

Influence of plant extracts, storage containers and storage duration on the physiological quality of watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus* (Thunb.) Mansf.) seeds stored under ambient conditions

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Abstract: Watermelon seed being an oily seed is prone to rapid deterioration of its quality, hence maintaining quality during storage is germane. The study therefore investigated the effect of crude plant powder, storage containers and storage duration on the seed quality of two varieties of watermelon seeds. Seed lots each of 100 g of each variety were treated with 10 g of four crude plant powders of clove basil leaf, red chilli pepper fruit, garlic, neem leaf and a synthetic fungicide. All samples were stored in three storage containers (envelope, tin and glass bottle). Treated seeds were stored under ambient conditions for 180 days. Germination and seedling vigour were determined at 180 day time course after storage. Data were subjected to mean separation using Duncan's Multiple Range Test. Significant differences were observed in the quality traits examined in watermelon due to differences in variety, seed treatment, storage container and storage period. 'Kaolak' was the best in storage in terms of seedling vigour and viability. Glass bottle was identified as the best storage container in maintaining seed quality of watermelon throughout the storage period. The use of organic materials especially neem and clove basil leaf powder proved much better for maintaining germinability and seedling vigour and extension of seed longevity than inorganic material.

Key words: seed longevity; seed treatment; storage medium; probit modelling; seed storage life

Vpliv rastlinskih pripravkov, načinov in trajanja shranjevanja na fiziološke lastnosti semen lubenice (*Citrullus lanatus* (Thunb.) Mansf.) shranjenih v ambientalnih razmerah

Izvleček: Semena lubenice vsebujejo veliko olja in so zato podvržena hitremu propadu, zaradi česar je njihovo shranjevanje oteženo. V raziskavi so bili preučevani učinki zmletih izbranih rastlin, načina in trajanja shranjevanja na kakovost semen dveh sort lubenice. Vzorci semen, vsake od obeh sort lubenice po 100 g, ki so bili tretirani s po 10 g grobega prahu zmletih listov afriške bazilike, plodov rdečega čilija, strokov česna, listov azadirakta in sintetičnega fungicida so bili nato shranjeni v treh vrstah shranjevalnikov in sicer v papirnatih vrečkah, v kositrnih posodah in steklenicah. Tretirana semena so bila shranjena 180 dni v ambientalnih razmerah. Podatki meritev so bili obdelani z Duncanovim multiplim testom. Ugotovljene so bile značilne razlike v kakovosti semen lubenice glede na sorto, obravnavanje semen, način in trajanje shranjevanja. Sorta Kaolak je bila po shranjevanju najboljša glede na vitalnost in vigor pridobljenih sejank. Za vzdrževanje kakovosti semen so bile v celotnem obdobju shranjevanja najboljše steklenice. Uporaba rastlinskih pripravkov, še posebej prah iz listov azadirakta in afriške bazilike, se je za shranjevanje in vzdrževanje kalivosti semen lubenice kot za vigor sejank izkazala boljše kot sintetični fungicid.

Ključne besede: dolgoživost semen; tretiranje semen; način shranjevanja; probit model; dolgoživost shranjenih semen

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1 INTRODUCTION

Water melon belongs to the genus *Citrullus* and family Cucurbitaceae (Huxley, 1992). The Cucurbitaceae is a family of medium sized plants, primarily found in the warmer regions of the world. It is recognizable by its pinnatifid leaves and prolific fruition, up to 100 melons on a single vine. The water melon fruit, loosely considered a type of melon, possesses a smooth exterior rind (green and yellow) and a juicy, sweet, usually red, yellow or orange interior flesh (Jeffrey, 2005). Moreover, they are used as a domestic remedy for urinary tract infection, hepatic congestion, catarrh, worm remedy, abnormal blood pressure (Deible and Swanson, 2001; Amadi et al., 2003). Watermelon contains about 6 % sugar and 92 % water by mass. As with many other fruits, it is a source of vitamin C.

Seeds of watermelon are considered to have a long-life span in storage as to its quality (Priestley, 1986). In subtropical regions where watermelon seeds are intensively produced and where high relative humidity (> 70 %) is often accompanied with high temperature (30-35 °C), the quality or vigour of the seed can decline drastically within 12-18 months (Demir et al., 2011).

