

## Seeds

### *Availability of quality seeds*

8.34 Seed is a critical and basic input for attaining higher crop yields and sustained growth in agricultural production. Distribution of assured quality seed is as critical as the production of such seeds. The Indian seed industry has shown impressive growth and should continue to provide further potential for growth in agricultural production. The role of the seed industry is not only to produce

adequate quantity of quality seeds but also to achieve variety diversity.

8.35 Indian seeds programme largely adheres to the limited generation system for seed multiplication. The system recognizes three kinds of generation, namely breeder, foundation and certified seeds. Production of breeder and foundation seeds, and certified seeds distribution have gone up at an annual average rate of 3.4 per cent, 7.5 per cent, 9.5 per cent, respectively, between 2001-02 and 2005-06 (Table 8.16).

Table 8.16: Production of breeder and foundation seeds, and distribution of certified seed

Year	Production of breeder seed in quintals	Production of foundation seed in lakh quintals	Distribution of certified/quality seed in lakh quintals
2001-02	45485	5.4	91.8
2002-03	48858	6.2	93.8
2003-04	50043	6.5	100.0
2004-05	51000 (Anticipated)	7.0	127.4
2005-06	52000 (Anticipated)	7.4 (Target)	138.5 (Target)

Source: Ministry of Agriculture.