

Seeds

8.28 The National Seeds Policy, 2002 provides the framework for growth of the seed sector. It seeks to provide the farmers with a wide range of superior quality seed varieties and planting materials. The production/distribution of Certified/Quality Seeds in recent years is given in Table 8.15.

8.29 As a part of India's obligation under TRIPs Agreement of the WTO, the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act 2003 was enacted to protect the intellectual property rights of plant breeders and to stimulate investments in R&D for the development of new plant varieties. The Act involves setting up of an Authority for implementing the provisions of the Act. Necessary rules and regulations under the Act have been notified.

8.30 A draft Seeds Bill has been formulated to replace the Seeds Act, 1966. The Bill provides for compulsory registration of seeds on the basis of their performance, deregulation/decontrol of seed industry/processing units and imposition of more

stringent penalties to check the sale of spurious seeds.

8.31 The Government set up a high level Task Force on Agriculture-Related Applications of Biotechnology under the chairmanship of Dr. M.S Swaminathan to formulate a long-term policy on agro-biotechnology; suggest modifications in the existing administrative and procedural arrangements in various Ministries/Organisations and to suggest the role of Ministry of Agriculture on matters relating to development and application of biotechnology in agriculture. The Task Force has already submitted its report.

8.32 To encourage export of seeds, the procedures for seed exports have been simplified. Seeds of privately developed varieties/hybrids will be allowed to be exported freely subject to the provision of the EXIM Policy (2002-2007), except where there is an emergency caused by natural calamities and seed is required for meeting the domestic demand. Imports of seeds and planting materials are also allowed subject to the New Policy on Seed Development 1988 and the provisions of the Exim Policy, 2002-07.

Table 8.15 : Production and distribution of quality seeds

Type of Seeds	Unit	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-04 Anticipated	2004-05 Target
Breeder Seed Production	'000 quintals	51	43	46	49	50	51
Foundation Seed Production	'000 quintals	466	591	544	600	650	700
Certified/Quality Seed Distribution	'000 quintals	8,798 (7,296)	8,627 (7,092)	9,180 (7,565)	9,300	11,700	12,740
Note : Data in parenthesis are of certified seed distribution.							
Source : Ministry of Agriculture.							