Seed longevity is greatly influenced by the relative humidity and storage temperature. The indiscriminate use of chemicals and their residual toxicity adversely affects the non-target animals and human beings besides affecting the seed quality. Many of the synthetic chemicals are effective but they are not readily degradable physically or biologically and yield more toxic residues. However, the use of chemicals is still in use. Hence, a safe and feasible approach is the treatment of seeds with botanicals which are safe, economical, eco-friendly and non-harmful to seed, animal and human beings (Mahesh and Hunje, 2008).

Watermelon seed being an oily seed is prone to rapid deterioration of its quality and since seed treatment with botanicals have been found to be more suitable and safe in maintaining viability of seeds (Adebisi, 2012), hence this study therefore will investigate the effects of crude plant powders, storage containers, storage duration on the maintenance of the quality of watermelon seeds.

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

2.1. SEED MATERIALS

Two varieties of watermelon seeds ('Kaolak' and 'Sugar Baby') were sourced from the Department of Plant Breeding and Seed Technology, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. Seeds were

scooped out from freshly harvested mature fruits and air-dried under ambient temperature for 4 weeks. Seed moisture content was thereafter determined using the oven drying method (ISTA, 1995).

2.2. EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN

The experiment was factorial laid out in completely randomized design with three replications. There were four factors to be considered; variety, seed treatment, storage containers and storage time.

2.3. METHOD OF SEED TREATMENT

The dried seed lots were treated with crude plant powdered treatments following the methods of Adebisi et al. (2013). Seeds were dry-dressed with four organic material which include finely powdered leaves of clove basil (*Ocimum gratissimum* L.) leaf (10 g /100 g of seed⁻¹), red chilli (*Capsicum frutescens* L.) fruit (10 g /100 g of seed⁻¹), garlic (*Allium sativum* L.) fruit (10 g /100 g of seed⁻¹), neem (*Azardirachta indica* A. Juss.) leaf (10 g /100 g of seed⁻¹) and one inorganic material (Apron plus) while one with no treatment served as the control.

Seeds were dressed with recommended doses in sealed plastic containers at room temperature. After treatment, the storage containers were shaken twice daily up to seven days. Thereafter, the seed were stored in three different moisture pervasive materials (galvanized iron tin, glass bottle, and envelope).

2.4. SEED STORAGE

The containers with the treated seeds were kept in seed store under ambient conditions (temp 30 °C, RH 75 %) for 180 days to evaluate the treatment effects on the seed viability and seedling vigour traits.

2.5. QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Viability Test: Seed samples were taken from each treatment at 0, 30, 60, 120, 150 and 180 days of storage and was tested for the following seed quality traits. Viability test was carried out in the laboratory. Fifty seeds in three replications were placed inside petri dishes in an incubator and were maintained at 20 ml of distilled water and germination count was taken at 7 days (ISTA, 1995).

$$\text{Seed viability} = \frac{\text{germination count at 7 days} \times 100}{\text{number of seeds sown}}$$

Seedling Vigour Index: Seedling vigour index (SVI) was calculated by multiplying percentage (%) viability by the average of seedling length on the 7th day of germination (ISTA, 1995) and divided by 100.

$$SVI = \frac{\text{seed viability (\%)} \text{ at 7 days} \times \text{seedling length (cm)}}{100}$$

Seedling Length: Shoot length of 10 randomly selected seedlings were measured using a ruler in centimetre (cm).

2.6. DATA ANALYSIS

All data collected were subjected to analysis of variance using Statistical Analysis Software (SASTM, 2002). Significant means were separated using Duncan's Multiple Range Test at 5 % probability level (Duncan, 1955).

The seed viability data were subjected to probit analysis using the PROC statements of SAS in order to predict the storage life of the seeds. Seed longevity parameters were values of K_i (an estimate of the probit value of initial seed viability at the time of storage), slope ($1/\sigma$), an estimate of rate of seed physiological deterioration, sigma (σ), the standard deviation of seed survival curve and an estimate of time taken to lose 1 probit seed viability, and P_{50} , a measure of time taken for a seed lot to lose 50 % viability and estimate of absolute seed longevity (Ellis and Roberts, 1980).

