

Original Research Article

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Effect of Seed Treatment on Germination and Seedling Growth of Jamun (*Syzygium cuminii* L.)

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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In order to study the effect of seed treatment on germination and seedling growth of jamun an experiment was carried out at Regional Horticultural Research Station, ASPEE College of Horticulture and Forestry, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari during 2016-2017. The experiment was laid out in completely randomised block design with three repetitions and six treatments consists of control (S₁), water soaking for 24 hrs (S₂), hot water (100 °C) for 5 sec (S₃), GA₃ @ 200 mg l⁻¹ for 10 min (S₄), KNO₃ @ 0.5 % for 10 min (S₅) and thiourea @ 0.5 % for 10 min (S₆). Among different treatments jamun seeds soaked in water for 24 hrs (S₂) found better for days for initiation of germination (7.13) and germination percentage (95.73 %) whereas, maximum height (82.60 cm), number of leaves (42.63) and stem diameter (7.90 mm) of seedling was recorded in GA₃ @ 200 mg l⁻¹ for 10 min (S₄).

Introduction

Jamun (*Syzygium cuminii* L.) is an important, under-exploited, indigenous fruit crop of our country. In India many tropical fruit tree species, most of which are not commercially cultivated, are highly popular as they not only provide a significant source of livelihood support to the rural people but also has a cultural and social value. Such underutilized fruits have been long sustained due to their importance for their nutritional value and as a source of rural and tribal household income. Jamun is one of such underutilized fruit

species of great importance in India. The fruits are good sources of iron, minerals, sugars and proteins.

Jamun is commercially propagated by seeds for taking the advantage of nucellar embryony. Presently it is also being propagated by vegetative means viz., grafting and budding. To carryout propagation by vegetative methods, raising of healthy and vigorous seedling/rootstock is very important. Jamun seeds lose its viability quickly; hence it should be sown immediately after extraction. Several efforts were put forth for enhancing

germination by use of chemicals and growth regulators like gibberlic acid, thiourea, KNO_3 , etc. besides soaking in water with varied success (Shanmugavelu, 1970). With these objectives of to observe the effect of seed treatment on germination and seedling growth of jamun, the present study was planned.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted at Regional Horticultural Research Station, ASPEE College of Horticulture and Forestry, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari during 2016-2017. Seeds required for the experiment were extracted from the disease free fully ripened fruits of jamun cv. Local by washing with water.

The freshly extracted seeds were subjected to six treatments viz. control (S_1), water soaking for 24 hrs (S_2), hot water (100°C) for 5 sec (S_3), GA_3 @ 200 mg l^{-1} for 10 min (S_4), KNO_3 @ 0.5 % for 10 min (S_5) and thiourea @ 0.5 % for 10 min (S_6) repeated three times in completely randomised block design.

Seeds were sown during last week of June in polythene bags of size 9" x 7" filled with potting mixture. Watering was done immediately after sowing and at regular intervals. Observations on days for initiation of germination, germination per cent, number of leaves, seedling height (cm) and stem diameter (mm) were recorded.

The germination percentage was computed using the formula as bellow. The data generated from studies were subjected to analysis by using standard method suggested by Panse and Sukhatme (1967).

$$\text{Seed germination \%} = \frac{\text{Total number of seed germinated}}{\text{Total number of seed sown}} \times 100$$

Results and Discussion

Germination attributes

The minimum days for initiation of germination (7.13 days) and maximum total germination percentage (95.73 %) were recorded (Table 1) in seed treatment water soaking for 24 hrs (S_2) whereas, maximum days for initiation of germination (10.60 days) and minimum total germination percentage (80.93 %) were recorded in control (S_1).

This might be due to the soaking the seeds in water at room temperature helps in softening the seed coats, removal of inhibitors and reduces the time required for germination and increases germination percentage (Hartman and Kester, 1997). The other possible fact for better germination percent by water soaking may be that it stimulates series of biochemical change in the seed that are essential to initiate the emergence process like break down dormancy, hydrolysis, metabolism of growth inhibitors, imbibitions, activation of enzymes (Ajouri *et al.*, 2004). With respect to days for initiation of germination soaking of seeds in water stimulates and produces enzymes like amylase and lipase which activate storage materials in seeds. Rehydration causes early emergence due to the fact that all pregerminative processes for germination had already occurred in seed. The similar results were coincide with the findings of Swamy *et al.*, (1999) in jamun and Pandey and Singh (2000) in guava.

Shoot parameters

Seedling height

The maximum seedling height of 22.30 and 41.37 cm was recorded (Table 1) in seedlings raised from seeds treated with GA_3 @ 200 mg l^{-1} for 10 min (S_4) at 30 and 60 days of seed sowing as compared to other treatments.

Table.1 Effect of seed treatment on germination and seedling growth of jamun

Treatments	Days for initiation of germination	Germination per cent (%)	Seedling height (cm)		Number of leaves		Stem diameter (mm)	
			30 DAS	60 DAS	30 DAS	60 DAS	30 DAS	60 DAS
S ₁ – control	10.60	80.93	16.67	27.43	6.40	13.40	1.86	2.73
S ₂ - Water soaking for 24 hrs	7.13	95.73	19.63	35.07	8.80	20.73	2.07	3.57
S ₃ - Hot water 100 °C for 5 sec	8.87	91.27	19.40	34.07	8.00	20.60	2.01	3.31
S ₄ - GA ₃ @ 200 mg l ⁻¹ for 10 min	7.47	94.93	22.30	41.37	10.40	25.40	2.34	3.86
S ₅ - KNO ₃ @ 0.5 % for 10 min	8.47	91.00	21.20	38.03	10.00	22.93	2.24	3.75
S ₆ - Thiourea @ 0.5 % for 10 min	8.87	87.55	20.53	37.70	9.47	22.07	2.16	3.75
S.Em. ±	0.28	1.89	0.71	1.00	0.29	0.80	0.04	0.06
C.D. at 5%	0.87	5.83	2.18	3.07	0.89	2.46	0.12	0.20
CV %	5.69	3.63	6.14	4.85	5.64	6.62	3.28	3.21

The increased in seedling height with GA₃ treatment was due to the fact that this hormone increased osmotic uptake of nutrients, causing cell multiplication and cell elongation in the cambium tissue of the intermodal region and thus increased height of the plant (Shanmugavelu, 1966). The results are also in accordance with result of Harshavardhan and Rajasekhar (2012) in jackfruit and Vasantha *et al.*, (2014) in tamarind.

Number of leaves per seedling

Among the different seed treatment chemicals, jamun seeds treated with GA₃ @ 200 mg l⁻¹ for 10 min (S₄) gave maximum number of leaves per seedling (10.40 and 25.40) as compared to other treatments at 30 and 60 days of seed sowing (Table 1).

It might be due to activity of GA₃ at the apical meristem resulting in more synthesis of nucleoprotein responsible for increasing leaf initiation and area (Sen and Ghunti, 1976). It may be also due to GA₃ which induced vigorous growth by more number of branches which in turn facilitates better harvest of sunshine by the plants to produce more number of leaves. This is in line with the results of Shaban (2010) in mango and Anjanaw *et al.*, (2013) in papaya.

Stem diameter

Regarding the effect of seed treatment on stem diameter of jamun seedling, GA₃ @ 200 mg l⁻¹ for 10 min (S₄) resulted in maximum stem diameter (2.34 and 3.86 mm) at 30 and 60 days of seed sowing as compared to other treatments (Table 1). It might be due to greater cell division and elongation at the stem portion (Sen *et al.*, 1990). It also might be due to increased photosynthetic activity, accelerated translocation and efficiency of utilising photosynthetic products resulting in

cell elongation and rapid cell division in growing portion (Sargent, 1965).

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