

## Rhizobial Inoculation

The legume crops have a unique capacity of utilizing atmospheric nitrogen through nitrogen fixing bacteria (*Rhizobium* spp.) in the root nodules. The local strains of *Rhizobium* may not be efficient. It is, therefore, recommended to artificially inoculate the seeds with an appropriate strain of *Rhizobium*. The artificial inoculation is very cheap and it increases the efficiency of the plant to fix free element nitrogen from the atmosphere. Inoculation serves as an insurance for getting good pulse crops.

### **Method of Rhizobial Inoculation:**

About 60 g of *gur* molasses are dissolved thoroughly in half-litre of water. To this solution, a culture packet is mixed so as to form a slurry. 10 kg seed (free from dust) is mixed thoroughly with the slurry of the culture with clean hands taking care that all the seeds are equally coated with the product. This coated seed material is spread on a polythene sheet or a clean cloth in the shade and the whole material is allowed to dry. The coated seeds are thereafter sown in the afternoon and are immediately covered with soil with the help of a *sohaga* so as to avoid direct exposure of the coated seeds to sunlight.