

## Beads for Saving Seeds



### Poor Seed Storage Leads to Meager Crops

In tropical climates, high humidity causes rapid seed deterioration, resulting in poor stand establishment, lower productivity, less value and disincentive to invest in improved seeds.

Seed longevity is reduced by approximately half for every 1% increase in seed moisture content.

Most horticultural seeds in rural areas are locally produced or self-saved. Under humid conditions, traditional drying methods cannot reduce seed moisture sufficiently to maintain seed quality.



### Zeolite Desiccant Beads

Zeolite beads, used with airtight containers, are a simple, inexpensive and widely-adaptable method for drying horticultural seeds and maintaining high seed-quality during storage.

The beads can be reused by baking between use.

### Benefits:

- Zeolite beads enable farmers to dry seeds to very low moisture contents under ambient conditions
- Farmers plant better seeds that have higher germination rates and increased yield capacity
- Better seeds create healthier crops that need less pesticides and have lower postharvest losses
- Farmers have greater incentive to invest in improved cultivars as the returns on their investment last many years
- Local seed systems build capacity by selling improved cultivars to a larger market of farmers

### Basic Costs\*:

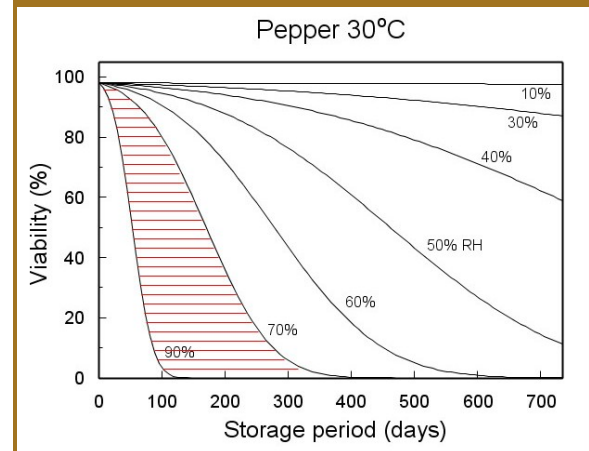
Zeolite Beads — \$10 to \$20 per kilogram  
Locally available hermetically-sealed jars

\*subject to variations

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Seeds stored at lower relative humidity maintain viability for longer periods



Zeolite beads are more effective than silica gel in absorbing water at low relative humidity.

