

With millets and paddy the results obtained showed significant correlations between actual germination and the number of embryos stained, indicating that the test is fairly reliable with monocotyledonous seeds. In dicotyledonous seeds, the cotyledons developed light pink to deep pink colour irrespective of the viability of the seed. The counts of stained seeds did not correspond with actual seed germination and in several cases the differences were very large and significant. The method is found unsuitable for dicotyledonous seeds for critical assessment of seed viability.

This method of assessing seed viability is capable of exploitation in cereals which include the major food crops. Marketing, grading and storage depend on seed germinability. In this sphere tetrazolium chloride test is an aid to forecast fairly accurately, the seed viability even in the dormant stage of the grain, and thereby assist seed procurement and distribution.

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A Cheap Device for a Cool Chamber.

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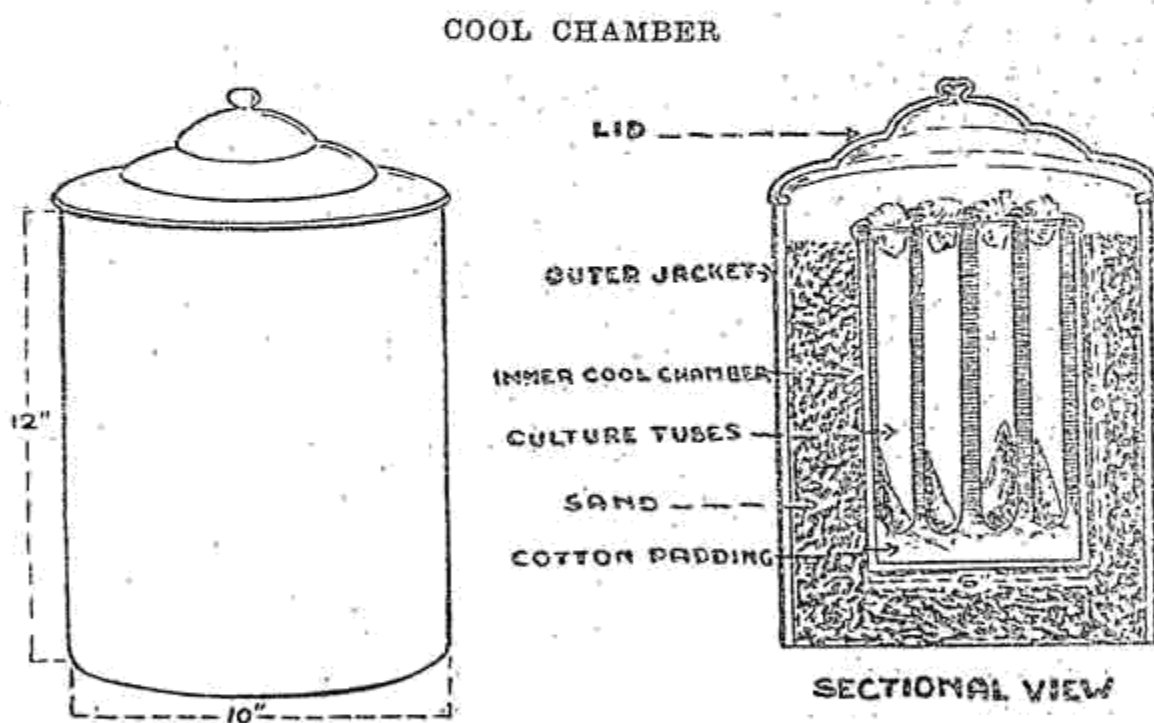
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The need for preserving fungal cultures in cool chambers needs no emphasis. In some of the moffussil research stations where neither electricity nor refrigerators are available the maintenance of cultures particularly in the summer months is difficult. Some cheap and efficient devices without the use of ice or refrigerator were tested. The following device described in brief was found to be of very helpful.

A mud cylindrical jar 12"×10", forms the outer jacket. A smaller cylindrical jar, 9"×6", which forms the cool chamber is placed inside. A lid fits in with the outer jacket.

Clean and washed fine sand is spread to a depth of 2 inches at the bottom of the outer jacket. The smaller cylinder is then placed in the centre, and the space between it and the jacket is filled with the sand. This sand packing is wetted with clean water and the lid placed in position (Fig). The whole apparatus is kept on a stool in a corner of the laboratory. The lid is covered with a wet cloth. With such a device the temperature inside the cool chamber was brought down by 10–15°F.

The mud jars are likely to become mouldy as also the sand used for packing. To prevent this 0.1% of mercuric chloride solution is used occasionally in cleaning the walls of the mud jars and also in wetting the sand.



This type of cool chamber made with the help of the local potters was found to work satisfactorily in this laboratory in preserving fungal cultures in the hot season. It is recommended for use in all places where refrigerators or ice are not easily available.

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