Studies on theStorability of Manual and Mechanically Harvested and ThreshedSunnhempSeeds (*Crotolariajuncea*Linn.)

Studies on the Storability of Hand-Hauled and Machine-Hauled Sunnhemp Seeds (Crotolariajuncea Linn.)

ABSTRACT

Background: The present investigation is an attempt to study the effect of different harvesting and threshing methods on storability of sunnhemp seed. The use of a combine harvester to harvest sunnhemp will be an effective alternative method. However, work on different methods of harvesting and threshing of sunnhempis limited and storage studies of machine harvested seed is scanty. Hence, a study wasconducted to evaluate the impact of various harvesting and threshing methods on storability of sunnhemp seeds.
Methods: This study was conducted at Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, TNAU, Kumulur, Tiruchirappalli,Tamil Nadu. The sunnhempseed crop was harvested and threshed using four different methods *viz.*, manual harvesting and manualthreshing, manual harvesting and mechanical threshing, manual harvesting and threshing by tractor treading and harvesting andthreshing by combine harvester. The resultant seeds were cleaned and graded. The graded seeds were stored under ambient conditions in both cloth bag (C1) and super grain bag (C2) containers with 12.0 per cent and 8 per cent moisture content respectively. The experiment was designed adopting FCRD with eight replications. The following quality parameters were recorded initially and at monthly intervals for a period of 12 months to assess the storability of seeds. Treatment wise the seed samples were taken and the seed moisture content was estimated by low constant temperature oven method.Germination was tested by roll towel method using 50 seeds in eight replications.Germination percentage, root and shoot length were measured in ten days after sowing from ten randomly selected seedlings ineach replication. For the estimation of dry matter production, ten seedlings were selected at random and kept in a hot air ovenmaintained at 85^0C for 24 hours after measuring their root and shoot length and vigour index was calculated.At the end of the each every month from one to 12^{th} month, samples were collected and the seeds were subjected to health test. Seed health tests were done by Blotter Incubation method.
Result: The result revealed that thesignificant difference was found among the different harvesting and threshing methodson storability of sunnhemp seed. Irrespective of harvesting and threshing methods seeds stored in cloth bag recorded 12% moisture content for initial month and increased up to 13.76% in 12^{th} month whereas seeds stored in super bag recorded 8% initial month and increased up to 8.78% in 12^{th} month.In this study, seeds obtained by manual harvesting and manual threshing method registered maximum germination percentage (93% & 94%),followed by seeds obtained by combine harvesting (91% & 92%) The minimum germination percentage was recorded in the seeds obtained by manual harvesting and mechanical threshing (89% & 90%).The maximum germination percentage was observed during the initial period of storage and reached the minimum at 12 months of storage. Between the containers, super grain bag maintained the highest germination percentage (92%) while the lowest germination percentage was observed in the seeds stored in cloth bag (91%).Seed health test revealed that the seed borne pathogens were identified after four months of storage period and no incidence was noticed up to four months of storage. From this study it could be concluded that sunnhemp seed crop harvested and threshed by different methods and reduced to the seed moisture content of 8percent andpacked in super grain bag maintained seed qualityabove minimum seed certification standards up totwelve months of storage.Hence it is recommended that combine can used to harvest the sunnhemp seed crop to minimise the cost of labour as well as saving time and found to be maintaining the longevity of sunnhemp seed under ambient condition without deterioration of viability.

Key words: *Crotolariajuncea,*Containers, Germination, Harvesting and threshing methods, Seed borne pathogen, Seed storage.

INTRODUCTION

Farm mechanization is one of the realistic approaches to improving agriculture production, with obvious benefits such as reduced human drudgery, lower cultivation costs, increased working efficiency, and timeliness of work (Masilamani and Tajuddin 2012; Masilamani et al., 2021). Agriculture encompasses a wide range of farm operations, from soil preparation through seed storage. When performed by manual laborers, all of these activities are labor intensive and time consuming. Failure to finish agricultural activities within the time frame specified may result in a significant reduction in crop production. Seed quality is the most influential component in crop growth, development, and yield processes, and it has the potential to boost yield by 5-20% (Rickman et al., 2006). Sunnhemp seed crop harvesting using a combine has been recognized and performed.Harvesting sunnhemp seed crop using combine has been accepted and practiced to overcome the peak demand of farm labourers and to minimize the field losses incurred during manual harvesting.Harvesting sunnhemp seed crop using combine has been recognized and used to alleviate peak demand for farm laborers and to reduce field losses caused by hand harvesting. Sunn hemp is a tropical legume that has been used as a green manure for soil improvement and efficient nitrogen fixer (Masilamani and Sivasubramaniyam, 2016; Rajendra Prasad et al., 2017). It is a potential tropical cover crop, reduces erosion, and improves soil fertility and tilth (Alwell, 2015). It produces biomass yield of 15-20t/ha. (Lates and Mabbayad, 1983). It is resistant to nematodes (Mc sorely *et al*., 1994) and it can grow on dry zone soil with low fertility. It suppresses weeds (Rotar and Joy, 1983) through smothering effect and conserves soil moisture by reducing evaporation from soil. It promotes biological transformation in soil leading to improved soil structure, fertility and increased crop yields(Pradhan *et al*., 2001;Ulemale *et al*., 2002).Sunn hemp is a tropical legume that has been utilized as a green manure and nitrogen fixer (Masilamani and Sivasubramaniyam, 2016; Rajendra Prasad et al., 2017). It has the potential to be a tropical cover crop that decreases erosion while also improving soil fertility and tilth (Alwell, 2015). It has a biomass production of 15-20t/ha. (1983, Lates and Mabbayad). It is resistant to nematodes and may thrive in dry zone soil with poor fertility (Mc sorely et al., 1994). It inhibits weeds by burying them (Rotar and Joy, 1983) and conserves soil moisture by minimizing evaporation from the soil. It encourages biological transformation in soil, which results in enhanced soil structure, fertility, and agricultural yields (Pradhan et al., 2001; Ulemale et al., 2002). It is mostly raised for biomass and in normally incorporated in to the soil during pre-flowering phase. The crop is traditionally used for making ropes, strings, twines, floor mat, fishing nets, hand-made paper, *etc*. in cottage industry (Desai*et al*., 2023).Hence there should be enough buffer stock of seed to meet the season-season seed requirement (Masilamani*et al*., 2017). Efficient seed technological interventions encompassing seed production, processing and storage are essential. Seed deterioration during storage is a gradual and inevitable process causing considerable losses. Seeds tend to

