



Potential Use of Somatic Embryogenesis

Minal N Patel*

Botany Department, M. G. Science Institute, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

***Corresponding Author:** Minal N Patel, Botany Department, M. G. Science Institute, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

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Seeds are the pioneers of the sporophytic plant body. They are genetically pure. Germinating seeds are called viable seeds and non-germinating seeds are called non-viable seeds. Usually seeds are fertilised mature ovule, however other tissues may also take part resulting in apomixes and polyembryony and more. Plant produced by result of fertilisation is called sexual reproduction and those without fertilisation are called asexual or vegetative reproduction.

A state which prevents seed from germination even under favourable environmental condition is called Dormancy. This might be a drawback in growing plants. To overcome these limitations, synthetic seeds have achieved great value. Artificial seeds are artificially encapsulated somatic embryos, buds, cell aggregates or any other tissues that can be used for sowing as a seed and those possess the ability to convert into a plant under in vitro and ex vitro conditions and retain that potential even after storage. As they are of small size they can be stored in a petri dish, vial, other small vessel, in minimum volume. Along with this, it also shortens plant breeding cycle. Though low production cost, care and maintenance is required. It helps to produce genetically identical plants which sustain its quality and characteristics. Hence, this technology may benefit the Agricultural, Horticultural and many more plant production based sectors.

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