

# EFFECT OF PRE-SOWING TREATMENT ON SEED GERMINATION AND SEEDLINGS GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS OF *ALBIZIA PROCERA*

## ABSTRACT

Aims- The objective of this study was to identify the most suitable pre-treatment method that will increase germination of *Albizia procera*.

Study area- The present study examined the characteristics of *A. procera* after pre-sowing treatment on seed germination and seedling growth characteristics in the Departmental nursery.

Methodology- The seeds were collected from five provenances namely Bilaspur, Bastar, Korba, Raigarh and Sarguja of Chhattisgarh, India. The seeds were tested with three pre-sowing treatment in department nursery and growth performance of seedlings were determined in nursery condition. The germination test was conducted in nursery, polybags filled with mixture of soil, sand and Farm yard manure at a ratio of 3:2:2.

Results-The result show **Significant** differences ( $P>0.05$ ) in Germination percentage by pre-sowing treatments and highest germination percentage (90.5) was obtained in hormonal treatment and lowest (60) was in control. The shoot length and root length (27.8cm and 11.6cm) was highest in hormonal treatment.

Conclusion-After analyzing all findings of the study, **Harmonal** treatment (IAA 25%) is suggested here as best **Pre-sowing** treatment of *A. procera* for raising nursery and successful plantation.

**Keywords-** *Albizia procera*, provenance, germination percentage, seedling growth, pre-sowing treatments.

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## 1.INTRODUCTION

*Albizia procera* commonly called (**white siris**) is one of the important species belongs to family Fabaceae. It is a large, fast-growing medium to large sized deciduous tree; It is distributed throughout moist and dry deciduous forests of India. In Chhattisgarh, it is found on alluvial grounds along streams and moist swampy places. This species provides wood for a variety of purposes, nutritious fodder for livestock. It is extensively planted in farm lands, agricultural boundary, wasteland and roadside avenues, it is an important reforestation and agro forestry **species**, **Due** to its multipurpose use and nitrogen fixing ability it is considered as one of the priority species in plantation programs. To ensure successful plantation of *Albizia* species it is important to provide better planting stock **that** can be achieved **ed** by seed treatments. **Seed treatment** can enhance seed germination rate, germination process and seedling growth characteristics because the seeds of the species are exogenously dormant due to impermeable seed coat or pericarp to water which impedes proper and complete germination resulting in to low quality uneven stock. So seed treatments can influence seed germination rate and seedling characteristics. The effect of pre-sowing treatments on seed germination and **seedling growth** of some tropical forest tree species have been reported by various authors such as for **Acacia auriculiformis**[1], *Albizia procera* [2,4,6], *Melia azedarach* [5], *Dalbergia sissoo* [7]. *Albizia lebbek* [8].

Different pre-sowing treatment have been used by different Researchers to enhance seed germination of different species including *Faidherbia albida* [9,10], *Acacia spp.*[11], *Grewia oppositifolia*[12], *Terminalia chebula*[13], *Tetrapleura tetrapetra*[14]and *Adonsania digitata*[15]. The objective of this study was to identify the most suitable pre-treatment method that will increase seed germination and enhance seedling growth of *A. procera* .

## 2.MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study is carried out in the Departmental nursery, Department of Forestry, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyala, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur is a major city of Chhattisgarh State and positioned in north western part of State, GGV is a central university (area around 700 acres). The area is positioned between 21°47' and 23°8' north latitudes and 81°14' and 83°15 east latitudes. It has an average altitude of 264 m (866 ft) near the banks of the rain-fed Arpa River with black-sandy soil The weather of the area is tropical. It is hot and humid, because of its nearness to the Tropic of Cancer and depending on the monsoon for rain. There are average rain fall in the monsoon season. Its summer is very warm with temperature between 30 and 47°C and between 5 and 25°C in winter. The flora of the area has been classified as tropical deciduous.

The seeds were collected from five provenances viz., Bilaspur, Bastar, Korba, Raigarh and Sarguja. From each provenance pods/seeds were collected from five phenotypically superior trees located about 1000m apart from each other in order to avoid narrowing down of the genetic base due to relatedness or inbreeding. Seeds from all the trees of a provenance were mixed and a composite seed lot was made for each provenance.