lose viability and vigour during storage and information on storability of seed lots from harvest until the next planting season and also for carry over purposes is of immense importance in any seed production programme(Johnysubakarivin*et al*.,2021). In storage, viability and vigour of the seeds is regulated by many physico-chemical factors such as moisture content of the seed, atmospheric humidity, temperature and initial seed quality, physical and chemical composition of seed, gaseous exchange, storage structure and packaging materials.Till date there was no work so far carried out to find out the storability of machine harvested sunnhemp seeds. Many physicochemical parameters influence seed viability and vigour during storage, including seed moisture content, ambient humidity, temperature and initial seed quality, physical and chemical composition of the seed, gaseous exchange, storage structure, and packing materials. So yet, no research has been conducted to determine the storability of machine harvested sunnhemp seeds.Against the stalemate the study was initiated to assess the storability of manual and mechanically harvested and threshed sunnhemp seeds.In response to the impasse, a research was launched to evaluate the storability of hand and mechanically picked and threshed sunnhemp seeds.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

An experiment was conducted at Agricultural Engineering College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Kumulur, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu during 2019-2020 to find out the influence of harvesting and threshing methods on seed storability of sunnhemp seeds. The treatments are manual harvesting and manual threshing (T1), manual harvesting and mechanical threshing (axial flow thresher) (T2), manual harvesting and tractor treading (T3) and combine harvesting (with pneumatic wheel) (T4)(Fig. 1).. The seeds collected from different harvesting and threshing methods were cleaned and graded. The graded seeds were stored in both cloth bag (C1) and super grain (C2) containers with 12 per cent and 8 per cent moisture content respectively and stored under ambient conditions. The experiment was designed adopting FCRD with eight replications. The following quality parameters were recorded initially and at monthly intervals for a period of 12 months to assess the storability of seeds.

Seed moisture content (%)

Treatment wise the seed samples were taken and the seed moisture content was estimated by low constant temperature oven method at 103 ± 1 $^{\circ}$C for 16 ± 1 h with known weight of seed samples. After drying, the seed samples were placed in desiccators containing calcium chloride for 30 min and weighed. The per cent of moisture content was calculated using the following formula (ISTA 1985).

$$\text{Moisture content (\%)} = \frac{M_2 - M_3}{M_2 - M_1} \times 100$$

Where,

M_1= Weight of empty moisture bottle along with lid (g)

M_2= Weight of moisture bottle along with sample before drying (g)

M_3= Weight of moisture bottle along with sample after drying (g)

Germination Test

Treatment wise, the seeds were placed for germination in roll towel method. Under each treatment, 400 seeds were sown with eight replications of 50 seeds each. Seed germination was expressed as the percentage of seeds producing normal seedlings (Central Seed Certification Board. 2013). Ten days after sowing ten seedlings from each replication were randomly selected and the root and shoot lengths were measured and the mean valuewas recorded. Ten random seedlings were dried in a hot air oven at 85^0 C for 24 h. and the dry weight was recorded and expressed as g.seedling^{-10}. The vigour index I and II was calculated using the following formula (Abdul – Baki and Anderson, 1973) by following the below given formula.

Vigour index - I = Germination (%) x Total seedling length (cm)

Vigour index - II = Germination (%) x Dry matter production (g/10 seedlings)

Seed Health Test

At the end of the each every month from one to 12^{th} month, samples were collected from cloth and super grain bag and the seeds were subjected to health test. Seed health tests were done by Blotter Incubation method following ISTA (1999) procedure. Blotter incubation test was done on Whatman No. 1 blotter paper contained in petridish. Three layer of water soaked blotter papers were placed on each petridish and 25 seeds/plate were placed. The seeds were incubated in the incubation chamber. After five days, number of seeds with mycelia colonies was counted.

