

**Inbreeding** is the production of offspring from the mating or breeding of individuals or organisms that are closely related genetically. Inbreeding results in [homozygosity](#), which can increase the chances of offspring being affected by deleterious or recessive [traits](#). This leads to inbreeding depression - the reduced [biological fitness](#) in a given [population](#).

Inbreeding depression refers to the decrease in fitness and vigour due to inbreeding.

### ***Effects of Inbreeding Depression***

- Appearance of sublethal and lethal alleles.
- General reduction in vigour in population.
- Reduction in reproductive ability.
- Reduction in yield
- Increase in homozygosity

## Inbreeding depression levels may vary from High inbreeding depression, moderate inbreeding depression, low inbreeding depression and absence of any inbreeding depression