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Guidelines in storing seeds

1. Apply seed treatment if necessary, especially for those intended for seed purposes.
2. Store only good quality seeds that are properly dried and cleaned. Poor quality seed loses its viability even when stored under ideal storage conditions.
 - High moisture causes heating, which encourages growth of seed-borne fungi and increased insect activity. Hence, *palay* must be stored dry at 14% moisture content (MC). As a rule of thumb, for seed MC between 5% and 14%, each 1% reduction in MC approximately doubles seed storage life.
 - A good storage facility maintains good quality seeds with high viability and vigor.
3. Sample seeds for moisture content every month to monitor seed condition in storage.
4. Maintain sanitation and cleanliness in the storeroom. Keep the storage room free from insects and spilled seeds on the floor.
5. Store old and new seed stocks separately. As much as possible, do not mix the new stocks with old ones to prevent pest infestation.
6. Maintain the ideal temperature and relative humidity inside the storeroom.
 - Increase in temperature and humidity can cause seed deterioration and promote proliferation of seedborne pathogens and stored grain insect pests.
 - As a rule of thumb, each 5^oC decrease in storage temperature between 0^oC and 50^oC approximately doubles seed storage life. When storing seeds under ambient condition, the storage room should be provided with adequate ventilation.
7. Use 'Paleta' (pallets) or 'tarimas' to keep the piles at a distance from the floor to avoid moisture condensation. Pile the bags following the Japanese Piling System, where the bags are piled leaving the center space vacant to facilitate better aeration. This also allows access for re-sampling and quality inspection.
8. Apply the 'first in, first out' policy.

Source: Field Operations Manual. 2007. Philippine Rice Research Institute.