Statistical analysis

The data obtained from the experiment were analyzed by the 'F' test of significance following the methods described by Panse and Sukhatme, 1995. Wherever necessary, the per cent values were transformed to angular (Arc-sine) values before analysis. The critical differences (CD) were calculated at 5 per cent probability level. The data were tested for statistical significance.

Manual Threshing

Manual Harvesting

Mechanical Threshing

Tractor Treading

Combine Harvesting

Fig.1.Different methods of Harvesting and threshing of Sunnhemp

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Moisture Content

The effects of different harvesting and threshing techniques on sunnhemp seed storability indicated that the moisture content was considerably impacted by harvesting and threshing methods, storage container, and storage term in sunnhemp seed examined (Fig.2). In this study, regardless of container, harvesting, and threshing procedures, there was a modest rise in seed moisture content during the storage time. Regardless of harvesting and threshing procedures, seeds stored in cloth bags recorded 12% moisture content for the first month and climbed to 13.76% in the 12th month, whereas seeds stored in super bags reported 8% moisture content for the first month and increased to 8.78% in the 12th month. A rise in moisture content is linked to a drop in seed quality. These findings are consistent.

Theresults ofthedifferentharvestingandthreshingmethodsonstorabilityofsunnhemprevealedthatthemoisturecontentwassignificantlyinfluenced by harvesting and threshing methods,container used for storage andperiodofstorageinsunnhemp seedtested(Fig.2).In this study, there was a slight increaseintheseedmoisturecontentoverthestorageperiod,irrespective of container and harvesting and threshing methods. Irrespective of harvesting and threshing methods seeds stored in cloth bag recorded 12% moisture content for initial month and increased up to 13.76% in 12th month whereas seeds stored in super bag recorded 8% initial month and increased up to 8.78% in 12th month.Increase inthemoisturecontentisassociated with declineofseedquality.These results are in agreement with theresultsobtainedbyGovindaraj*et al.*, 2017 in rice.Higher the moisture content and temperature, lesser the shelf life of paddy seed reported by Kaliyan*et al.,* 2006. Ramanadane and Ponnusamy (2004) reported that the moisture content is associated with decline of seed quality.Harringtons thumb rule says that storability increases as the moisture content decreases. For every one percent reduction in moisture content, the shelf life is doubled within a range of 5 to 15%. It was reported that, there was a negative logarithmic relation between moisture content and longevity (Ellis *et al.,* 1990).

The super grain bag played significant role in preventing vapour entry from the surrounding air. This becomes effective strategy in regulating lower moisture content in the seeds using vapour impervious containers. Lower respiration rate and metabolic activity are governed by lower moisture content and temperature during the storage period (Muangkaeo*et al.,* 2005). Doijode (1995) reported that the seeds packed in polythene bags exhibited higher germination; seedling length and seedling dry weight. Similar observations have been reported by Padma and Reddy (2002) in maize and green gram. Seeds packed in polythene bag and acted as vapour proof barrier in regulating lower moisture content in the seeds.. This is

in accordance with the findings of Azad *et al.,* (2014) who have observed higher vigour when wheat seeds dried to 12 per cent moisture content and preserved in polythene bags stored for nine months. Similar findings have been reported by Saxena*et al.,* (1987) in cereals.

Germination Test

Physiological parameters were significantlyinfluenced by harvesting and threshing methods,container used for storage andperiod of storage in sunnhemp seed tested.In thisstudy,seedsobtainedbymanualharvestingand manual threshingmethod registered maximum germination percentage(93% & 94%),followed by seedsobtained by combine harvesting(91% & 92%)(Table1).Theminimumgermination percentagewasrecorded inthe seedsobtained bymanualharvestingandmechanicalthreshing (89% & 90%).Themaximum germination percentagewasobservedduringtheinitialperiodof storage and reached the minimum at 12 monthsofstorage.Betweenthecontainers,supergrainbag maintained the highest germinationpercentage (92%)while the lowestgermination percentagewas observed in the seeds stored in cloth bag (91%). The root length and shoot length of the seedling reflected the same trend as on germination percentage. Regarding dry matter production, the seedsobtainedbymanualharvestingandmanualthreshing method registered maximum drymatterproduction(0.192g & 0.231g), seedling vigour I (3024 & 3585) and seedling vigour II (18 & 22)followed by seedsobtained by manual harvesting and tractor treading (2837 & 3317) (16 &19)(Table2,3,4,5and 6).

Theminimumdrymatterproduction, seedling vigour I and seedling vigour IIwasrecorded inthe seedsobtained bymanualharvestingandmechanicalthreshing(0.164g & 0.197g). The maximum drymatterproduction and seedling vigour I and vigour index IIwasobservedduringtheinitialperiodof storage and reached the minimum at 12 monthsofstorage.Betweenthecontainers,supergrainbag maintained the highest drymatterproduction, seedling vigour I and seedling vigour II while the lowestdrymatterproduction, seedling vigour I and II was observed in the seeds stored inclothbag. Between the harvesting method, manual harvesting and threshing maintained the highest drymatterproduction, seedling vigour I and II was observed and the lowest drymatterproduction, seedling vigour I and II was observed in manual harvesting and mechanical threshing. These results are in agreement with the results obtained by Akter*et al.* (2014) in soybean, Sharon *et al.,* 2015 in blackgram.

