

Seeds

34. Seed multiplication programmes for cereals, pulses, oilseeds, potato, fibres and fodder crops are implemented through National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and State Farms Corporation of India (SFICI). Apart from these, 13 State Seeds Corporations, 20 State Seed Certification Agencies, 96 State Seed Testing Laboratories and private sector companies are also engaged in the production of quality seeds. The production of quality seeds during last few years is listed in Table 8.14.

35. Unfortunately, the seeds revolution of sixties and seventies appears to have tapered off after encompassing only the cereal segment. Improved seeds technology continues to elude vital segments of the farm economy such as pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables. The country currently imports nearly 2 million tonnes of edible oils and about a million tonnes of pulses

so as to meet domestic demand. Unless there is a major seed technology breakthrough in these two areas resulting in higher productivity, dependence on imports is likely to increase. This is an area of serious concern.

Year	Breeder Seeds	Foundation Seeds	Certified Seeds
1992-93	3.6	39.3	603
1993-94	3.7	40.4	622
1994-95	4.0	47.3	659
1995-96	4.3	47.6	699
1996-97	4.5	57.6	733
1997-98*	4.6	68.4	756
1998-99**	4.7	70.0	830
	* Anticipated	** Target	