

Supplementary 2

Protocol for maize seeds germination.

1. We selected 20 maize seeds per line for each experiment that were sterilized by placing them first in an Erlenmeyer flask with a capacity of 100 mL.
2. The seeds are covered with distilled water, washed and shaken to remove impurities and the liquid is discarded three times.
3. Twenty-five mL of 15% sodium hypochlorite (NaClO) are added for 4 min, and approximately every min the flask is gently shaken, and then the solution is dispensed.
4. Repeat step 2.
5. Pour a solution of 0.17% (v/v) BANROT® fungicide to cover the seeds and keep them submerged for a period of 12 min without stirring. Afterwards, disposed the solution in a special container due to its toxicity.
6. The sterilized seeds are placed at 3 cm of each other in a sterilized metal tray containing three layers of absorbent paper moistened with 200 mL of distilled water.
7. The tray is covered with aluminum foil, which is labeled with the direction of the root growth, the number of the DTMA hybrid and date.
8. The seeds are imbibed for three days in the dark in an inclined position and at a temperature of 26 +/- 2°C.
9. At the end of the process the germination percentage is calculated.