The decline ingerminationpercentagemaybeattributedtoageingeffect. Ageinghasdamagingeffectonenzymesthat are necessary to convert reserve food in theembryo to usable form and ultimately production of normal seedling (Iqbal *et al.,* 2002). Alternatively, the decrease in germination, dry matter synthesis, and seedling vigour might be caused by mitochondrial membrane breakdown, resulting in a decrease in energy supply required for germination (Gidrol et al., 1998). Ajay et al., (2017) showed loss of germination and seedling vigour after storage in soybean and Htweb et al.,

(2018) in green gram and chickpea. The decrease in seedling dry matter production may be related to DNA degradation with ageing, which results in decreased transcription, resulting in inadequate or defective enzyme synthesis required for early phases of germination (Kapoor et al., 2002).Alternatively, the reduction in germination, dry matter productionandseedlingvigourmightbeduetodegradationof mitochondrial membrane leading to reduction inenergy supply necessary for germination (Gidrol*etal.*, 1998). Loss of germination and seedling vigour during storage were reported by Ajay*et al.*, (2017) in soybean and Htweb *et al.*,(2018) ingreen gram and chickpea. The decline in the seedling dry matter production might be attributed to DNA degradation with ageing which leads to impaired transcription causing incomplete or faulty enzyme synthesis essential for earlier stages of germination (Kapoor *et al.*, 2002). All seeds undergo ageing process during long-term storage which leads to deterioration in seed quality, however, the rate of seed deterioration can vary among various plant species (Merritt *et al.*, 2003).Rajasekaran*et al.* (2005) observed that niger seeds packed in polylined cloth bags maintained higher germination and vigour index even after six months of storage. Van Chin and Kieu (2006) reported in rice seeds that germination percentage under super bag and vietnamese bag are similar at three and six months after storage. However, at 9 and 12 months storage, IRRI Super bag was superior to Vietnamese bag statistically. Singh and Dadlani (2003) stated that soybean seeds packed in700 gauge poly ethylene bag could be stored for fourteen months whereas, the seeds packed in cloth bag could be stored only up to eight months.

Seed Health Test

The seed health studies revealed that the genera of fungi were identified under the compound microscope at 40x. Fungal species identified were *Aspergillus flavus* and *Fusarium* sp. In all the treatments, fungal incidence were noticed in seeds collected from cloth bag where as no incidence was found in seeds samples collected from super grain bag. Seed borne pathogens were identified after four months of storage period and no incidence was noticed up to four months of storage. Incidence of *Fusarium* sp. ranged from 1.5 to 3% at fifth month and from 14 to 16.5% at 12 months of storage. Incidence of *Aspergillus flavus*, ranged from 0 to 0.5% at four months of storage and from 10 to 10.5% at 12 months of storage (Fig.3).Similar type of seed mycoflora association was also reported by Sadhu (2014) and Devamani*et el.*, (2017) in green gram and Biswal et al., 2019 in black gram

As seed deterioration is unavoidableand irreversible process it cannot be stopped completely but the extent of determination can be slowed downed to certain extent. Similarly in our study, irrespective of the harvesting and threshing methods, the seed quality parameters declined progressively with an increase in storage period. However, seed harvested and threshed by manual method- manual harvesting and manual threshing, manual harvesting and mechanical threshing, manual harvesting and tractor treading and combine harvesting and stored inboth cloth bag and super grain containers all are found to be maintaining

the longevity of sunnhemp seed under ambient conditions. However, fungal incidence were noticed in seeds collected from cloth bag where as no incidence was found in seeds samples collected from super grain bag.

CONCLUSION

This study concluded that sunnhemp seed crop harvested and threshed using various methods, reduced to a moisture content of 8%, and packed in super grain bag maintained seed quality above minimum seed certification standards for twelve months without pathogen incidence. As a result, it is advised that a combine harvester be used to harvest the sunnhemp seed crop to reduce labor costs while also saving time and ensuring the longevity of sunnhemp seed under ambient storage.From this study it could be concluded that sunnhemp seed crop harvested and threshed by different methods and reduced to the moisture content of 8percent andpacked in super grain bagmaintained seed qualityabove minimum seed certification standards up totwelve months of storage without any pathogen incidence.Hence it is recommended that combine harvester can used to harvest the sunnhemp seed crop to minimise the cost of labour as well as saving time and found to be maintaining the longevity of sunnhemp seed under ambient storage.

