

Seed

8.59 Seed multiplication programmes for cereals, pulses, oilseeds, fibre, fodder crops and potato are implemented through National Seeds Corporation (NSC) and State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) and other state seed agencies. The production of quality seeds since 1996-97 is listed in Table 8.25.

TABLE 8.25					
Quality Seeds Production					
Type of	Unit	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99*	1999-2000**
Breeder Seed Production	Qtls.	46026	46134	38994	47765
Foundation seed Production	Lakh Qtls.	5.76	6.84	6.75	7.10
Certified/ Quality Seed Distribution	-do-	73.27	78.79	83.00	91.00
* Estimated		** Target			

8.60. A scheme for Seed Crop Insurance has been introduced for identified crops in some of the major seed producing states with the help of General Insurance Corporation of India. The scheme envisages assistance to Seed Growers to cover the risk factors involved in production of seeds in the event of unforeseen situation.

8.61. One of the main reasons for slow growth in foodgrains production during the nineties is the lack of any significant breakthrough in seed technology, particularly in pulses and coarse cereals. More investment in research, breeder seed production, its multiplication and distribution is considered necessary to push up production. Seed sector reforms involving amendment in the present seed legislation are under consideration.