3. RESULTS

Table 1 presents the effect of plant extract on seed viability of two water melon varieties stored for 180 days under natural ageing condition. From the result, seeds of 'Kaolak' treated with neem leaf powder had the highest viability value though statistically similar to values obtained in some other treatments at 0 days of storage. At 30 days of storage, 'Kaolak' seeds treated with chilli pepper powder gave the highest viability value (94.44 %) though statistically similar to those obtained in some other treatments. Treated seeds of 'sugar baby' had comparable values among the treatments. A progressive decline was observed among all the seeds as storage duration increases with 'Kaolak' seeds treated with neem powder still having the highest value among other treatments.

The effect of plant extract on seedling vigour of two water melon varieties is shown in Table 2. Seeds of 'Kaolak' irrespective of the treatments had seedling vigour above sugar baby at 0 day of storage. At 30 days of storage, seeds of 'Kaolak' treated with basil leaf powder gave the highest seedling vigour values though statistically similar to values obtained in some other treatments. It was observed that 'Kaolak' seed treated with neem powder maintained the highest value throughout the storage duration.

Table 3 shows the effect of container and storage time on seed viability of two water melon varieties. Seeds of 'Kaolak' stored in envelope had the highest (98.89 %) statistically similar viability value with other containers

Table 1: Effect of seed treatment on viability (%) of seeds of watermelon stored under ambient conditions at different storage duration

Variety	Treatment	Storage Duration (days)					
		0	30	60	120	150	180
Kaolak	Neem	100a	93.33ab	88.89a	88.89a	73.33a	56.67a
	Clove basil	97.78a	87.78ab	73.33a-e	55.56cd	45.56bc	34.44cde
	Pepper	97.78a	94.44a	83.33abc	71.11bc	57.78b	41.11bc
	Garlic	93.33ab	86.67abc	75.56a-d	65.56bc	53.33b	43.33b
	Apron plus	88.89ab	82.22a-d	71.11b-e	61.11bc	47.78bc	34.44cde
	Control	97.52a	92.23ab	86.67ab	77.78ab	75.56a	55.66a
Sugar Baby	Neem	81.11bc	77.78b-e	66.67cde	54.44d	46.67bc	32.22cde
	Scent leaf	82.22bc	77.78b-e	71.11b-e	60.00cd	44.44bc	27.78cde
	Pepper	74.44cd	67.78de	60.00de	44.44d	32.33c	20.00e
	Garlic	81.11bc	77.78b-e	66.67cde	58.89cd	42.22bc	25.56de
	Apron plus	66.67cd	64.44e	56.67e	44.44d	34.44c	22.22de
	Control	75.56cd	71.11bc	62.22de	53.33cd	42.22bc	27.78cde

Means followed by the same letters in each column do not differ significantly at 5 % level of probability according to Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT)

Table 2: Effect of seed treatment and storage duration on seedling vigour of watermelon varieties

Variety	Treatment	Storage Duration (days)					
		0	30	60	120	150	180
Kaolak	Neem	17.16a	19.30ab	16.97ab	13.84a	12.83a	10.74a
	Clove basil	14.83abc	20.62a	14.86a-d	8.43bc	8.72b	6.77bc
	Pepper	15.55abcd	20.17ab	17.54a	10.86ab	8.83b	6.13bcd
	Garlic	15.85a	16.24bcd	12.33cde	10.33abc	8.11bc	6.39bc
	Apron plus	15.19ab	17.37a-d	12.80b-e	8.12bc	7.14bc	4.98bc
	Control	15.67a	19.23ab	15.87abc	13.61a	12.43a	9.84a
Sugar Baby	Neem	11.65cde	15.25cde	12.16cde	10.04abc	7.34bc	4.92b-e
	Clove basil	11.52cde	16.51bcd	12.14cde	9.73bc	7.85bc	4.92b-e
	Pepper	11.21de	13.73de	11.08de	7.99bc	5.56bc	3.28e
	Garlic	12.11b-e	16.24bcd	12.33cde	10.04abc	6.23bc	3.87cde
	Apron plus	9.57e	11.94e	8.71e	6.56c	5.07c	3.44de
	Control	11.39cde	13.72de	11.65cde	8.64bc	8.20bc	5.61c-e

Means followed by the same letters in each column do not differ significantly at 5 % level of probability according to Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT)

