup> of seed)	86.3	82.2	77.5	72.0	122.1	121.5	120.5	199.5	10544	9987	9327	8771
T5(T1+T4)	87.8	85.2	80.2	75.5	122.6	122.1	121.1	120.0	10768	10395	9652	9077
S.Em.±	0.50	0.55	0.97	0.57	0.15	0.10	0.19	0.15	60	66	86	104
C.D. (5%)	NS	1.6	2.0	1.7	0.4	0.3	0.6	0.5	177	195	264	306





**Figure 1:** Effect of storage containers on seed moisture content (A) and field emergence (B) of soybean seed when stored at ambient storage



**Figure 2:** Effect of different seed coating on field emergence of soybean seed