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CACAO GERMINATION AS AFFECTED BY MOISTURE
CONTENT AND COLD STORAGE TIME

SPECIAL PROBLEM

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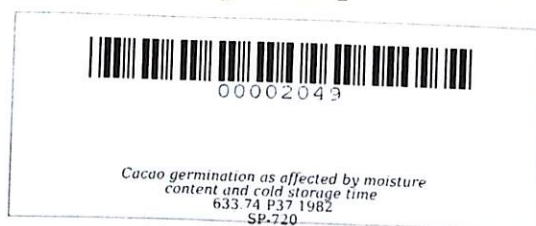
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CACAO GERMINATION AS AFFECTED BY MOISTURE
CONTENT AND COLD STORAGE TIME

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Presented to the Faculty of the
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for the Degree of Bachelor of Science
in Agriculture (BSA) Major in
Agronomy



by

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A B S T R A C T

This study, "Cacao Germination as Affected by Moisture Content and Cold Storage Time", was conducted to determine the effect of seed moisture content and cold storage on the germination of cacao seeds. This was also conducted to determine the best moisture content that would give the highest percentage germination in cacao. All the data were analyzed statistically. It was observed that moisture content of the seed has a significant effect on cacao germination as well as a cold storage time.

Deterioration of cacao seeds could be affected by moisture content below 5% resulting to zero germination percentage. Ten percent moisture seemed to be the lowest tolerable for germination to be affected and three days at cold storage to attain the same.

Prolonging of seeds at cold storage and maintaining a moisture content of less than five percent is not advisable to attain good germination.

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INTRODUCTION

Cacao (*Theobroma cacao*, Linn.), is one of the most profitable perennial crops not only in the Philippines but also in other countries. Cacao had gained popularity both locally and internationally because of its usefulness in making chocolate, candies, beverage, cake and other desserts. It is usually sold in powdered form, chocolate pods, flavoring materials and in many forms of confectionaries.

However, local production of cacao has not kept up with the consumption. Because of this, much cacao is imported.

This crop is usually grown for seeds and for these to germinate, a favorable environment such as light, tempe-