



CHEMICAL SEED PRE-TREATMENTS FOR BETTER GERMINATION AND SEEDLING GROWTH OF SWIETENIA MACROPHYLLA KING

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The present study was undertaken to evaluate the influence of different chemical pre-treatments on seed germination and early seedling performance of *Swietenia macrophylla* in the nursery. The study was carried out at College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala during August 2013 to July 2014. The seeds were subjected eight pre-sowing treatments including soaking in six chemicals and water and other without any treatment. Results of the study indicated that the germination parameters of the seeds were significantly influenced by chemical pre-treatments and the highest germination percentage (82.33), Mean Daily Germination (2.29) and Peak Value of Germination (2.77) were observed for 100 ppm benzyl adenine for 12 hrs (T3). The pre-treatment also influenced the initial seedling performance and the seedlings treated with one per cent potassium nitrate for 12 hrs (T5) recorded higher growth attributes and biomass production which was evidenced by the higher quality indices of those seedlings.