An extensive survey was carried out for the selection of superior/plus trees for the collection of pod/seeds , The Selection of plus tree was made on visual observations ,The individuals trees with defective bole, bi-forked , diseased, dead branches, or attacked by any pathogen and pests were rejected in the initial stage of selection. The main characteristics considered for the plus tree selection were, tree should be middle aged, having cylindrical bole, with well-developed crown, straightness, non-forking, non-twisting bole, free from buttresses and flutes and minimum form characteristics. The preferred best phenotypically trees were dominating in height and girth compared to its surrounding trees of the same species and age.

The germination tests were examined in Departmental nursery (Department of Forestry, GGV, Bilaspur). In nursery, the experiment was laid out in randomized block design (RBD) using 25 bags each in four replications for each provenance. Three pre-treatment methods were employed, namely soaking in coldwater for 24 hrs at room temperature, in hotwater(50°) and Hormonal treatment IAA (25%). These all pre-treatments were undertaken separately and compared with control i.e. after each pre-treatment, the seeds were sown in polythene bags of 30 x 45 cm size filled with soil, sand and farm yard manure in 3:2:2 ratios. Seeds were considered germinated when sprouted plumules just emerged from the soil surface. The bags were regularly watered and weeded in the nursery. Observations were recorded every day. Germination

percentage (ISTA1999), Germination energy index, Germination value (Czabator 1962), Germination Speed (Chiapuso *etal.*, 1997 ) were calculated by given formula, The experiment was conducted in the first week of May-2015.

The observations on morphological growth parameters were recorded *viz.*, plant height, number of leaves and dry weights of root, stem, branch and leaf were made on ten randomly selected seedlings.

These all pre-treatments were undertaken separately and compared with control i.e. after each pre-treatment, the seeds were subjected to germination in nursery and the following parameters were recorded. Seedling height, Number of leaves, Data collected on seed morphology, germination and early seedling growth parameters were subjected to Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The Duncan multiple range test was used to compare means among provenances.

### 3.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Various pre-treatments were employed to record their effects on seed germination and seedling growth response in the seeds collected from various provenances of *A. procera*. After each treatment seeds of each provenance were tested for their germination and the data has been depicted in Table (1). On an average germination was (71.6, 71.44, 75.82, 80.02) respectively, when seeds were pre-treated with coldwater, hot water and hormonal treatment for 24 hours, irrespective of provenances. **In almost all the provenances, seeds pre-treated with cold water had optimum germination as compared to those pre-treated with hot water and hormonal treatment.** Seeds pre-treated with hormone IAA had average highest germination among all the provenances. In case of hormonal treatment maximum (90.5%) germination was recorded in Bilaspur provenance followed by Bastar (84.3%) while the minimum (67.2%) was observed in Korba provenance (Table 1).

The effect of various pre-treatment on germination value and germination energy index (Table1). The highest enhancement in germination energy index (46.8) and germination value (54.4) recorded for Bastar provenance after hormonal treatment and these values were lowest (21.2and 30.5) for Korba provenance when exposed to coldwater treatment. The speed of germination across all the provenances was enhanced significantly when the seeds were exposed to hot water and hormonal treatment, the cold water treatment had no effect in germination speed over control. It observed that pre-seed treatment with hormones at different concentration can stimulate the germination behaviour of *A. procera* (Table 1).

The influence of different pre-seed treatments was also observed for different seedling growth attributes of *A. procera* among different provenances (Table 2). Across all the pre-seed treatments the hormonal treatment proved effective in enhancing different seedling growth attributes for each provenance , It was observed that the coldwater treatment did not significantly changed the shoot length, root length, number of leaves and leaf area, than the control of each provenances. While hot water treatment and hormonal treatment enhanced these growth parameters significantly and successively for each provenance.



**'Table-1'** - Effect of various treatments on Germination Percentage (GP%), Germination Value (GV), Germination Energy Index (GEI) and Germination Speed(GS) of various provenances of *Albizia procera*.

PROVENENCE	CONTROL				COLD WATER (Room temperature)				HOT WATER(50 <sup>0</sup> C)				HORMONAL			
	GP	GV	GEI	GS	GP	GV	GEI	GS	GP	GV	GEI	GS	GP	GV	GEI	GS
<b>BILASPUR</b>	84.0	46.2	44.9	15.2	80.2	40.6	34.6	12.2	86.2	46.6	42.6	16.2	90.5	49.8	44.5	16
<b>BASTER</b>	78.5	49.6	38.3	12.3	76.2	44.6	38.2	13.3	80.5	50.4	46.2	14.5	84.3	54.4	46.8	15.2
<b>KORBA</b>	60.0	18.8	29.8	7.1	62.3	21.2	30.5	8.8	65.4	26.9	32.5	12.7	67.2	29.5	34.6	12.5
<b>RAIGARH</b>	64.0	26.4	34.7	10.2	66.5	29.4	36.5	10.5	72.4	33.2	40.5	13.6	79.6	35.2	42.5	12.9
<b>SARGUJA</b>	71.5	34.3	33.8	10.7	72	37.6	32.7	9.4	74.6	38.9	36.4	14	78.5	40.6	39.9	13.7
<b>MEAN</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>71.44</b>	<b>34.68</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>10.84</b>	<b>75.82</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>39.64</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>80.02</b>	<b>41.9</b>	<b>41.66</b>	<b>14.06</b>
<b>SD(±)</b>	<b>9.92</b>	<b>12.99</b>	<b>5.68</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>7.21</b>	<b>9.38</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>1.89</b>	<b>7.93</b>	<b>9.59</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>8.59</b>	<b>10.23</b>	<b>4.69</b>	<b>1.50</b>

**‘Table- 2’ : Effect of various treatments on growth parameters , Shoot Length (SL), Root Length (RL), Number of Leaves (NL), Leaf area (LA ) of various provenances of *Albizia procera*.**

	CONTROL				COLD WATER (Room temperature)				HOT WATER (50° C)				HORMONAL			
PROVENENCE	SL(cm)	RL(cm)	NL	LA(cm)	SL(cm)	RL(cm)	NL	LA(cm)	SL(cm)	RL(cm)	NL	LA(cm)	SL(cm)	RL(cm)	NL	LA(cm)
<b>BILASPUR</b>	22.7	08.3	8	12.2	21.4	8.3	8	13.5	25.6	10.5	10	14.7	27.8	11.6	12	14.0
<b>BASTER</b>	21.3	11.4	8	10.0	22.7	9.2	8	11.4	23.2	10.0	10	11.6	25.0	10.5	10	12.5
<b>KORBA</b>	15.7	07.0	4	06.8	16.2	8.5	6	08.7	18.4	09.5	6	08.9	20.5	09.0	8	09.5
<b>RAIGARH</b>	17.8	08.8	6	08.4	17.2	7.9	8	08.7	21.5	10.9	8	10.3	23.6	10.0	8	10.6
<b>SARGUJA</b>	17.0	08.0	6	07.9	16.4	8.0	8	08.9	22.6	11.5	8	09.5	23.8	10.7	8	10.0
<b>MEAN</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>9.06</b>	<b>18.78</b>	<b>8.38</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>10.24</b>	<b>22.26</b>	<b>10.48</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>24.14</b>	<b>10.36</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>11.32</b>
<b>SD (±)</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>0.89</b>	<b>2.15</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>1.67</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>2.64</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>1.88</b>

The pre-sowing treatments influence the germination percentage of *A.procera* seeds. The seed dormancy affect the use of dormant species in nurseries for the production of seedlings, It is known that seed dormancy vary from species to species, so the particular pretreatments should be given to the particular species [16,17]. Several authors [17,18,19 ,20,21,22,23,24,25,26] have discussed different methods of pre-sowing treatments for seed germination in order to break dormancy and enhance the rate of germination and speed up the germination process. The findings of the present study shows that seed germination of *A.procera* under different pre-treatment methods significantly increased ( $P>0.05$ ) over the control. Among the three pre-treatments, seeds pre-treated with coldwater had optimum germination than those pretreated with hotwater and hormonal treatment. Similar studies have been done on *Albizia falcataria* and *Albizia procera* [27] where seed dormancy and germination of these species were experimented and found that hot water treatments at 40°,60°,70°,80°C significantly increased germination in both species. IAA and riboflavin was found to enhance germination of *A.procera* and *A.lebbeck* in another studies[28] . In *Albizia lebbeck* the highest germination was found when the seeds were pretreated with hot water [8]. The pre-treatment methods that affecting germination also influenced seedling growth the highest root and shoot length (27.8 cm and 11.6cm) were recorded with seeds treated with hormone and followed by hot water, coldwater.

#### 4.CONCLUSION

The present studies revealed that there were difference in seed germination and seedling growth among the different seed source, so in order to produce large number of quality seedlings it is necessary for pre-sowing treatments because it plays a vital role to enhance the

seed germination and seedling growth. According to our studies the best treatments for *A. procera* is hormonal treatment and hot water treatments.

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