Table 3: Effect of storage container and storage duration on viability (%) of watermelon varieties

Variety	Container	Storage Duration (days)					
		0	30	60	120	150	180
Kaolak	Envelope	98.89a	88.89a	80.56a	71.11ab	58.33ab	41.11b
	Glass Bottle	95.56a	90.56a	83.89a	76.11a	66.67a	55.56a
	Tin	94.44a	88.89a	75.00ab	62.78bc	51.67bc	39.44b
Sugar Baby	Envelope	76.67bc	74.44b	66.11bc	55.56cd	41.67cd	27.22c
	Glass Bottle	71.11c	67.22b	60.00c	48.89d	37.22d	24.44c
	Tin	82.78b	76.67b	65.56bc	53.33cd	42.22cd	26.11c

Means followed by the same letters in each column do not differ significantly at 5 % level of probability according to Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT)

(glass bottle 95.56 % and tin 94.44 %). The same trend was observed at 30 and 60 days of storage. At 120 days of storage, seeds of 'Kaolak' stored in glass bottle gave the highest viability value though similar to that of seeds of the same variety stored in envelope. Also, it was observed that, seeds of 'Kaolak' stored in glass bottle maintained its viability when compared with other containers throughout the storage duration.

In Table 4, the effect of container and storage duration on seedling vigour of two water melon varieties. Treated 'Kaolak' seeds stored in envelope, glass bottle and tin recorded statistically similar higher values compared with 'Sugar Baby' seeds irrespective of the storage container at 0 day of storage. The same trend was observed at 30 days of storage while at 60 days, treated 'Kaolak' seeds stored in glass bottle recorded the highest value. Also, 'Kaolak' seeds in glass bottle maintained higher vigour

as storage period increased compared with other treatments.

Data in Table 5 presents the probit parameters of seed longevity data after storage for 180 days in two water melon varieties. The intercept values (estimates of initial probit germination and a measure of seed germination before storage) indicate that there were higher values in neem and pepper in both varieties. Intercept values were generally higher in 'Kaolak' for all the treatments than for 'Sugar Baby'. The value of slope indicates the speed of deterioration. Differences were exhibited in most cases in the slope values among the varieties, treatments and containers used. The lowest reduction in speed of deterioration (seed longevity) occurred in 'Kaolak' with scent leaf treatment in glass bottle (4.53 days), similar observation was recorded in 'Sugar Baby' with pepper treatment in

Table 4: Effect of storage container and storage duration on seedling vigour of watermelon varieties

Variety	Container	Storage Duration (days)					
		0	30	60	120	150	180
Kaolak	Envelope	16.41a	18.76a	16.15ab	11.04ab	11.03a	7.64a
	Glass Bottle	15.71a	19.19a	16.75a	12.25a	9.64ab	8.35a
	Tin	14.50a	19.35a	13.56bc	9.31bc	8.36bc	6.44ab
Sugar Baby	Envelope	11.59b	15.05bc	11.75c	9.72abc	7.26bc	4.79bc
	Glass Bottle	10.11b	12.88c	10.57c	8.64bc	6.18c	4.03c
	Tin	12.02b	15.77b	11.71c	8.13c	6.68c	4.20c

Means followed by the same letters in each column do not differ significantly at 5 % level of probability according to Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT)

glass bottle (4.53 days) while control in glass bottle deteriorated faster than others (1.07 days).

There was increase in seed longevity extension in the two varieties after seed treatments by estimates of seed half-life (P_{50}) and storage life. Higher estimates of seed half-life and storage life after treatments occurred in 'Kaolak' than in 'Sugar Baby'. In 'Kaolak', estimate of seed storage life was the highest in neem in glass bottle (19.24 months) followed by garlic in glass bottle (14.02 months) and control in glass bottle (13.48 months). Apron plus in tin had the lowest storage life value of 7.94 months. All other treatments had storage life of above 8 months. With 'Sugar Baby', storage life estimate was also the highest in neem stored in envelope (11.50 months) followed by garlic in envelope (9.90 months), control in tin (9.72 months) and clove basil in glass bottle (9.50 months). Pepper in glass bottle had the lowest storage life value of 4.38 months while other treatments had storage life of above 5 months.

