



Policy Initiatives in Indian Seed Sector

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The following policy initiatives have been taken by the Government of India in seed sector from time to time:

- Enactment of the Seeds Act, 1966
- Seed Review Team-SRT (1968)
- National Commission on Agriculture's Seed Group (1972)
- Launching of the World Bank aided National Seeds Programme (1975-85) in three phases leading to the creation of State Seeds Corporations, State Seed Certification Agencies, State Seed Testing Laboratories, Breeder Seed Programmes etc
- Seed Control Order (1983)
- Creation of the Technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses (TMOP) in 1986 now called The Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM).
- Production and Distribution Subsidy
- Distribution of Seed Mini-kits
- Seed Transport Subsidy Scheme (1987)
- New Policy on Seed Development (1988)
- Seed Bank Scheme (2000)
- National Seeds Policy (2002)
- The Seeds Bill (2004)
- Formulation of National Seed Plan (2005)
- National Food Security Mission (2007)
- Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (2007)

Seeds Act, 1966: Salient Features

- This act aims at regulating the quality of seed sold for agricultural purposes through compulsory labeling and voluntary certification.
- The Seeds Act 1966 contains 25 sections, XI parts and 39 rules.
- Applicability- It is applicable only to notified kinds / varieties of seed and vegetatively propagating materials used for sowing.
- Sanctioning legislation - The Act provides for the formation of an apex advisory body namely the Central Seed Committee, the Central Seed Certification Board, establishment of Seed Certification Agencies and Central & State Seed Testing Laboratories
- Regulatory legislation - The act provides for the provisions for notification of kinds / varieties to be brought under the purview of the seed Acts.
- Appointment of Seed Analysts and Seed Inspectors.

National Seeds Policy, 2002: Thrust Areas

- variety development
- plant variety protection
- seed production
- quality assurance
- seed distribution and marketing
- infrastructure facilities
- transgenic plant varieties
- import of seeds and planting materials
- seed exports
- promotion of domestic private sector seed industry
- strengthening of the monitoring system

Seeds Bill, 2004: Salient Features

- Registration of kinds and varieties of Seeds etc.
- Regulation of sale of seed and seed certification
- Seed Analysis and seed testing
- Export and import of seed and planting material
- Offences and Punishment