

# I. Product Knowledge

## Topic 21

### Seed Treatment and Its Benefits

# FACT SHEET

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### Topic 21: Seed Treatment and Its Benefits

Plant diseases and insects are everywhere. They can be in the soil, water, or air. Some plant diseases exist **inside** the seed and begin to develop when the seed germinates. **Seed treatment**, also called **seed dressing**, is a process in which a chemical substance is applied to seeds to protect them against insects and fungi after sowing. The treatment puts a **protective zone** around the seed so that insects and plant diseases cannot reach it. After germination, the pesticides are still active around the young seedling allowing the seedling, to grow into a healthy plant.

#### **Benefits of treated seeds**

Untreated seeds have no protective zone and are open for attacks from plant diseases and insects. Treated seeds are protected resulting in:

- High rate of germination.
- Healthy and young strong plants.
- Healthy crops.
- High yields.



#### **Costs**

Treated seeds are **more expensive** than untreated seeds. But farmers using treated seeds will have higher yields and ultimately make more profit because of the higher germination rate and better protection against pests.

#### **Are treated seeds dangerous?**

Treated seeds must be handled as pesticides. This means that treated seeds are only dangerous to people and the environment if not handled correctly.

#### **How do I recognize treated seeds?**

Treated seeds can easily be recognized by the following:

- They are dyed with a colorant: red, green, blue, etc.
- The packaging will clearly indicate if the seeds inside are treated or not treated.



**Important**  
As with pesticides: **READ THE LABEL.**



# INSTRUCTIONS

## I. Product Knowledge

### Topic 21: Seed Treatment and Its Benefits

#### Materials needed

- Flip-sheet board with flip-sheets
- Markers (1 black, 1 blue, 1 green, 1 red)
- Colored cards
- Sample of treated seeds in a sealed bag
- Sample of untreated seeds in a sealed bag

**Time needed:** 45 minutes

- Preparations:**
- Flip-sheet with the heading *Seed treatment and its benefits*
  - Colored cards labeled:
    - *Cost of seeds*
    - *Level of germination*
    - *Quantity of yields*

#### Set up

**Attention:** Ask participants why we vaccinate our children. They will say that vaccination safeguards children against serious diseases. Vaccinated children grow to be healthy adults. Dealers and farmers also have ways to protect seeds against diseases—not by vaccinating them but by what is called seed treatment or seed dressing.

**Title:** Tell participants the title while showing the flip-sheet with the title: *Seed treatment and its benefits*.

**Credibility:** Explain your experience in seed treatment.

**Objectives:** To introduce the concept of seed treatment and its benefits.

**Benefits:** Understanding and knowing the benefits of treated seeds will help agri-input dealers to stock these seeds and sell them to farmer customers.

**Direction:** During this session, we will focus on the introduction of treated seeds as well as their benefits.

## Delivery

### Explanation, Demonstration, Exercise, and Guidance:

1. Repeat that seeds can be protected against diseases by using **seed treatment**. Ask if someone can explain what seed treatment is. Lead them to a simple answer: **Seed treatment is the application of pesticides to seeds to put a protective barrier around the seeds to keep insects and plant diseases away.** Repeat the phrase.
2. Divide the participants into two groups. Give group 1 the sample of treated seeds, and give group 2 the sample of untreated seeds. Put the colored cards with the words *costs of seeds*, *level of germination*, and *quantity of yields* on the wall. Ask each group to discuss and evaluate the sample they have received on the criteria written on the colored cards. Allow some time for preparation.
3. Ask group 1 to present its evaluation on **cost of seeds**. Then ask group 2 to present its evaluation on cost of seeds and compare the differences. Make sure that the price difference between treated and untreated seeds is discussed.
4. Continue with **germination**. First ask group 1 to present its evaluation and then group 2. Make sure that the higher rate of germination of treated seeds versus untreated seeds is discussed.
5. Continue with the **yields**. First ask group 1 to present its evaluation and then group 2. Make sure to discuss the healthier plants (leading to higher yields) from treated seeds compared with untreated seeds.
6. Ask participants if treated seeds are still **more expensive** than untreated seeds after taking the higher germination rate and higher yield into consideration. Lead the discussion to the following answer: No, the investment is worth the extra cost of treated seeds.
7. Ask the participants to pass the two samples around so that everyone can see the difference between treated and untreated seeds.
8. Conclude by telling participants that treated seeds must be handled like **pesticides**. They must read the label and protect themselves when handling them.

## Finish

**Summary:** Give a summary by telling participants that a farmer can safeguard seeds against diseases and insects with seed treatment. Repeat the definition of seed treatment and list a few advantages of treated seeds.

**Questions:** Ask if anyone has a question or comment.

**Evaluation:** Ask them about the differences between treated seeds and untreated seeds regarding costs, germination, and yields. Ask



them to justify the price difference between treated seeds and untreated seeds.

**Next step:** In this session, we learned about treated seeds and their benefits. Now, participants will be able to explain to customers the benefits of using treated seeds.

Distribute the **fact sheet** to all participants.