4. DISCUSSION

Seed treatment had been reported to be effective on the improvement of seed germinability and storability (Mandal et al., 2003). In this study, differential responses in seed germination and seedling vigour were observed among the five seed treatments examined suggesting ample opportunity for selection of seed treatment for maintenance of post-storage seed quality in watermelon. This also supports the findings of Adebisi (2012) who reported efficacy of nine seed invigoration treatment in the improvement of okra seed. Significant differences were observed in seed germination and seedling vigour after treatments at each storage time investigated, hence the need to pay close attention to seed treatments regardless of storage container and environments used. 'Kaolak' seeds dressed with neem powder gave better germination and seedling vigour at the end of 180 days storage.

Seeds of 'Kaolak' dressed with neem, clove basil and pepper were higher when compared with that of 'Sugar Baby'. Also, 'Kaolak' seed dressed with neem powder still recorded a value of seed germination above 50 % at the end of 180 days of storage. Also, at the end of the storage (180 days), seed treated with the organic invigoration treatments had maintained greater germination over the inorganic (apron plus). On the mode of action of the crude plant material treatments, various possibilities have been reported earlier (Basu, 1994, Manda et al., 2003). In the present study, crude plant extract materials were selected based on previous study (Adebisi, 2012) for the possible effectiveness in controlling free radicals reactions as antioxidants, antioxidant-synergist and radiation protective agents (Slater, 1972, Brand et al., 1994). Capsaicin which is an important constituent of chilli (*Capsicum frutescens*) fruit has been reported to be an inhibitor of lipid peroxidation (Manda et al., 2003). Linalool, allicin, and azadirachtin, the most active ingredient in clove basil, garlic and neem leaves might act as inhibitors of lipid peroxidation thereby partly responsible for the longevity maintenance of stored seeds.

The result revealed significant differences among the two varieties for seed germination and seedling vigour index when stored for 180 days. 'Kaolak' had the best seed germination values during and at the end of the storage. This could be due to differences in genetic constitution of the two varieties evaluated. Differential responses in seed germination and vigour among varieties of crop species with and without treatments in storage have been reported. (Daniel et al., 2012; Adebisi et al., 2012, Kehinde et al., 2019).

On the effect of storage time, seeds treated with neem consistently recorded better seed germination at each storage time investigated. Also, storage of clove basil and pepper powder treated seeds maintained greater seedling vigour at each of the storage time examined. Higher deterioration of seed quality irrespective of invigoration treatments have been reported earlier in dif-

Table 5: Results of probit modelling of seed longevity data in two water melon varieties after crude plant treatment and storage in different containers under ambient conditions

Variety	Treatment	Container	K_i	$1/\sigma$	σ	P_{50}	**Seed Storage Life (Months)
Kaolak	Neem	Glass Bottle	6.30	-0.24	4.21	9.62	19.24
		Tin	2.26	-0.40	2.51	5.71	11.42
		Envelope	1.90	-0.34	2.90	5.51	11.02
	Apron plus	Glass Bottle	1.46	-0.29	3.45	5.05	10.10
		Tin	1.22	-0.31	3.24	3.97	7.94
		Envelope	2.22	-0.42	2.37	5.26	10.52
	Control	Glass Bottle	2.28	-0.93	1.07	6.74	13.48
		Tin	3.59	-0.58	1.71	6.14	12.28
		Envelope	2.00	-0.32	3.12	6.24	12.48
	Garlic	Glass Bottle	1.80	-0.26	3.89	7.01	14.02
		Tin	1.60	-0.36	2.73	4.39	8.78
		Envelope	1.90	-0.37	2.68	5.09	10.18
	Pepper	Glass Bottle	1.81	-0.30	3.33	6.04	12.08
		Tin	2.40	-0.47	2.11	5.07	10.14
		Envelope	3.29	-0.61	1.61	5.31	10.62
Clove basil	Glass Bottle	1.82	-0.22	4.53	6.18	12.36	
	Tin	1.91	-0.42	2.37	5.22	10.44	
	Envelope	1.48	-0.30	3.34	4.39	8.78	
Sugar Baby	Neem	Glass Bottle	1.60	-0.36	2.80	4.49	8.98
		Tin	0.76	-0.24	4.24	3.12	6.24
		Envelope	1.57	-0.27	3.66	5.75	11.50
	Apron plus	Glass Bottle	0.86	-0.24	4.07	3.49	6.98
		Tin	0.77	-0.23	4.41	3.43	6.86
		Envelope	0.78	-0.26	3.81	2.97	5.94
	Control	Glass Bottle	0.69	-0.23	4.33	2.98	5.96
		Tin	1.51	-0.31	3.21	4.86	9.72
		Envelope	1.02	-0.24	4.07	4.17	8.34
	Garlic	Glass Bottle	0.95	-0.20	3.81	3.60	7.20
		Tin	1.47	-0.35	2.87	4.21	8.42
		Envelope	1.71	-0.34	2.89	4.95	9.90
	Pepper	Glass Bottle	0.48	-0.22	4.53	2.19	4.38
		Tin	1.84	-0.42	2.33	4.30	8.60
		Envelope	1.07	-0.31	3.21	3.44	6.88
	Clove basil	Glass Bottle	1.16	-0.24	4.08	4.75	9.50
		Tin	1.15	-0.28	3.57	3.51	7.02
		Envelope	1.05	-0.27	3.64	3.82	7.64