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Table 1. Effect of harvesting and threshing methods on germination of Sunn hemp

Treatments(T) / Periods (P)	Cloth bag (C_1)					Super grain bag (C_2)				
	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**
P_0	98 (82.80)	98 (82.80)	98 (82.80)	98 (82.80)	**98 (82.80)**	98 (82.80)	98 (82.80)	98 (82.80)	98 (82.80)	**98 (82.80)**
P_1	97 (80.63)	96 (79.46)	97 (80.63)	97 (80.63)	**97 (80.63)**	97 (80.63)	97 (80.63)	97 (80.63)	97 (80.63)	**97 (80.63)**
P_2	96 (79.46)	95 (77.24)	95 (77.24)	96 (79.46)	**96 (79.46)**	97 (80.63)	96 (79.46)	95 (77.24)	96 (79.46)	**96 (79.46)**
P_3	95 (77.24)	93 (76.06)	93 (76.06)	94 (76.94)	**94 (76.94)**	96 (79.46)	95 (77.24)	93 (76.06)	94 (76.94)	**95 (77.24)**
P_4	94 (76.94)	91 (72.88)	92 (75.44)	93 (76.06)	**93 (76.06)**	95 (77.24)	93 (76.06)	92 (75.44)	93 (76.06)	**93 (76.06)**
P_5	94 (76.94)	90 (72.05)	91 (72.88)	92 (75.44)	**92 (75.44)**	95 (77.24)	92 (75.44)	91 (72.88)	92 (75.44)	**93 (76.06)**
P_6	93 (76.06)	89 (70.69)	90 (72.05)	91 (72.88)	**91 (72.88)**	94 (76.94)	89 (70.69)	91 (72.88)	92 (75.44)	**92 (75.44)**
P_7	93 (76.06)	87 (69.25)	88 (70.47)	90 (72.05)	**90 (72.05)**	93 (76.06)	88 (70.47)	91 (72.88)	91 (72.88)	**91 (72.88)**
P_8	92 (75.44)	86 (68.56)	87 (69.25)	89 (70.69)	**89 (70.69)**	93 (76.06)	85 (67.81)	89 (70.69)	90 (72.05)	**89 (70.69)**
P_9	91 (72.88)	85 (67.81)	86 (68.56)	88 (70.47)	**88 (70.47)**	92 (75.44)	84 (66.77)	89 (70.69)	89 (70.69)	**89 (70.69)**
P_{10}	89 (70.69)	84 (66.77)	84 (66.77)	87 (69.25)	**86 (68.56)**	91 (72.88)	83 (65.76)	88 (70.47)	89 (70.69)	**88 (70.47)**
P_{11}	88(70.47)	82 (65.27)	83 (65.76)	86 (68.56)	**85 (67.81)**	90 (72.05)	83 (65.76)	88 (70.47)	89 (70.69)	**88 (70.47)**
P_{12}	86 (68.56)	80 (63.63)	82 (65.27)	85 (67.81)	**83 (65.76)**	89 (70.69)	82 (65.27)	86 (68.56)	88 (70.47)	**86 (68.56)**
Mean	**93 (76.06)**	**89 (70.69)**	**90 (72.05)**	**91 (72.88)**	**91 (72.88)**	**94 (76.94)**	**90 (72.05)**	**91 (72.88)**	**92 (75.44)**	**92 (75.44)**
	C	**P**	**T**	**CP**	**PT**		**CT**		**CPT**	
SEd	**0.317**	**0.807**	**0.448**	**1.142**	**1.614**		**0.633**		**2.283**	
CD (P=0.05)	**0.624**	**1.591**	**0.883**	**NS**	**NS**		**NS**		**NS**	

(Figures in parentheses are arc sine transformed values) P- Storage period in months

T_1- Manual harvesting and Threshing T_2- Manual harvesting and Mechanical threshing

T_3- Manual harvesting and Tractor Treading T_4- Combine harvester

Table 2. Effect of harvesting and threshing methods on root length (cm) of Sunn hemp

Treatments(T) / Periods (P)	Cloth bag (C_1)					Super grain bag (C_2)				
	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**
P_0	18.0	16.9	17.5	17.1	**17.4**	20.1	19.6	20.0	20.0	**19.9**
P_1	17.7	16.6	17.3	17.0	**17.2**	19.8	19.0	19.7	19.5	**19.5**
P_2	17.5	16.2	17.1	16.7	**16.9**	19.4	18.5	19.1	19.0	**19.0**
P_3	17.4	15.9	16.9	16.4	**16.7**	19.1	18.1	18.5	18.3	**18.5**
P_4	17.2	15.7	16.6	16.1	**16.4**	18.7	17.6	18.1	17.8	**18.1**
P_5	17.0	15.4	16.3	15.9	**16.2**	18.3	17.1	17.6	17.4	**17.6**
P_6	16.7	15.1	16.1	15.6	**15.9**	17.9	16.7	17.0	16.9	**17.1**
P_7	16.4	14.9	15.9	15.4	**15.7**	17.6	16.2	16.7	16.5	**16.8**
P_8	16.1	14.7	15.6	15.1	**15.4**	17.2	15.9	16.4	16.1	**16.4**
P_9	15.9	14.5	15.2	14.8	**15.1**	16.9	15.2	16.1	15.8	**16.0**
P_{10}	15.7	14.2	15.0	14.6	**14.9**	16.6	14.7	15.8	15.3	**15.6**
P_{11}	15.4	14.0	14.8	14.3	**14.6**	16.1	14.4	15.3	14.9	**15.2**
P_{12}	15.1	13.8	14.6	14.1	**14.4**	15.8	14.2	14.8	14.4	**14.8**
Mean	**16.6**	**15.2**	**16.1**	**15.6**	**15.9**	18.0	16.7	17.3	17.1	**17.3**
	C	**P**	**T**	**CP**	**PT**		**CT**		**CPT**	
SEd	**0.049**	**0.127**	**0.070**	**0.179**	**0.253**		**0.099**		**0.358**	
CD (P=0.05)	**0.098**	**0.250**	**0.139**	**0.353**	**NS**		**NS**		**NS**	

