

Seeds

8.59 Seed, which is the carrier of new technology for crop production and higher crop yields, is a critical input for sustained growth of agriculture. In India, more than four-fifths of the farmers rely on farm-saved seed leading to a low seed-replacement rate. The Indian Seed Programme includes the participation of Central and State Governments, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities, and the cooperative and private sectors. There are 14 State Seed Corporations (SSCs) besides two national level corporations. Though the private sector started to play a significant role in production and distribution of seed, particularly after introduction of the Seed Policy of 1988, the

organized seed sector, particularly for food crops and cereals, continues to be dominated by the public sector. However, it is estimated that about 46 per cent of the seed commercially sold in the country is by private seed companies.

8.60 Indian seeds programme recognizes three kinds of seeds generation, namely breeder, foundation and certified seeds. The annual rate of growth of certified/quality seeds distribution is targeted to accelerate from 12.1 per cent in 2005-06 to 18.1 per cent in 2006-07. During 2006-07, 69,980 quintal breeder seed is anticipated to be produced by the National Agricultural Research System (Table 8.16).

Table 8.16 : Production of Breeder and Foundation Seeds and Distribution of Certified Seed

Year	Production of Breeder Seed (quintals)	Production of Foundation Seed (lakh quintals)	Distribution of Certified/Quality Seed (lakh quintals)
2003-04	61,826	6.5	108.59
2004-05	66,460	6.9	113.10
2005-06	65,880	7.4	126.74
2006-07	69,980 (Anticipated)	8.0 (Anticipated)	149.63 (Anticipated)