Effect of dehydration temperature and relative humidity after priming on quality of pepper seeds
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To test the effect of dehydration regimes after priming on the seed performance in pepper (Capsicum annuum L.), seeds were dehydrated for 48 hours at 15 C, 25 C or 35 C and at 35% or 75% relative humidity. Seed quality was assessed by five tests, namely normal germination and emergence percentage, mean emergence and germination times, and accelerated ageing. Maximum benefit from priming was obtained after drying seeds at 35 C and 75% relative humidity. Seeds dried in this regime were superior in all these performance criteria. (22% higher in normal germination, 20% in emergence, 19% in ageing test, 23 and 24 hours in mean germination and emergence times superior to control seeds.) Dehydrating at 15 C, regardless of relative humidity, resulted in the lowest seed quality. Results showed that 35 C at 75% relative humidity appears to be the most suitable dehydration regime for pepper seeds after priming treatment.