T_1- Manual harvesting and Threshing T_2- Manual harvesting and Mechanical threshing

T_3- Manual harvesting and Tractor Treading T_4- Combine harvester

Table 3. Effect of harvesting and threshing methods on shoot length (cm) of Sunn hemp

Treatments(T) / Periods (P)	Cloth bag (C_1)					Super grain bag (C_2)				
	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**
P_0	18.9	17.1	17.9	17.7	**17.9**	22.4	20.5	21.4	21.1	**21.4**
P_1	18.9	16.5	17.0	16.9	**17.3**	22.1	20.0	21.0	20.7	**21.0**
P_2	17.8	16.3	16.9	16.5	**16.9**	21.8	19.6	20.6	20.2	**20.6**
P_3	17.1	16.3	16.7	16.5	**16.7**	21.5	19.1	20.0	19.6	**20.1**
P_4	16.0	15.4	15.8	15.6	**15.7**	20.9	18.7	19.7	19.0	**19.6**
P_5	15.6	14.9	15.5	15.4	**15.4**	20.6	18.2	19.3	18.5	**19.2**
P_6	15.3	14.5	14.8	14.7	**14.8**	20.1	17.6	18.8	18.2	**18.7**
P_7	15.1	14.4	14.8	14.7	**14.8**	19.7	17.0	18.5	17.8	**18.3**
P_8	14.9	14.3	14.8	14.6	**14.7**	19.3	16.6	18.0	17.3	**17.8**
P_9	14.9	13.8	14.8	14.2	**14.4**	19.0	16.3	17.6	16.9	**17.5**
P_{10}	14.1	13.9	14.1	14.0	**14.0**	18.7	15.7	17.1	16.4	**17.0**
P_{11}	14.0	13.2	13.9	13.7	**13.7**	18.2	14.9	16.8	16.0	**16.5**
P_{12}	13.9	12.3	13.7	13.6	**13.4**	17.8	14.5	16.4	15.6	**16.1**
Mean	**15.9**	**14.8**	**15.4**	**15.2**	**15.4**	**20.2**	**17.6**	**18.9**	**18.3**	**18.7**
	C	**P**	**T**	**CP**	**PT**		**CT**		**CPT**	
SEd	**0.0495**	**0.1262**	**0.0699**	**0.1784**	**0.2523**		**0.0989**		**0.3568**	
CD (P=0.05)	**0.0976**	**0.2487**	**0.1379**	**0.3517**	**NS**		**0.1951**		**NS**	

T_1- Manual harvesting and Threshing T_2- Manual harvesting and Mechanical threshing P- Storage period in months

T_3- Manual harvesting and Tractor Treading T_4- Combine harvester

Table4. Effect of harvesting and threshing methods on dry matter production (g) of Sunn hemp

Treatments(T) / Periods (P)	Cloth bag (C_1)					Super grain bag (C_2)				
	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**
P_0	0.238	0.211	0.216	0.214	**0.220**	0.264	0.242	0.251	0.247	**0.251**
P_1	0.220	0.190	0.201	0.195	**0.202**	0.260	0.235	0.247	0.242	**0.246**
P_2	0.214	0.183	0.190	0.185	**0.193**	0.253	0.229	0.241	0.237	**0.240**
P_3	0.207	0.175	0.184	0.182	**0.187**	0.248	0.222	0.236	0.231	**0.234**
P_4	0.197	0.170	0.179	0.178	**0.181**	0.242	0.216	0.229	0.225	**0.228**
P_5	0.193	0.167	0.177	0.172	**0.177**	0.237	0.206	0.220	0.217	**0.220**
P_6	0.187	0.157	0.175	0.168	**0.172**	0.233	0.193	0.212	0.208	**0.212**
P_7	0.184	0.156	0.170	0.163	**0.168**	0.229	0.188	0.205	0.200	**0.206**
P_8	0.180	0.155	0.165	0.158	**0.165**	0.222	0.180	0.196	0.192	**0.198**
P_9	0.177	0.150	0.158	0.154	**0.160**	0.216	0.172	0.189	0.183	**0.190**
P_{10}	0.173	0.145	0.155	0.149	**0.156**	0.208	0.164	0.181	0.176	**0.182**
P_{11}	0.168	0.144	0.150	0.145	**0.152**	0.201	0.157	0.174	0.168	**0.175**
P_{12}	0.159	0.134	0.146	0.138	**0.144**	0.194	0.151	0.168	0.160	**0.168**
Mean	**0.192**	**0.164**	**0.174**	**0.169**	**0.175**	**0.231**	**0.197**	**0.211**	**0.207**	**0.211**
	C	**P**	**T**	**CP**	**PT**		**CT**		**CPT**	
SEd	**0.0006**	**0.0015**	**0.0008**	**0.0021**	**0.0029**		**0.0012**		**0.0042**	
CD (P=0.05)	**0.0012**	**0.0029**	**0.0016**	**0.0042**	**NS**		**0.0023**		**NS**	

