

## The effect of a commercial biofilm fertilizer on seed germination and seedling vigour of *Solanum lycopersicum* and *Capsicum annuum*

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Seed vigour is an important determinant on successful plant establishment in the field which determines the crop performance and the final yield. This study investigated the effect of biopriming with a commercial biofilm biofertilizer (Biofilm-R) on seed germination and seedling vigour of two vegetable varieties, *Solanum lycopersicum* (tomato) and *Capsicum annuum* (bell pepper). The seed germination parameters were determined using the Ragdoll method and growth performance was tested in soil in a pot trial six weeks after sowing. The means of the control and the bioprimed treatment of each parameter were compared using the T Test ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). Biopriming improved germination parameters of both varieties ranging from 6 - 78% in bell pepper and 133 - 171% in tomato. Seedling parameters too were enhanced by biopriming ranging from 53 - 402% in bell pepper and 35 - 285% in tomato. The results indicate that the Biofilm-R is a potential biopriming agent and it has the potential to continue to support plant growth of both varieties. However, further investigations under field conditions are needed.