K_i – intercept, $1/\sigma$ - slope, σ - time taken for seed lot to lose 1 probit viability

* P_{50} – seed half-life in days

** Seed storage life estimated as P_{50} value multiplied by 2 then divided by the 30 days of a month

ferent crop species (Ajala and Adebisi, 2005; Adebisi and Oyekale, 2005). In the present study, gradual decline in seed germination and seedling vigour level was observed irrespective of the pre-storage seed treatment materials with advance in storage times and became pronounced at 180 days (6 months) of storage. Higher seed germination and vigour were maintained at 30 to 150 days of storage. The sharp decline could be due to the deteriorative processes which were enhanced by the higher temperature (30 °C) and relative humidity (75 %) under tropical humid conditions.

With respect to storage containers, 'Kaolak' seeds stored in glass bottle consistently gave higher germination and seedling vigour values. This finding conforms to expectation as seeds stored in air tight containers maintain seed qualities longer than non-air tight packaging materials like envelopes which absorb moisture from the surrounding atmosphere. This finding agrees with the report of Kumar and Singh (1983) that the seeds of sesame stored in glass bottles maintained satisfactory germination throughout storage period while seeds stored in gunny bags lost viability after six months of storage. Majhi and Bandopadhyay (1993) also reported that freshly harvested groundnut seeds dried to moisture content of 9 % stored in glass bottles for one to nine months had the highest seed viability, root and shoot length and seedling dry mass when compared to seed stored in paper and cloth bag.

On probit modelling, the result showed that the watermelon seeds deteriorated at different rate, irrespective of the invigoration material and storage container in which it is been stored for a period of 180 days. 'Kaolak' seeds dressed with neem and stored in glass bottle had the highest estimate of storage life (19.24 months) followed by 'Kaolak' seed treated with garlic in glass bottle (14.02 months) and control in glass bottle (13.48 months) while 'Sugar Baby' treated with pepper in glass bottle had the lowest storage life value of 4.38 months. In other words, the PROBIT modelling predicted that 'Kaolak' seeds can be stored for an average of 19 months if the seeds are put under good storage conditions. Authors like Adebisi et al. (2003, 2008), Esuruoso (2010), Adebisi and Oyekale (2005), Oni (2012) and Kehinde (2018) have also utilized probit modelling to predict storage life of soybean, rice, kenaf, okra, and sesame, respectively under ambient humid storage conditions.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Differences were observed in the two seed quality traits examined in water melon due to differences in variety, seed treatment and storage period. 'Kaolak' was the best in storage in terms of seedling vigour and viability.

The use of organic materials especially neem leaf and clove basil leaf powder proved much better for maintaining germinability and seedling vigour and extension of seed longevity than inorganic material.

5.1. RECOMMENDATION

The findings from this study showed that maintenance of seed quality in watermelon using crude plant powders is advantageous in the humid tropical conditions. Therefore, since these seed crude plant materials utilized for treating watermelon seeds are cheap, readily available and environmental friendly, these findings will be of benefit to small and medium scale investment involved in seed production in Nigeria, where resources for cold storage are scarce. Therefore, seeds could be stored in glass bottles and preferably with either neem leaf or clove basil leaf powder.

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