T_1- Manual harvesting and Threshing T_2- Manual harvesting and Mechanical threshing P- Storage period in months

T_3- Manual harvesting and Tractor Treading T_4- Combine harvester

Table 5. Effect of harvesting and threshing methods on seedling vigour index I of Sunn hemp

Treatments(T) / Periods (P)	Cloth bag (C_1)					Super grain bag (C_2)				
	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**
P_0	3616	3332	3469	3410	**3457**	4165	3930	4057	4028	**4045**
P_1	3550	3178	3327	3288	**3336**	4064	3783	3948	3899	**3924**
P_2	3389	3088	3230	3187	**3223**	3996	3658	3772	3763	**3797**
P_3	3278	2995	3125	3093	**3122**	3898	3534	3581	3563	**3644**
P_4	3121	2830	2981	2948	**2970**	3762	3376	3478	3422	**3509**
P_5	3064	2727	2894	2880	**2891**	3696	3248	3358	3303	**3401**
P_6	2976	2634	2781	2757	**2787**	3572	3053	3258	3229	**3278**
P_7	2930	2549	2702	2709	**2722**	3469	2922	3203	3121	**3179**
P_8	2852	2494	2645	2643	**2659**	3395	2763	3062	3006	**3056**
P_9	2803	2406	2580	2552	**2585**	3303	2646	2999	2910	**2965**
P_{10}	2652	2360	2444	2488	**2486**	3212	2523	2895	2821	**2863**
P_{11}	2587	2230	2382	2408	**2402**	3087	2432	2825	2750	**2773**
P_{12}	2494	2088	2321	2355	**2314**	2990	2353	2683	2640	**2667**
Mean	**3024**	**2685**	**2837**	**2825**	**2843**	**3585**	**3094**	**3317**	**3266**	**3315**
	C	**P**	**T**	**CP**	**PT**		**CT**		**CPT**	
SEd	**8.997**	**22.938**	**12.724**	**32.439**	**45.876**		**17.994**		**64.879**	
CD (P=0.05)	**17.737**	**45.221**	**25.084**	**63.952**	**90.442**		**35.474**		**NS**	

T_1- Manual harvesting and Threshing T_2- Manual harvesting and Mechanical threshing P- Storage period in months

T_3- Manual harvesting and Tractor Treading T_4- Combine harvester

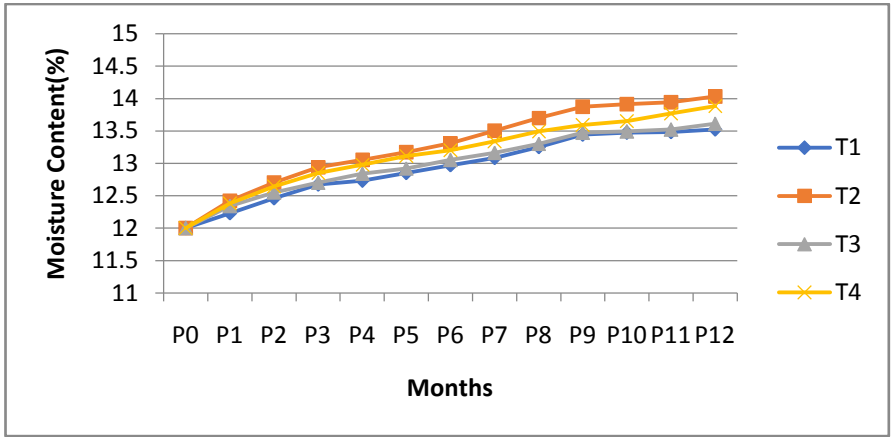
Table 6. Effect of harvesting and threshing methods on Seedling vigour index II of Sunn hemp

Treatments(T) / Periods (P)	Cloth bag (C_1)					Super grain bag (C_2)				
	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**	T_1	T_2	T_3	T_4	**Mean**
P_0	23	21	21	21	**22**	26	24	25	24	**25**
P_1	21	18	19	19	**19**	25	23	24	23	**24**
P_2	21	17	18	18	**18**	25	22	23	23	**23**
P_3	20	16	17	17	**18**	24	21	22	22	**22**
P_4	19	15	16	17	**17**	23	20	21	21	**21**
P_5	18	15	16	16	**16**	23	19	20	20	**20**
P_6	17	14	16	15	**16**	22	17	19	19	**19**
P_7	17	14	15	15	**15**	21	17	19	18	**19**
P_8	17	13	14	14	**15**	21	15	17	17	**18**
P_9	16	13	14	14	**14**	20	14	17	16	**17**
P_{10}	15	12	13	13	**13**	19	14	16	16	**16**
P_{11}	15	12	12	12	**13**	18	13	15	15	**15**
P_{12}	14	11	12	12	**12**	17	12	14	14	**15**
Mean	**18**	**15**	**16**	**16**	**16**	**22**	**18**	**19**	**19**	**20**
	C	**P**	**T**	**CP**	**PT**		**CT**		**CPT**	
SEd	**0.065**	**0.165**	**0.092**	**0.233**	**0.330**		**0.129**		**0.466**	
CD (P=0.05)	**0.128**	**0.325**	**0.181**	**0.460**	**0.651**		**0.255**		**0.920**	

