

Seed

8.43 A sustained increase in agricultural production depends on the development of new improved varieties of seed and an efficient system for supply of quality seeds to farmers. Seed Multiplication Programmes for cereals, pulses, oilseeds, fibre, fodder crops and potato are implemented through National Seeds Corporation Ltd., State Farms Corporation of India Ltd., State Seeds Corporations, other State Seed Producing Agencies and Private Seed Companies. Farm experts feel that breeder seed multiplication should continue to be undertaken by State agencies whereas certified seed production could be undertaken by private agencies. Production/distribution of certified quality seed since 1996-97 is given in Table 8.17.

Seed Sector Reforms

8.44 Based On the recommendations of Seed Policy Review Group, the draft Seeds Act, 2000 is under preparation which would replace the existing Seeds Act, 1966. The proposed legislation has the following features:

- Establishment of National Seeds Board (NSB).
- Compulsory registration of any seed for purpose of sowing or planting to be granted by NSB.

Type of	Unit	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000*	2000-2001**
Breeder Seed	Qtls.	46026	46134	38994	50798	49850
Foundation seed	Lakh Qtls.	5.76	6.84	6.75	5.60	7.00
Certified/Quality Seed Distribution	-do-	73.27	78.79	83.00	91.00**	100.00
* Expected		** Target				

- Registration to be granted for new varieties on the basis of multi-locational trials over a minimum period of three seasons.
- The NSB will accredit ICAR Centres, State Agriculture Universities and private organizations to conduct Value for Cultivation and Use trials for purpose of registration for a fixed period.
- Registration of seed producers and processors.
- Import and export of seeds will be regulated under this Act.