

# CROP RESPONSE TO BIOFERTILIZERS

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## APPLICATION OF *RHIZOBIUM* INOCULANT

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The effect of inoculants on the growth and yield of legume crops depends on the quality of inoculant, soil properties and application techniques. Generally, inoculants should be used according to the specification on the package and when a legume is introduced into a new area or when the legume is known to have a nodulation problem. The main purpose of inoculation is to nodulate the host legume with a selected rhizobial strain. The inoculant should be of good quality at the time of application.

Commonly, two application methods are used in the inoculation of rhizobial biofertilizers to legumes. This is direct inoculation, where the inoculant is placed in direct contact with the seeds (seed-applied inoculant), and indirect inoculation, whereby the inoculant is placed alongside or beneath the seeds (soil-applied inoculant).