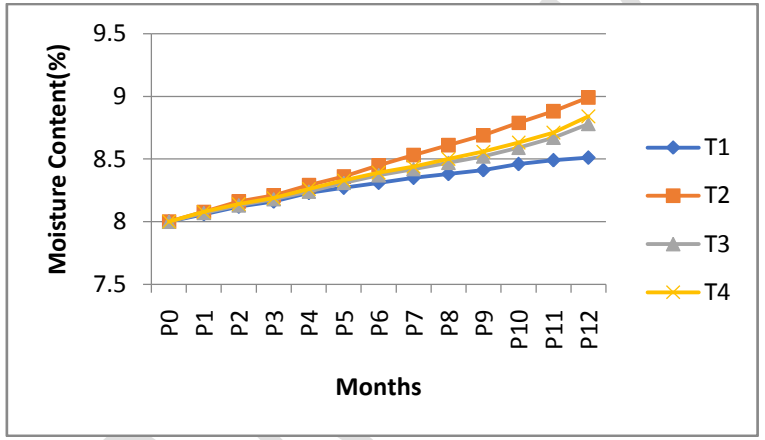
T_1- Manual harvesting and Threshing T_2- Manual harvesting and Mechanical threshing P- Storage period in months

T_3- Manual harvesting and Tractor Treading T_4- Combine harvester

Figure 2.Influence of harvesting and threshing methods on moisture content of Sunn hemp seed storage

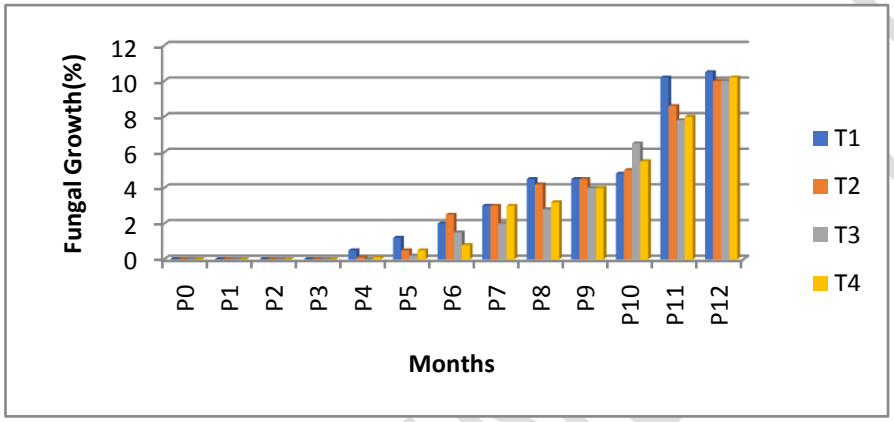


Cloth bag (C_1)

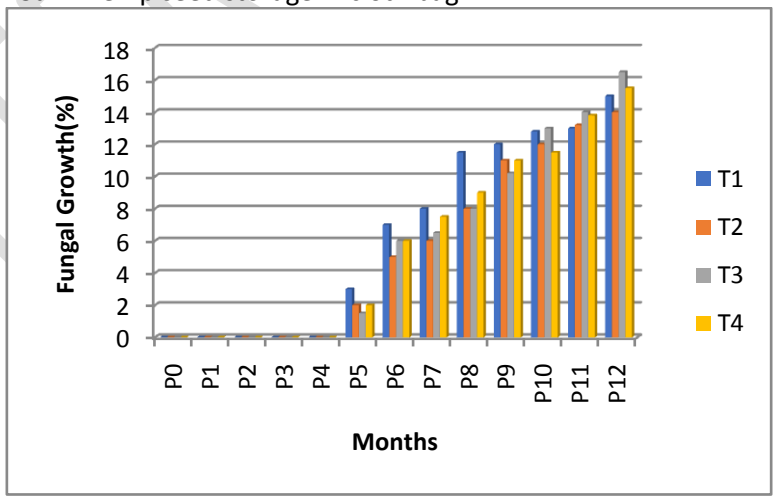


Super grain bag (C_2)

Figure 3.Influence of harvesting and threshing methods on fungal growth of Sunn hemp seed storage in cloth bag



Aspergillus flavus



Fusarium sp.

T_1- Manual harvesting and Threshing T_2- Manual harvesting and Mechanical threshing P- Storage period in months

T_3- Manual harvesting and Tractor TreadingT_4- Combine harvester