Humidity Sensors make use of a conductive polymer to measure relative humidity. If that polymer gets too dry (or over-saturated) the sensor won't function properly, but that can be reversed.

Whenever we use one of these sensors on our designs, we put them through a re-conditioning procedure to ensure that they keep their factory calibration. If you expose your sensor to a really dry environment for a prolonged period of time (or saturate it with water) you may have to run it through the same process.

The datasheet for the SHT15 recommends baking at 100-105°C and < 5%RH for 10 hours followed by re-hydration at 20-30°C and ~ 75%RH for 12 hours.

The datasheet for the HIH6130 recommends re-hydration at room temperature under ambient conditions (>50 %RH) for a minimum of five hours.

For more information on the re-conditioning procedures, check out the datasheets (which can be found on the product page)

Also check out what we've learned about the process at: